



BARE LIT FESTIVAL

25TH - 27TH MAY 2018

THE ALBANY, DEPTFORD

#BARELIT18

ABOUT US

Bare Lit is an annual festival of writing, bringing together the work of, poets, playwrights, journalists and academics of colour. It was created in 2016 with an ethos of inclusion, accessibility and celebration, to address the under-representation of people of colour in the literary and creative industries, and events often being too expensive for many to attend.

barelitfestival.com

 **@BareLit**

 **/BareLit**

 **Bare.Lit**

ACCESSIBILITY

Separate Space

There is a separate space available on-site, outside of the main performance and reading spaces for chilling out or prayer.

Specific Requirements

If you have specific accessibility requirements please approach a team member.

Photography and video

Please be aware we'll be taking photos throughout the festival. If you would like to film, please speak to a team member.

PARTNERS



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



Royal Literary Fund



TEAM

Henna Zamurd-Butt **Director + Co-founder**

Henna is CEO/editor of Media Diversified, she also co-runs pop-up bakery Sunbakes, and is a doctoral candidate researching geopolitics and the internet at Goldsmiths college.

Mend Mariwany **Director + Co-founder**

Mend is a writer and editor for Skin Deep, a print magazine focussing on issues around race and culture, and freelance content producer. He is working on a collection of poetry and fiction.

Sabeena Akhtar **Festival Coordinator**

Sabeena is the editor of upcoming Anthology, Cut From The Same Cloth, and a contributor to the forthcoming comics title, We Shall Fight Until We Win.

Salma Ibrahim **Marketing**

Salma is the Founder and Co-Producer of Literary Natives and is writing a coming of age novel weaving contemporary sci-fi with Somali folklore.

Samira Sawlani **Social Media**

Samira is a writer specialising in politics, economy and development of East and Horn of Africa and has previously worked in emergency humanitarian relief.

Mel Larsen **Consultant**

Mel is a Business Coach and Marketing Consultant. She helps creative freelancers, organisations and business owners to get clear about their long-term vision.

DESIGN BY Hilda Kortei



FRIDAY

GALA MAE

18.30-21.00

Join us to celebrate the launch of Bare Lit 2018 with a never-before-seen workshop performance of *Gala Mae*, a play by **Annette Brook** produced in collaboration with **Matchstick Theatre**.

Set in a bustling night club in 1950s Soho and present-day London, the play follows the lives of two mixed-race sisters. Raised in a children's home, when one of the sisters eventually ends up in an old people's home, the other decides to rescue her sibling, persuading her with memories of their colourful, spirited past.

Annette Brook completed the Royal Court's Young Writers' Programme and 'Invitation' group in 2008 and was a mentee on the Jerwood/Arvon programme in 2015-16. Her plays include *Make You Mine* (Soho Theatre, 2010) which was shortlisted for the Blue Elephant Theatre Playwriting Competition 2016; *Gala Mae*, longlisted for the 2016 Alfred Fagon Award; and the Penned in the Margins-commissioned *The Marriage of Lady Mede* which was part of a five-hour retelling of the medieval poem *Piers Plowman*. Annette is Communications Manager for The Royal Society of Literature.



SATURDAY

THEATRE

FREE TO SPEAK, FREE TO CENSOR

10.00-11.30

Journalists and fiction writers explore who benefits and who loses out when free speech, hate speech and censorship are used as ideological tools. What might free expression and censorship look like in different contexts?

Speakers include **Hamid Ismailov** (*The Devils Dance*, 2018), **Suman Gupta** (*Usurping Suicide*, 2017), **Winnie M Li** (*Dark Chapter*, 2017) and **Maurice Mcleod** (Media Diversified).

LITERARY BATTLEGROUND OF AN HISTORIC STRUGGLE (UK BLACK PRIDE)

11.45-13.00

UK Black Pride leads a conversation about how a new generation of writers is giving literary voice to the experiences of LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers.

Speakers include **PJ Samuels** (she/her), **S Chelvan** (he/his), **Dr Bibi Bakare-Yusuf** (Cassava Republic Press), **Josh Rivers** (he/his).

@ THE CAFE

POETRY WITH BITE!

13.00-13.45

Grab some lunch and come listen to some of the freshest new voices on the London poetry scene!

With **Bayan Goudarzpour** and **Troy Cabida**

The performances are sponsored and curated by **Apples and Snakes**, the leading organisation for poetry and spoken word.

WORKSHOP

@ THE BLUE ROOM

ENVISION YOUR FUTURE

14.00-15.30

Coach **Mel Larsen** leads a workshop in which you can fully focus on your creative goals.

Do you want to finally get that book written or do you have other ambitions? Take this time to pause and reconnect with your dreams. You will create an inspiring Vision and leave with an outline Action Plan.

TECH UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

14.00-15.30

Technological futures are the stuff of fiction and nonfiction, with both often taking sensationalist approaches to these topics.

Does fiction inform or disrupt reality? A panel of commentators, journalists and novelists who write about technology.

Speakers include **Marcus Gilroy-Ware** (*Filling The Void: Emotion, Capitalism and Social Media*, 2017), **Kelly Foster** (*Afrocrowd*), **Yen Ooi** (*Sun: Queens of Earth*, 2015), festival co-director **Henna Zamurd-Butt** chairs.

SUPERSTITION AND MAGIC

15.45-17.00

Readings from poets **Richard Georges** and **Pascale Petit** and fiction writer **Preti Taneja** showcasing the imaginary potential of superstitions and folklore. Followed by a conversation on re-appearing figures, beliefs and the role and aesthetics of the mystical in fiction.

RED ROOM

PHOTOGRAPHER Isaac Kariuki
Bare Lit Festival 2017

SCENE OF THE CRIME

10.00-11.30

Suspenseful readings from crime writers **Saeida Rouass** (*Assembly of the Dead*, 2018) and **Rosie Claverton** (*Binary Witness*, 2018), followed by a conversation that examines the role played by real-world places in this genre. With crime stories aligned so closely to the smallest details, to what extent do writers draw on these from reality?

WORKSHOP

@ THE ORANGE ROOM

SUPPORTING LONDON'S WRITERS

10.30-11.30

Are you a writer looking for support developing your craft? Need some career advice? **Spread the Word** is London's writer development agency. We'll be here to discuss how we can support your writing career.

SPEED PITCHING

11.45-13.00

Learn about what publishers are looking for and how to pitch that next bestseller. We've selected four writers to present their idea for a book or collection for constructive feedback from a panel of industry experts.

LIVE STORYTELLING

14.00-15.30

Join us for a session of live performance and readings of new work by storyteller **Mara Menzies**, novelists **Diana Evans** (*Ordinary People*, 2018) and **Hamid Ismailov** (*The Devil's Dance*, 2018) and playwright **Naomi Sumner Chan** (*Foreign Goods*, 2018). Followed by a Q&A with the audience.

WHO GETS TO BE TASTEMAKER?

15.45-17.00

Cultural criticism is hugely lacking in diversity of experiences, yet dictates what makes good or bad art, music, literature and food. We explore the role of the cultural critic with poet **Bridget Minamore** (*Titanic*, 2016) and author/travel writer **Noo Saro-Wiwa** (*An Unreliable Guide to London*, 2016).



SATURDAY

AND

SUNDAY

MARKETPLACE

Make sure to browse our marketplace, featuring your favourite zine makers, a dedicated bookstall, and opportunities to talk to industry experts!

FEATURED STALLS:

- Royal Society of Literature
- Apple and Snakes
- Hullabaloo Indian Street Food
- Black Book Swap
- Hachette UK
- Penguin Random House
- Tilted Axis
- Newham Books
- Booklove
- Tokunbo's Kitchen

ZINEMAKERS:

AuthorRising, Consented UK, Gal-Dem, OOMK, Sister Magazine, SweetThangZine, TOKEN, Wasafiri, Khidr, The Shanghai Literary Review, Rewrite, Daikon*



SUNDAY

THEATRE

(EM)BODYING LIT: D/DEAF AND DISABLED POETICS

10.00-11.30

Readings and screenings from *Stairs and Whispers* (2017), a ground-breaking anthology examining UK disabled and D/deaf poetics, followed by a discussion with contributors **Raisa Kabir**, **Kuli Kohli**, **Mark Mace Smith** and **Khairani Barokka**, who is curator of this session and co-editor of the anthology.

With BSL interpretation.

Film of Bea Webster in BSL with English captions and partial audio description.

BRITAIN AFTER THE FALL OF MULTICULTURALISM

11.45-13.00

The grand political events in Euroamerica around the turn of the century have eroded Britain's illusion of an innocent past. The panel reflect on the past and present, and explore how people of colour have come to navigate the end of Britain's multicultural promise.

Speakers include **Karma Nabulsi** (*The Invisible History: Prevent and the Persistence of Empire*, 2019), **Damian Le Bas** (*The Stopping Places*, 2018), **Yomi Adegoke** (*Slay in your Lane*, 2018) and **Lainy Malkani** (*Sugar Sugar*, 2017), festival co-director **Mend Mariwany** chairs.

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With **The Repeat Beat Poet** and **Rae Levine**

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POETRY WITH MOSTLY LIT LIVE

14.00-15.30

Join the hosts of book and pop culture podcast Mostly Lit, **Raifa, Alex** and **Derek**, for an exciting live session featuring **Kayo Chingonyi**, author of the poetry collection *Kumukanda* (2017). #MostlyLit

ROYAL LITERARY FUND KEYNOTE: NII AYIKWEI PARKES

15.30-16.00



Royal Literary Fund

Join us for the annual Keynote by award-winning writer **Nii Ayikwei Parkes**.

Nii Ayikwei Parkes is a writer, editor and socio-cultural commentator. He is the author of the internationally-translated hybrid novel, *Tail of the Blue Bird*, of which the French translation won the 2014 Prix Baudelaire, Prix Mahogany and Prix Laure Bataillon. He was recently the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of Aberystwyth and was selected as one of Africa's 39 most promising authors of the new generation for the World Book Capital Africa 39 Project.

Nii Ayikwei writes for children under the name K. P. Kojo and spends his time in Europe – where he is the senior editor for flipped eye publishing – and in Ghana, where he was the founding director of the Ama Ata Aidoo Centre for Creative Writing in 2017. He is currently working on a crowdfunded collection of short stories, *The City Will Love You* (Unbound, 2018).

The Royal Literary Fund was set up in 1790 to help professional authors. Past beneficiaries have included Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Joseph Conrad, DH Lawrence and Dylan Thomas. In 1999 a Fellowship scheme was established to place writers in universities to help students with their writing skills. Since it began it has placed 450 writers in posts at 120 higher education institutions across the UK.

RED ROOM

PHOTOGRAPHER Isaac Kariuki
Bare Lit Festival 2017

MORALITY IN YA AND CHILDREN'S FICTION

10.00-11.30

Does fiction for young people need to play a pedagogical role? Which themes are suitable to be included? And what's off limits?

A conversation featuring Young Adult fiction and Children's authors **Rutendo Tavengerwei** (*Hope Is Our Only Wing*, 2018), **Bali Rai** (*The Harder They Fall*, 2017), **Candy Gourlay** (*Bone Talk*, 2018).

IMAGINATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

14.00-15.30

What is 'development' today? Journalists, novelists and academics discuss what it means from their differing perspectives addressing the concept itself as well as the challenges the industry poses to southern societies.

Speakers include **Dr Meera Tiwari** (*Understanding Global Development*, 2018), **Guy Gunaratne** (*In Our Mad and Furious City*, 2018), **Kerry-Anne Mendoza** (*The Canary*).

INTIMATE BORDERS

11.45-13.00

In this session we bring together writers to discuss how borders, migration and living in diaspora affect the way we connect, love and relate to others in a globalised world.

Speakers include journalist **Kiri Kankhwende** (*Go Home? The Politics of Immigration Controversies*, 2017), novelist **Uzma Aslam Khan** (*Thinner Than Skin*, 2018), theatre maker **Naomi Sumner Chan** and screenwriter and director of *Cake* (2018), **Asim Abbasi**.

STAY TUNED

Want to keep up with what's happening at Bare Lit 2019?

Sign up to our mailing list or follow us on social media.

barelitfestival.com

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 Bare.Lit





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