

STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

28th April to 5th May 2019



Stratford
**Literary
Festival**

stratlitfest.co.uk



Darcey Bussell
Jacqueline Wilson
Prue Leith
John Suchet
Juliet Stevenson
Ali Smith
Andrew Davies

Alison Weir
Francesca Simon
Adam Rutherford
Henry Marsh
Nick Sharratt
Ben Okri
John Lanchester

Rosemary Shrager
Emily Maitlis
Philippa Perry
Jane Glover
Patrick Gale
Francesca Simon
...And much more

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CREATIVE GENIUS

David Eagleman looks at ideas and innovation

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David France on heroism and activism

WHY CHINA MATTERS MORE

James Anderson puts Hangzhou centre stage

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Welcome to the 2019 Festival

This year - our glorious 12th - we're bigger than ever, with possibly the widest range of topics we've ever laid before you on our literary buffet! It might be a sign of the times, but there's quite a bit of dark writing out there and we haven't shied away from including it, but hopefully we've balanced the noir with some of the biggest names in literary fiction, lots of inspirational and motivational writing, and there's even a workshop on writing comedy!

None of this would be possible without the unstinting support of so many people - from our wonderful event volunteers and audiences, to our loyal sponsors and advertisers, the Trustees and Festival team. Every year you make the Festival better and better!

Annie Ashworth | Festival Director

Box Office: **0333 666 3366**

(Open 9.00am-7.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm Saturday)
or online at: ticketsource.co.uk/stratford-literary-festival

Tickets will be on sale at the Stratford Play House throughout the Festival and on the door for events with availability.

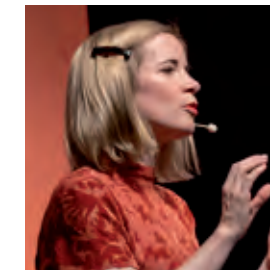
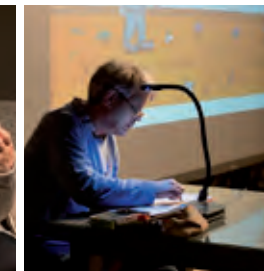
For the latest news and any programme changes, go to stratlitfest.co.uk

Cover image by Claire Henley commissioned for the Festival clairehenleyart.co.uk

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Thursday 11 April

Saturday 27 April

Sunday 28 April

5



Quiz Night Festival Fundraiser

Levi Fox Hall, KES, Chapel Lane
7.00pm-9.45pm | £16pp
inc sharing plate supper
Bar open

Our annual fundraising brain tease - and this year the quizmaster is Sue James. She promises a wide variety of questions for your team to scrap over so fear not if Spurs is more your thing than Shakespeare. Bring a team (max 6 per table) and you could win a great selection of raffle prizes. Ticket price includes a donation to our outreach work in schools and prisons.

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or call 01789 470185 to book a table



Live Lit Evening A Celebration of Local Talent

Stratford Play House
7.00pm-9.00pm | £5 *including a drink with interval and bar*
Back for a return visit after last year's successful independent authors' Festival fringe event, local self-published authors are opening the 2019 SLF. Enjoy the talent of autonomous writers as they take to the stage to entertain you with readings of their poetry, fiction and non-fiction. The standard of self-publishing has never been higher and this is an evening not to be missed. Book early - last year was a sell-out with standing room only!

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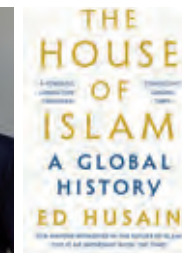
JB Priestley The Other Stratford Writer

Stratford Play House
12.30pm-1.30pm | £12 (£10 students)
Priestley was one of the most celebrated, and often controversial, commentators and writers of the twentieth century whose many works include Time and The Conways and An Inspector Calls. In 1968, Rosalie Batten became Priestley's secretary at Kissing Tree House, Stratford, where he lived for the last 25 years of his life, giving her a unique insight into his life detailed in her book: Priestley at Kissing Tree House: A Memoir. Broadcaster and comedian Barry Cryer (TBC), a personal friend of Priestley, is joined by Batten's daughter, Sophie Fyson, to discuss this remarkable man.



Ed Husain Islam: Why We Misunderstand It

Stratford Play House
2.30pm-3.30pm | £10 (£8 students)
How much do you really know about Islam? A faith rich with strong values and traditions, observed by nearly two billion people across the world, it is seen by the West as something to be feared rather than understood. Join Ed Husain, the bestselling author of The Islamist and co-founder of the counter-extremism organisation the Quilliam Foundation, in a fascinating and revelatory exploration of the intricacies of the faith. With wisdom and authority, he will provide entry to the minds and hearts of Muslims the world over and introduce non-Muslims to the faith, explaining the tension between mysticism and literalism that still threatens the House of Islam.



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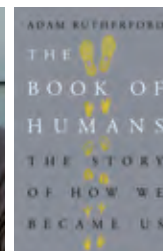
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Sunday 28 April

7



Dr Adam Rutherford The Book of Humans

Stratford Play House
2.30pm-3.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

Did you know that we are not the only species that communicates, makes tools, utilises fire, or has sex for reasons other than to make new versions of ourselves? In this original and entertaining tour of life on Earth, Adam Rutherford, the BBC Radio 4 presenter of Inside Science, explores how many of the things once considered to be exclusively human are not. Adam Rutherford is a science writer and television and radio broadcaster. His critically acclaimed first book, *Creation* – on the origin and future of life – was published in 2013, and was nominated for the Wellcome Trust Book Prize.



Professor Angela Gallop When the Dogs Don't Bark - an insight into forensic science

Stratford Play House
4.15pm-5.15pm | £10 (£8 students)

Angela Gallop is one of the UK's most eminent forensic scientists with more than 40 years experience in the field. Her work has helped to solve numerous high-profile cold cases, including the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path murders, and the murders of Stephen Lawrence, Damilola Taylor, Rachel Nickell and Roberto Calvi. She'll be talking about her compelling memoir which details some of the most fascinating criminal investigations she has worked on. From the crime scene to the courtroom, this is the remarkable story of a life spent searching for the truth.



Dr David Nott War Doctor - medicine on the front line

Stratford Play House
6.00pm-7.00pm | £12 (£10 students)

For more than twenty-five years, David Nott has taken unpaid leave from his job as a general and vascular surgeon with the NHS to volunteer in some of the world's most dangerous war zones. From Sarajevo to rebel-held eastern Aleppo, he has carried out life-saving operations and field surgery in the most challenging conditions. Driven both by compassion and passion, he is now widely acknowledged to be the most experienced trauma surgeon in the world. Hear his extraordinary story.



John Lanchester The Wall

Stratford Play House
6.00pm-7.00pm | £12 (£10 students)

Kavanagh begins his life patrolling the Wall. If he's lucky, if nothing goes wrong, he only has two years of this: 729 more nights. *The Wall* is a thrilling and hypnotic novel: a story of mystery, love, war and a voyage. It's about a broken world you will recognise as your own – and about what might be found when all is lost. John Lanchester is an award-winning author of literary fiction and the bestselling author of *Capital*. He is a contributing editor to the *London Review of Books* and a regular contributor to the *New Yorker*. His books have been longlisted for the Booker Prize and been translated into twenty-five languages.

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Located in the heart of historic Stratford-upon-Avon, The Arden Hotel is an elegant and sophisticated 45 bedroom boutique hotel in the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The chic Waterside Brasserie, stylish Champagne Bar and comfortable lounges offer a range of options for indulging, whilst the exclusive Club Bar is the perfect place to settle down for an evening of star spotting.



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Sunday 28 April

Monday 29 April



Now Saturday 27th April 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Emily Maitlis

Airhead: The Imperfect Art of Making News

Stratford Play House
7.00pm-8.00pm | £25

inc a signed copy of her book

News is a form of storytelling, and competition to grab audiences has never been stiffer. The award-winning anchor of BBC's Newsnight is watched in living rooms across the country, picking apart the ever-quicken news cycle, and interviewing some of the key people of our age; from the Dali Lama to Donald Trump. She'll be giving us a peek behind the scenes, and sharing the stand-out moments of her outstanding career - the regrets, the rows, and the sometimes deeply inappropriate comedy.

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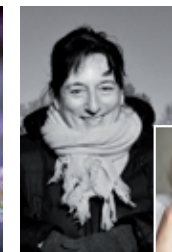
Kate Bradbury

Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything

Stratford Play House
2.00pm-3.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

Leading on from her successful book The Wildlife Gardener, the Guardian blogger Kate Bradbury will share hints and tips on creating a garden that will attract wildlife and all the benefits that brings, where birds, bees and valuable and important insects can flourish. Her new book, Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything, is a passionately written, practical guide that is essential reading for those who would like to make homes for wildlife in their own gardens.

See pages 29-31
for WORKSHOPS today



Emma Darwin, Vanessa Nicolson, Alexander Newley
Families and How to Survive Them

Stratford Play House
4.15pm-5.15pm | £12 (£10 students)

How can you write about your family if the world thinks they already know their story? Emma Darwin (great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin), Alexander Newley (son of Joan Collins and Anthony Newley) and Vanessa Nicholson (granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson) talk about the challenges of writing about, at times even in spite of, their famous families. Are there stories you 'can' and 'can't' tell? What factual and emotional truths must you face? How can you make a story truly your own? And most importantly, how does the legacy affect your own life?



Dr Julia Shaw

Making Evil - What Makes Us Bad

Stratford Play House
4.30pm-5.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

What can science teach us about why humans do bad things? And what do our reactions to deviance teach us about ourselves? Drawing together science, psychology and philosophy, Julia Shaw unlocks the intricacies of the world of criminal psychology. Grappling with thorny dilemmas from 'Would I kill baby Hitler?' to 'Why do I want to murder my spouse?', she will give you a better understanding of the world, yourself, and your Google search history. Julia is a scientist in the Department of Psychology at University College London. She has consulted as an expert on criminal cases and her work is featured on TV, radio, in print, and online.

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MACDONALD
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Monday 29 April



Rosemary Shrager
Cookery and Other
Ingredients

Stratford Play House
5.30pm-6.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

Rosemary Shrager became known for her no-nonsense cookery programmes (From Ladette to Lady), and she'll be sharing what she learned in restaurant kitchens and renowned cookery schools. She'll also be talking about her life beyond the kitchen and behind the camera, and about her new book. She'll also share behind the scenes anecdotes from I'm a Celebrity and, more recently, The Real Marigold Hotel, in which she globetrots with Miriam Margolyes and Wayne Sleep, discovering what it means to grow older around the world.

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Anna Pasternak
The Real Wallis Simpson

Stratford Play House
6.00pm-7.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

Wallis Simpson was the woman at the centre of the most scandalous love affair of the 20th century, but in her surprising new biography, bestselling author Anna Pasternak redeems a woman wronged by history. With new information shared by those who were close to the couple, she reveals an intelligent woman who was a convenient scapegoat written off by cunning, powerful men and forced into a life she never wanted. Anna Pasternak is the author of Princess in Love and Lara, which revealed the true story of the love affair behind her great uncle Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago. Her work has appeared in every major British newspaper.



**Lucy Parham and
Juliet Stevenson** I, Clara

Stratford Play House
7.30pm-9.15pm with interval
and Q&A | £16 (£14 students)

We welcome back the internationally renowned pianist, Lucy Parham, for an exciting concert to celebrate 200 years since Clara Schumann's birth in 1819, it tells the extraordinary life story, in her own words read by the well-known actress Juliet Stevenson, of an exceptional woman, devoted wife to the composer Robert Schumann and groundbreaking musician in her own right. Drawn from her letters and diaries, I, Clara will include live performances of her works, plus music by Robert Schumann, Brahms and Liszt amongst others.

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Tessa Hadley and Ben Okri
Write About Now

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

Caroline Sanderson of The Bookseller asks two of the UK's most acclaimed contemporary authors how writers can hold a mirror up to our modern lives, and throw back at us the elements that make us human? Tessa Hadley's new book Late in The Day explores the tangled webs at the centre of our most intimate relationships. Booker prize-winner Ben Okri creates a frightening, post-truth world in his much-anticipated The Freedom Artists. Both writers explore the world we live in now in two very different, but no less valuable, ways.

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Tuesday 30 April

13



Graham Farmelo

The Universe Speaks in Numbers

Stratford Play House

4.30pm-5.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

What if modern maths could reveal some of nature's deepest secrets? At this fascinating event, the award-winning science writer and biographer will take us through his ground-breaking exploration of the relationship between physics and maths, and will reveal the discoveries that have enriched our understanding of the universe. 'A superbly written, riveting book. In elegant prose, and using virtually no equations, Farmelo describes the ongoing quest of great thinkers to understand the bedrock nature of reality, from the microworld to the cosmos' Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, Emeritus Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge.

John Suchet

Tchaikovsky: The Man Revealed

Stratford Play House

5.30pm-6.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

John Suchet presents Classic FM's flagship morning programme, where his deep knowledge of classical music has won a wide audience of new listeners to the station. In a special session, he'll be talking about the enigmatic Russian composer whose life is explored in his new book, Tchaikovsky: The Man Revealed. Suchet will examine the complex and contradictory character of this great artist, long hidden behind sanitised depictions by his brother and the Russian authorities, and will explain how he came to take his rightful place among the world's greatest composers.

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Ali Smith

Spring

Stratford Play House

5.45pm-6.45pm | £12 (£10 students)

Spring will come. The leaves on its trees will open after blossom. Before it arrives, a hundred years of empire-making. The dawn breaks cold and still but, deep in the earth, things are growing. We are delighted to welcome the hugely acclaimed Ali Smith, bestselling author of Autumn and Winter, as well as the Baileys Prize-winning How to be Both. Spring is the next instalment in the remarkable, once-in-a-generation masterpiece, the Seasonal Quartet, and she'll be sharing stories of her career and inspiration.

See pages 29-31
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Ed Gorman and Paul Conroy

On Reporting War

Stratford Play House

6.30pm-7.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

A fascinating conversation with the photo-journalist Paul Conroy and former foreign correspondent at The Times, Ed Gorman. Conroy was on assignment with Marie Colvin when she was killed in Homs. His book, Under the Wire, recounts this experience, recently made into a documentary for the BBC. Death of a Translator details Gorman's experiences as a young war correspondent in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan which finally led to a breakdown and PTSD. They will discuss the challenges of their work and the price journalists pay to bring us the details of world events.

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Tuesday 30 April

Wednesday 1 May

15



Nina Caplan
 A Journey Through Wine

Hotel du Vin
 7.00pm-8.00pm | £14
 inc tasting wines

Impelled by a dual thirst for wine and for knowledge, Nina Caplan transports us to warmer climes as she tells us how she followed the vine into the past, wandering from Champagne's ancient chalk to the mountains of Campania, via the crumbling Roman ruins that flank the river Rhône and the remote slopes of Priorat in Catalonia. A wine, arts and travel journalist, Nina's book, *The Wandering Vine: Wine, the Romans and Me*, was awarded the Louis Roederer Wine Book of the Year in 2018. She writes columns for the *New Statesman* and *Luxx Magazine*.

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Philippa Perry
 The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read

Stratford Play House
 7.30pm-8.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

Come and learn! The entertaining broadcaster and psychotherapist faces head-on our relationships with our children, and asks what gets in the way of a good connection and what can enhance it. In conversation with Also Festival co-founder, Helen Bagnall, she'll share thoughts from her latest book on how strong and loving bonds can be made with your children, and how such attachments give a better chance of good mental health, in childhood and beyond. All delivered with wisdom and immense humour.

In association with



Jill Dawson
 The Language of Birds - retelling the Lucan story

Stratford Play House
 4.15pm-5.15pm | £10 (£8 students)

In the summer of 1974, Mandy River arrives in London to make a fresh start and begins working as nanny to the children of Lady Morven. She quickly finds herself in the midst of a bitter custody battle and a house under siege: according to Lady Morven, her estranged husband has a violent streak, yet she doesn't seem the most reliable witness. Drawing on the infamous Lord Lucan affair, this compelling novel from the award-winning poet and novelist Jill Dawson explores the roots of a shocking murder and brings to vivid life an era when women's voices all too often went unheard.



Dr Jane Glover
 Handel in London

Stratford Play House
 5.00pm-6.00pm | £12 (£10 students)

We welcome one of the world's most eminent conductors, and one of the few females in her profession. She joins us to tell the story of the young German composer who, in 1712, followed his princely master, the soon to be George II, to London and remained there for the rest of his life. Glover, who has conducted Handel's work in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world, draws on her profound understanding of music and musicians to tell Handel's story – the story of some of the most remarkable music ever written.

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Welcome



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The beautiful building dates back to c. 1450, when it was owned by brewer Robert Perrott. In the Oak Room dining area you can find a wall painting from the Apocryphal book of Tobit which has been dated back to 1560, after its accidental discovery in 1927.

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Festival Book Group Blood Orange

Stratford Play House
5.45pm-6.45pm | £8
Free book with first 10 tickets sold. Discounted copies also available to buy with your ticket.

Someone knows Alison's secret. Someone who wants to make her pay for what she's done, and who won't stop until she's lost everything. This year's Book Group read introduces a stunning new voice in psychological suspense. Set in the seedy underworld of London's legal chambers, Blood Orange explores law, love, lust and betrayal in this bold and utterly gripping thriller. Read the book in advance, then come and talk to the author about the plot, inspiration and research. Book Groups welcome.

See pages 29-31
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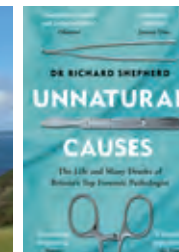
Mark Pilkington Retail Therapy and How to Save the High Street

Stratford Play House
6.00pm-7.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

The media is full of stories about disappearing retail chains – some of which have been around for decades. Deep forces are at work that are changing people's relationships with brands, the balance of power between producers and consumers, and the whole nature of the supply chain that has existed since the industrial revolution. Mark Pilkington, an experienced retailer and consultant, outlines a clear road map for sustainable success in the future. A must for anyone doing business on the high street or who fears for its survival.

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Dr Richard Shepherd Unnatural Causes

Stratford Play House
6.30pm-7.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

A forensic pathologist, Richard Shepherd solves the mysteries of unexplained or sudden deaths. He has one ultimate and pressing question to answer: how did this person die? He has faced serial killers, natural disasters, 'perfect murders' and freak accidents, all in the pursuit of the truth. In or out of the public eye, his evidence has put killers behind bars, freed the innocent and turned open-and-shut cases on their heads. But a life in death exacts a price and Shepherd doesn't flinch from counting the cost to him and his family. He'll bring us a unique insight into an extraordinary life and a remarkable profession and, above all, a powerful testament to lives cut short.



Charlie Connelly, Corrie Corfield and Paddy O'Connell Oh The Magic of Radio

Stratford Play House
6.45pm-7.45pm | £12 (£10 students)

Despite so many viewing options, ninety per cent of people in Britain still listen to the radio, with over a billion hours of listening every week. Broadcasters Corrie Corfield, Charlie Connelly and Paddy O'Connell will discuss the magic of radio, taking stock of its place in history and celebrating a shared national experience. Charlie Connelly's new book, Last Train to Hilversum, is his love letter to radio. Corrie Corfield has been a newsreader and continuity announcer on Radio 4 for 30 years. Paddy O'Connell presents Broadcasting House and is an occasional presenter of PM.



Paddy O'Connell with Pandora Sykes and Bruce Daisley Is the Pursuit of Happiness Making Us Sad?

Stratford Play House
8.00pm-9.00pm | £12 (£10 students)

We live in a multi-linked world where every thought is aired and shared. Previously taboo subjects are finally acceptable, but FOMO and other people's 'successes' can make us anxious. Radio 4's Paddy O'Connell talks to Twitter Europe VP Bruce Daisley and the journalist Pandora Sykes about the reasons behind our pursuit of perfection, and what true happiness really looks like. Bruce's career has included working at Google and YouTube, and his new book is called The Joy of Work. Pandora writes on zeitgeist issues for all the major UK papers and delivers The High Low podcast. They'll discuss social media, life's absurdities and how we can find happiness on our own terms.



Lalage Snow War Gardens

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

Award-winning photo-journalist, writer and filmmaker, Lalage Snow has covered war and unrest in the Middle East and Afghanistan since 2007, making Kabul her home for over five years. Talking about her book War Gardens, she'll take us on a journey through Afghanistan, Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Ukraine, exploring private gardens tended to by civilians caught up in conflict and the universal search for peace. Illustrated with Lally Snow's stunning photography, this book will introduce you to the oases of peace created in the midst of war.



Natalie Haynes Troy Story

Stratford Play House
4.30pm-5.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

The devastating consequences of the fall of Troy stretch from Mount Olympus to Mount Ida, from the citadel of Troy to the distant Greek islands, and across the oceans and sky in between. These are the stories of the women embroiled in that legendary war and its terrible aftermath, as well as the feud and the fatal decisions that started it all. With wit and humour, stand-up comedian, Radio 4 broadcaster and classicist Natalie Haynes brings the story of the Trojan War to life from an all-female perspective, giving voices to the women, girls and goddesses who, =for so long, have been silent.



Philip Norman Confessions of a Rock 'n' Roll Biographer

Stratford Play House
5.30pm-6.30pm | £10 (£8 students)

Philip Norman has written biographies of the musical greats, from The Beatles to, most recently, Eric Clapton, and is currently working on the definitive biography of the legendary Jimi Hendrix. Meticulously researched, all his books reveal a side to their subjects unseen by the public. He'll be spilling the rock 'n' roll beans on what made these stars the legends they became, and why so many crashed and burned.



Joni Seagar and Shirin Rai Putting Women on the Map

Stratford Play House
6.15pm-7.15pm | £10 (£8 students)

Bring your daughter or a young woman aged 25 or under and they get in FREE!

In a fascinating exploration of how women today are living across continents and cultures, Radio 4 Woman's Hour's Jane Garvey talks to Joni Seagar, author of The Women's Atlas that provides a comprehensive analysis of data on the key issues facing women today, and Professor Shirin Rai, Professor in the department of Politics and International Studies at Warwick University. They'll look at all the areas women are under-represented - from the workplace to governments or the medical research into the diseases that effect them - and discuss what progress is being made to redress the balance.



Patrick Gale Take Nothing with You

Stratford Play House
7.15pm-8.15pm | £12 (£10 students)

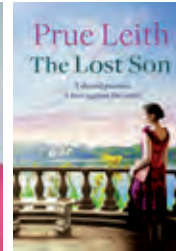
Leaving your childhood behind is easier said than done. Drawing in part on his own boyhood, Patrick Gale's new novel explores a collision between childish hero worship and extremely messy adult love lives. It is a sad yet funny coming of age tale of resilience and survival, and the confusions of desire and reality. The novel is punctuated with music and there will be a live cello performance during the event to bring the narrative to life. Patrick is a bestselling author and one of this country's best-loved novelists. Take Nothing With You is his fourth Sunday Times bestseller.



Prue Leith The Lost Son and Other Stories

Stratford Play House
7.30pm-8.30pm | £14 (£12 students)

Restaurateur, business woman, Great British Menu and Great British Bake Off judge...and author of best-selling novels – Prue Leith does it all. In the third of her Angelotti Chronicles, The Lost Son, the Angelotti family reels when the lost son, given up for adoption in the war, traces his birth family and returns to the fold, with devastating consequences. Laura Angelotti may have found her son, but will it be at the cost of everything it has taken her fifty years to build? At this event, Prue will talk about her life, career, and storytelling.



Late Night with: Sara Milne Rowe Rediscover Your Career Mojo

Hotel du Vin
8.00pm-9.00pm | £10 (£8 students)
inc a glass of wine

Distracted, burned out, wishing to be better? These anxieties lie at the heart of modern life. Join one of the UK's leading performance coaches whose practical and clear advice can help you improve your decision making and become a happier, healthier and more confident you. Using her groundbreaking SHED method, which sets us up for success in a world of constant distractions and increasing pressures, this informal workshop, with the help of a glass of wine, will show you how to manage your mind and reach your full potential.



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Friday 3 May

21



Nicci Gerrard What Dementia Teaches Us About Love

Stratford Play House
2.00pm-3.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

The writer, campaigner, celebrated novelist (with her husband as Nicci French) and recipient of the 2016 Orwell Prize for Journalism, talks about the issues surrounding memory, language, identity and ageing. Inspired by her father's battle with dementia and aware that 850,000 in the UK are living with the (diagnosed) disease, she'll explore the illness that touches millions around the world and its impact. Nicci is co-founder of John's Campaign, named after her father, which has campaigned to give carers of those with dementia the right to accompany them in hospital. 'Nobody has written on dementia as well as Nicci Gerrard in this book' Andrew Marr.

Ella Risbridger, Laura Freeman Ingredients for Recovery

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

What if a meal could save your life? This is just what a roast chicken did for Ella Risbridger, blogger, columnist and cook, whose love of food and cooking saved her in a desperate hour, lying on the floor of her flat in the depths of a dark depression. Ella has now written *Midnight Chicken*, part cookbook, part memoir, which charts her story and recovery. She will be joined in conversation by the author of *The Reading Cure*, Laura Freeman, whose love of reading helped her to battle an eating disorder that threatened to overwhelm her. Join these emerging voices discussing mental health, literature, and the love of a good meal.

In Association with



Professor Gina Rippon The Gendered Brain

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

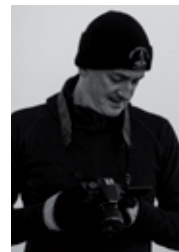
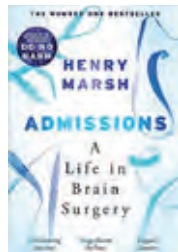
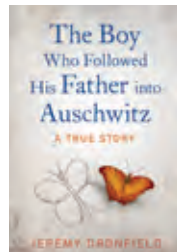
Reading maps or reading emotions? Barbie or Lego? We live in a gendered world, constantly faced with messages about sex and gender. But what does this constant gendering mean for our thoughts, decisions and behaviour? And what does it mean for our brains? Drawing on her work as a professor of cognitive neuroimaging, Gina Rippon takes us back through centuries of sexism to reveal how science has been misinterpreted or misused to ask the wrong questions. By exploring new, cutting-edge neuroscience, Rippon will show us how we can move beyond a binary view of our brains and instead see these complex organs as highly individualised and profoundly adaptable.

Elly Griffiths, Mark Billingham and Nicci Gerrard Turning to Crime

Stratford Play House
5.45pm-6.45pm | £12 (£10 students)

We welcome three huge selling names in crime fiction. Elly Griffiths is the award-winning creator of the Dr Ruth Galloway Mysteries which have put her in the Sunday Times bestseller list. Mark Billingham is one of the UK's most acclaimed and popular crime writers. His series of novels featuring DI Tom Thorne has twice won him the Crime Novel of The Year Award as well as the Sherlock Award for Best British Detective. They will be sharing the gory details of the latest in their hugely successful series with Nicci Gerrard, one half of the very successful Nicci French crime writing duo.

Box Office: **0333 666 3366** or online at ticketsource.co.uk/stratford-literary-festival | stratlitfest.co.uk



Kim Sherwood and Jeremy Dronfield Jewish Family Histories in WW2

Stratford Play House
6.00pm-7.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

On the eightieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War, two celebrated authors discuss their books which explore the theme of the Jewish experience of WW2. Kim's prize-winning novel, Testament, follows a young woman uncovering the truth about her family's past in the Hungarian Holocaust. Jeremy Dronfield's book, The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz, is the inspiring, true story of a father and son's fight to stay together and to survive the unspeakable trauma that affected so many in World War Two.

Henry Marsh An Evening with... Your Brain

Stratford Play House
7.30pm-8.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

Henry Marsh was one of Britain's foremost neurosurgeons and has spent a lifetime operating on the surgical front-line. There have been exhilarating highs and devastating lows, but his love for the practice of neurosurgery has never wavered. Prompted by his retirement from the NHS, and through his continuing work in Nepal and Ukraine, Henry has been forced to reflect more deeply about what forty years spent handling the human brain has taught him. This promises to be an insightful evening and an honest exploration of the relationship between man and medicine.

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Late Night with...The Midults I'm Absolutely Fine!

Hotel du Vin
8.30pm-9.30pm | £18
inc a gin & tonic on arrival

From the founders of The Midult, the successful Saturday Telegraph Magazine column, comes I'm Absolutely Fine!, a manual for imperfect women which offers a wry, heartfelt, edgy look at what it is to be a grown-up woman: with all the anxiety and potential woven through everyday life. Join The Midult creators, Annabel Rivkin and Emilie McMeekan, for a night of honest conversation, laughter and good advice. Ever wondered if it was just you? Well, it isn't. Welcome to Midulthood.

**See pages 29-31
for WORKSHOPS today**

Juliet Russell Family Choir from Scratch

Stratford Primary School
11.00am-1.30pm and 3.30pm-4.40pm with performance at 5.25pm | £15pp

She's back again - the hugely talented composer and voice coach for The Voice and Michael McIntyre's Big Show's Unexpected Star. Join her for another fun day of singing and then you'll perform what you've learned in front of an audience. It's been proven that singing is good for the soul so no experience necessary but please bring a black top for the performance.

Harry Venning Release Your Inner Cartoonist

Stratford Play House
10.15am-11.15am | £10
inc materials

Harry Venning is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and comedy writer, and his Clare In The Community cartoon strip - also a Radio 4 sitcom - appears weekly in The Guardian. Loosen your stays and discover your inner skills in a fun workshop learning how to create and draw cartoons with Harry. No skills or previous experience needed! Children and adults welcome.

**See pages 29-31 for other
WORKSHOPS today**

Dr Jon Copley Ask an Ocean Explorer

Stratford Play House
11.00am-12.00pm | £10
(£8 students and children)

How deep do sharks swim? Have more people been into space than the deep ocean? And what effect are we having on the health of our seas? Meet Jon Copley, ocean expert and scientific advisor for BBC's Blue Planet II series, and hear the answers to these questions and more. Copley has more than twenty years' experience exploring the ocean: he has led expeditions aboard research ships discovering new species of deep-sea animals, and in 2013, he became the first British person to dive more than 5km deep in the ocean.

Alison Weir Anna of Kleve - Henry VIII's Fourth Wife

Stratford Play House
12.30pm-1.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

Alison Weir returns to Stratford to share with us the latest in her Six Tudor Queens series. Alison is a Sunday Times bestselling author and historian, and is the biggest-selling female historian (and the fifth best-selling historian) in the UK since records began in 1997. She has published twenty-three titles and sold more than 2.7 million books. The latest in the series considers Anna of Kleve, The Princess in the Portrait, the little-known story of Henry VIII's beleaguered fourth wife.



Maggie Irving, Visualised by Harry Venning Kidz & Big Kidz Witty Workshop

Stratford Play House
2.00pm-3.00pm | £12
(£10 students and children)

A chance for adults and children to get together and experiment with different comedy styles - physical and verbal - with the intention of getting a laugh. Try out a number of techniques, including finding funny words, funny sounds and using expressive actions to get you to stand up to stand out! There's no pressure to be comical, just a chance to have a go at expressing your quirky or serious side and your unique point of view on a number of topics. Maggie Irving will be joined by cartoonist Harry Venning who'll visualise the session as you go. Should be a laugh!



Tracy Borman The King's Witch

Stratford Play House
2.00pm-3.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

We welcome back the highly respected historian and joint-Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces. Her latest book is a tale set at the dramatic endpoint of the Tudor reign and the dangerous start of the Stuart era, and tells the story of Frances, a much-loved healer, who, when forcibly brought to the royal palace, finds herself a ready target for the twisted scheming and dark campaigns of court life. An unmissable tale of intrigue and drama.

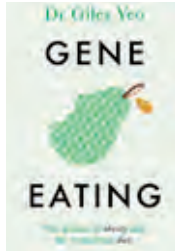


Damien Lewis SAS Italian Job

Stratford Play House
2.15pm-3.15pm | £12 (£10 students)

In the hard-fought winter of 1944, the Allies advanced northwards through Italy, but stalled on the fearsome mountainous defences of the Gothic Line. Two men were parachuted in, in an effort to break the deadlock. Their mission: to penetrate deep into enemy territory and lay waste to the Germans' impregnable headquarters. For decades, Damien Lewis worked as a war and conflict reporter for the world's major broadcasters. He is a number one bestselling author whose books have been translated into over forty languages worldwide.

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Dr Giles Yeo Gene Eating - the truth and science of diets and obesity

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

In an age of misinformation and pseudo-science, the world is getting fatter and the diet makers are getting richer. So how do we break this cycle? Drawing on the very latest science and his own genetic research at Cambridge University, the presenter of BBC2's Horizon Clean Eating - the Dirty Truth talks about his seminal 'anti-diet' diet book. Exploring the history of our food, debunking marketing nonsense and toxic diet advice, and confronting the advocates of 'clean eating', Giles translates his pioneering research into an engaging must-read study of the human appetite. With nearly 20 years' experience, he studies obesity and the brain control of food intake.



Damian Barr You Will Be Safe Here

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

'A gripping, heart-breaking tale' Graham Norton. After seeing a newspaper photo of a boy who'd been murdered, Damian Barr had to know more. The story led him to South Africa, the Boer War and the English Concentration Camps of the era, which have a chilling modern day parallel. Here they 'make men out of boys'. Over a century earlier, Sarah van der Watt and her son are burned out of their farm and carted to Bloemfontein Concentration Camp, where, the English promise, they will be safe. Linking this hidden history to present-day darkness, Damian Barr, the author of the acclaimed Maggie & Me, has crafted a powerful debut novel. 'A book that will change the way you see the world' Alex Preston.



Andrew Davies Reworking the Classics

Stratford Play House
5.30pm-6.30pm | £12 (£10 students)

He's the man behind such TV gems as Pride and Prejudice and War and Peace - as well as the first two Bridget Jones movies. Andrew Davies' latest offering - the six-part dramatisation of Victor Hugo's 19th century classic Les Misérables - aired earlier this year adds another gem to an already glittering CV. In a half-century long career, the Cardiff-born writer has penned well over 100 works across TV, radio, film, stage and print, and has picked up Emmys and four Baftas, for his work. He'll be sharing how he dissects and rebuilds some of the greatest works of literature and redefines them for the screen.

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Dame Darcey Bussell Dance!

Stratford Play House
7.15pm-8.15pm | £14 (£12 students)

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Dame Darcey achieved legendary status in the dance world. Having trained at the famed Royal Ballet School in London, she became the youngest British principal dancer at The Royal Ballet in 1989, where she remained her whole career and danced her final ballet, MacMillan's Song of the Earth, in June of 2007. She'll be talking about her lifelong love of dance, how it all works on Strictly and why dance can do much to benefit mental health.

Sponsored by



Susan Fletcher House of Glass

Hidcote Manor Gardens
6.00pm-8.00pm | £25
inc drinks and nibbles and copy of the book

In a Festival summer one-off, we invite you to an exclusive evening at Hidcote Manor Gardens with local, Whitbread First Novel award-winning author, Susan Fletcher, who'll be talking about her compelling novel, a psychological thriller set in a fictionalised Hidcote as World War I looms. Walk the gardens in a private tour through the eyes of her novel, meet the head gardener and enjoy this most exceptional of National Trust Gardens in glorious full bloom.

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by authors
and illustrators
attending the
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available to
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at The
Play House.

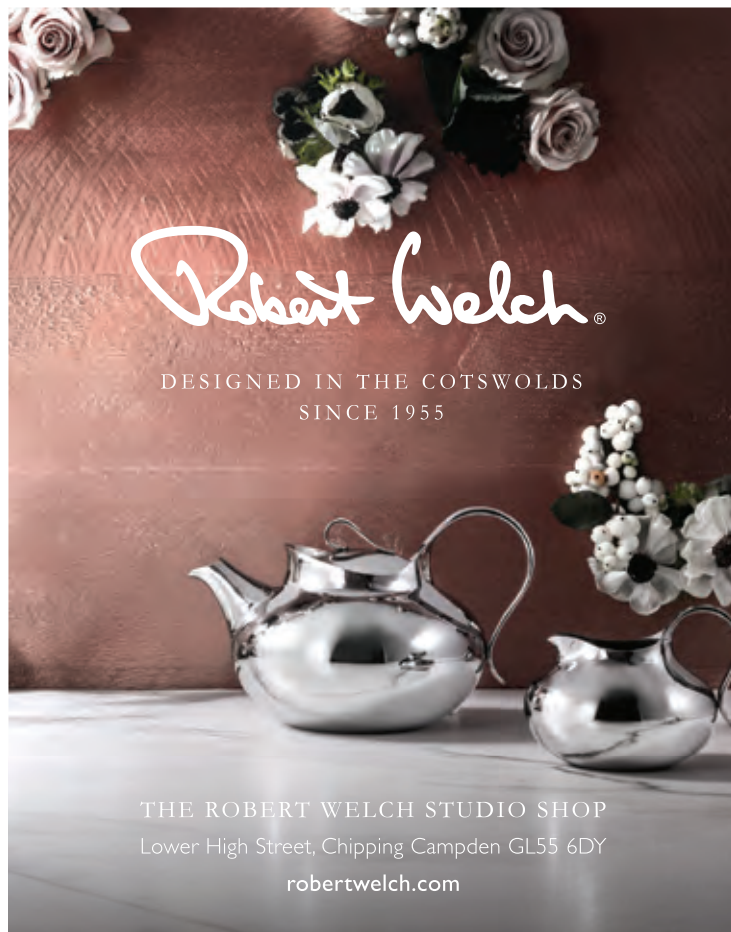
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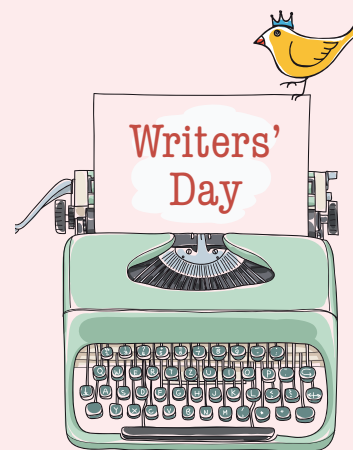
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Saturday 4th May

**Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Bridge Foot**
9.50am-5.00pm
**Early Bird Ticket - £110
(before 14th March)**
Ticket: £125

Join us for a day packed with advice from experts within the field of publishing who'll be sharing their knowledge of the best possible route to being successfully published. Numbers strictly limited.

**Welcome and
Introduction**
9.50am-10.00am
**Let's Start at the
Beginning**
10.00am-11.00am

Two leading literary agents, Jo Unwin and Ed Wilson, share tips on how to source the most appropriate agent for you; writing a synopsis; how best to prepare and how and when to pitch your work, and how to write that all important approach. Plus how to know you've got a good contract with them, and how to dust yourself down and carry on when a rejection email lands in your inbox. Includes 15 minutes Q and A.

Break
11.00am-12.00pm

Coffee break, networking and first period of 5 minute one-to-one sessions with one of our two agents

**A Roadmap to
Publication**
12.00pm-1.00pm

Editor and Publishing Director at Transworld Publishing, Susanna Wadeson, whose bestselling authors include Rachel Joyce and John Lewis Stempel, shares her years of experience in taking authors from manuscript acceptance through to publication. With an expert insider's view, she'll guide you through the mysterious world of publishing to help you understand what publishers are looking for, what happens to your work once you sign that precious contract and how you can make the experience work for you. Includes 15 minutes Q and A.

Lunch
1.00pm-2.00pm

Light lunch, networking and second period of 5 minute one-to-one sessions with one of our two agents

Tell Them About It!
2.00pm-3.00pm

How best to bring your book to the public's attention and get them talking about it. Do you need a website? What are the best social media platforms? Expert publicist Olivia Mead will explain the brave new world of publicity and promotion both on and offline, and how to use it to your advantage, and two leading debut authors for 2019, Sara Collins and Emily Gunnis, discuss their journey to publication and the tactics they are using to bring their work to as wide an audience as possible.

Break
3.00pm-4.00pm

Tea, networking and third period of 5 minute one-to-one sessions with one of our two agents

**Does My Manuscript
Look Big In This?**
4.00pm-5.00pm

Writing is a lonely process and even the most successful authors ask for other people's opinions. But how do you step back and look objectively at your work, and where do you go for unbiased, constructive advice on how to improve it? Tom Bromley of the Faber Academy gives expert tips on critiquing your own work and advice on sourcing mentors and professional editors who can help you make your work stand out before you submit it to the professionals for consideration. Includes 15 minutes Q and A and conclusion to the day. This event is in partnership with the Faber Academy.

TIP Please keep your general questions for the session Q&As and your questions relating to your manuscript for your one-to-one agent session.

Your ticket to this exclusive event includes coffee, light lunch and a 5 min one-to-one session with a leading literary agent.

The Myth

Digital is the preferred means of communication and is more environmentally friendly than paper

The Fact

Many consumers still value *paper-based* over *electronic*, and digital communication also has environmental impacts

The Myth

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Festival Workshops



Workshop

Life Writing and Memoir Emma Darwin

Stratford Play House
10.00am-3.00pm | £90

Monday 29 April

Whether you're writing about your own life or someone from history, you'll need the tools to make your story accurate and compelling. Emma will show you how to make your own or others' real lives come alive for the reader, without writing fiction. In this practical workshop, she'll explore how to find the facts you need, and craft them into a compelling narrative; you'll leave with new ideas and inspiration for your memoir or life writing. Emma is a creative writing mentor and tutor and runs the hugely popular blog This Itch of Writing.

Workshop
Sponsored by



Workshop

Modern Calligraphy Emma Barnes

Stratford Play House
9.30am-12.00pm OR 1.30pm-4.00pm | £40 inc materials

Tuesday 30 April

During this informal session from Emerald Paper, you'll learn vital modern calligraphy basics, from how to use the calligraphy tools, to warm-up drills and alphabet practices before moving onto whole words. Emma will be on hand throughout to give individual guidance as well as giving demonstrations each step of the way. Each ticket includes a starter kit full of the goodies you need to begin your modern calligraphy journey.

Workshop
Sponsored by



Workshop

Researching Your Novel Jill Dawson

Stratford Play House
10.00am-12.30pm | £40

Wednesday 1 May

Stuck on where to go next researching your novel? Have a great idea but don't know where to begin? Join Jill Dawson in this session for keen writers, at any point on their writing journey, who want to know how to do the research without letting it show clumsily in the work. Jill is an award-winning poet and the best-selling author of nine novels. Her novel, The Tell-Tale Heart, described by Hilary Mantel as 'an uncanny and atmospheric novel by a skilful storyteller', was long-listed for the Folio Prize. She currently teaches creative writing for the Faber Academy and the Guardian/UEA Masterclasses as well as mentoring emerging writers.



Workshop

Make a Book Ursula Jeakins

Stratford Play House
10.00am-3.00pm | £60 inc materials

Friday 3 May

This is a terrific opportunity to learn a new skill and make your own book with an experienced bookbinder. Under the expert guidance of Ursula Jeakins, creator of Starsmead Books, this session will introduce you to the rewarding craft of bookbinding and teach you how to complete a hard-back writing or drawing book (A5 or A6 size) sewn and bound using the traditional method of rounding and backing. Produce your own attractive and personalised book to write, draw or journal in. All materials are included. Places strictly limited.

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Workshop

The Lost Art of Letter Writing Alexis Burnett

White Swan Hotel
2.00pm-4.00pm | £30

Friday 3 May

Fall in love with letters again. In an age of email and instant messaging, letter writing is almost a lost art, reserved for sentimental notes to loved ones or long-standing pen pals. The Letters Page, a letters-based literary journal edited by the University of Nottingham's Jon McGregor, takes submissions entirely through the post; whatever fits into an envelope is considered for publication. Members of the editorial team will host this interactive writing workshop to hone your letter writing skills and get you back in the habit!



Workshop

Self-Publishing - a useful map Bob Fowke

Stratford Play House
4.00pm-5.00pm | £10 (£8 students)

Friday 3 May

Your chance to learn about self-publishing and to ask questions of the expert. Bob is managing editor of YouCaxton Publications, a publishing and book-design company which, for the last five years, has assisted with the self-publication of around 200 titles, providing editorial, design, production and distribution services and advising on marketing. An established author himself, with around 70 titles to his name, Bob will guide you through the self-publishing process to make it work for you.



Workshop

Writing Comedy Maggie Irving

Hotel du Vin
9.30am-12.30pm | £35

Saturday 4 May

Calling all aspiring comedians and comedy writers. It's a serious business being funny, and writing comedy to sound off-the-cuff can take hours of work. Join Maggie Irving to share observations, craft material and even develop performance in a fun and supportive environment. Maggie discovered her anarchic 'inner clown' at Plymouth University. Realising that too few women appeared in the clown canon, she researched the female clown for her PhD, and now teaches comedy skills as a modus operandi for breaking down barriers in all aspects of life and work. Numbers limited.



Workshop

Making Beautiful Stationery Ursula Jeakins

Stratford Play House
10.00am-12.30pm | £35
inc materials

Saturday 4 May

Forget buying expensive notebooks, this introductory making session will equip you with skills you can use again at home to produce your own beautifully crafted notebooks. Under the expert guidance of Ursula Jeakins, bookbinder and creator of Starsmead Books, you will learn how to make a sewn single-section journal binding which you can repeat at home using simple tools. All materials are included. Places strictly limited.

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Arts Council England



Playbox Theatre My Magic Island

Stratford Play House
10.30am-11.30am OR 12.30pm-1.30pm | Children 5-8yrs
£8 (Adults £4)

Sunday 28 April

We are such stuff as dreams are made on... Playbox Theatre brings an enchanting, interactive adventure for children aged 3-9 yrs, inspired by Shakespeare's magical tale, The Tempest. Prospero the wizard has lost his mighty book of spells and he needs your help to find it. Along the way, we'll meet the mysterious inhabitants of the island... Part performance and part workshop, children and grown-ups are invited to join the quest. My Magic Island follows the success of Playbox Theatre's Mustardseed's Magical Mayhem which performed across the UK and USA.



Get Creative! Elmer Make and Take

Avon Boathouse Lawn, Swan's Nest Lane or, if wet, Stratford Play House
11.00am-4.00pm | Free | 3+

Sunday 28 April

Celebrate the 30th birthday of one of the world's best-loved children's characters - the loveable patchwork elephant created by David McKee. Drop in and help us build a giant Elmer, and make your own little Elmer to take home and keep.



Pre -School Events Red Day with Kate Storytree

Stratford Play House
9.30am-11.00am | £4 per family
Monday 29 April

Join storyteller Kate's Storytree in her telling of the tale of Little Red. Create a Red Riding Hood puppet to take home and join us as we start to build our rainbow.



Pre -School Events Orange Day with Ros Ingram

Stratford Play House
9.30am-11.00am | £4 per family
Tuesday 30 April

Local artist Ros Ingram will be sharing the story of Orange Pear Apple Bear followed by a creative printing session. Using hands, sponges and stamps, you and your child will create printed pictures to take home. Please wear old clothes ... this will be a little bit messy!



Pre-School Events

Yellow Day with Storyvine

Stratford Play House
9.30am-11.00am | £4 per family
Wednesday 1 May

Join local children's writers group Storyvine as they take you on a journey with their story Down at the Beach. Sharing their own stories, this session will be an interactive event followed by a craft activity.



Aliens Love Underpants

Stratford Play House
4.45pm-5.45pm | £12 children
£14 adults
Wednesday 1 May
Thursday 2 May

*Aliens love underpants
Of every shape and size
But there are no underpants in space
So here's a big surprise!*

This zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book is wonderfully brought to life on stage for the very first time. With stunning effects, madcap action, original music (and lots of aliens of course!) This fantastical fresh and funny production will delight. 'An excellent show for the entire family' Primary Times 'A close encounter of the most entertaining kind!' Metro.



Pre-School Events

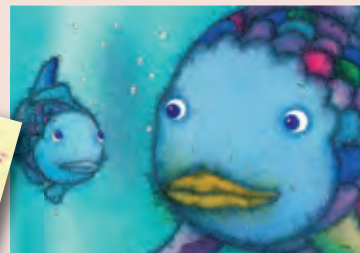
Green Day with Kate Storytree
Stratford Play House
9.30am-11.00am | £4 per family
Thursday 2 May

Storyteller Kate invites you to join in with the adventure story of Green Ship, the story of two children who find a ship made from trees. This is a storytelling session followed by a craft activity making your own green ship to take home.

Blue and Purple Day with Hannah Young

Stratford Play House
9.30am - 11.00am | £4 per family
Friday 3 May

Hannah Young, a local Actor and Educational Practitioner, will be exploring the story of Flyaway Katie by Polly Dunbar. The story of a little girl who lets her creativity fly. Create a rainbow to take home.



The Rainbow Fish Riverside Theatre

Stratford Play House
10.00am-11.00am | £7 | 3+
Saturday 4 May

We welcome back this wonderful children's theatre company in a multi-sensory, musical adventure which transports us to the bottom of the deep blue sea and to the glistening world of the Rainbow Fish. Based on the book by Marcus Pfister, you will travel with the Rainbow Fish as he discovers how sharing his most treasured things brings colour and joy to the underwater world around him.



Chicken Clicking and Other Tales

Riverside Theatre

Stratford Play House
12.00pm-1.00pm | £7 | 3+
Saturday 4 May

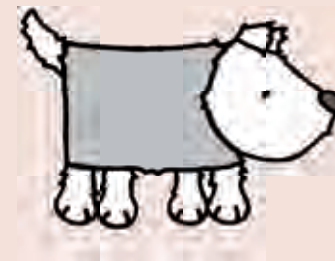
One night Chick hops into the farmer's house and has a browse on his computer - CLICK - soon she's shopping online for the whole farm! But when she arranges to meet up with a friend she's made online, she discovers all is not as it seems... We welcome back this wonderful children's theatre company in a multi-sensory, musical adventure based on Jeanne Willis' bestselling book - Little Red Riding Hood for the iPad generation!



Make a Book Ursula Jeakins

Stratford Play House
1.30pm-3.30pm | Free | 5+
Saturday 4 May

Ursula Jeakins is an experienced bookbinder and the creator of Starsmead Books. Join her for this drop in children's workshop and make a small book to take home.



Kidz & Big Kidz Witty Workshop Maggie Irving visualised by Harry Venning

Stratford Play House
2.00pm-3.00pm | £12 (£10
students and 7+ children)
Saturday 4 May

A chance for adults and children to get together and experiment with different comedy styles - physical and verbal - with the intention of getting a laugh. Try out a number of techniques, including finding funny words, funny sounds and using expressive actions to get you to stand up to stand out! There's no pressure to be comical, just a chance to have a go at expressing your quirky or serious side and your unique point of view on a number of topics. Maggie Irving will be joined by cartoonist Harry Venning who'll visualise the session as you go.



Gaspard The Fox Zeb Soanes

Stratford Primary School
2.00pm-3.00pm | £6 | 4-8yrs
Saturday 4 May

Experience the enchanting story of Gaspard the Fox as he sets out one summer evening in search of adventure and something to eat, read by its author (Radio 4 newsreader) Zeb Soanes, with live on-stage musical accompaniment from Chris Warner and James Mayhew's beautiful projected illustrations. It's a warm-hearted story about friendship and being accepted for who you are. Get Gaspard's golden paw-print for your book!

CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday 5th May

Tickets: All events individually priced



Storytelling That's Not My...

Stratford Play House

10.00am-10.30am | £4 | 0-3yrs

Celebrate the 20th birthday of That's Not My... with a sensory adventure. Hunt for the magical rainbow birthday party for our hero, Puppy, and meet lots of friends along the way! Same story at each session.

David Litchfield The Bear, The Piano, The Dog & The Fiddle

Stratford Primary School

10.00am-10.45am | £6 | 4-6yrs

The author and illustrator of the award-winning The Bear and the Piano is bringing his own musical Bear Band to the Festival! He'll read from his new book accompanied by live music, then help David create a piece of animal-themed artwork!



Francesca Simon Horrid Henry Up, Up and Away

Stratford Play House

10.00am-11.00am | £7 | 6-9yrs

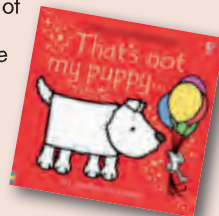
The number one for fiendish fun is back! Join author Francesca Simon to find out what Henry gets up to in his latest mischievous adventures – a brand new collection of wickedly funny and totally brilliant stories featuring the inimitable Horrid Henry! This is a Perfect Peter of an event for Horrid Henry fans of all ages!

Storytelling That's Not My...

Stratford Play House

11.00am-11.30am | 4 | 0-3yrs

Celebrate the 20th birthday of That's Not My... with a sensory adventure. Hunt for the magical rainbow birthday party for our hero, Puppy, and meet lots of friends along the way! Same story at each session.



Lydia Monks The Girl, The Bear and The Magic Shoes

Stratford Primary School

11.45am-12.30pm | £6 | 3-6yrs

Join the bestselling and award-winning illustrator of the What the Ladybird Heard stories for an interactive storytelling and illustration session not to be missed. Go on an exciting adventure and see mermaids, unicorns and a whole host of glittering characters come to life before your very eyes.

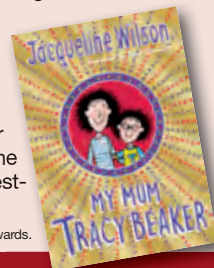


Jacqueline Wilson My Mum Tracy Beaker

Stratford Play House

12.00pm-1.00pm | £8 | 9+yrs

We welcome back the much loved author who'll discuss her writing career, and how she created some of her best-loved characters including the irrepressible Tracy Beaker. Former Children's Laureate and author of over 100 books, Dame Jacqueline Wilson is one of Britain's best-selling children's authors.



Signed copies to buy but she will not be signing afterwards.

JAKE How To Draw Star Wars

Stratford Play House

12.00pm-12.45pm | £6 | 6+yrs

Love all things Star Wars? Channel your inner Wookiee, talk like a Droid and get ready to be creative. Join JAKE, illustrator of How to Speak Droid with R2-D2 and How to Speak Wookiee as he teaches you the tricks of the trade, shows you how to draw your own Star Wars characters and answers all your questions about illustration.

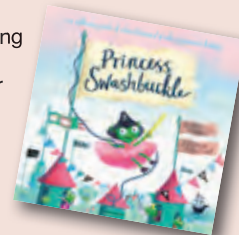


Hollie Hughes Princess Swashbuckle

Stratford Play House

1.45pm-2.45pm | £6 | 3-6yrs

Meet Princess Swashbuckle. She's Swashbuckle by name, swashbuckling by nature and she's about to show the world what a great pirate captain she can be in a rollicking tale of adventure about finding your own happy. Join the author for a reading followed by piratical arts and craft!



Fleurble Laffalott Harry Potter's Magical World

Stratford Play House

1.45pm-2.45pm | £7 | 8+yrs

Join Fleurble Laffalot for a family friendly journey through J.K. Rowling's much loved books. Discover fun facts about the Harry Potter books as well taking part in some of the key elements of life at Hogwarts – the sorting ceremony, Quidditch, moving portraits, potions and much more. A funny, silly event for anyone who has ever wanted to explore the magical world of Harry Potter!



Nick Sharratt The Cat and The King

Stratford Primary School

1.45pm-2.45pm | £6 | 6-8yrs

Come and meet the hilarious heroes of much-loved illustrator Nick Sharratt's first ever chapter books, The Cat and the King and Nice Work for the Cat and the King. Learn about the pair's spectacularly silly adventures when they have to move out of their castle and start a brand new life. Nick will be telling all, and drawing lots of funny pictures too, at this right royal event.



Children's Day Sponsored by
David Hunt
lighting

Storytelling That's Not My...

Stratford Play House

3.15pm-3.45pm

£4 | 0-3yrs

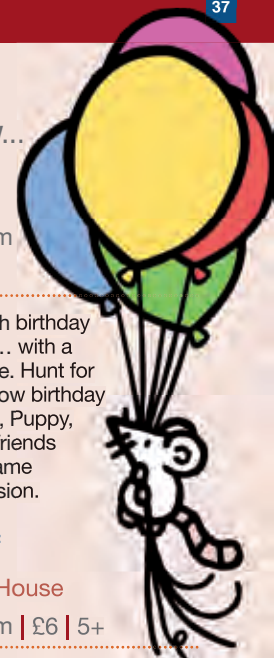
Celebrate the 20th birthday of That's Not My... with a sensory adventure. Hunt for the magical rainbow birthday party for our hero, Puppy, and meet lots of friends along the way! Same story at each session.

The Draw-Off

Stratford Play House

3.30pm-4.30pm | £6 | 5+

Following last year's hilarious event, we gather together the illustrious illustrators with us today for a Draw-Off and challenge them to draw, in less than two minutes, ideas suggested by the audience. The madder the better.



Schools Festival

1st April to 5th April 2019

We run an extensive programme of engaging and creative events and workshops for schools and young people throughout the region.



Bedtime Story Project

In 2019 we'll be celebrating once again stories written by parents and children together from reception to year three at local schools with a variety of authors, and listening to stories in our pyjamas!

Nigeria Project

In 2019, we celebrate our fifth year linking hands across the world. Year 6 in schools in Stratford will be exchanging letters with children in schools across Nigeria telling each other about their lives, their families, school and hobbies. The Project helps children from both countries find out about life in a different climate and culture.

Visiting Authors for 2019 include:

Sophia Bennett
Steven Camden
James Carter
Frank Cottrell-Boyce
Nicola Davies
Laura James
Tom Percival
Smriti Prasadam-Halls
Michelle Robinson
David Solomons
Chae Strathie
Jeanne Willis



Books with Friends

The Festival runs a monthly book group aimed at anyone aged 55 and over, and we especially welcome people who find themselves lonely and socially isolated.

It works like any other book group – members read a book in advance and then talk about what they thought of it over a cup of coffee and a biscuit or two. We meet on the last Thursday of every month at Elizabeth House, in the centre of Stratford, with three hour-and-a-quarter-long sessions in the day so there's a time that suits you.

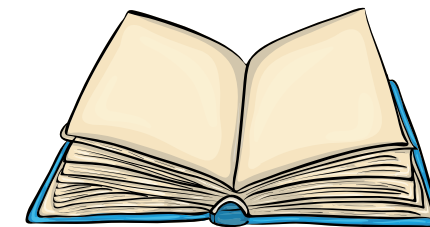
The sessions are mediated, and we read a wide range of books so there'll be something to love and something new to discover. We can arrange audiobooks for anyone who finds reading difficult.

If you would like to join the group please email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Books with Friends is kindly supported by:



With thanks also to Santander and Ann Rylands Trust



Prison Workshops

Over the last year, the Festival has been taking children's authors into prisons across the country and working with residents to help them write a bedtime story for their children. Using the initiative Storybook Dads and Mums, they then record themselves reading the stories and the recording is given to their children. Keeping in contact with their children is crucially important to maintaining a family bond and discouraging re-offending. Supported by grants and donations, so far we have reached over 127 prisoners in 13 prisons.

Find out more here:
stratlitfest.co.uk/prisons



The Me Project

During 2018, we created life memoirs, with sixth formers from local schools in Stratford and Southam interviewing older members of the community about important parts of their lives. These precious memoirs were then designed and printed and given to the participants as a keepsake. Copies of all the memoirs are available to read in the Warwickshire Libraries local archive.

Our thanks to Orbit for enabling this project to happen.



Young Poets Competition 2019

WIN up to £300

Deadline: 25th February 2019

For more info go to: Stratlitfest.co.uk/youngpoets



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01789 613 685 or email reception.stratford@hotelduvin.com

Terms & Conditions: Not available after 7pm. Quote 'Stratford Literary Festival' and present your ticket to redeem this offer. Inclusive of 125ml glass of wine from Duc de Chapelle HDV selection only.

Festival Café and Bar

Open from 9am until end of play each day throughout the Festival at Stratford Play House

- Teas and coffees
 - Soft drinks
 - Bar
 - Sandwiches and cakes
 - Refreshments
- (Bar open from 5pm)



Fringe Bookshelf



OPEN THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL IN THE FOYER

Discover the work of very talented local authors with books they have published on a wide range of subjects.

PLUS

- Sensational Story machine!
- Timberlust spoof Penguin Classic merchandise
- Claire Henley Cards
- Book Swap on Pashley bikes parked around town

Waterstones Bookshop



Waterstones Pop-Up Shop will be open throughout the Festival at the Play House, selling copies and signed copies of books by all the authors and illustrators appearing at the Festival.



All events, except where stated, take place at:

Stratford Play House (formerly ArtsHouse), 14 Rother Street, Stratford CV37 6LU, or in The Bear Pit Theatre or United Reformed Church, both of which are less than a minute's walk from the Play House. You will be directed to the right venue by our Stewards. Some events take place elsewhere so please check the website and your ticket carefully.

- » The venues have step free access and disabled toilets.
- » Children under 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult (over 18 years of age). We cannot accept responsibility for unaccompanied children. Children over 16 may attend alone but must be delivered and collected by a responsible adult, and are not the responsibility of the Festival.
- » Adults attending children's events are expected to buy a ticket.
- » We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers if circumstances dictate. Go to stratlitfest.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.
- » Seating is unreserved. Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged.
- » All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated and authors will be signing copies of their books.
- » All details and prices are correct at time of going to press.
- » Please check our website at stratlitfest.co.uk before you travel.
- » All tickets include VAT and phone or tickets purchased on line incur a booking fee.

We would like to thank the following for their help and support:

All the wonderful authors, illustrators and workshop leaders who come to the Festival; the publishers who have worked with us; Michelle McLeod and Baillie Gifford; Mike Flowers and James Smith at Set Square Solutions; Mike Nicholas at Shock the Senses; all at The Week; all the Staff at Waterstones Stratford; the very creative Judy Reaves and David Hamblett; the general managers of all our partner hotels; all at Loddors, Inspired Living, David Hunt Lighting, Sheldon Bosley and Cooper Adams; Rupert Barnes and Rachel Jones Photography; all who steward and volunteer at the Festival; Trustees of Stratford Town Trust and Orbit; all the staff at Stratford Play House; the Stratford Herald; Alex Graham and the team at Protoprint; Joy Coates at Unique Senior Care; all the schools involved in the Festival; Jennie Dobson and Liz Wise; Kate Shilvock; Emily Quash and Playbox Theatre; Home of the Sofa for stage furniture; Karen Williams and Escape Community Art; Rachel Parris; Sue Murphy Hollie Hughes and Smriti Prasadam-Halls who have run our prison workshops; Jane Garvey, Paddy O'Connell, Meg Sanders, Deirdre Shields, Julia Wheeler, Caroline Sanderson, Fiona Lindsay, John Jeffries and Tim Hubbard, our chairpersons; And of course our audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

Photo Credits: 2018 photographs courtesy of Rupert Barnes and Rachel Jones

Festival Team: Annie Ashworth (Programme Director), Jo James (Operations Director), Jane Churchill (Schools and Children's Day Programmer), Suzanne Worthington (Stewards Coordinator), Christine Anderson (Front of House), Liz Wise (Books With Friends), Jennie Dobson (Books with Friends), Tamsin Williams (Wigwam PR), Tanya Aspinwall (Regional PR), Julia Bryant (Sponsor Host), Lynn Chatwin and Caroline Walley (Authors' Room Hosts), Charlotte Brennan (Fundraising), Rachel Parris (2019 Festival Assistant)

Stratford Literary Festival is a registered charity No. 1164662

Festival Trustees: Annie Ashworth, David Fletcher, Suzanne James, Archie Kane, and Graham Spalding

How To Support The Festival

Stratford Literary Festival is a registered charity that aims to improve literacy, life skills and well-being through books and reading. We rely on support for our extensive education and outreach programme and, by becoming a Festival Friend, you will be supporting our literature and reading projects in schools; our monthly reading group which welcomes people who are lonely or feel socially isolated; our bedtime story writing projects in which prisoners create stories for their children, and life memoir projects with older people in the community.

Friends Membership

A Single Annual Friends Membership costs:

£25 per person

A Plus 1 Friends membership costs:

£35 for two people (couples living at the same address or single people who want to bring someone else)

Membership Benefits:

- Priority booking
- News and offers from the Festival
- Invitations to events

Please email
info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk
for more information.



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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS FOR YOU

These offers are valid on presentation of
a Festival ticket for the day of your visit only.



Boston Tea Party

St Gregory's Hall, Henley Street,
Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6QW

Tel: **01789 209230**

www.bostonteparty.co.uk

Open: Mon-Sat 7.00-18.00, Sun 8.00-17.00

We're delighted to have found a great spot in Stratford-Upon-Avon. The former school hall has been transformed into a beautiful café, keeping a lot of the original features. Situated near the Shakespeare centre, we've been awarded best breakfast, best lunch and best café in Stratford. There's something for everyone.

Offer to Festival-goers: 10% Off and free cake with any hot drink



The White Swan Hotel

Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6NH

Tel: **01789 297022**

www.white-swan-stratford.co.uk

Open: All day

Perfect for a few luxurious days away or a candlelit dinner with that special someone. Or simply stop by and enjoy a relaxing drink after a long day in our bar.

Offer for Festival-goers: 10% Off Lunch Menu Sunday to Friday 12noon-5pm, served with a complimentary tea or coffee



Veenos Italian Wine Bar

Unit 19, Bell Court, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6JP

Tel: **01789 294185**

www.theveenocompany.com/veenos-stratford-upon-avon-wine-bar/

Open: Mon-Thu 12.00-23.00, Fri-Sat 12.00-01.00, Sat, Sun 12.00-23.00

We are an authentic Italian wine café, proud to offer quality Sicilian wines and spuntini appetisers across the UK.

Offer to Festival-goers: 20% Off take-away bottles from the wine menu



Hooray's British Gelato Kitchen

27-28 High Street, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 6AU

Tel: **01789 296613**

www.hooraysgelato.com

A family - run independent business open daily serving award-winning gelato and sorbet, hot crêpes and waffles, yummy sandwiches and cakes, mac and cheese, beer, wine and cocktails.

Offer to Festival-goers: 10% off



Edward Moon Brasserie

9 Chapel Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6EP

Tel: **01789 267069**

www.edwardmoon.com

Open: Mon-Fri 12.00-14.30 and 17.00-21.30, Sat 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-22.00, Sun 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-21.00

'Moons' is relaxed and friendly, making it the ideal destination for leisurely lunches, intimate dinners and special occasions. We strive to create the best possible experience for our customers by offering exceptional quality, service and value in our own authentic way. We look forward to exceeding your expectations sometime soon.

Offer to Festival-goers: 10% off



Miller & Carter Steakhouse

Unit 20, Bell Court, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6JF

Tel: **01789 338331** www.millerandcarter.co.uk

Open: 12.00-23.00 Sunday to Thursday, 12.00-Midnight Friday & Saturday

Food Service Times: 12.00-22.00 Sunday to Thursday, 12.00-22.30 Friday & Saturday

At Miller & Carter we know a thing or two about steak. Once you've tasted our hand-cut, 30-day aged British & Irish steaks you'll soon appreciate the care of our farmers, the exacting standards of our butchers and the passion of our chefs. We're five minutes walk from the Festival at the Play House.

Offer 10% Off Lunch Menu Mon - Fri 12.00-17.00, Sat 12.00-15.00

Unless otherwise stated all events take place at:

Stratford Play House

14 Rother Sreet

Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LU

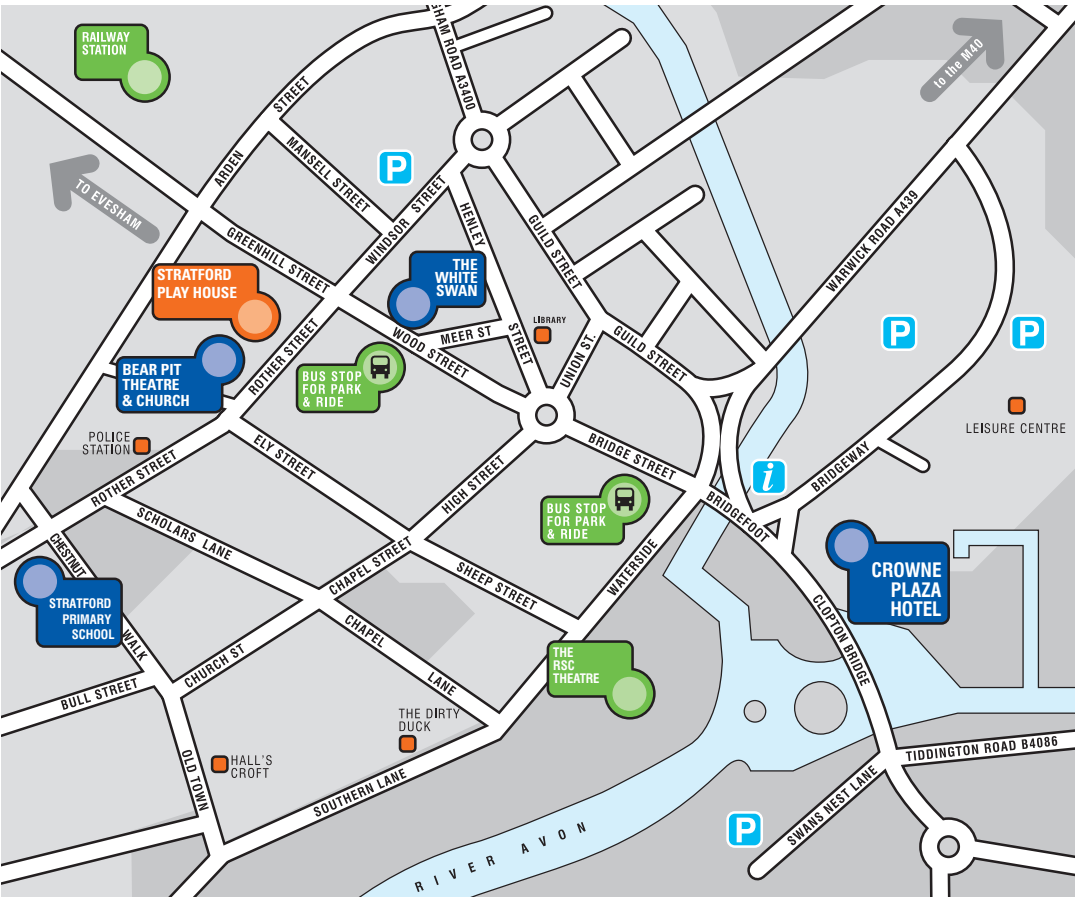
We endeavour to make your experience as pleasant as possible but please let the Box Office know on booking if you are in a wheelchair or have mobility difficulties, and please let a Steward know on arrival at an event if you have sight or hearing difficulties so we can sit you in an appropriate seat.



*These offers are not valid with any other offers.

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Thursday 11 April	7.00pm	Quiz Night	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 27th April	7.00pm	Live Lit Evening	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 27th April	7.00pm	Emily Maitlis (Now Saturday 27th April 7pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	12.30pm	JB Priestley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	2.30pm	Ed Husain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	2.30pm	Dr Adam Rutherford	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	4.15pm	Professor Angela Gallop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	6.00pm	Dr David Nott	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	6.00pm	John Lanchester	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	2.00pm	Kate Bradbury	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	4.15pm	Emma Darwin etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	4.30pm	Julia Shaw	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	5.30pm	Rosemary Shrager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	6.00pm	Anna Pasternak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	7.30pm	Lucy Parham and Juliet Stevenson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	4.00pm	Tessa Hadley and Ben Okri	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	4.30pm	Graham Farmelo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	5.30pm	John Suchet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	5.45pm	Ali Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	6.30pm	Ed Gorman and Paul Conroy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	7.00pm	Nina Caplan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	7.30pm	Philippa Perry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	4.15pm	Jill Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	5.00pm	Dr Jane Glover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	5.45pm	Festival Book Group Harriet Tyce	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	6.00pm	Mark Pilkington	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	6.30pm	Dr Richard Shephe rd	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	6.30pm	Charlie Connelly etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	8.00pm	Paddy O'Connell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	4.00pm	Lalage Snow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	4.30pm	Natalie Haynes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	5.30pm	Philip Norman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	6.15pm	Joni Seagar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	7.15pm	Patrick Gale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	7.30pm	Prue Leith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	8.00pm	Sara Milne Rowe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	2.00pm	Nicki Gerrard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	4.00pm	Ella Risbridger Laura Freeman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	4.00pm	Gina Rippon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	5.45pm	Elly Griffiths and Mark Billingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	6.00pm	Kim Sherwood and Jeremy Dronfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	7.30pm	Henry Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	8.30pm	The Midults	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	11.00am	Juliet Russell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	10.15am	Harry Venning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	11.00am	Dr Jon Copley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	12.30pm	Alison Weir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	2.00pm	Maggie Irving and Harry Venning	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Saturday 4 May	2.00pm	Tracy Borman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	2.15pm	Damien Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	2.00pm	Tracy Borman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	4.00pm	Dr Giles Yeo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	4.00pm	Damian Barr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	5.30pm	Andrew Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	7.15pm	Dame Darcey Bussell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	9.50am	Writers' Day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshops			
Monday 29 April	10.00am	Life Writing and Memoir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	9.30am	Modern Calligraphy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 29 April	1.30pm	Modern Calligraphy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	10.00am	Researching Your Novel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	10.00am	Make a Book	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	2.00pm	The Lost Art of Letter Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	4.00pm	Self-Publishing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	9.30am	Writing Comedy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	10.00am	Making Beautiful Stationery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Events			
Sunday 28 April	10.30am	Playbox Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	12.30pm	Playbox Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28 April	11.00am	Get Creative! Elmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 29 April	9.30am	Pre school events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 30 April	9.30am	Pre school events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	9.30am	Pre school events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 1 May	4.45pm	Aliens Love Underpants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	9.30am	Pre school events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2 May	4.45pm	Aliens Love Underpants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 3 May	9.30am	Pre school events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4 May	10.00am	The Rainbow Fish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 3 May	12.00pm	Chicken Clicking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 3 May	1.30pm	Make a Book	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 3 May	2.00pm	Witty Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 3 May	2.00pm	Gaspard The Fox	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Day			
Sunday 5 May	10.00am	Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	10.00am	David Litchfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	10.00am	Francesca Simon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	11.00am	Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	11.45am	Lydia Monks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	12.00pm	Dame Jacqueline Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	12.00pm	JAKe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	1.45pm	Hollie Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	1.45pm	Fleurble Laffalott	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	1.45pm	Nick Sharratt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	3.15pm	Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 5 May	3.30pm	The Draw-Off	<input type="checkbox"/>



GETTING TO US

Stratford Railway Station is 10 minutes' walk from Stratford Play House. There are several car parks in the town within walking distance of the Play House. Go to www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk/stratford-parking for details.

Our venues are accessible for those with mobility problems and the main auditorium has a hearing loop.



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