

THE 8th NATIONAL BLACK & ASIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE



8th October 2016



commonword



Manchester
Literature
Festival

Cultureword's National Black and Asian Writers Conference has been running for thirty years. The 2016 conference will take place on Saturday, 8th October. It includes panels, stalls, performances, interviews, conversations, ruminating, crystal-ball gazing, and an evening festival including a stellar performance from Manchester's very own Lemn Sissay.

The panels will discuss Afrofuturism, flash fiction, digital and immersive poetry, new directions in theatre and many more, all in a dispersed festival fashion. In this booklet you'll find details of all the panel sessions, speakers' biographies and maps to the venues.



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www.cultureword.org.uk

Venues:

Madlab - 36-40 Edge St, Manchester, M4 1HN

Chapter One Books - Chatsworth House, 19 Lever Street, Manchester, M1 1BY

Central Library - St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

Contact Theatre - Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6JA



Conference day-time Programme

Time	Mad Lab	Chapter One Books	Central Library
10.00am – 10.30am	Registration		
10.30am – 11.45am	Digital Writing: Is Digital Transforming writing? If so, how?	Crime Fiction: Are the concepts of villain and hero to the detriment of Black Crime Fiction?	[Exhibition] Drawing in black and white: An exhibition of art work from BAME artists.
12.15pm – 1.30pm	Young writers: How does Generation Y's writing differ from Generation X's?	Contemporary Britain's theatre landscape: Is the future of BAME theatre outside of a building?	
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Lunch Break		
2.15pm – 3.30pm	Writing in Translation: What makes for a good translation?	Black and Dangerous: BAME writers and the representation of mental health.	From Ancient African civilisation to Afrofuturism: Illustration and the black aesthetic.
4.00pm – 5.15pm	Racism, Writing and Resistance: Does literature perpetuate racism?	Poetry: The revolution in BAME poetry is yet to come?	

for futher information contact afshan@cultureword.org.uk

Is Digital Transforming writing? If so, how.

10.30-11.45 Madlab

The digital age is upon us and publishing is changing fast. There's a larger focus on digital outputs for creative writing. Has this impacted writing, and if so, to what extent? E-readers and phones are being used increasingly to access writing, does this affect the writing process, the writing itself and create new readers?

Taimour Fazlani is a writer and designer with interests ranging from metaphysics to economic systems

Bethany Hermitt is a visual artist, writer and designer based in Manchester

Adam Lowe (AKA Beyonce Holes) is a writer, performer and publisher from Manchester via Leeds

Samira Sawlani is a writer/journalist with focus in politics & development of East & Horn of Africa

Are the concepts of villain and hero to the detriment of Black Crime Fiction?

10.30-11.45 Chapter One Books

Many white writers in their development of Black characters have used stereotypes and racist tropes. Black writers are in a double bind, on the one hand, they want to interrogate how society is so structured that black people are over represented in the criminal system, while simultaneously they are loathe to replicate white crime writers' racist stereotypes. An overcompensation of this is to create black characters that are seamlessly heroic. What is the way forward for the black crime fiction genre?

Yvonne Battle-Felton is a writer, researcher and a lover of words based at Lancaster University

Peter Kalu is an award-winning playwright, poet and novelist

Anjum Malik has written several radio plays including Woman's Hour drama, The Interpreter

Dr Jennifer Makumbi is an award winning Ugandan novelist and short story writer

Courttia Newland is an author, screenwriter, playwright and literary activist

How does Generation Y's writing differ from Generation X's?

12.15-13.30 Madlab

The young writers of today, i.e. Gen. Y/Z, have the worst publicity surrounding them. However, they are said by researchers to be multi-taskers, liberal and have a strong sense of community. This panel will discuss how Gen. Y's writing is not only different from Gen. X's, but is also changing the landscape of writing as we know it. Where Gen. X (born 1960's - 1980's) could focus on the written printed form, Gen. Y (born 1980's - 2000's) are writing through an ever-changing industry.

Shruti Chauhan is a poet and performer based in Leicester

Sanjay Lago is a writer and performer based in Scotland

Haamid Sharif is a 19 year old poet and an American Studies and History student

Keisha Thompson is a Manchester based writer, performance artist and producer

Is the future of BAME theatre outside of a building?

12.15-13.30 Chapter One Books

Recent reports show that neither commercial nor subsidised theatres are diverse or inclusive to the extent that they should be. Theatre companies such as Eclipse, Talawa and Tamasha are working to change that. But is the nature of theatre in the UK such that it excludes anyone who isn't white and male? Is the solution to take our theatre outside conventional theatre buildings, or is it to take over those buildings?

Javaad Alipoor is a mixed race writer, director, spoken word artist and theatre maker from Bradford

Yolanda Mercy is an Actor, Playwright and Experienced Youth Theatre Director

Benji Reid is an award-winning visual theatre director

Dawn Walton began her directing career at the Royal Court Theatre and is artistic director of Eclipse

What makes for a good translation?

14.15-15.30 Madlab

With Britain being so full of voices from other languages why is only 4% of literature published in the UK translated? This panel will explore the challenges faced by writers, translators, and publishers in the industry such as? Does the lack of translated works stop writers from writing in other (non-European) languages? Are there enough literary translators of colour? Does the lack of opportunities contribute to the lack of translators of colour.

Christina Fonthes is a Manchester-based poet, performer and translator

Pasha Abdullahi is an editor, author and worked as a journalist for the Tehran Times

Dr Louisa Uchum Egbunike is a lecturer in English at MMU with interest in postcolonial nationhood

Erica Jarnes works for the writers organisation English PEN

Black and Dangerous: BAME writers and the representation of mental health.

14.15-15.30 Chapter One Books

Stigmas attached to mental health prevent it from being properly discussed within literary contexts. Racism within mainstream mental health services results in a lack of understanding and services provided to BAME people. How does writing affect this? Does mainstream literature perpetuate the stereotype and lead to dangerous consequences such as the medicated and sedated black woman?

Dr Col Bashir is a psychologist, poet and playwright.

JJ Bola is a Kinshasa born, London raised writer, poet, educator and workshop facilitator

Charlotte Maxwell is a poet and short story writer from Manchester

Radikal Queen is a cultural activist and poet based in the UK, who makes grassroots theatre and music

Desiree Reynolds has written film scripts, poetry and is the author of *Seduce*

From Ancient African civilisation to Afrofuturism: Illustration & the black aesthetic.

14.15-15.30 Central Library

This panel will look at non-western aesthetics with regards to digital art, comic books and graphic literature. Has Afrofuturism - a movement that includes and combines science fiction, magical realism, fantasy and Afrocentricity - affected illustrations related to literature?

Ian Bobb is one of Manchester's boldest visual artists and a pioneer of afrofuturist canvases

Peniel Enchill is an English based fashion illustrator of Ghanaian Heritage

Bethany Hermitt is a visual artist, writer and designer based in Manchester

Afshan D'souza-Lodhi writes plays, prose, performance pieces and passive aggressive tweets

Racism, Writing and Resistance: Does literature perpetuate racism?

16.00-17.15 Madlab

Does the stereotyping and simplification of non-white characters within mainstream English language literature continue? If so, how do we move away from these stereotype? Can literature play a role in resistance? With literature holding the power and potential to influence and critique, this panel discusses the belief that literature is not only important, but should also be responsible.

Hafsah Aneela Bashir is a poet and spoken word artist

Kavita Bhanot is a short story and non-fiction writer

Peter Kalu is an award-winning playwright, poet and novelist

Tariq Mehmood is a broadcaster, writer and filmmaker

The revolution in BAME poetry is yet to come?

16.00-17.15 Chapter One Books

In 2005, the Free Verse reported that less than 1% of poetry published by major presses in the UK was by Black and Asian poets. That 1% has since moved to 8% (in 2014). What caused this positive shift and what type of poets are the 7% who have grown from the 1%. 8% still doesn't represent the ethnic split of the UK population which is currently 14%. Why is this? Who are the gatekeepers? What power do they wield and what is the effect of that execution of power on BAME poets and poetry?

Siana Bangura is a writer, blogger, freelance journalist, poet, performer, and public speaker

Nii Ayikwei Parkes is a writer, editor and socio-cultural commentator

Sandeep Parmar is a poet, critic, editor and Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Liverpool

Yomi Sode is a writer/poet and was once long-listed as one of MTV's Brand New Artist

Drawing in black and white: An exhibition of art work from BAME artists.
[Exhibition] 11.00-14.00 Central Library

This exhibition will showcase the work of BAME artists across the UK. We are often asked where the Black and Asian artists are. Here they are. Come find your illustrators, graphic designers and visual artists.

Featuring work by:

Sarbjit Kaur is a Visual Artist, Activist and Art workshop leader

Ian Bobb is one of Manchester's boldest visual artists and a pioneer of afrofuturist canvases

Peniel Enchill is an English based fashion illustrator of Ghanaian Heritage

Thabo Imasiku is a Zambian and Mancunian artist who is a recent Product Design Graduate

Lydia Meiying is an Illustrator and Surface Pattern Designer based in Manchester

Evening part of the festival - Contact Theatre

Lemn Sissay+ Poetry of Adoption Monologues at Contact (7pm start)

7pm start

Contact Theatre

Poetry of Adoption, Adoption of Poetry (*Curtain Raiser*)

A series of short monologues around the themes of family and adoption will open the show, before Lemn Sissay's performance. *Christina Fonthes, Seni Seneviratne, Claire Hynes and Lucy Chau-Lai Tuen* will perform monologues, exploring adoption and family in modern Britain.

Lemn Sissay MBE

The author of several books of poetry alongside articles, public art and plays. His landmark poems are installed throughout Manchester and London in venues such as The Royal Festival Hall and The Olympic Park.

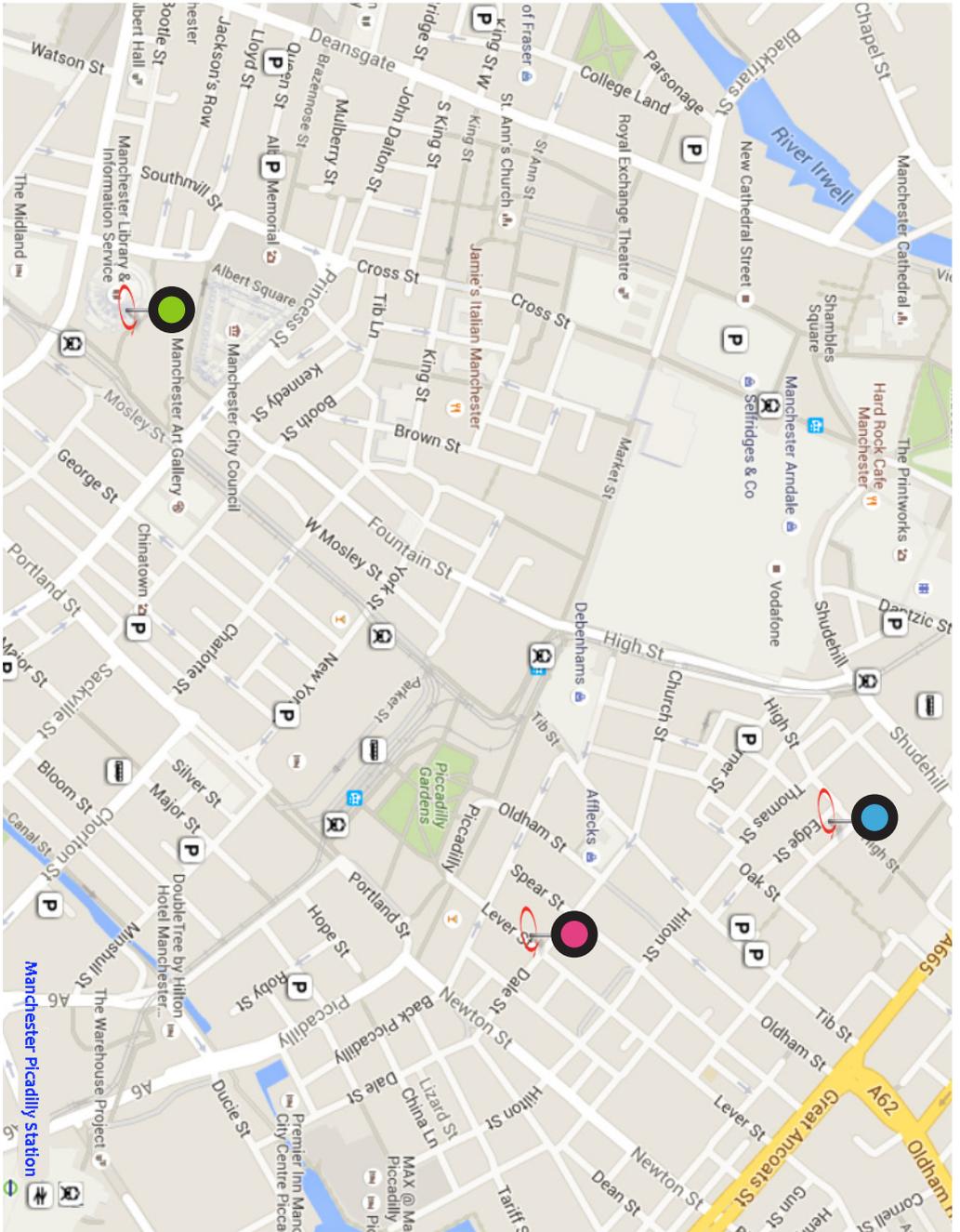
Post-show Open Mic

Join us at the after party for music and an open mic stage with Dj Manon Olegasageram. Open Mic slots will be available.

To buy tickets for this part of the festival, please ring Contact Theatre Box office on 0161 2740 600 or visit <http://goo.gl/mkB1CO>

Tickets - £13 /£7 conc. Over 15s.

Contact Theatre - Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6JA (behind Manchester Academy)



 Chapter One Books

 MadLab

 Central Library