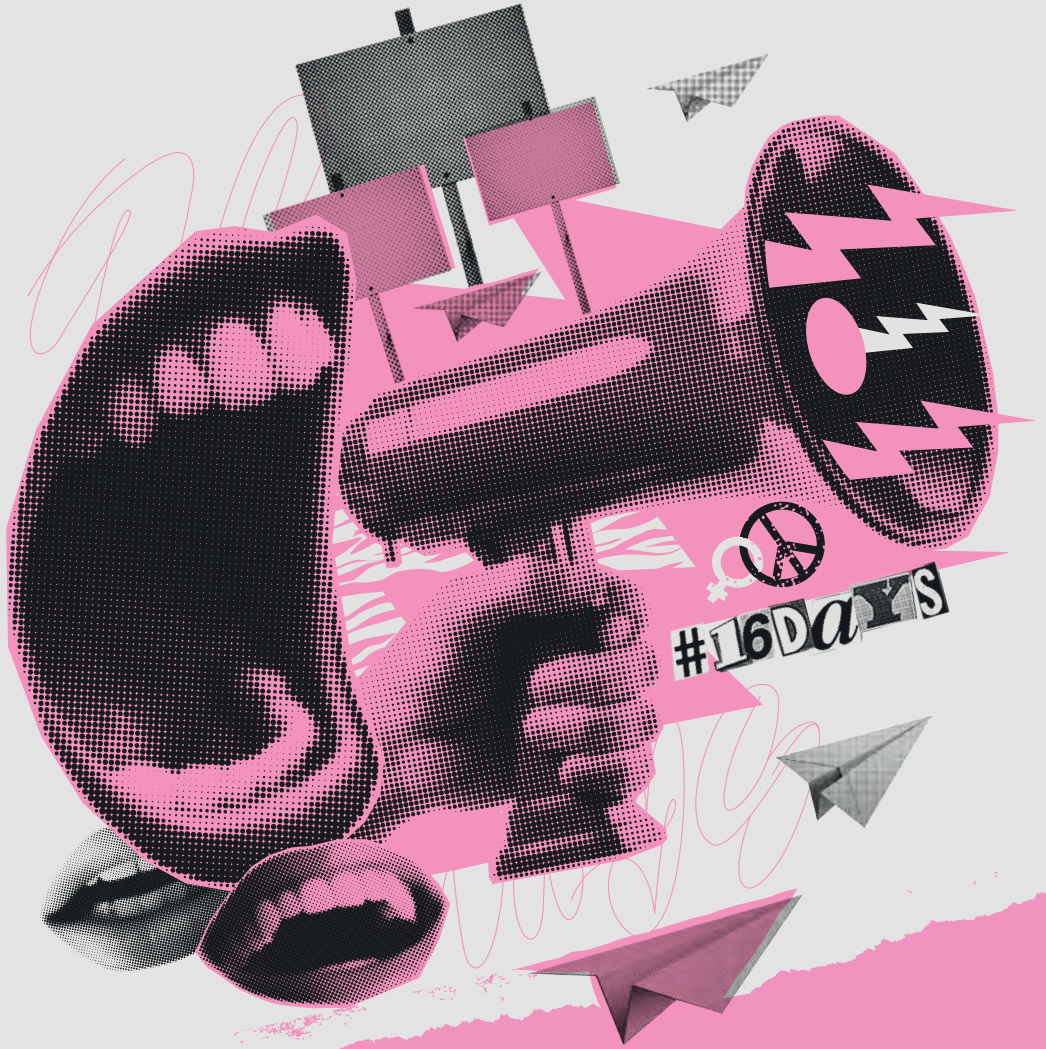




Manchester
Metropolitan
University

Manchester
Poetry
Library



Autumn/Winter Season 24/25

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter season at Manchester Poetry Library

Five years ago, Manchester Metropolitan University invited Imtiaz Dharker to write a poem to celebrate the opening of their new poetry library. Manchester Poetry Library is delighted to be celebrating the publication of one of those poems in her incredible new collection, *The Shadow Reader* at the beginning of our Autumn/Winter 2024-2025 programme.

In *The Welcome*, Imtiaz writes that “this is where people come alive | to speak their stories in ink and blood”. In this season’s programme, ‘ink and blood’ might speak to the passion and personal nature of the poetry being performed, as well as its necessity.

At the end of the summer, we concluded our inaugural *Poets of Colour Incubator*, a year-long mentorship programme for emerging poets of colour. It is wonderful to see our annual collaboration with Manchester Literature Festival open by reminding us where this kind of initiative might lead over a decade, with a celebration of the anthology *Mapping the Future: The Complete Works Poets* and the revolutionary initiative founded by Booker Prize winner, Bernardine Evaristo.

We continue to support writers’ development this year by partnering with the Poetry Translation Centre on *Undertow*, an initiative for multilingual poets. In November and December, Forward Prize-winner Kim Moore, Sarah Cleaves and Dr Frazer Heritage have curated *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*, a festival of workshops, readings and guest speakers.

As ever, the programme allows you not only to hear poetry, but also provides opportunities for your voice to be heard. This part of the programme concludes with our highly popular *Multilingual Open Mic* on International Mother Language Day in February.

If you’d like to get involved with the day-to-day life of Manchester Poetry Library, you can find out about regular events, reading groups, poetry drop-ins and more from our website and socials.

Becky Swain
Director of Manchester Poetry Library

EVENTS THIS SEASON

MPL Sub Club with Susie Wilson

Tue 1 Oct 2024 | 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Venue: Contact, Oxford Rd, M15 6JA

Want to ‘get published’ as a poet? Been advised that the best bet is to build a track record in magazines and journals first? Ever feel a bit lost in the cosmos of poetry publications? Wonder what other people are up to with their submissions? Then Sub Club is for you.

AI, Home, Sleep and Me

Thu 12 Sep 2024 | 6.30pm
Venue: Contact, Oxford Rd, M15 6JA

Join acclaimed poets Ilisha Thiru Purcell, Princess Arinola Adegbite, Jeremy Pak Nelson and special guests for an immersive, multimedia exploration of the meaning of Home, Sleep and AI.

After a year of developing new work in response to what they see as global challenges, three emerging artists from the *Poets of Colour Incubator* present this exclusive showcase of poetry to inspire change.

Princess Arinola Adegbite takes a surrealist deep dive into AI, romantic relationships, family and health; Jeremy Pak Nelson’s poetry is a sensory exploration of ‘home’, how we carry memories and transform them to build a sense of belonging; and Ilisha Thiru Purcell investigates who is able to rest as a poetic journey on the power of dreams – and sleep as a growing health inequality.

Part of the Poets of Colour Incubator for the North of England, a 12-month programme offering mentoring, change agency opportunities and creative development to three emerging poets of colour.



credit: Nelly Naylor

We will read and compare a range of poetry magazines and journals, in print and online, using Manchester Poetry Library’s resources, aiming to explore what each one is ‘up to’ and where our writing might best fit. Sessions will be discussion-based, collaborative and supportive. You will not need to bring your own copies but you are very welcome to do so.

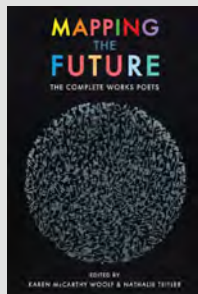
Poet and tutor, Susie Wilson, a Manchester Met graduate and winner of the Disabled Poets Prize 2024 will facilitate.

There will be two further Sub Club sessions at the same time on 5 Nov and 3 Dec 2024.

Mapping the Future: The Complete Works Poets

Fri 11 Oct 2024 | 7.00pm
Venue: Contact, Oxford Rd, M15 6JA
Tickets: £14/£10

An evening of electric poetry and vital verse celebrating the anthology, *Mapping the Future: The Complete Works Poets*. Founded by Booker Prize winner Bernardine Evaristo, Complete Works Poetry was a revolutionary initiative that transformed the UK poetry scene. Supporting 30 diverse poets over 12 years, the programme has produced a wealth of distinctive voices (from Raymond Antrobus to Warsan Shire) and over 40 poetry collections between them, including three Forward Prizes, two T.S. Eliot Prizes and two Ted Hughes Awards.



Poets performing at this special Manchester celebration include Malika Booker (*Pepper Seed*), Inua Ellams (*The Barber Shop Chronicles*), Sarah Howe (*Loop of Jade*), Ian Humphreys (*Tormentil*), Adam Lowe (*Patterflash*) and poet and translator Eileen Pun, among others.

This event will be BSL interpreted.

Presented in partnership with Speaking Volumes and Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.

My Beautiful Voice with Joseph Coelho

Sat 12 Oct 2024 | 10:30am – 11:15am
Venue: Manchester Central Library
Tickets: £5

Join us for an exciting and heartwarming event as we welcome the Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022 – 2024, Joseph Coelho! This award-winning performance poet, playwright, and children's author is ready to enchant us with his captivating storytelling and poetry.

Get ready for a delightful journey into the world of Joseph's wonderful picture book, *My Beautiful Voice*. This story follows a little girl who discovers her courage through the magic of poetry. Together, we'll have fun guessing poetic riddles, pulling funny poetry faces, and learning how to find our own bravery through poetry. But that's not all! Joseph will also treat us to lively readings from his collection, *Smile Out Loud: 25 Happy Poems*.

Suitable for age 3-5 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library.



Spooky Poems Aloud with Joseph Coelho

Sat 12 Oct 2024, 1:00pm – 1:45pm
Venue: Manchester Central Library
Tickets: £5

Prepare to jump into the spooky, spellbinding world of spoken word poetry, with your guide: Joseph Coelho. In this interactive session with the Waterstones Children's Laureate, you'll be thrilled (and maybe even a little scared) by performances from Joseph as he brings you his latest poetry compendium, *Spooky Poems Aloud: 25 Poems to Frighten and Delight*.



Get ready to have your funny bones tickled as we create poetry together and learn how to recite it loudly, softly, and even in ghostly whispers. Then join us for the *Spooky Poems Aloud Activity Trail* and craft activities for children created by community artist Emma Martin.

Suitable for age 5-10 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library.



credit: Adama Jalloh

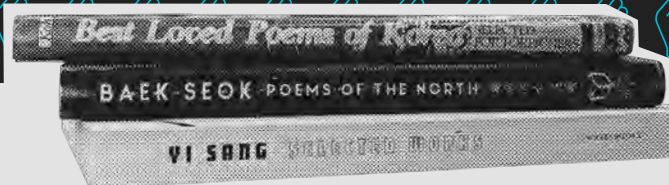
Inua Ellams: Soft Curses and Weakness Workshop

Sat 12 Oct 2024
10.30am – 12.00pm | 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library
Tickets: £15

There are several things that drive a writer to pick up a pen. A lot of the time we are searching for safety, not only to contend with and accept ourselves, but to transform what scares us into art and a sturdy bridge we hope the world will meet us on. In this intimate workshop, poet and playwright Inua Ellams will do just that. Drawing from musicians and poets Chance The Rapper and Jamila Woods, we will find ways to articulate and reinvent our soft curses and weakness into sharp and lyrical weapons.

Inua Ellams is a Nigerian poet, playwright, performer, graphic artist and founder of both *The Midnight Run* and *The Rhythm and Poetry Party (The R.A.P. Party)*. His books include *The Actual*, *The Half-God of Rainfall* and *Afterhours*. His plays include *The Barber Shop Chronicles* and retellings of *The Little Prince* and *Three Sisters*.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Speaking Volumes and Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.



K-Pop Poetry

Thu 17 Oct 2024

10:30am – 12:00pm | 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Free entry

Some of the best lyricists in K-pop are also known to be avid readers of poetry: RM, IU, Tablo of Epik High, etc. In this workshop, we will compare how they and 'traditional' poets write about similar subjects in their lyrics/poems. Then you will have time to try your hand at some writing too! Participants should come with a K-pop song that they understand the lyrics to, or have a translation of – or alternatively, a poem they want to work with.

There are two time slots available. The first session runs from 10.30am – 12pm and the second session runs from 1pm – 2.30pm.



credit: Ayesha Dharker

Imtiaz Dharker & Romalyn Ante

Tue 15 Oct 2024 | 8.00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Tickets: £10/£8

'Imtiaz Dharker's poetry shines a light in the dark.' – Jackie Kay.

One of the UK's most inspirational contemporary poets, Imtiaz Dharker joins us to perform poems from her fascinating new collection, *Shadow Reader*. The poems acknowledge wilful erasures, exclusions and places of sanctuary, noticing the everyday and its shadows while forming an irreverent, playful celebration of life. Supporting Imtiaz is the brilliant Romalyn Ante with her stunning second collection, *AGIMAT*. Moving between the Philippines and England, the myth of the many-breasted goddess Mebuyan and the reality of the present day NHS, the poems ask - how do we keep safe what we hold most dear?

Imtiaz Dharker is a poet, artist and film maker. She has published seven collections of poetry including *Over the Moon*, which was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2014. She was also awarded The Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for 2014.

Romalyn Ante is a Filipino-British poet, essayist, and editor. Her debut collection *Antiemetic for Homesickness* was shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize and longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize.

She was awarded the Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship in 2021-2022.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.



credit: Natalya Mykhailychenko

Oksana Maksymchuk

Thu 17 Oct 2024 | 7.00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Free entry (booking recommended)

'There is terrifying restraint in these poems of war wherein realism becomes a song, realism becomes hallucination, realism is a naked nerve set to a tune. Terrifying, yes, but necessary. *Still City* is an important book.' – Ilya Kaminsky

Award-winning Ukrainian poet Oksana Maksymchuk reads from and discusses her stunning debut collection in English, *Still City* (Carcanet) charting the Russian invasion of her homeland. Oksana draws on personal experience as well as witness accounts, social media and news reports to create an immersive chronicle of war, shining a light on survival, mourning and moments of hope amidst the terror. Hosted by poet Charlotte Shevchenko Knight (*Food for the Dead*).

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Raymond Antrobus, Caleb Femi & Theresa Lola

Fri 18 Oct 2024 | 7:00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Tickets: £18/£10

Three of the poetry scene's most exhilarating, contemporary voices come together to perform work from their forthcoming collections. Raymond Antrobus (*The Perseverance*) introduces his beautiful new collection, *Signs, Music*. A meditation on fatherhood and masculinity, linking his experience of becoming a father with that of being parented. Caleb Femi (*Poor*) brings his immersive collection, *The Wickedest*. Set over one night at a house party, you can feel the bass throbbing as the characters' lives collide. While Theresa Lola (*In Search of Equilibrium*) performs poems from the exquisite *Ceremony for the Nameless* which explores what it means to be named and the ways in which names connect us to our heritage.

Raymond Antrobus is the author of four poetry collections and a children's picture book. His collection *All the Names Given* was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. Caleb Femi is a writer, director and photographer. His debut collection *Poor* won the Forward Prize for best first collection. From 2016 to 2018 he was the Young People's Laureate for London. Theresa Lola's debut poetry collection *In Search of Equilibrium* was longlisted for the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. In 2018 she was awarded the Brunel International African Poetry Prize and in 2019 she was the Young Poet Laureate for London. This event will be BSL interpreted.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Raymond Antrobus: The Real and the Imagined Workshop

Sat 19 Oct 2024 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Tickets: £15

How can poetry play with the line between the real and the imagined? What is poetic truth and how does it relate to the emotional truth of experience and living in the world? How can poetry imagine ideal worlds whilst being rooted in the here and now? Through a series of practical writing exercises and close readings of poems, you'll explore these big questions in a supportive environment with award-winning poet, Raymond Antrobus.

Raymond Antrobus is a poet, educator and investigator of missing sounds. He is the author of *To Sweeten Bitter*, *The Perseverance*, *All The Names Given* and the forthcoming collection, *Signs, Music*. In 2019 and 2021, his poems, Jamaican British, *The Perseverance* and *Happy Birthday Moon* were added to the UK's GCSE syllabus. His children's picture books include *Can Bears Ski?* and *Terrible Horses*. Raymond has won numerous Poetry Slams and performed his poetry at festivals across the world from Glastonbury to BOCAS. In 2021 he performed at the Paralympic Homecoming ceremony at Wembley Stadium.

Presented by Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.



Black History Month

Thu 31 Oct 2024 | 6.30 – 8.00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Free entry

Join us for a special Black History Month poetry event, celebrating the rich and diverse voices of Black poets. The evening will feature a range of poetry performances and readings which will inspire, challenge and uplift, whilst exploring cultural heritage, identity and so much more.

Poetry Drop-Ins

Tue 1 Nov 2024 | 2:00pm – 4.30pm

(repeats once a fortnight)

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Free entry

Do you have a project or an idea you'd love to talk through? Do you have a poem you don't know what to do with? Are you struggling with creative freelancing and wish you had someone to talk to? Do you wish you could have the personal shopper experience and have someone suggest what you read next?

Every fortnight from 1 November, you'll be able to book a session with a member of the team on Tuesday afternoons between 2–4.30pm. Come and chat with us! We cannot offer to read manuscripts or read anything in advance but we are happy to read some of your poems in the session.

Actual Air: A Night Celebrating The Poetry Of David Berman (Silver Jews)

Thu 28 Nov 2024 | 7:00pm

Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Free entry

A night celebrating the poetry and music of David Berman.

Poet, singer-songwriter and Silver Jews founder / frontman, David Berman, published just one collection of poetry before his death in 2019. *Actual Air* was published in 1999, and has since become a cult and deeply influential poetry collection, dealing with themes of isolation, memory, banality and malaise in middle America.

Poets Zaffar Kunial, Caleb Nichols, Lenni Sanders, and lyricist Paul Rafferty, will be performing readings of Berman's poetry and their own work. Singer-songwriter Francis Lung will be performing Silver Jews covers to conclude the night.

16 Days Of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

25 Nov – 10 Dec 2024

Are you passionate about social justice?
Would you like to discover how poetry can
inspire and change minds?

Join us for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a series of poetry readings, panels and workshops led by academics in the field. Our events examine how poetry can create transformational social change in partnership with the public and policymakers.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence has been organised in response to the international campaign hosted by UN Women. Kicking off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the campaign runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The festival is wheelchair accessible and will take place in-person at the Manchester Poetry Library and Lowry Building at Manchester Metropolitan University. Some events will also be online or live streamed.

This is a trans-inclusive event.

Reading And Discussion: Dr Kim Moore and Laura Bates

Mon 25 Nov 2024 | 7:00pm – 8.30pm
Venue: Manchester Metropolitan
University, Lowry Building, Room 403
and Online

Join Forward Prize-winning poet Dr Kim Moore and feminist writer and activist Laura Bates for an evening of poetry and engaging discussion. They will examine everyday sexism, how we move through a damaged patriarchal society and how we can resist injustice. There will be time for questions at the end. This event will be hosted by Dr Malika Booker.



Dr Kim Moore

Dr Kim Moore

Poet | Senior Lecturer | Speaker

Kim Moore is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her first collection *The Art of Falling* (Seren 2015) won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. Her second collection *All The Men I Never Married* (Seren, 2021) won the 2022 Forward Prize for Best Collection. A hybrid book of lyric essays and poetry *Are You Judging Me Yet? Poetry and Everyday Sexism* was published by Seren in March 2023.



Laura Bates

Laura Bates

Activist | Writer | Speaker

Laura is founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, an ever-increasing collection of over 250,000 testimonies of gender inequality, with branches in over 20 countries worldwide. She works closely with politicians, police forces, businesses, schools and organisations from the United Nations to the Council of Europe to tackle sexism and sexual violence. She writes regularly for the New York Times, Guardian, Telegraph and others and is author of 9 books including *Men Who Hate Women* and *Fix the System, Not the Women*. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has been awarded a British Empire Medal for her services to Gender Equality.



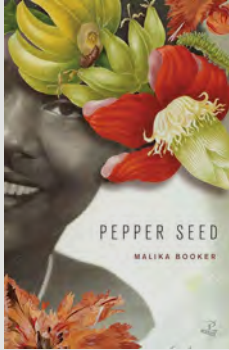
Dr Malika Booker

Dr Malika Booker

Poet | Playwright | Performer | Sr Lecturer

Dr Malika Booker, a Caribbean British poet is the first woman to win the Forward Prize for Best Single poem twice for *The Little Miracles* (2020)

and *Libation* (2023). A Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, co-founder Malika's Poetry Kitchen (A writer's collective), her collection *Pepper Seed* was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas prize and the Seamus Heaney Centre 2014 prize.



She is published with poets Sharon Olds and Warsan Shire in *The Penguin Modern Poet Series 3* (2017). She is a Cave Canem Fellow, a Complete Works fellow, inaugural Poet in Residence at The Royal Shakespeare Company and was awarded the Cholmondeley Award (2019) for outstanding contribution to poetry. She was elected a Royal Society of Literature Fellow (2022).

Reading: Clare Shaw and Dr Malika Booker

Tue 26 Nov 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Join us for a poetry reading from Clare Shaw, praised by the Times Literary Supplement for their 'fierce, memorable and visceral' style, and Dr Malika Booker, the first woman to win the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem twice. Their work explores articulations of inherited trauma, gendered violence and resistance.

Erasure Workshop

Wed 27 Nov 2024 | 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Join Catherine Davies and Roma Havers for this 90 minute, hands-on workshop, you will explore the creative process of erasure poetry – a form where we will create new poems by erasing words from existing pieces of text. This technique encourages poets to uncover a fresh perspective within existing work. We will be using words from poems, newspapers, magazines and maybe even some recipes! The emphasis on the day will be on experimentation and creative play.

Dr Frazer Heritage and Caroline Stancer

Thu 28 Nov 2024 | 11:00am – 1:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Dr Frazer Heritage will be discussing his new book *Incels and Ideologies: exploring how incels use language to construct gender and race*. Dr Heritage positions incels' performances of masculinity against a backdrop of broader social sciences and linguistic literature. Dr Heritage will be joined by PhD student Caroline Stancer. Caroline's poetry focuses on representations of masculinities in contemporary poetry. She is particularly interested in how poetry can use multiple viewpoints to both represent and challenge current performances of masculinity which may be harmful to people of any gender.

Reading: Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa

Fri 29 Nov 2024 | 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Venue: Manchester Metropolitan University, Lowry Building, Room 403

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa will be sharing pieces from her live literature show '*Cane Corn & Gully*', adapted from her highly acclaimed debut poetry collection. Safiya navigates the historical narratives of Barbadian women, and through their dances she learns valuable

lessons on womanhood, love and ice-cream sandwiches. This literary experience will share ground-breaking research on black history and may feature historical tales some audiences may find disturbing.

Workshop: Late Night Writing Hour with Kim Moore

Sat 30 Nov 2024 | 9:00pm – 10:00pm
Venue: Online

Join Dr Kim Moore for a late night writing hour. This is a light touch writing workshop and a chance for beginners and experienced writers to be inspired and have a space to be creative. Come prepared to write lots of poems!



Panel Discussion: Charlotte Shevchenko Knight, Naomi Morris, Char Heather

Sun 1 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Online

Join writers and researchers Char Heather (University of York), Charlotte Shevchenko Knight (Manchester Metropolitan University), and Naomi Morris (University of East Anglia) as they explore the intersections of their creative-critical work in this discussion on feminist approaches to illness narratives. This panel will illuminate the gender inequality in medicalised spaces and language and discuss how we might reconcile slippery experiences which resist a typical narrative by turning to creative-critical writing.



Reading And Discussion: Dr Derek Bousfield and Professor Helen Mort

Mon 2 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Dr Derek Bousfield and Professor Helen Mort have been working together to investigate ways that poetry can illuminate and examine the language of gaslighting. Join us for this fascinating event which will combine creative-critical research with poetry.

Workshop: We Sinful Women

Tue 3 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Join Anjum Malik, Manchester's City Poet Laureate and senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University for a workshop exploring the iconic 1980s contemporary Urdu feminist poetry collection, *We Sinful Women*, translated and edited by Rukhsana Ahmed. We will examine the poetry, its languages, Urdu, and English, how it portrays the sexism enshrined in the poet's lives in Pakistan back then and how it relates to our everyday lives now. There will be discussion, reading and creative writing.

Reading: Dr Kim Moore and Prof Khatidja Chantler

Wed 4 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

The event will begin with a discussion of Professor Khatidja Chantler's groundbreaking and transformative research into domestic homicide. There will then be a performance of 'i-poems' - drawn from the voices of survivors of domestic abuse and family members of victims of domestic homicide.

These poems are powerful testimonies drawn from the HALT (*Homicide Abuse Learning Together*) study, spearheaded by Professor Khatidja Chantler and a multi-disciplinary team from across Manchester Metropolitan University and beyond. The i-poems illustrate how the lyric poem can elevate and magnify the voices of those most impacted by domestic violence.



Reading and Discussion: Anjum Malik and Charlotte Shevchenko Knight

Thu 5 Dec | 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Anjum Malik is a poet, script writer and Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her poetry is agile, often moving between multiple languages and dismantling

preconceptions, hierarchies and borders in a uniquely playful, subversive approach to language. Charlotte Shevchenko Knight is a PhD candidate at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her debut poetry collection *Food for the Dead* (Cape, 2024) is shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Her work examines the female body, hunger and gender inequality in medicalised spaces.



Reading: Joelle Taylor

Fri 6 Dec | 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Joelle Taylor's *C+nto & Othered Poems*, winner of the 2022 Polari Prize and the T.S. Eliot Prize is a compelling, passionate and evocative examination of the 1980's and 1990's butch lesbian counterculture in London. Her recent debut novel, *The Night Alphabet* is a relentlessly inventive investigation into human nature and violence against women.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: Open Mic

Sat 7 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Join us for our poetry open mic as part of the

UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Whether you're a well-seasoned poet or a first-time performer, this welcoming space invites you to share your voice and connect on a vital cause. If you would like to perform on the open mic, we welcome poems tonight on the theme of resistance, social change, allyship or feminism. Sign up on the door for an open mic spot.

Hosted by Dr Kim Moore, a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Katie Davies, a final year Creative Writing Student.

Workshop: Permission to Speak with Caroline Stancer

Sun 8 Dec 2024 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Online

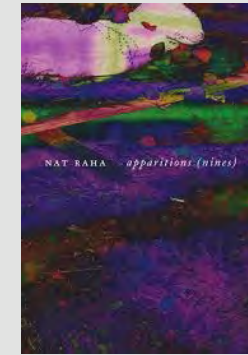
'I realize that if I wait until I am no longer afraid to act, write, speak, be, I'll be sending messages on a Ouija board, cryptic complaints from the other side.' – Audre Lorde.

When attacks on women's voices in public spaces are increasing, it can be daunting to develop our ideas and write them down. Have I really got anything important to say? What if I'm wrong? In this two-hour workshop we will look at poems which help us to write what we want to write, and we'll create our own poetry in response. It will be led by doctoral student, Caroline Stancer.

Reading: Nat Raha and Roma Havers

Mon 9 Dec | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Dr Nat Raha is a poet and activist-scholar who will be reading from her new collection, *apparitions (nines)* (Nightboat Books, 2024). Her work seeks to inject the disruptive potential of collective action into the body of the poem. Her poetry has also appeared in *100 Queer* (2022) and *We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics* (Nightboat 2020).



Roma Havers is a queer poet and theatre-maker based in Manchester. Their most recent work includes *LOB* (Contact, 2022) and poetic film *Breathe with Orchestras Live* and Manchester Camerata. They were 2024 winner of the Northern Writer's Award for Poetry. Roma's work explores queer inheritance, the body and what it means to radicalise queer joy.

Dr Katherine Angel and Professor Helen Mort

Tue 10 Dec 2024 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library and Online

In celebration of Human Rights Day and for the final event of our series, join Dr Katherine Angel and Professor Helen Mort for an evening of incisive, topical readings. Helen Mort's acclaimed poetry collections include the Forward Prize shortlisted *The Illuminated Woman*, a tender and incisive exploration of what it means to live in a woman's body. Katherine Angel's literary non-fiction is always beautifully poetic and ranges widely in its engagement with issues around female desire, sexuality, consent and violence.

This series of events is supported by AHEAD, the public engagement programme of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Manchester Metropolitan University.



Slamovision 2024

Thu 12 Dec | 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library

Join us for the Grand Final of Slamovision, the spoken word version of Eurovision, hosted by the UNESCO Cities of Literature — where each City slams their way to the grand title of Slamovision Champion every year! The UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature hold this esteemed international poetry competition to explore different approaches to poetry performance, which Manchester holds highly in its regard as a city with poetry truly at its heart. Manchester is proudly hosting after taking the crown in 2023 with a poem by Esther Koch. Who will win this time?



IMLD 2025: Multilingual Open Mic

Fri 21 Feb 2025 | 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library
Free entry

Manchester Poetry Library is delighted to be hosting its third multilingual open mic night to celebrate International Mother Language Day. We welcome readings in any language. You can choose to read your own poems or a poem by a well-known poet (or not so well-known). If you're still unsure, please just turn up and you can decide whether you want to read on the night. You might want to choose something spontaneously from our collection, or just stay and listen.

This year, we will also be joined by special guests to celebrate the various multilingual projects and partnerships that the Poetry Library has been fortunate enough to be involved with.

Places to read will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments will be provided. Please email Martin at M.Kratz@mmu.ac.uk if you have any questions.

UNDERTOW: The Future is Multilingual

Sat 22 Feb 2025 | 11:00am – 12:30pm
Venue: Manchester Poetry Library
Free entry

A multinational, multilingual poetry event, bringing together young poets from the UK and Singapore via live video hook-up, to read poems that exist in many languages. A positive look at a potential future for poetry and self-expression unbound by linguistic categories and national borders.

There will be poetry readings and a discussion of multilingual creativity from poets from the Poetry Translation Centre's UNDERTOW programme, who are joined by poets from a programme in Singapore run by Sing Lit Station. The UNDERTOW poets are young poets from mixed heritage and diaspora backgrounds living in the UK who take part in the programme unlock the creative potential of polylingual creativity. As part of the programme, they are paired with young poets from Singapore where multilingualism is the norm and English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil are all spoken, alongside Singlish, an English creole that has grown out from contact between all on the languages in the island city-state.



| Manchester Writing School

If you want to get serious about creative writing or publishing, the Manchester Writing School – with a proven reputation for developing gifted students into award-winning professional writers and industry experts – is the ideal place to start. We offer opportunities to study at BA, Masters and PhD level.

Undergraduate

Our undergraduate programmes cover traditional and innovative aspects of the discipline, combining creative writing with the study of literature, media, and publishing:

- BA (Hons) Creative Writing
- BA (Hons) Creative Writing (Foundation Year)
- BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing
- BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing (Foundation Year)

Undergraduate open days

- Saturday 12th October
- Saturday 19th October
- Saturday 23rd November

Masters

Our masters programmes in Creative Writing will help you explore and practise techniques and styles of modern and contemporary writing and apply these through the development of your own creative work:

- MA Creative Writing
- MFA Creative Writing

Our MA in Publishing allows students to explore the publishing industries and their markets internationally, as well as the trends, innovations, opportunities and challenges facing this rapidly-changing profession:

- MA Publishing

Masters open days

- Wednesday 13th November
- Saturday 8th February
- Wednesday 7th May

| Opening Hours

Monday	10am - 4.30pm
Tuesday	10am - 7pm
Wednesday	10am - 7pm
Thursday	10am - 4.30pm
Friday	10am - 4.30pm
Saturday	11 - 5pm
Sunday	Closed
Bank Holidays	Closed

Manchester Poetry Library

Manchester Metropolitan University
Grosvenor East
Cavendish Street
Manchester
M15 6BG

| Visit Us

Manchester Poetry Library is the first public poetry library in the North West – a welcoming public space for anyone interested in or curious about poetry.

Open to all, there is no cost for events at the Poetry Library.

Find us in the Grosvenor East building at Manchester Metropolitan University, just off Oxford Road.

Membership of Manchester Poetry Library is free to all. Join today by completing the form at mmu.ac.uk/poetry-library/become-a-member

| Coming soon...

Manchester Poetry Library and the Poetry Research Group at Manchester Metropolitan University are delighted to announce that next year's summer exhibition will be created by Forward Prize-winner Dr Malika Booker. Professor Helen Mort will be curating a series of poetry readings, and following on from Jos Charles in 2024, we are planning our third International Poet in Residence. Also, do look out for the much anticipated Manchester Translation Series around World Poetry Day in March.

| Suggest Poetry for our Collection

Our Poetry Library team is happy to help you learn how to explore our collection. If we don't have what you are looking for, please share your recommendations with us.

| Accessibility

Manchester Poetry Library offers various access provisions to ensure that you have the best experience possible during your visit.

The Poetry Library space is wheelchair accessible and situated on the ground floor. Level access for all entrances is provided to both the front and rear of Grosvenor East. Level access and step free circulation is provided throughout.

Accessible toilets are situated on the ground floor close to the Poetry Library entrance. These toilets are also gender-neutral, single occupancy cubicles.

We host events online, in the library space, and with partners in many other venues across the city. Please refer to individual event information for details and any BSL (British Sign Language), caption subtitled or audio described events.

More extensive access information is available on request. If you have any questions, please email poetrylibrary@mmu.ac.uk or call 0161 247 6106 and we'll be happy to support you.

| Get Involved

Reading and Writing Workshops

If you are a community reading group or writing group, or can offer a workshop series connected to poetry, we can offer space to host your workshops on Wednesday evenings. We only offer the space for a 6-week residency. Email r.havers@mmu.ac.uk to discuss.

Poetry Drop-Ins

Do you have a project or an idea you'd love to talk through? Do you have a poem you don't know what to do with? Are you struggling with creative freelancing and wish you had someone to talk to? Do you wish you could have the personal shopper experience and have someone suggest what you read next?

Every fortnight from 1 Nov 2024, you'll be able to book a session with a member of the team on Tuesday afternoons between 2 – 4.30pm.

Special Events

A year-round programme of poetry events and opportunities for professional development is listed on our What's On and Current Projects webpages. Check our website or subscribe to our e-newsletter to stay up to date.

Resources to Introduce Poetry Writing

A range of web-based and printed poetry resources to support those working with children and young people, and resources for writers.

Poetry Library Tours and School Visits

Available on request. Please email K.Tew@mmu.ac.uk or enquire at the Poetry Library Welcome Desk.



AUTUMN

BA (Hons) ACTING

10-12 Oct pool (no water)

By Mark Ravenhill
Directed by John F. Deeney



7 - 9 Nov A Respectable Wedding

By Bertolt Brecht
Translated by Rory Bremner
Directed by Deborah Yhip



5 - 7 Dec A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Adam Zane



GROSVENOR
EAST THEATRE

BOOK TICKETS
theatre.mmu.ac.uk



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

Instagram: @mcrpoetrylibrary
Twitter (X): @mcrpoetrylib
Phone: (+44) 161 247 6106
Email: poetrylibrary@mmu.ac.uk

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