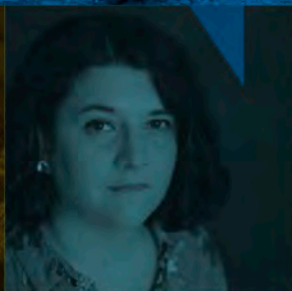




LYRA BRISTOL POETRY FESTIVAL '19

WEDNESDAY 20th -
SUNDAY 24th MARCH
2019



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

 @LYRAFEST  @LYRAFEST
TICKETS [HDFST.UK/LYRAFEST](https://www.hdfst.uk/lyrafest)



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Lyra is Bristol's brand new poetry festival. We are proud to present a festival programme which captures the variety of modern poetry in terms of its style and presentation. The core programme includes an annual slam, a lecture, a talk, a film screening, an open mic, workshops, readings, performances, a walking tour and a panel discussion.

Thanks to all of the organisations who have collaborated with us this first year and shown such tremendous support for the festival, enabling it to launch this year.

Thank you to Headfirst Bristol who are providing all of the ticket services.

Please log on to hdfst.uk/lyrafest to access tickets to particular events, buy a festival pass for all events, and to book a place at free events.

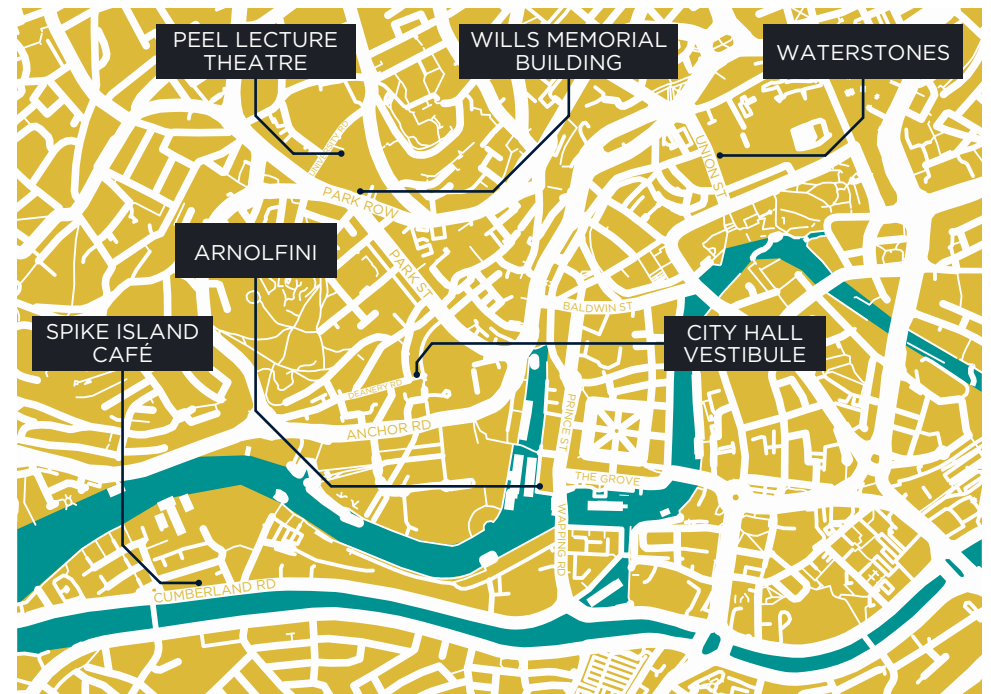
This festival has been supported using funding from Arts Council England. We are immensely grateful for their continued support of poetry in the South West.

This festival will champion the incredible talent pool in the city of Bristol and its surrounding areas.



[@LYRAFEST](https://www.instagram.com/lyrafest) [@LYRAFEST](https://www.twitter.com/lyrafest)
TICKETS HDFST.UK/LYRAFEST

VENUES



MEET THE TEAM



DANNY 'CRAFT-D' PANDOLFI

Danny 'Craft-D' Pandolfi is co-director of Lyra - Bristol Poetry Festival and a poet, rapper, event producer and educator. He is also the founder of acclaimed South West poetry event organisation and talent development platform Raise the Bar who run monthly shows at Arnolfini, Crofters Rights and Komedia Bath. In 2017 he was named as one of Bristol's 24 most influential Bristolians under 24 by Rife Magazine. In 2018, he was featured in an Eventbrite documentary entitled 'Generation DIY' celebrating creatives and promoters under 25. A recent Bristol Resident Boat Poet, he has performed at Ministry of Sound, O2 Academy Bristol, Camp Bestival, Blissfields, Cheltenham Literature Festival, Ledbury Poetry Festival and more.



LUCY ENGLISH

Lucy English is co-director of Lyra - Bristol Poetry Festival, a spoken word educator and Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. She has two collections published by Burning Eye Books. Lucy performed in two ACE funded UK spoken word tours, Flash in 2010-11 and Count Me In 2014-2015. In 2016 she produced Rebecca Tantony's experimental immersive spoken word show, All the Journey I Never Took. Lucy organises the MIX conferences in Digital Writing at Bath Spa University and is co-director of Liberated Words which screens, curates and creates poetry films.

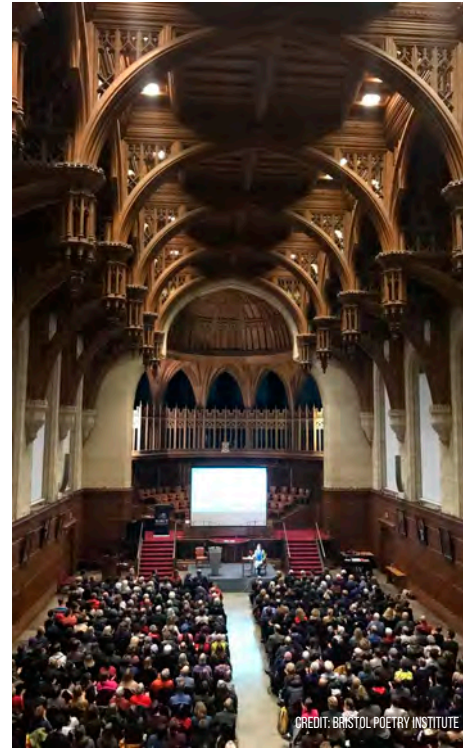


TOM SASTRY

Tom Sastry is the inaugural Bristol Poetry Festival Poet in Residence, and has lived in Bristol since 1999. As well as his involvement in several of the core programme events, he has done a great deal of outreach work to engage the wider city with the Festival. He was chosen by Carol Ann Duffy as one of the 2016 Laureate's Choice poets. His resulting pamphlet, Complicity was a Poetry Book Society pamphlet choice and a Poetry School Book of the Year. His first full collection A Man's House Catches Fire will be published by Nine Arches Press in October. A volume of his spoken word pieces will be published by Burning Eye Books in 2020.

CORE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH '19



BRISTOL POETRY FESTIVAL LECTURE

A lecture on the history of Bristol poetry. Delivered by Professor Ralph Pite, with an opening speech and introduction by Festival Co-Director Lucy English.



PEEL LECTURE THEATRE

Geographical Sciences, behind Bristol Museum, entry via University Rd.

Time: 6:30 - 7:30pm Price: Free

Bristol's a place where poetry has been revolutionary - Wordsworth and Coleridge's Lyrical Ballads published here in 1798 brought about a paradigm shift in poetry, lasting to this day. And it's a city where poetry has been groundbreaking, carrying forward the movement to abolish slavery and embedded in scientific discovery - in what Richard Holmes called The Age Of Wonder. Building on that tradition, Bristol's a city where poetry helps make possible diversity, dialogue, identity and community. This opening talk, a collaboration with Bristol Poetry Institute, aims to show why it's hard to think of a better place to hold a festival of poetry.

There will be a walking taxi leaving at 7.30pm from this event to the 8:00pm evening event at Park Street Vestibule.

TELL ME LIES: POETRY AS FICTION READING + WORKSHOP

Poet in Residence Tom Sastry gives an exclusive reading of his excellent poetry, followed by a workshop on the topic of writing poetry as fiction.

DEANERY ROAD VESTIBULE

City Hall. Entry via Deanery Rd side of City Hall, opposite the statue.

Time: 8:00 - 10:00pm Price: £5 for reading/£5 for workshop/£7 for both

Poetry audiences often assume work is autobiographical in a way that readers of novels do not. This affects the way people write, read and hear poetry. But presenting poems as fictions is a powerful discipline: it ensures that whatever response the poet elicits is based on the writing itself, not on reactions to the poet's own situation. It opens up the whole world of the imagination and demands an exercise of creative empathy which more autobiographical writing can lack.

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH '19



BRISTOL CITY POET WORKSHOP

A workshop led by Bristol's City Poet Laureate Vanessa Kisuule.

ARNOLFINI THEATRE

Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

Price: £5

How do we capture a city in words? Is it the poem's job to make political commentary? How does our personal experience of a place speak of wider themes and issues? Through lively writing and performing exercises this workshop will get you writing poems about Bristol and discovering how our words have a powerful impact on how we perceive the places we live.

RAISE THE BAR EVENT

Acclaimed South-West spoken word event Raise the Bar returns to Arnolfini for a festival special.



ARNOLFINI THEATRE

Time: 7:00 - 9:30pm Price: £5/7

The energetic, diverse and entertaining show will feature a headline set from comedy-rap-jazz duo Harry and Chris, featured on Russell Howard Hour and Edinburgh Fringe favourites, with support from newly published Burning Eye Books poets Shruti Chauhan and Stephen Lightbown.



FRIDAY 22ND MARCH '19

AFTER THE SHOUTING STOPS PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY Q&A

A fascinating discussion panel, in collaboration with Tonic, asking what page and spoken word poets can learn from each other. Featuring Melanie Branton, Josephine Corcoran, Josie Alford and Stefan Mohamed. Chaired by Jo Bell.



DEANERY ROAD VESTIBULE

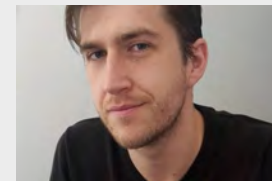
City Hall. Entry via Deanery Rd side of City Hall, opposite the statue.

Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

Price: £3

Are contemporary page poets elitist snobs who create poems by mixing quotations from Virgil with boring vignettes from their exotic holidays? Is spoken word emotionally manipulative and devoid of skill? Some people enjoy this argument. We don't. We think it's more interesting to talk about what we can learn from each other. This event explores what poets learn from their different routes into writing and performing poetry and seeks to share those lessons.

There will be a walking taxi leaving at 7.00pm from this event to the 7.30pm evening event at Waterstones on Union Street.



LAUREATE'S CHOICE POETS READING

Hosted by Tom Sastry. Featuring Greg Gilbert, Nichola Deane and Mark Pajak.

WATERSTONES

The Galleries. Entry via Union St entrance.

Time: 7:30 - 8:30pm

Price: £5

£7 for both this & Nine Arches

As Carol Ann Duffy's tenure as UK Poet Laureate draws to a close, we celebrate her contribution to promoting poetry by inviting three of the poets she has identified as 'ones to watch' through the Laureate's Choice programme to read for us.



NINE ARCHES PRESS READING

Hosted by Tom Sastry. Featuring Suzannah Evans and Jo Bell.

WATERSTONES

The Galleries. Entry via Union St entrance.

Time: 9:00 - 10:00pm

Price: £5

£7 for both this & Laureate's Choice

Readings from Suzannah Evans and from Jo Bell, one of the UK's leading poets and arguably its most influential poetry teacher. Both are exceptional readers. Suzannah and Jo are published by Nine Arches Press which in ten years has established an enviable reputation for the quality of its outputs.

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH '19

UPROOTED POETRY FILM SCREENING

Filmmakers for these short poems include Ghayath Almadhoun and Marie Silkeberg, Jan Baeke, Alfred Marseille, Maciej Piatek and poet Hollie McNish.

ARNOLFINI FRONT ROOM

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Price: Free

Uprooted is a curated poetry film screening by Liberated Words co-directors, poet Lucy English and videopoet Sarah Tremlett, reflecting on the lives of refugees and migration, and how artists can illuminate and fulfil important roles. Three types of film will be shown: those centred on war zones, those in transit and the views from those both welcoming and 'settling' in a new country. The films show how artists can bring another view of the refugee crisis beyond how it is portrayed in the media.

LYRA FESTIVAL ANNUAL SLAM QUALIFIERS EVENT

The official qualifying rounds for the 2019 Festival Slam, ahead of the evening finals.

ARNOLFINI LIGHT STUDIO

Time: 1:30 - 2:00pm
2:30 - 3:00pm
3:30 - 4:00pm

Price: Free

Presented in collaboration with Hammer and Tongue, these afternoon events will see some of the region's finest poets competing for a place in the evening grand slam final. Come along to cheer on the poets as they bring their finest work to the stage, and see which artists qualify for the finals later in the day.



MOLE & GECKO: THE SHOW FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

An interactive rap musical starring Simon Mole and Gecko, in collaboration with Apples and Snakes. Suitable for all ages 5+.

SPIKE ISLAND CAFÉ

Time: 5:30 - 6:30pm
Price: Kids £5/Grown-ups £2.50/
Family (5 people max) £12.50

Enjoy live songs, rap stories, instant poems and a weasel with a serious biscuit problem. Join our heroes as they discover that what they thought they were searching for might be less important than what they find along the way. An interactive musical that the audience help to create! A rapper and a singer. A mole and a gecko. A river. A boat with no name. A quest for adventure. A quest with a duck!

APPLES AND SNAKES

LYRA FESTIVAL ANNUAL SLAM FINAL EVENT

Some of Bristol's finest wordsmiths go head-to-head to be crowned champion, plus a feature set from Olivia Gatwood.

ARNOLFINI THEATRE

Time: 7:00 - 9:30pm Price: £5/7

The inaugural new Bristol Annual Poetry Slam, presented in collaboration with esteemed poetry slam organisation Hammer and Tongue. This will feature some of the finest performers in the region who qualified for the final, all going head to head to be crowned Bristol Festival Slam Champion 2019. The event will feature a set from phenomenal US poet Olivia Gatwood, whose brilliant work has accumulated millions of views online.



SUNDAY 24TH MARCH '19

WALKING TOUR OF BRISTOL POETRY

A guided tour of Bristol led by Professor Ralph Pite, using smart technology to explore the city - its layered histories, its cultural complexity and the voices of its poets, past and present.

MEETING POINT: OUTSIDE WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 12:00 - 1:30pm

Price: £5

You can download the free smartphone app 'ROMANTIC BRISTOL: Writing the City' in advance of the tour, and find your way to Bristol, old and new.

This event is suitable for families.

FESTIVAL LAUREATE INTRODUCES OPEN MIC

An open stage welcoming poets of all styles to perform.

DEANERY ROAD VESTIBULE

City Hall. Entry via Deanery Rd side of City Hall, opposite the statue.

Time: 3:30 - 5:30pm

Price: Free

Your chance to read at the Bristol Poetry Festival as Poet in Residence Tom Sastry comperes an open mic and introduces short feature sets from two emerging South West poets, Hannah Linden and Jan Prior. Just turn up and sign up on the door to share a poem of your own.

There will be a walking taxi leaving at 5:30pm from this event to the 6:00pm evening event at Wills Memorial Building.

POETRY IN A TIME OF CIVIL UNREST TALK + Q&A

Outstanding poet and lecturer Anthony Anaxagorou illustrates how poetry has shaped our world through times of political conflict and civil unrest.

+ Free bespoke poems from The Poetry Machine.

WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm

Price: £5

In this lecture poet and writer Anthony Anaxagorou will look at the ways poetry in its response to politics and civil unrest has shaped our world over the last 150 years. From England, to China, to Palestine, Egypt, Somalia, America and Chile, this talk will look at key poems which catalysed change, and galvanised mass groups of people to challenge the injustices of the time.



EXTENDED MARCH PROGRAMME

Here is a list of other fabulous poetry events taking place around the city throughout March. Festival passes include entry to all of the core events only (20th - 24th March), and not those listed below. To book tickets to these events, please go through the relevant organisations and book online in advance where necessary.

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH '19

SILVER STREET POETRY

Time: 12.30 - 2.00pm

THE STATION Silver Street, BS1 2AG

Price: £3, or what you can afford.

Silver Street Poetry (formerly Can Openers) featuring Sharon Larkin. Those attending are encouraged to listen and/or share their work, or a favourite poem by another writer.

For further info contact Deborah Harvey
deborah.harvey@ymail.com

ARTS HOUSE OPEN MIC

Time: 8.30pm

ARTS HOUSE 108a Stokes Croft, BS1 3RU

Price: Free entry

Pure open mic with no feature acts. Mostly poetry and music, but all styles welcome. Run by Tim Vosper and Tom Sastry.

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH '19

BEYOND THE HAIKU WORKSHOP

Time: 10.30am - 4.30pm

HOURS GALLERY 10 Colston Yard, BS1 5BD

Price: £50/£45 concessions.

In this one-day workshop, Katrina Naomi will offer a range of writing exercises based on both contemporary Japanese poetry and traditional Japanese forms.

For further info & to book contact Vik Shirley on
vikis@btinternet.com

KATRINA NAOMI, RACHAEL BOAST & HOLLY CORFIELD CARR AT HOURS GALLERY

Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

HOURS GALLERY 10 Colston Yard, BS1 5BD

Price: £5, £4 concessions.

An evening of poetry with Katrina Naomi, Rachael Boast and Holly Corfield Carr + open mic.

For further info & to book contact Vik Shirley on
vikis@btinternet.com

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH '19

SPEL ALT POETRY AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC

Time: 8.30 - 10.30pm

BRISTOL FRINGE CAFE BAR 32 Princess Victoria St, BS8 4BZ

An open mic night of poetry and music. Book a slot on arrival. Hosted by Tim Burroughs.

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH '19

HAMMER AND TONGUE

Time: 7.00 - 10.00pm

LOCO KLUB Clock Tower Yard (opposite Yurt Lush), BS1 6QH

Price: £7, £6 concessions.

The first Wednesday of every month Hammer and Tongue present a guest and supporting artist, plus an open slam! Tickets from Headfirst Bristol or on the door.

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH '19

TONIC 008

Time: 7.30pm

HOURS GALLERY 10 Colston Yard, BS1 5BD

Price: £5

Open mic for music and poetry. BYOB.

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH '19

RAISE THE BAR: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY POETRY

Time: 7.00pm

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF STOKES CROFT

14 Hillgrove Street, BS2 8JT

Price: £5

A poetry fundraiser celebrating the strength and achievements of women and folks of other oppressed genders, raising money for Refugee Women of Bristol. Featuring Nafeesa Hamid, Holly Daffurn, Hannah Teasdale & Thommie Gillow.

MONDAY 11TH MARCH '19

TONIC FREE WRITING WORKSHOP

Time: 5.30pm

BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY College Green, BS1 5TL

Price: Free

Free writing workshop. All welcome. Come and write poetry with prompts and exercises from poet Chris Beale.

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH '19

RAISE THE BAR & MILK SPOTLIGHT

Time: 7.30pm Price: £3

CROFTERS RIGHTS 117-119 Stokes Croft, BS1 3RW

A warm extended open mic event each month with a feature act. Tickets on the door.

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH '19

SATELLITE OF LOVE

Time: 8.30 - 10.30pm

THE GREENBANK 57 Belle Vue Rd, BS5 6DP

Price: Free (donations to refugee charities)

An open mic with community poems and all languages welcome, featuring Malaika Kegode and Kate B Hall.

For further info contact Pauline Sowards
paulinesowards@hotmail.co.uk

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH '19

ANATHEMA

Time: 7.00pm Price: £3 on the door

STORYSMITH BOOKS 49 North St, BS3 1EN

An evening of experimental poetry from James Knight, Pascal O'Loughlin and more TBA.

For further info contact
www.anathemapoetry.wordpress.com/

ARTS HOUSE ADVENTURES IN POETRY FILM + OPEN MIC

Time: 7.30pm Price: Free

ARTS HOUSE 108A Stokes Croft, BS1 3RU

A selection of poetry films curated by Helen Dewbery and Chaucer Cameron. These films were created by the Chippenham based poetry film collective of performers, poets, visual artists and musicians.

MONDAY 18TH MARCH '19

BLAH BLAH BLAH

Time: 7.30 - 9.30pm Price: £8

THE WARDROBE THEATRE 25 West St, BS2 0DF

An exciting night of spoken word with Theresa Lola, Jess Green, Rebecca T Antony and Bath Spa University alumni poets.

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH '19

BERKELEY SQUARE POETRY REVUE

Time: 8.30 - 10.30pm

THE SQUARE CLUB The Berkeley Hotel, 15 Berkeley Square, BS8 1HB

Tickets on the door

Three poets to read plus musician Rosalinda Moreno Para. This night is run by Tim Burroughs and Charles Thompson.

BOOKS THAT MADE ME A POET

Time: 6.45pm

REDLAND LIBRARY Whiteladies Rd, BS8 2PY

Price: £3

Bristol Festival poet Tom Sastry, Deborah Harvey and Fiona Hamilton plus guests describe their life journey to becoming a poet in terms of the books that shaped their life choices.

LINES OF THE MIND

Time: 7.30pm

THE ROPEWALK 5 Nelson Parade, BS3 4JA

Price: Free

Open mic night, with guest poets Taran Spalding-Jenkin and Kezabelle Ambler.

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH '19

ARTS HOUSE OPEN MIC

Time: 8.30pm

ARTS HOUSE 108a Stokes Croft, BS1 3RU

Price: Free entry.

Pure open mic with no feature acts. Mostly poetry and music, but all styles welcome. Run by Tim Vosper and Tom Sastry.

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH '19

SHARP TEETH

Time: 6pm

THE WARDROBE THEATRE 25 West St, BS2 0DF

Price: Pay what you feel (£4 recommended).

Poet Maya Blackwell with composer musician and performer extraordinaire Don Coyote, storyteller Aisha Ali and a scratch performance of Soap Soup Theatre's Mathildemathilda. Hosted by Stephanie Kempson.

ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

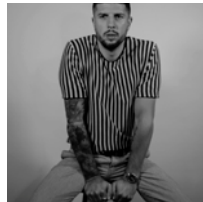


JOSIE ALFORD

Josie Alford is a Bristol-based poet and event host and part of the Hammer and Tongue Bristol family. Winner of the Hip Yak Poetry Slam 2018, her poetry fuses the techniques of spoken and written poetry and she is currently working on her debut collection "Faulty Manufacturing" about the death of her father.

ANTHONY ANAXAGOROU

Anthony Anaxagorou is a British born Cypriot award-winning poet, fiction writer, essayist, publisher and poetry educator. He has published several volumes of poetry, a spoken-word EP and a collection of short stories. His new collection of poetry *After the Formalities* will be published with Pinned in the Margins in September 2019. In January 2019 he was made an honorary fellow at Roehampton University where he lectures in the humanities.



JO BELL

Jo Bell was born in Sheffield and grew up on the fringes of the Derbyshire Peak District, leaving school just after the Miners' Strike. She became an industrial archaeologist, specialising in coal and lead mines. A winner of the Charles Causley Prize and the Manchester Cathedral Prize, she was the first Canal Laureate for the UK appointed by the Poetry Society and the Canal & River Trust. She lives on a narrowboat on the English waterways. *Kith* (Nine Arches Press) is Jo Bell's second collection of poems.

MELANIE BRANTON

Melanie Branton's page poetry has been published in numerous journals, including *Bare Fiction*, *Prole*, *The Frogmore Papers*, *Obsessed With Pipework* and *The Interpreter's House*. She has performed at *Womad*, *Bristol Harbour Festival* and poetry nights all over the country, representing Bristol in two national slam finals. Her collections are *My Cloth-Eared Heart* (Oversteps, 2017) and *Can You See Where I'm Coming From?* (Burning Eye, 2018). "A fantastic poet with a great mix of dry humour and real life heart and emotion." - Harry Baker



SHRUTI CHAUHAN

Shruti Chauhan is a British Indian poet and performer based in Leicester. She has won slams internationally in Chicago and Mumbai, and has performed at Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Southbank Centre, the Green Mill in Chicago, the US Embassy's American Centre in New Delhi, and at poetry festivals and events across the UK. Shruti was voted Best Spoken Word Performer at the 2018 Saboteur Awards. She won the National Poetry Library's Instapoetry competition the same year.

JOSEPHINE CORCORAN

Josephine Corcoran's work as a playwright and short story writer has been performed on stage and broadcast on BBC R4. She has published two poetry collections, a pamphlet with tall-lighthouse and a full collection *What Are You After?* with Nine Arches Press. She is originally from Lancashire and has lived in Trowbridge, West Wiltshire, for 16 years. She works as a writer in schools and community settings and is a Poetry Society Stanza Rep.

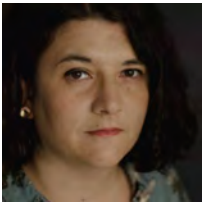


NICHOLA DEANE

Nichola Deane was born in Bolton in 1973. She was educated at the Universities of St Andrews and Manchester. In 2012, her first pamphlet, *My Moriarty*, won the Flarestack Poetry Pamphlet Prize, and was a PBS Pamphlet Choice. Her second pamphlet, *Trieste* (Smith Doorstop, 2015), was a Laureate's Choice. Her work has appeared in magazines such as *Poetry London*, *Magma*, *Archipelago*, and *The Rialto*. 'Yesterday's Child' was Highly Commended in the 2014 Forward Prize. *Cuckoo*, her first collection, will be published in 2020 by V. Press.

SUZANNAH EVANS

Suzannah Evans lives in Sheffield and her pamphlet *Confusion Species* was a winner in the 2012 Poetry Business book and pamphlet competition, judged by Carol Ann Duffy and her debut collection *Near Future* was published by Nine Arches Press in 2018. She has had poems published in *The Rialto*, *The North*, *Magma* and *Poetry Review* and her poem 'Helpline' has been 'Poem of the Week' on the Guardian website. Suzannah is the winner of a Gladstone's Library residency for 2019 with *Near Future*.



OLIVIA GATWOOD

Olivia Gatwood's performances have been featured on HBO, Huffington Post, MTV, VH1, and BBC among others. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Winter Tangerine Review*, *Poetry City U.S.A.*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, and *The Missouri Review*. Her Amazon Best Selling collection, *New American Best Friend*, reflects her experiences growing up in both New Mexico and Trinidad, navigating girlhood, puberty, relationships, and period underwear. Online, her videos, including *Manic Pixie Dream Girl* and *Ode to My Bitch Face* have gained over 3 million views collectively.

GREG GILBERT

Greg Gilbert is a writer, artist and musician from Southampton and the father of two young girls, ages 4 and 2. In November 2016 he was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer with secondary lung. He is the lead singer of the band, *Delays*, who have released 4 albums and was a winner of the Best in The South of England at the National Open Art Competition and exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.



HARRY AND CHRIS

Harry and Chris have played together in various forms for over 10 years. World Poetry Slam Champion Harry Baker teams up with BFF/Jazz Musician Chris Read as the imaginatively titled 'Harry and Chris'. After sell-out runs of their 2016, 2017 and 2018 shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, Harry Baker and Chris Read have been featured on 'The Russell Howard Hour' (Sky) and tour regularly around the UK. "Amazing, fabulously entertaining" - Jonathan Ross

VANESSA KISUULE

Vanessa Kisule is a writer and performer and Bristol City Poet 2018-2020, who has won over 10 slam titles including the UK National Slam in 2014. She has worked with the Southbank Centre, RADA, The Bristol City Council. *Knee High Theatre* and Warner Music, and had her work featured on BBC iPlayer, BBC Radio 1, Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*, *The Guardian*, *Sky TV* and more. Her poetry collections 'Joyriding The Storm' and 'A Recipe For Socery' are both published by Burning Eye.





STEPHEN LIGHTBOWN

Stephen Lightbown is a Bristol based, Blackburn born poet. In 1996, aged 16, Stephen became paralysed following an accident when he hit a tree whilst sledging in the snow. Twenty years after the accident he began writing poetry and writes extensively but not exclusively about life as a wheelchair user. In 2019 his first poetry collection, Only Air, will be published by Burning Eye Books.

HANNAH LINDEN

Hannah Linden, Devon-based but originally from Lancashire, is not afraid to go into dark corners or to stand and bask in the rain. She has published in print and digital journals, most recently in Magma, The Interpreter's House, And Other Poems, Lighthouse and Under the Radar. Hannah has read at several poetry festivals including Cheltenham, Torbay and Swindon; been part of Poetry Pram which took poetry to Beautiful Days Festival 2018; and has recently headlined at the Phoenix Arts Centre, Exeter with a reading exploring male mental health.

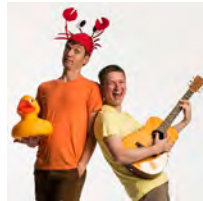


STEFAN MOHAMED

Stefan Mohamed is a performing poet and the author of the Bitter Sixteen Trilogy and Falling Leaves, all published by Salt Publishing. His poetry collection PANIC! is published by Burning Eye Books. He lives in Bristol, and while he tried very hard to think of a wry sign-off for this bio, nothing was forthcoming.

SIMON MOLE AND GECKO

Simon Mole and Gecko, rapper and singer, between them have shared the stage with the likes of Simon Armitage and Kate Tempest and played at prestigious venues across the UK including Glastonbury. 'Gecko is a gifted young comic songwriter with charm and style to spare' - ★★★★★ Broadway Baby, Edinburgh Fringe 2016. 'Simon Mole engages with the audience from the outset and keeps the young audience enthralled' - ★★★★★ Upstaged Manchester, 2018

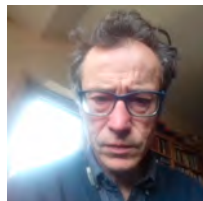


MARK PAJAK

Mark Pajak was born in Merseyside. His work has appeared in The London Review of Books, Poetry London, The North, The Rialto and Magma. He has been awarded a Northern Writer's Award, an Eric Gregory Award, first place in The Bridport Prize and has been commended in the National Poetry Competition. His first pamphlet, Spitting Distance, was selected by Carol Ann Duffy as a Laureate's Choice and is published with smith|doorstop.

RALPH PITE

Ralph Pite's biography of Thomas Hardy (The Guarded Life) was published by Picador and his biographical study of Robert Frost and Edward Thomas is soon to appear with Harvard University Press. He's working now on an ecocritical book about Romantic poetry, particularly in connection with water. Recent poems of his have been published in The Clearing and La Questione Romantica. Ralph led the team which produced the smartphone app of Bristol poetry: Romantic Bristol: Writing the City.



SUPPORTERS & COLLABORATORS

A huge thank you once again to all of our collaborators and supporters who have offered their support in various different ways for this first ever year of LYRA. We are looking forward to building relationships with you going forward, as well as a number of other South-West organisations in future years.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**