

Writing East Midlands – The Writers’ Conference Programme
Saturday 3rd March 2018

9.30 – 10am	Arrival, Registration & Refreshments			
10.10am	Welcome Talk			
10.15 - 11.05	Keynote Speaker: Pat Barker			
Slot One 11.05 - 12pm	<i>Lecture Theatre 2</i> Demystifying the Publishing Process – The Society of Authors <i>Martin Reed (chair), Crystal Mahey-Morgan, Jonathan Emmett</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 7</i> Writing Ambitions: Derbyshire Residencies Scheme Showcase <i>Emma Pass (chair) Leonie Martin, Suzanne Fraser-Martin, Tamera Howard, Angie Cottle</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 8</i> Writing Our Roots <i>Sarah Jackson (chair), Eve Makis, Anthony Cropper, Panya Banjoko, Graham Caveney</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 10</i> Writing Flight - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop <i>Jo Dixon</i>
12.00 - 12.20	Coffee Break			
Slot Two 12.20 – 1.15pm	<i>Lecture Theatre 2</i> Jumping the Barriers <i>Henderson Mullin (chair), Cathy Grindrod, Trevor Wright, Mahsuda Snaith</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 7</i> Spoken Word: exploring the possibilities <i>Chris Mcloughlin (chair), Aliyah Hasinah, Dean Atta, Miggy Angel</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 8</i> Novellas: finding a fit in the shifting landscape of publishing <i>Nicola Monaghan, Naomi Booth</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 10</i> Writing Queer - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop <i>Humaira Saeed</i>
1.15 - 2.25pm	Networking Lunch			
Slot Three 2.25 - 3.20pm	<i>Lecture Theatre 2</i> Synopsis Surgery <i>Oliver Munson</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 7</i> Writing for Theatre <i>Gareth Morgan (chair), Emteaz Hussain, Theresa Keogh</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 8</i> Writing for Children and Young Adults <i>Sian Tower (chair), Jonathan Emmett, Kim Slater, Jackie Marchant</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 10</i> Writing Technology - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop <i>Lynda Clark</i>
Slot Four 3.20 - 4.15pm	<i>Lecture Theatre 2</i> Working with a Literary Agent <i>Alex Davis (chair), Kim Slater, Juliet Mushens, Clare Wallace</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 7</i> Understanding Literature Festivals <i>Antonia Beck (chair), Theresa Keogh, Michelle Dunstan,</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 8</i> Charting Your Path: how a mentor can guide you <i>Judith Allnatt (chair), Aki Schilz, Rich Goodson, Cathy Grindrod</i>	<i>Lecture Theatre 10</i> Writing Radiation- Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop <i>Dr Daniel Cordle</i>
4.20pm	Keynote Speech: Malika Booker			
4.45pm	Close from Chair			
5.00pm	Conference End			

The Writers' Conference 2018 Programme

As part of the 2018 Writers' Conference, Nottingham Trent University will be delivering a number of creative workshops. These creative-critical workshops are designed for emerging and established writers interested in exploring new ways of writing about our contemporary world. Led by writers and members of the Critical Poetics research group at Nottingham Trent University, participants are invited to work across different genres including fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry. **Workshop places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; please email joanne.dixon@ntu.ac.uk to book your place.**

Panels will not require pre-booking.

SLOT ONE 11.05 – 12.00

Demystifying the Publishing Process – The Society of Authors

In this session Martin Reed from the Society of Authors talks to local author and SoA member Jonathan Emmett and the publisher Crystal Mahey-Morgan of the storytelling lifestyle brand OWN IT! about the modern publishing process and landscape, and about the relationships between the author, their books, and their 'brand'. They will offer tips and advice on what writers can do to maximise their income streams and protect their rights.

LT2 Martin Reed (chair), Crystal Mahey-Morgan, Jonathan Emmett

Writing Ambitions: Derbyshire Residencies Scheme Showcase

Writing Ambitions: Derbyshire Residencies was launched in 2016 to help local writers develop their workshop delivery skills. With support from an experienced mentor, each writer ran their own residency, working with older people, schools, vulnerable groups and LGBT+ communities. This session will showcase the project and explore various ways you can form your own writing residency.

LT7 Emma Pass (chair) Leonie Martin, Suzanne Fraser-Martin, Tamera Howard, Angie Cottle

Writing Our Roots

This panel brings together acclaimed East Midlands writers Graham Caveney, Panya Banjoko, Eve Makis and Anthony Cropper to discuss how we might write about our roots. The panellists will share their writing experiences and explore the joys and challenges of writing personal histories.

LT8 Sarah Jackson (chair), Eve Makis, Anthony Cropper, Panya Banjoko, Graham Caveney

Writing Flight - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop

Workshop places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; please email joanne.dixon@ntu.ac.uk to book your place.

What is the relationship between writing and flying? Guided by poet and critic, Jo Dixon, this workshop will reflect on representations of flight in literature and will discuss the ways that writing can 'flit' and 'swoop' between different forms. From birds to UFOs, this workshop will support participants in exploring how their own stories and poems might take flight.

LT10 Jo Dixon

BREAK 12.00 – 12.20

SLOT TWO 12.20 – 1.15

Jumping the Barriers

In many ways the journey to publication or a performance career involves over-coming a series of barriers, some already within us, but some which seem placed wilfully to force aspiring writers to pass through turnstiles carefully policed to keep some people out. This discussion will share inspiring stories and strategies for confronting disadvantage to start successful careers.

LT2 Henderson Mullin (chair), Cathy Grindrod, Trevor Wright, Mahsuda Snaith

Spoken Word: exploring the possibilities

Chaired by poet Chris McLoughlin (Former Artistic Director of Mouthy Poets and finalist for Nottingham Young Poet Laureate), this panel will invite poet and spoken word educator Dean Atta, Apples & Snakes Midlands' Producer Aliyah Hasinah, and poet Miggy Angel, founder of Speech Therapy spoken word night here in Nottingham, to explore the opportunities and pathways which spoken word can offer to a writer at any stage of their life or writing career.

LT7 Chris McLoughlin (chair), Aliyah Hasinah, Dean Atta, Miggy Angel

Novellas: finding a fit in the shifting landscape of publishing

Novelist Nicola Monaghan chose to publish *The Troll* as a series of novellas and poet Naomi Booth wrote *The Lost Art of Sinking*, published by Pinned In The Margins, as a novella. This panel will discuss the novella and its potential for exploring new frontiers between art writing and novels, poetry and prose.

LT8 Nicola Monaghan, Naomi Booth.

Writing Queer - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop

Workshop places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; please email joanne.dixon@ntu.ac.uk to book your place.

How can we approach queer experiences through writing? Led by Dr Humaira Saeed, founding member of QTIPoC Notts (LGBT people of colour), this session will introduce participants to a lively range of gay and lesbian texts that challenge us to rethink the representation of desire. Through a series of writing exercises, participants will be guided in the production of new work in their chosen genre.

LT10 Dr Humaira Saeed

NETWORKING LUNCH 1.15 – 2.25

SLOT THREE 2.25 – 3.20

Synopsis Surgery

It is a truth universally acknowledged that authors rarely enjoy writing a synopsis for their book as they agonise over what should go into it. How long should it be? What is it *for*? The Synopsis Surgery aims to answer these questions and help authors get to the heart of the matter: what their book is really about. Led by leading literary Agent, Oliver Munson from A.M.Heath

LT2 Oliver Munson

Writing for Theatre

What sets apart writing for theatre from other literary disciplines? What is the process of writing for the stage and how does an emerging playwright progress with their craft and transition from a small to larger stage? Join our panel of playwrights and theatre producers to explore the possibilities writing for theatre can present to you.

LT7 Gareth Morgan, Emteaz Hussain, Theresa Keogh

Writing for Children and Young Adults

Join our panel of leading industry professionals to discover the secrets of one of the most competitive, yet rewarding writing disciplines, writing for Children and Young Adults. In such a competitive sector, it can be difficult for new writers to be noticed, yet new voices and ideas are in continuous demand. Learn about the possibilities writing for each age range has to offer, and gain tips on how to break into this exciting genre.

LT8 Sian Tower (chair), Jonathan Emmett, Kim Slater, Jackie Marchant

Writing Technology - Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop

Workshop places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis;

please email joanne.dixon@ntu.ac.uk to book your place.

What is the relationship between writing and technology? Led by Lynda Clark, winner of the BBC Award at the Triforce Creative Network Comedy WriterSlam, workshop participants will be introduced to different methods of digital writing through interactive stories by J Y Yang and Sam Barlow. Exploring the ways that technology can inspire and support their own writing, participants will have the opportunity to try digital writing techniques to create new work.

LT10 Lynda Clark

SLOT FOUR 3.20 – 4.15

Working with a Literary Agent

On this ever popular panel, hear from a range of highly regarded literary agents, as well as Award Winning writer, Kim Slater, as they discuss the current trends in publishing, the process of submitting work to literary agents, and how an agent can work for you. Pose your questions and discover the best way to secure publication for your work, be it indie or traditional, digital or print.

LT2 Alex Davis (chair), Kim Slater, Juliet Mushens, Clare Wallace

Understanding Literature Festivals

With established literature festivals such visible features of our literary landscape, and the current trend of starting new ones, how do you best approach their programmers? How do they decide on the themes? how do you respond to their vision or values? To what time scales do they work? And how are they funded and what can you expect to be paid for your appearance? What are the opportunities and challenges that presenting at literature festivals can bring, and how do you best engage with new audiences? For these answers and more, join our panel of festival programmers and producers to explore how to ensure a literature festival experience can work for you.

LT7 Henderson Mullin (chair), Antonia Beck, Theresa Keogh, Michelle Dunstan

Charting Your Path: how a mentor can guide you

Working with a mentor can help writers plough through the crests and troughs from half-decent draft to completed product, and on to yon horizon - well, getting published. A mentor can at once be supportive, challenging and provocative but a poor match can be disheartening, therefore getting the right person match is key. Join our panel of writers and industry professionals to discover how to find, and work with a mentor and the benefits they can bring to your writing journey.

LT8 Judith Allnatt (chair), Aki Schilz, Rich Goodson, Cathy Grindrod

Writing Radiation- Nottingham Trent University Creative Workshop

Workshop places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; please email joanne.dixon@ntu.ac.uk to book your place.

Led by Dr Daniel Cordle, Associate Professor and world-leading expert in nuclear culture, this workshop asks participants to reflect on the ways that nuclear technologies have been represented in literature. Considering examples from fiction and prose, participants will explore the challenges posed by nuclear technologies and materials, and will be invited to imagine their own nuclear futures, in a genre of their choosing.

[LT10 Dr Daniel Cordle](#)

Guest Speakers and Panellists

Judith Allnatt is an acclaimed novelist with novels shortlisted for Portico Prize, EMBA and featured on Radio 5 Live. She mentors writers and lectures widely on Creative Writing for universities and freelance.

Miggy Angel is author of the poetry collection *Grime Kerbstone Psalms* published by Celandor Books. Organiser/host of the monthly poetry event Speech Therapy, and the Do Or Die Poets and is the founder of Burning House Press.

Dean Atta has performed across the UK and internationally. He has been commissioned to write poems for BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service, Dazed & Confused, Keats House Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain and Tate Modern. His debut collection, *I Am Nobody's Nigger*, published by the Westbourne Press, was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize. He is currently working on his second collection *The Black Flamingo*.

Panya Banjoko is a Writer/Poet whose work has been published in various anthologies. Her debut collection will be published in June 2018. She coordinates a Writers Network and is Patron for Nottingham City of Literature.

Pat Barker is the multi award-winning British writer of 13 novels. In 1995, she was awarded the Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road* (1995), the final novel in the acclaimed Regeneration Trilogy. The Life Class trilogy spans the First and Second World Wars and a new novel called *The Silence of the Girls* will be out next year.

Kate Barker is a literary agent who has worked in publishing for 20 years. Before setting up her own agency she was an Editorial Director for Penguin Books. Kate has also worked as a ghostwriter.

Antonia Beck is festival director at Writing West Midlands. An award-winning theatre maker, independent creative producer and researcher, she has worked with a range of organisations, and has also supported a number of independent artists to make, develop and tour their work.

Malika Booker is a British-Caribbean poet. *Pepper Seed* (Peepal Tree Press, 2013) was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Centre prize. She is also published in *The Penguin Modern Poet Series 3: Your Family: Your Body* (2017).

Naomi Booth is head of Creative Writing at York St John University. Her first work of fiction, *The Lost Art of Sinking*, won the Saboteur Award for Best Novella 2016. Her debut novel *Sealed* was published by Dead Ink Books in 2017. Her flash fiction has been published as part of the Quick Fictions series, and *Cluster* was longlisted for the Galley Beggars Short Story Prize.

Graham Caveney began his career in the 1980s writing for the NME and the Face. He is the author of *Shopping in Space: Essays on American Fiction* as well as biographies of William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg. His most recent book is *The Boy with the Perpetual Nervousness* - a memoir.

Lynda Clark After several years in the videogame industry as a writer and producer, Lynda returned to academia to undertake a PhD in interactive fiction. She was shortlisted in the 2017 Opening Up Digital Fiction Competition.

Daniel Cordle is researcher and writer on nuclear culture, and the author of *States of Suspense: The Nuclear Age, Postmodernism, and United States Fiction and Prose* (2008) and *Late Cold War Literature and Culture: The Nuclear 1980s* (2017).

Angie Cottle is a teacher and arts workshop leader based in the Peak District. She writes and directs plays for young people and manages the Little Echoes children's writing project.

Anthony Cropper is the author of the short story collection *Nature's Magician* and has published two novels, *Jack and Sal* and *Weatherman*. He has co-edited three collections of short stories, *Next Stop Hope*, *Naked City* and *Wonderwall*. In 2005 his play, *I'll Tell You About Love*, won the BBC Alfred Bradley Award for Radio Drama. *The Accidental Memoir*, a book co-written with Eve Makis, will be published by Fourth Estate in the summer of 2018. He teaches Creative Writing at Nottingham Trent University.

Alex Davis has worked in literature regionally for over ten years in a range of capacities. He is currently Literature Officer for QUAD, Derby, and is the coordinator and originator of the popular Edge-Lit event.

Jo Dixon is a poet and critic from Nottingham Trent University. Her poems have appeared in *New Walk*, *The Interpreter's House*, *Furies* and *Flakes of a Fire*. *A Woman in the Queue*, was published in 2016 (Melos Press).

Michelle Dunstan is Principal Librarian: Reading and Programmes for Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries, who deliver library services in Nottinghamshire. The role involves programming reading events for libraries, including the annual Inspire Poetry Festival and Readers' Day.

Jonathan Emmett has written over 60 books for children including *Bringing Down the Moon* and *The Princess and the Pig*. His work has been translated into over 30 different languages and has won several awards.

Suzanne Fraser-Martin is an assistant writer for WEM Super Scribes for 9-14's, and undertook the Writing Ambitions Project working with Derbyshire's LGBT+ communities. She is currently querying, writes queer middle-grade pirates and lives in Chesterfield.

Rich Goodson, the poet, has been teaching Creative Writing workshops in Nottingham for the last 20 years. He has a doctorate in Writing from Nottingham Trent University. His debut, *Mr. Universe*, published by Eyewear, is a Book Society Pamphlet Choice.

Cathy Grindrod is a widely published writer of poetry, plays and memoir. She is an experienced facilitator, consultant and mentor, and was awarded an Honorary Degree in 2014 for her work across Derbyshire, specialising in improving mental health through creative writing.

Aliyah Hasinah is 21, a poet and Midlands Producer for Apples and Snakes, England's leading Poetry and Spoken Word organisation. In 2018 Aliyah's focus is on the region's artistic development and creating opportunities for Midlands poets.

Tamera Howard is a writer who teaches creative writing in schools, with vulnerable young people and with adults. She has an MA in Creative Writing and is working on her second novel. Tam is part of *Writing Ambitions*: Derbyshire Residencies Scheme supported by Derbyshire County Council and Arts Council England

Emteaz Hussain produced works include SWEET CIDER Arcola Theatre. BLOOD national tour including Birmingham Rep. Nottingham Playhouse, Soho Theatre London. OUTSIDERS national tour including The Tobacco Factory Bristol, The Albany, London. BBC3 online ETCHING. BBC New Talent Hotlist 2017. Currently under commission to The Royal Court Theatre, London.

Sarah Jackson Sarah Jackson's publications include *Pelt* (2012) which won the Seamus Heaney Prize and was longlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award; she was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2017. She is a Senior Lecturer at NTU.

Theresa Keogh is the Festival Director of Derby Book Festival, an annual arts event that 'brings books to life' in order to engage the region in reading. She also works as a freelance Theatre Director.

Jackie Marchant is the author of the award winning mid-grade humorous Dougal Daley series, published by Wacky Bee Books. She also writes YA fantasy.

Leonie Martin is a Derbyshire based freelance writer and workshop facilitator with a particular interest in the benefits of writing as a tool for improved well-being. She delivers writing workshops in a variety of community settings.

Crystal Mahey-Morgan is founder of storytelling lifestyle brand OWN IT! which releases content across books, music, fashion and film. She previously worked at Penguin Random House, Raindance Film Festival and was a freelance writer.

Eve Makis is author of four novels. Her first book *Eat, Drink and be Married* was published in five languages and awarded the Young Booksellers International Book of the Year Award. The Spice Box Letters is currently available in English and Greek and was been long listed for the Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize 2015.

Chris McLoughlin is a Poet, Novelist and Workshop Facilitator. Chris was a finalist for Nottingham's first Young Poet Laureate and received a distinction in MA Creative Writing from UoN. His work explores mental health, and enabling audiences to feel less alone.

Gareth Morgan is a dramaturg based in Nottingham, having previously been the Literary Associate Artist at Nottingham Playhouse. He is currently President of the Dramaturg's Network and supports the development of new performance work nationwide.

Henderson Mullin Henderson is CEO of Writing East Midlands which works to lift the region's reputation for the quality and diversity of its writers, and as a place which values writing as an art and for its social impact.

Nicola Monaghan is the award winning author of *The Killing Jar*, *Starfishing* and *The Troll* trilogy. She writes scripts, thrillers and literary fiction, and also teaches Creative Writing at De Montfort University.

Oliver Munson is a Literary Agent and Director at AM Heath & Co Ltd. His client list includes award-winning, bestselling authors of crime, suspense, thrillers and speculative fiction and non fiction.

Juliet Mushens is an agent and co-founder at Caskie Mushens Ltd, where she represents a bestselling list of novelists including Jessie Burton (*The Miniaturist*), Ali Land (*Good Me, Bad Me*), and James Oswald (*Inspector McLean* series), as well as NY Times bestseller Taran Matharu (*Summoner* series). She has been shortlisted for literary agent of the year four times, and her book on novel-writing was published by Hodder in 2015.

Emma Pass is an award-winning author of fiction for young adults. She runs writing workshops in schools and community settings, and is an experienced mentor and editor, supporting writers at all stages of their careers.

Geeta Pendse is a senior presenter and journalist with BBC News and has a specialism in the Arts. She is a WEM trustee and is passionate about the power of writing and supporting writers from all backgrounds.

Martin Reed is head of communications at the Society of Authors (the UK trade union for more than 10,000 writers, illustrators and literary translators), short fiction writer and co-editor of the *Forge Literary Magazine*.

Humaira Saeed Dr Humaira Saeed is a Lecturer in English Literature with a focus on gender, sexuality, critical race and postcolonial studies. She is interested in the various ways in which writing intersects with identity.

Aki Schilz is Director of The Literary Consultancy, where she co-ordinates the Chapter and Verse mentoring programme. She is a judge for the Bridport First Novel Award, and the Creative Future Awards for marginalised writers.

Kim Slater is a Nottingham author whose debut YA novel *Smart* has been nominated for twenty awards, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 15, the Carnegie Medal 15 and the Children's Book Award 16.

Mahsuda Snaith is the winner of the SI Leeds Literary Prize and Bristol Short Story Prize. Her debut novel *The Things We Thought We Knew*, is published by Transworld.

Sian Towers is a former teacher and copy writer, Sian now leads several writing groups for young people across Derbyshire. She is covering the role of Education Manager (maternity leave) for WEM and has a bona fide addiction to children's books.

Clare Wallace is a director and literary agent at the Darley Anderson Children's Book Agency. She is building the children's list and is scouting for new authors of picture books, middle grade, teenage, YA and illustrators.

Trevor Wright works part time in social care and is Co-Director of community interest company, InSight Autism. He is a member OF DIY Poets and NWS, Derby Poetry Festival Co-Director and a regular performer at local poetry events. His collection, Outsider Heart was published by Big White Shed in 2016.