



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



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www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk



Stratford-upon-Avon **Literary Festival**

25th April to 3rd May 2010

www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk



FEATURING:

**Jack Dee Roger McGough CBE John Simpson CBE Wendy Cope Felix Dennis
Jonathan Miller CBE Charles Dance OBE Jeremy Hardy Angela Huth Sophie King
Mick Jackson Mike Gayle Louise Berridge Meg Rosoff Korky Paul John O'Farrell
and many more...**

PLUS! The Archers Pub Quiz | 'My Stratford' Exhibition | Creative Writing Workshops
Visual Arts Stratford | Bank Holiday Fun for Kids at Cox's Yard

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Welcome to the 2010 Festival



We're delighted to bring you the programme for the Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival 2010, now in its third year. We've put together a superb selection of events running over 9 days with something for everyone to enjoy. Featuring strongly in this year's offering is humour – a breath of fresh air after a long winter and an even longer recession!

This year we've made our home in the Civic Hall, on Rother Street, where we are creating a tea garden for our afternoon events. We've a very special celebration of 800 years of Holy Trinity Church on Thursday, 29th April, and a feast of Bank Holiday events taking place on Saturday, 1st May at Cox's Yard.

Running throughout the 2010 Festival is a very exciting photographic exhibition, 'My Stratford', which combines the work of veteran photographer Willoughby 'Gus' Gullachsen with images of Stratford taken by students at Stratford College and Welcombe Hills School – a unique example of talent in this fine town and a snapshot of what Stratford means to the people who live and work here.

Festival Directors: Annie Ashworth and Natasha Roderick-Jones

Box Office: 01789 207100 or book online at www.civichall.co.uk

The Shakespeare Bookshop, Henley Street, is this year's Festival Bookshop and will be selling books by all authors appearing at the Festival at each event and in the shop. Authors will be signing copies after all events.

Programme printed courtesy of Butler Tanner and Dennis



How the Festival looked in 2009!

We would like to thank the following for their invaluable support:



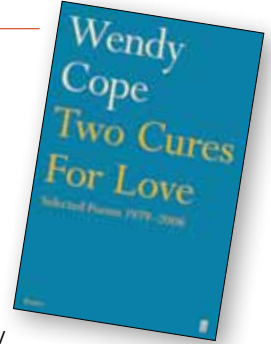
Sunday, 25th April

Civic Hall Tea Garden 3.30pm £12 unreserved including tea and a cake

Tea with...Wendy Cope



The best Poet Laureate we never had, **Wendy Cope** is an acclaimed poet whose previous collections, including *Making Cocoa For Kingsley Amis*, *Serious Concerns* and *If I Don't Know*, have sold over 400,000 copies. Her skill is in the way she captures the everyday, mundane aspects of English life, especially the desires, frustrations, hopes, confusions and emotions in intimate relationships, in a lighthearted and often hilarious way. Over a very civilized cup of tea and a cake, enjoy her rueful wisdom as you listen to poems from her collection *Two Cures for Love*.



'A jet-age Tennyson,'

London Review of Books

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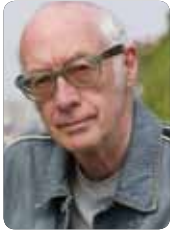
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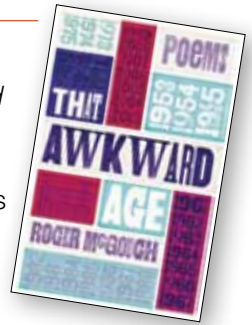
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Sunday, 25th April
Civic Hall 7.00pm £12.50

An Evening with Roger McGough



The other best Poet Laureate we never had. **Roger McGough CBE** addresses *That Awkward Age* as he wrestles with mortality, seeks love in the launderette, perspires in the Foreign Legion, snaps Henri Cartier Bresson in Liverpool and jives in Macca's trousers. He shares the pain of Lord Godiva and Mr Nightingale, considers his Final Poem and shakes a fist at Alzheimers. The evening promises addresses, elegies, prayers and ever-perceptive playfulness, and rounds off a day featuring two of Britain's greatest living poets.



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Monday, 26th April

Civic Hall 7.30pm £10

An Evening with John O'Farrell



The comedy writer **John O'Farrell** is the refreshingly familiar face of satire, with frequent appearances on *Grumpy Old Men*, *Newsnight Review* and *Have I Got News for You*. A former scriptwriter for such shows as *Spitting Image* and *Alas Smith and Jones*, he has written three novels, a memoir and three collections of his popular *Guardian* column.

He is the founder of the satirical website NewsBiscuit and is perfectly qualified to have written *An Utterly Exasperated History of Modern Britain* – a book he spent over 40 years researching by watching television.

'Sardonic and knowing,' FT Magazine



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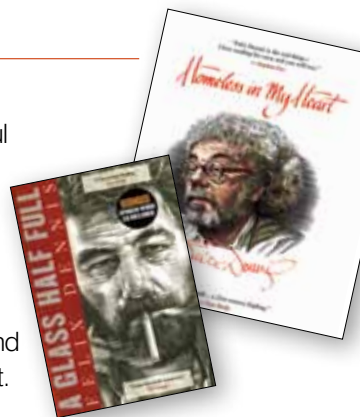
Wednesday, 28th April

Civic Hall 7.30pm Cabaret Style. £12 Tables of 10: £100

An Evening with Felix Dennis



A regular highlight of the Stratford Festival, **Felix Dennis** is one of the UK's most successful magazine publishing entrepreneurs, and a hugely successful poet. His first collection, *A Glass Half Full*, published in 2002, was met with great acclaim, and has since become one of the biggest selling books of original verse in England. Join him for a glass of wine, complimentary canapés, and an evening of wit, shrewd observation and splendid entertainment.



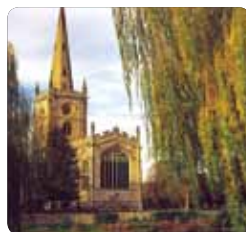
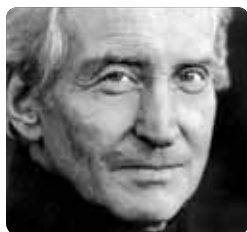
Tickets include free wine and canapés.

Thursday, 29th April

Holy Trinity Church 7.00pm £10

Holy Trinity 800th Anniversary

'I know thee not old man' - how literature deals with growing old



To celebrate the **800th anniversary of Shakespeare's Church**, a very special evening with legendary theatre and opera director and writer, **Jonathan Miller CBE**, and the Director of The Shakespeare Institute **Professor Kate McLuskie**, and hosted by journalist and director **Paul Allen**. The panel will look at how writers, from Shakespeare to the present day, deal with the challenges, prejudices and pleasures that come with old age and the 'lean and slipper'd pantaloons'. Readings from the highly-acclaimed actor **Charles Dance OBE**.

Friday, 30th April

Civic Hall Tea Garden 4.00pm £12 unreserved including tea and a cake

Tea with... Angela Huth – author of *Land Girls*



Land Girls, one of 11 novels written by local Warwickshire writer **Angela Huth**, was made into a highly successful film starring Rachel Weisz and Anna Friel and followed the fortunes of Stella, Ag and Prue whose lives became entwined in wartime Britain. Angela,

who has written four collections of short stories as well as plays for radio, TV and stage, will talk about her new novel and sequel, *Once a Land Girl*.



Warwick School

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Friday, 30th April
Civic Hall 7.30pm £12.50

John Simpson CBE



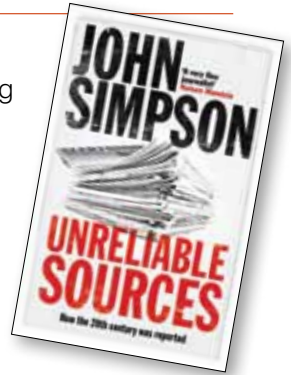
BBC World Affairs Editor, **John Simpson**, is a highly-skilled broadcaster and reporter, unravelling with insight and sensitivity the intricacies and complications of modern world affairs. He has reported from more than 120 countries, including thirty war zones, has interviewed many world leaders, and has written several books including

A Mad World, My Masters, News From No Man's Land, and

The Wars Against Saddam: Taking the Hard Road to Baghdad.

He'll be talking about *Unreliable Sources: How the 20th Century*

Was Reported – a fascinating, sometimes hilarious, sometimes horrifying account of how his predecessors have communicated life-changing world events.



Saturday, 1st May

Civic Hall Tea Garden 4.00pm £12 unreserved including tea and a cake

Changing Sex – How can a writer speak in the voice of the opposite sex?



Can a male author get into the head of a woman and be convincing? Can a female writer accurately communicate the thoughts and emotions of the man she has never been? The panel, expert in the challenges of changing sex, hosted by

Fiona Lindsay, mull over this sticky question. Booker shortlisted writer, **Mick Jackson**, whose latest book is *The Widow's Tale*, meets chick-lit writer **Mike Gayle** (author of *Mr Commitment* and *The To-Do List*) and **Louise (AL) Berridge**, the *ex-Eastenders* Producer, whose first novel, *Honour and the Sword*, is historical fiction seen by many as a male genre.



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This event is supported by Victoria Jeffs Estate Agents

Saturday, 1st May
Civic Hall 7.30pm £12.50

An Evening with Jack Dee



Jack Dee is in danger of becoming a national treasure. He's certainly Britain's most miserable comedian. Enjoy an evening of vintage Dee in conversation with James Rampton as he talks about his career and his book *Thanks for Nothing* - a hilariously frank account of his life, in which he finally reveals what turned a once optimistic young man into this grumpy middle-aged git. It's a journey that takes him from a first gig as a ventriloquist's dummy, to working in an artificial leg factory and delivering incontinence pads for the NHS, before finally ending up on stage at the Comedy Store. He'll share his frank views on everything from the 'overrated moon landing' to boutique hotels, personal trainers and 'people who hold their cutlery the wrong way'.

'Painfully funny and moving' Mail on Sunday

Sunday, 2nd May

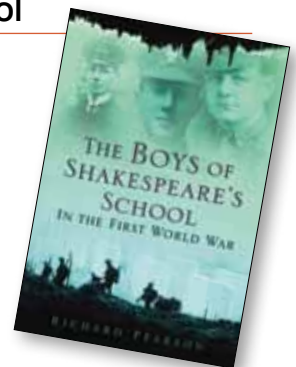
Big School at KES 5.00pm £12 unreserved including tea and a cake

Launch of The Boys of Shakespeare's School

We are delighted to be hosting the launch of KES archivist **Richard Pearson's** poignant new book *The Boys of Shakespeare's School in The First World War* - a brilliantly researched and harrowing account of the impact World War 1 had on just one school and one town. By the time the Armistice was signed 31 old boys and one master had been killed. This will be a fascinating event for anyone interested in history and especially those with Stratford connections and ancestors.

Restricted access for the less abled.

No wheelchair access.



Sunday, 2nd May

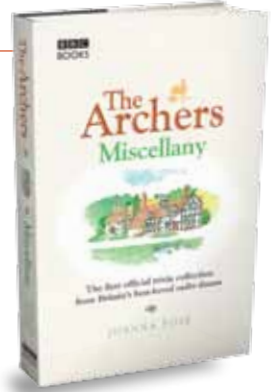
Civic Hall 7.00pm Cabaret Style. £12 Tables of 10: £100
Wine available to buy by the bottle.

The Bull Literary Pub Quiz



The ultimate pub quiz combining questions about *The Archers* with general knowledge and brain-teasers from the world of books and literature. Your question master will be Trevor Harrison, who plays **Eddie Grundy** in the series, with questions set by a panel including *Archers*' Editor **Vanessa Whitburn** and series writer **Joanna Toye**. Bring along

a team of 10 or join a table and pit your wits! Prizes to be won, and *Archers*' Addicts items, including signed copies of Jo Toye's book, *The Archers Miscellany*, to buy. Knowledge of *The Archers* not essential!



Monday, 3rd May

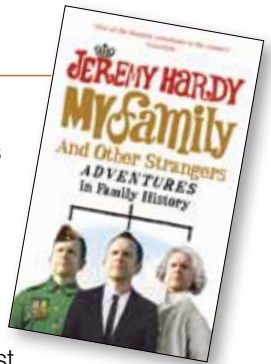
Civic Hall 7.30pm £12.50

An Evening with Jeremy Hardy



We round off the Festival in style with the award-winning comedian Jeremy Hardy, one of the UK's best-loved stand up comedians and winner of a Perrier Comedy Award at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His work includes the acclaimed film *Jeremy Hardy versus the Israeli Army*, the BBC Radio 4 show *Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation*

as well as numerous live sell-out tours. He is also a regular panellist on Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* and *The News Quiz*. His latest book, *My Family and Other Strangers: Adventures in Family History*, a hilarious account of the frustrations of researching a family tree, will strike a chord with anyone who's been lost at the records office.



Tuesday, 27th April

Market Space Civic Hall 11.00am-4.00pm £40 Restricted numbers

Writing Workshop with Sophie King



We welcome back **Sophie King**, the pen name for novelist Jane Bidder, after last year's very successful workshop. Sophie, whose novels include *Mums@Home* and *The Wedding Party*, teaches creative writing at Oxford University

and also works with prisoners. This year she'll show you how to use your memories to write fiction and non-fiction, whether you are planning an autobiographical novel, or simply want to create a family memoir.



Wednesday, 28th April

Market Space Civic Hall 11.00am £8

How To Write To Get Published



Annie Sanders, whose best-selling novels include *Goodbye, Jimmy Choo*, *The Xmas Factor*, *Busy Woman Seeks Wife* and *The Gap Year for Grown-Ups*, is actually two people, Annie Ashworth and Meg Sanders, both of whom live in Stratford. They'll share with you the best way to find an agent, present an idea, attract the eye of a

publisher and even go about publishing your own work. A must for anyone with a novel in the desk drawer or still circling somewhere in their imagination.



Civic Hall Market Space

Admission Free

'My Stratford'



In a unique collaboration, the work of 89-year-old veteran BBC photographer, and Stratford resident, **Willoughby 'Gus' Gullachsen** will be shown alongside the work of photography students from

Stratford College and Welcombe Hills Special School. Gus Gullachsen worked for 50 years as photographer for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, RSC and BBC Drama Department. These however are very personal images of his home town taken over the last 20 years.

The Students at the College, under tutor Nicola Haines, and pupils of Welcombe Hills School, with teacher Lucy Strauss, were commissioned by the Festival to 'update' the images as a unique record of their Stratford to sit alongside Gus' pictures.

'**My Stratford**' captures what Stratford means to them – not just a town of Shakespeare and the Theatre, but a busy, commercial hub that has a thriving community. The results are a fascinating perspective – sometime inspiring, sometimes depressing.

Gus Gullachsen's images are for sale with proceeds to the Shakespeare Hospice.

Exhibition in association with Warwickshire Life Magazine
Images mounted thanks to a grant from NFU Mutual.



Warwickshire Life

Civic Hall Market Space

Admission Free

Stratford Artists' Forum

An exhibition of work in a variety of media by local artists and including work by participants of Stratford charity Escape Community Arts in Action. All artwork for sale.

ON SALE THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

The World Turned Upside Down by Leila Rasheed

A novel for teenagers written specially for the 2010 Festival

It's 1642, the eve of the English Civil War, and Stratford is awash with soldiers preparing to meet the King's Army at Edgehill. Two young lives intertwine as one tries to cover up her Catholic roots and another faces the fear of battle.

It's 2042, and civil unrest has gripped the country again after an influx of refugees have headed west in search of food and shelter as East Anglia succumbs to the ravages of global warming. Two lives intertwine as they discover ghosts and stories from the past.

What happens when two time zones collide? Leila Rasheed weaves a fascinating story set in Stratford for teenagers and adults.

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This initiative has been possible thanks to the support of



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Sunday, 25th April

10.30-11.30am Stratford Library **Admission free**

Princesses and Princes Stories and Rhymes - Bookstart Session

Come and meet the princesses and princes of story books, and enjoy some right royal rhymes. There will be a craft activity and light refreshments.

For children under 5 with a parent or carer. Each child under 5 will take home a goody bag.

Throughout the Festival we will be taking authors and illustrators into schools for events and workshops.

Authors featuring in 2010 include:

Korky Paul

Cathy Cassidy

Sarwat Chadda

Meg Rosoff

Guy Bass

Dinah Capparucci

Sarah McInyre

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Course

If your school hasn't yet got involved, please call us on

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to arrange an event.



BANK HOLIDAY **SATURDAY FUN!**

**Saturday,
1st May**

Books 'n' Stuff at Cox's Yard

A full day of events from 10.00am

Cartooning workshop with Sarah McIntyre

**Studio B 12.30-1.30 £10
including materials**

Born in Seattle, illustrator **Sarah McIntyre** creates fabulously exciting and whacky cartoons for comic strips and won the Benjamin Franklin Award in the US for Best Children's Picture Book. Her latest book, *You Can't Eat A Princess!*, brings alive chocolate and space! Get stuck in with paper and pens as Sarah shows you how it's done.

Playbox Theatre Adventure!

Studio C 1.30-2.30pm £8

Join directors from **Playbox Theatre** for an action-packed hour in which we delve into our imaginations and explore some of our favourite stories with mime, movement, acting, storytelling, games and fun. This promises to be a wonderful theatre workshop for children aged 5-8yrs.

Make a Book Art Workshop

**Music Space 2.00-3.00pm £12
including materials**

We'll supply the materials and you supply the inspiration to create a book jacket on the theme of Letters. Workshop led by artist **Julie de Bastion**. Everyone in the family can be involved.

Numbers for this are restricted to 30 so please book early.

Playbox Theatre ~ bringing tales to life

Studio C 2.30-3.30pm £8

For an exciting theatre workshop exploring great myths and legends, join Playbox Theatre and journey into your imagination...Mime, movement, storytelling, voice and physical theatre all collide in an action-packed workshop for 8-11 year olds



Throughout the day:

- Face painting with RSC's head of Wigs and Make-up Brenda Leedham**
- Brass Band** **Musical entertainment**
- Circus performers**



Friends of the Festival

Will you be our friend?

This is the third year of the Literary Festival and our programme is stronger than ever. However it is not possible to stage an event such as this on box office takings only. We need the help of people like you who enjoy books, writing and culture. By becoming a Friend, you can help us build an even better festival each year and programme events for local writers, emerging novelists and young people.

By becoming a Friend, you'll get a chance to receive early notification of events, and be first in the queue to buy tickets... plus you'll be supporting one of Warwickshire's finest assets!

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Benefits as a Friend of the Literary Festival

- early information about upcoming events
- priority booking to events in the festival
- information by email about last minute tickets

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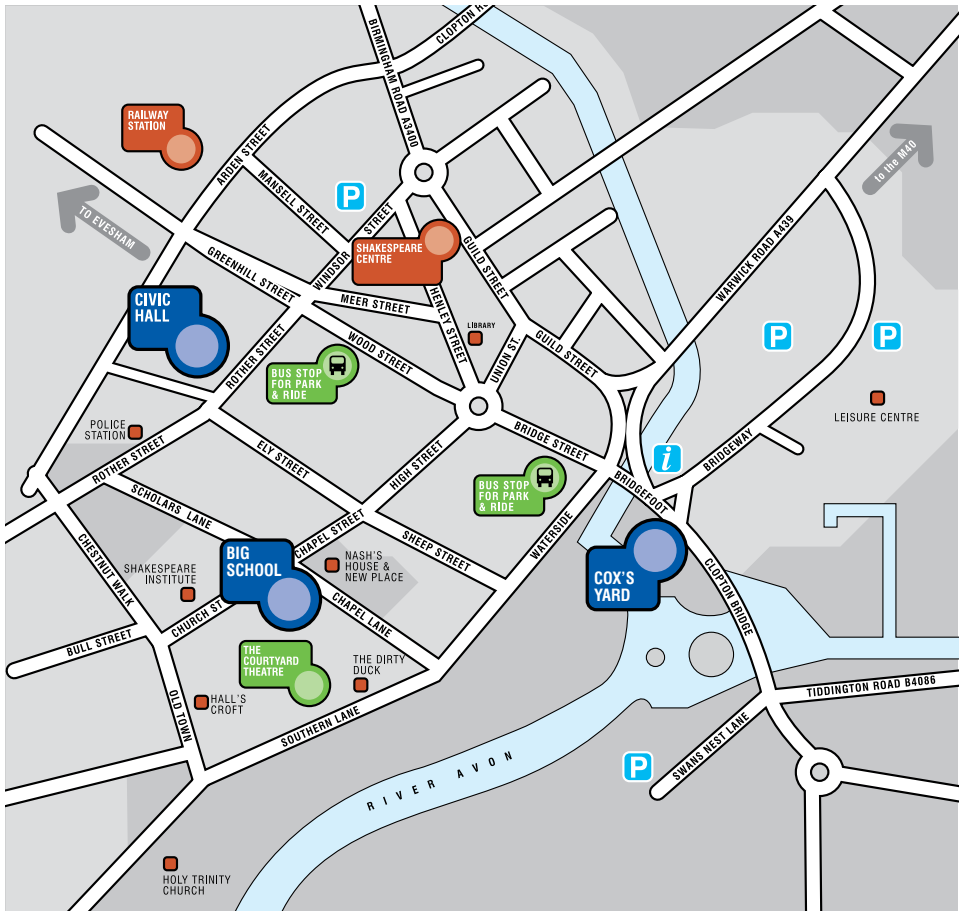
Go to www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk to find out more about supporting the Festival.



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

Felix Dennis, Butler Tanner Dennis, Victoria Jeffs, Archie and Diana Kane, Suzanne James, Lisa Stephenson and Camilla Grove at Scottish Widows, Alyx Price at Scholastic, Shakespeare Bookshop, Fiona Lindsay, Rupert Barnes, Nancy Cooper and all who Steward at the Festival, Anita Applebee and the Trustees of Stratford Town Trust, Claude Walters, Sarah Crow and Elizabeth Morris at Stratford Civic Hall, Rev Martin Gorrick, Stratford Garden Centre, Sheena Brand from Brand PR, Sandy Holt, Chris Towner, Vin Neuf, Cooper Adams, Steve Blackman, Leslie Frazer, Meg Sanders, Steve Pitts, Tom, Louis and Toby Ashworth, Richard Pearson and KES, Mike Nicholas at Shock the Senses, Ginny Gretton at Warwick School, Playbox Theatre, Judy and David Hamblett, Geoff Alun-Jones, Brenda Latham, Julie de Bastion, Lucy Strauss and Welcombe Hills School, Visual Arts Forum, Jan Dawson and Stratford Library, Waterstones, Jonathan Birkett and Stratfordward, Jill Samuda, Amanda Ponsobny MBE, Richard Clarke at Clive Conway, Susanna Wadson, Needham & James, Jane Bidder, Professor David Morley at Warwick University, Simon Hogg, Leila Rasheed, Professor Kate Mcluskie, Vanessa Whitburn, Jo Toye, Trevor Harrison, Paul Allen, Hedli Niklaus, Willoughby 'Gus' Gullachsen, Nicola Haines, Wendy Freeman, Loulou Clark and James Jones at Orion Books, and all the publishers who have organised their authors to visit Stratford.

Festival Map



- Disabled access: please check with the box office for each event.
- All seats are reserved with an allocated number unless stated otherwise. Tickets will be sold from front of auditorium to the back on a first come, first served basis.
- Children's Events: ticket prices shown are for both adults and children. There are no concessions. Children under 2 free. Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult (over 18 years of age) who must remain on the premises at all times throughout the event.
- We cannot accept responsibility for unaccompanied children. Children over 14 may attend alone but must be delivered and collected by a responsible adult.
- Family Ticket includes two children and one adult.
- Concessions of £1 are offered to those 16 and under and those over 60.
- Book tickets to 2-4 events and receive a £1 discount on each event. Book tickets to 5-10 events and receive £2 off each event.
- We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers if circumstances dictate.
- Go to www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.
- Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged.

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Literary Festival



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