THE WRITING PLATFORM @ RICH MIX

A conference and fair for writers

Monday 4th November
10am – 4pm

Rich Mix, 35 – 47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

This event is brought to you by The Writing Platform in association with Bath Spa University and Kobo Writing Life.

The Writing Platform is funded by National Lottery and supported by Arts Council England.
Welcome!

Welcome to the second Writing Platform fair and conference for writers. We’re delighted to be returning to Rich Mix with an even bigger and better line up!

The event offers writers the opportunity to debate the hot topics for writers in the digital age and the chance to meet organisations that provide support and practical advice on all aspects of writing and publishing. It’s also a great way to meet other writers and swap stories.

Guests at this year’s event include writers Philip Hensher and Polly Courtney, artist Nick Makoha, journalist Minna Salami and representatives from Greene and Heaton literary agency, Kobo Writing Life and Completely Novel. They will be taking part in panel discussions about writing habits, the funding and commercial opportunities for writers, pushing the boundaries of form and the all-important question of getting noticed.

The event wouldn’t be possible without our wonderful exhibitors. Visitors will be able to meet and get advice from: The Alliance of Independent Authors, the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society, Arts Council England, Completely Novel, Kobo Writing Life, Spread the Word, The Literary Platform, Visual Verse and Words of Colour.

Many of our exhibitors are also running seminars and practical workshops on their stands. These include ‘The Self-Publishing Journey in the Digital Market’, ‘Email Marketing for Authors’ and ‘Writing Yourself Well’. You won’t want to miss these, so check out the programme overleaf for details.

We are honoured that Visual Verse has chosen this event to launch their exciting new online anthology of arts and words. Visual Verse is offering visitors the chance to flex their creative muscle in a short story competition on the day.

Courtesy of our associates, Kobo Writing Life, one lucky visitor will be taking home a Kobo Aura (RRP £119.99). The winner will be drawn at random at the end of the day.

We look forward to meeting you,

Kate, Jo, Sophie and Alice

The Writing Platform

This event is brought to you by The Writing Platform in association with Bath Spa University and Kobo Writing Life.

The Writing Platform is funded by National Lottery and supported by Arts Council England.
GETTING THERE

The nearest station is Shoreditch High Street on the London Overground.

Liverpool Street on the Central Line, Hammersmith and City Line and District and Metropolitan Line is a 10 minute walk away.

Bethnal Green station on the Central line is a 10 minute walk away.

The nearest bus stop is for the 8.

Buses 26, 48, 67, 149, 242 stop on Shoreditch High street which is a 10 minute walk away.

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

Lunch and drinks are not provided on the day.

The venue has a cafe selling a wide range of refreshments and there are many shops and places to eat nearby.

The event finishes at 4pm after which we’ll be at The Well and Bucket pub just around the corner from the venue. Join us for a drink and to carry on chatting.
Welcome from Kate Pullinger
Editorial Director of The Writing Platform and Professor of Creative Writing and Digital Media at Bath Spa University

Panel: My Writing Life
Writers Philip Hensher, Polly Courtney and Nikesh Shukla lift the lid on their writing habits in a panel that explores how different writers tackle the creative process, make a living and find time to write amidst the myriad distractions.

Chaired by Rebecca Swift from The Literary Consultancy.

Panel: Beyond the Page
Writers and artists Nick Makoha, David Varela, Kate Pullinger and David Jackson discuss their ground-breaking projects which range from ‘live writing’ and performance to crowd-sourcing and co-creation and share what inspires them to keep pushing the boundaries of form.

Chaired by Paul Sherreard from Spread the Word.

Seminar: Writing Yourself Well
with Jackee Holder
Acclaimed writing therapist, Jackee Holder will be sharing tips from her latest book, 49 Ways to Write Yourself Well: The Science and Wisdom of Writing and Journaling.

Seminar: The Self-Publishing Journey in the Digital Market
with Diego Marano
Diego Marano, UK Manager of Kobo Writing Life, leads a seminar on the key steps to be taken before, during and after publishing an e-book.

Seminar: Digital Media Clinic with Campbell X
Campbell X, Director of PoWWow Digital Strategy, will be leading a digital media clinic on raising your profile, building networks and attracting the right target audience.
Seminar: Email marketing and newsletters for authors
with Anna Lewis and Suw Charman-Anderson

Research shows that email marketing is still one of the most effective forms of marketing in the digital age. A good newsletter and a strong mailing list are powerful tools for any writer, but how do you get started and what tools should you use?

CompletelyNovel’s Anna Lewis and author and journalist Suw Charman-Anderson present a talk on successful email marketing.

Panel: Money, Money Money

A wide-ranging discussion of the options open to writers from grants and crowdfunding to commercial publishing opportunities offered by Kobo Writing Life and how – and why – writers should sell their books directly to readers.

With Gemma Seltzer, Relationship Manager at Arts Council England; Patrick Hussey, crowdfunding expert; Diego Marano, UK Manager of Kobo Writing Life; and Suw Charman-Anderson, writer, journalist and social technologist.

Chaired by Joanna Ellis, co-founder of The Writing Platform

Panel: Getting Noticed

This panel will explore the many meanings ‘Getting Noticed’ has for writers, from securing an agent and/or publisher, to cultivating a readership using blogs, social media and writing platforms.

With Minna Salami, writer, journalist and founder of MsAfropolitan; Nicola Barr, literary agent at Greene and Heaton; Emily Benet, author and social media expert; and Anna Lewis, co-founder of CompletelyNovel and Valobox.

Chaired by Donna Hancox, Lecturer in Creative Writing and Literary Studies at Queensland University of Technology.

Closing session

Preti Taneja from Visual Verse will announce the winner of their Creative Challenge and Diego Marano from Kobo Writing Life will announce the lucky recipient of a Kobo Aura.

Keep chatting over drinks at the Well and Bucket pub, just around the corner.
Exhibitors

The Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi) is a nonprofit, professional association for self-publishing writers. ALLi is a friendly and helpful organisation, offering author-publishers contacts, connection & collaboration plus expert guidance and advice in a spirit of mutual co-operation.

www.allianceindependentauthors.org
@IndieAuthorALLi

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries.

Gemma Seltzer (Relationship Manager, Literature) is available for one-to-one sessions with writers and organisations that are interested in applying for ACE’s Grants for the Arts funding. Participants should come with an outline of planned project and a preliminary budget including the amount of financial support requested from Arts Council England.

www.arts councilengland.org.uk  |  @ACE_National

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) is a not-for-profit membership organisation. We represent the interests of all writers and safeguard their intellectual property rights. We collect secondary royalties on behalf of over 85,000 writers across the UK and abroad and pay them directly to our Members, twice a year.

Calling all writers! If you have had an article published in a printed academic or trade journal, or written or contributed to a book, television, or radio programme, then the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society could be holding money owed to you.

For more information do visit our stand where we will be happy to answer your questions and sign you up for membership.

www.alcs.co.uk  |  @ALCS_UK

Bath Spa University Digital technologies are transforming reading, publishing and bookselling, creating multiple opportunities for writers interested in experimentation and innovation. Within a few years, all emerging writers will be expected to be engaged with new forms as well as new ways of connecting with audiences. But what happens to literature once it moves off the page and into a web-browser, onto tablets, mobiles and other devices? As the digital and physical merge, what new territories will literature explore? At Bath Spa University, digital forms are embedded in the creative writing curriculum from undergraduate through MA and PhD level.

www.bathspa.ac.uk  |  @CWRITINGBathSpa

CompletelyNovel is an online publishing community and social-sharing site for book-lovers. For self-published writers we provide a friendly, simple-to-use platform that allows works to be published in quality print editions at the most competitive prices around. With no commission to pay, distribution through major retailers, and plenty of advice from industry experts, CompletelyNovel puts the power back in the writers’ hands.

Come and visit us for information about Print-on-Demand and to talk to the team about all aspects of self-publishing, from cover design and to type-setting to marketing, PR and sales. You can check out some of our published books, and get a live quote on publishing your book using our online price calculator. And don’t forget to watch out for stand giveaways and surprises throughout the day!

We are also running two seminars on our stand:

12.15 – 12.45pm: Typesetting your Manuscript with Microsoft Word – the most fun you’ll have all day!

1.45 – 2.15pm: Email marketing and newsletters for authors

www.completelynovel.com  |  @completelynovel

Arvon is celebrated for its unique ability to discover and develop the writer in everyone. We run creative writing courses for schools, groups and individuals in a wide range of genres, from fiction to screenwriting, taught by leading authors. Grants are available to help with course fees. Our residential courses take place in historic writing houses in beautiful countryside locations, and we run a small number of non-residential weekend courses in UK cities each year.

www.arvon.org

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Come and visit us for information about Print-on-Demand and to talk to the team about all aspects of self-publishing, from cover design and to type-setting to marketing, PR and sales. You can check out some of our published books, and get a live quote on publishing your book using our online price calculator. And don’t forget to watch out for stand giveaways and surprises throughout the day!

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Kobo Writing Life is the Kobo’s global self-publishing platform geared towards independent authors, agents and publishers.

Since its launch in July of last year, Kobo Writing Life has attracted more than 18,000 authors who have published more than 100,000 titles available in 184 countries and in 54 languages. Kobo Writing Life is characterized by offering an open, collaborative and user-friendly platform to the end of elevating the success of the independent author community across multiple markets.

Diego Marano, UK Manager of Kobo Writing Life, will be at the stand for the whole day to answer questions and give personal advice. Free Kobo Writing Life-branded items will available at the stand whilst stocks last.

Diego will also be holding an open seminar on the Kobo Writing Life Stand:

12.45 – 1.15pm ‘The Self-Publishing Journey in the Digital Market’

www.kobo.com/writinglife | @KoboWritingLife

Spread the Word Are you a writer looking for information, advice and support? Spread the Word, London’s Writer Development Agency, offers professional development and advice sessions for writers, as well as providing information about how to get involved with Spread the Words diverse writing programme across London. Spread the Word is running a Writers’ Advice Booth. If you are a writer and would like some advice, just visit the booth and sign up for a 10 min slot.

www.spreadtheword.org.uk | @STWevents

The Literary Consultancy is the UK’s leading editorial assessment service, providing in-depth, honest and valuable feedback on manuscripts across all genres, by writers writing in English at all levels, from novice to agented. We are particularly interested in exploring the various routes into publishing within an increasingly digital industry, and are on hand to answer questions, and guide you as to what your next move might be. We also run a mentoring programme for on-going one-on-one consultation, an annual Literary Holiday and a vibrant events series with workshops, seminars and a yearly conference.

If you’re a writer and you think we might be able to help, we’d be delighted to hear from you. Do drop by!

www.literaryconsultancy.co.uk | @TLCUK

The Literary Platform is an agency specialising in books and technology. We work with publishers, developers, literary organisations and academic institutions on a wide range of digital projects. In 2012 we launched The Writing Platform a website and events programme - including this one! - dedicated to arming writers with digital knowledge.

Come and see us for general information and help at today’s event. We are also offering writers ‘speedy social media surgeries’ as well as advice on platforms and tools to support your creative practice.

www.theliteraryplatform.com | @theLitPlatform

Visual Verse is an online anthology of art and words. It is designed to inspire writers of all stages by providing arresting, surprising and elegant images and inviting writers to respond with a piece of short fiction, non-fiction or poetry. Writers are challenged to write just 50-500 words, within an hour, and the results appear online. The rules are simple – look, observe and then write, without overthinking.

Visual Verse is a collaboration between Kristen Harrison at The Curved House, Mr Pete Lewis and writer/editor Preti Taneja. It is supported by a group of wonderful patrons including former poet laureate Andrew Motion and artist Mark Garry.

Take part in the Visual Verse Creative Challenge! To celebrate our launch we are inviting all writers in attendance to submit a short piece of writing on the day and our editor, Preti Taneja, will judge the submissions and select a winner. The winning entry will be featured on the homepage of Visual Verse and the writer will receive a beautiful limited edition framed print of the image on display.

www.visualverse.org

Words of Colour Productions is a social enterprise that has created inclusive programmes for budding and established writers of all genres since 2005.

Words of Colour will be offering advice to writers throughout the day. We are also running two seminars on our stand:

11.45 – 12.15pm Writing Yourself Well with acclaimed Writing Therapist Jackee Holder

1.15 – 1.30pm Digital Media Clinic with Digital Media Strategist Campbell X
Nicola Barr is a literary agent at Greene and Heaton where she represents a mix of fiction and non-fiction. She has previously worked as an editor at Flamingo, the literary imprint of HarperCollins, where she worked with Doris Lessing, Fay Weldon, Nicola Barker, Patrick Gale. She spent four years as an agent at The Susijn Agency. She has also worked as a reviewer for the Guardian and the Observer.

Nicola loves upmarket commercial and literary fiction, and smart, surprising crime. In non-fiction her areas of interest are popular culture, sport, humour, popular science. She is also developing her young adult list

Emily Benet is an author and blogger. Her first book Shop Girl Diaries began as a blog about working in her Mum’s chandelier shop. She wrote her second Spray Painted Bananas in installments on Wattpad, which led to a million hits and her signing with Laura Longrigg at MBA literary agency. Emily has written about the benefits of social media for writers for several publications including Mslexia, The New Writer and Publishing Talk, and runs Blogging and Social Networking Workshops.

Polly Courtney is author of six novels and a regular commentator on TV and radio. She made her name in 2006 with a semi-autobiographical account of life in the Square Mile, Golden Handcuffs, and has since covered sexism, racism, “lads’ mag culture” and the wealth divide in the form of page-turner fiction. Courtney’s most recent novel, Feral Youth, is set on the streets of south London and delves into the frustrations that led to the summer riots.

In late 2011, on the publication of her sixth novel, It’s a Man’s World, Courtney famously walked out on her publisher, HarperCollins, frustrated by the ‘chick lit’ titles and covers assigned to her books. She went on to self-publish Feral Youth and now gives regular masterclasses in self-publishing.

Joanna Ellis is the COO of The Literary Platform and co-founder of The Writing Platform. She works on projects for commercial client and the non-profit and academic sectors and speaks and teaches on the subjects of writing, publishing and new forms of literature. Prior to this she was the marketing director of Faber and Faber for 5 years.
**Jackie Holder** is an executive leadership coach and coach trainer working across a range of sectors. Jackie writes almost everyday and is a prolific journal writer. Jackie loves writing and is the author of *Soul Purpose*, *Be Your Best Life Coach* and *49 Ways To Write Yourself Well* (2013) and has been a contributing writer to several books and articles. When Jackie is not delivering coaching in businesses or organisations she’s busy running courses and retreats and writing e-books for writers and creative entrepreneurs. She supports writers of all levels in one to one coaching and mentoring.

www.jackeeholder.com | @jackeeholder

**Phillip Hensher** was born in London. His novels include *Kitchen Venom*, *The Mulberry Empire*, *The Northern Clemency*, *King of the Badgers* and *Scenes from Early Life*. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

@PhilipHensher

**Anna Lewis** is the co-founder of ValoBox and CompletelyNovel. Her focus with both ventures has been connecting content creators with new technologies so they can build a better relationship and experience for their readers. She has also led cross-industry partnerships such as the Author Blog Awards and the 24 Hour Book project.

Outside the world of publishing Anna has managed a series of international digital campaigns for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She has been a finalist for the Young Publishing Entrepreneur Award, and funded by the Shuttleworth Foundation – an international organisations supporting social innovators.

www.completelynovel.com | www.valobox.com | @anna_cn

**Nick Makoha** fled Uganda because of the civil war during the Idi Amin dictatorship. He has lived in Kenya and Saudi Arabia and currently resides in London. As a Spoke-Lab resident, he developed a one-man show, “My Father and Other Superheroes,” that reveals how pop culture raised him in the absence of his father. He represented Uganda in Poetry Parnassus as part of the Cultural Olympiad and was one of ten writers on the program The Complete Works, a national two-year development program for ten advanced black and Asian poets.

nickmakoha.tumblr.com | www.vimeo.com/nickmakoha | www.fathersuperhero.com | @NickMakoha

**Diego Marano** is the new Kobo Writing Life Manager in the UK. Joining Kobo after having worked in different roles across Waterstones.com, John Wiley & Sons (UK) and Elsevier (Italy), Diego brings to the table a combination of technical skills, market awareness and ‘author-centric’ approach.

Besides being the main point of contact for Kobo Writing Life in the UK, Diego’s priority is to work within the author community to the end of elevating the presence and the success of authors published on Kobo, actively contributing to generating a positive synergy among authors, booksellers and publishers.

www.kobo.com/writinglife | @KoboWritingLife

**Donna Hancox** is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and Literary Studies at the Queensland University of Technology. She is currently a Leverhulme Visiting Fellow at Bath Spa University researching innovations in digital writing and publishing.

www.donnahancox.wordpress.com | @donnahancox

**David Jackson** is a PhD researcher and designer at MIRIAD, Manchester Metropolitan University. His work considers whether games can help writers collaborate to make more meaningful stories. Storyjacker is an experimental online story-writing platform (currently in closed beta) which allows users to write together using games. The platform has been designed and developed by David Jackson.

www.storyjacker.net | @Storyjacker
Gemma Seltzer is a Relationship Manager at Arts Council England, working with magazines, publishers and a range of literary organisations. She also offers advice to individual writers about the process of applying for Grants for the Arts funding to make their ideas happen. Gemma encourages all kinds of talented writers to apply for funding, to support exciting projects that will develop their work and engage readers and audiences, such as artistic collaborations, residencies and explorations of digital technology and literature. Alongside this she is a writer working online, live and in print.

www.artsouncil.org.uk | @ace_national

Kate Pullinger writes novels, short stories, and collaborative transmedia projects. Her most recent novel, The Mistress of Nothing, won Canada’s Governor General Award for Fiction. Her digital projects include Flight Paths, Inanimate Alice, and, most recently, Memory Makes Us. She is Professor of Creative Writing and Digital Media at Bath Spa University and the Editorial Director of The Writing Platform.

www.katepullinger.com | www.flightpaths.net | @katepullinger

Nikesh Shukla is a writer of fiction and television. His debut novel, Coconut Unlimited was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award 2010 and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize 2011. In 2011, Nikesh co-wrote a non-fiction essay about the riots with Kieran Yates called Generation Vexed: What the Riots Don’t Tell Us About Our Nation’s Youth and in 2013, he released a novella about food, called The Time Machine, donating all his proceeds to Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. He has, in the past, been writer in residence for BBC Asian Network and Royal Festival Hall.

He has written for the Guardian, Esquire and BBC 2 and his His Channel 4 Comedy Lab Kabadasses aired on E4 and Channel 4 in 2011 and starred Shazad Latif, Jack Doolan and Josie Long. He also hosts The Subaltern podcast, the anti-panel discussion featuring conversations with writers about writing and he co-hosts a nerdier podcast with sci-fi writer James Smythe, called Meat Up, Hulk Out. He likes Spider-man comics. A lot.

www.nikesh-shukla.com | @nikeshshukla

Minna Salami is the founder of MsAfropolitan, a multiple award-winning blog covering contemporary Africa and Diaspora society and culture from a feminist perspective. Minna is a member of the Duke University Corporate Education Network as well as The Guardian (UK) Africa Network. Her main areas of expertise include extensive research and writing on gender issues in African society; media and popular culture in an African context; speaking engagements and university guest lectures.

www.msafropolitan.com | @MsAfropolitan | www.facebook.com/MsAfropolitan

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www.theliteraryconsultancy.co.uk | @TL_CLIK

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Paul Sherreard works for Spread the Word, London’s Writer Development Agency. He is responsible for developing and managing Spread the Words diverse programme of writer development workshops and events across London, as well as leading on partnerships and writing projects. Paul also writes … sometimes.

www.spreadtheword.org.uk | @paulsherreard

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www.katepullinger.com | www.flightpaths.net | @katepullinger

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www.nikesh-shukla.com | @nikeshshukla

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www.spreadtheword.org.uk | @paulsherreard

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Rebecca Swift is the founder of The Literary Consultancy which is the UK’s leading editorial assessment service. The Literary Consultancy provides in-depth, honest and valuable feedback on manuscripts across all genres, by writers writing in English at all levels, from novice to agented. Rebecca is particularly interested in exploring the various routes into publishing within an increasingly digital industry.

www.theliteraryconsultancy.co.uk | @TL_CLIK

Paul Sherreard works for Spread the Word, London’s Writer Development Agency. He is responsible for developing and managing Spread the Words diverse programme of writer development workshops and events across London, as well as leading on partnerships and writing projects. Paul also writes … sometimes.

www.spreadtheword.org.uk | @paulsherreard
The Writing Platform is a website and programme of live events dedicated to arming writers with digital knowledge. www.thewritingplatform.com is a free online resource for all writers and poets emerging, established, not yet published, traditionally published and self-published who are looking for neutral and best practice information about writing in a digital age in order to inform their practice and career choices.

Digital technologies are transforming reading, publishing and bookselling, creating multiple opportunities for writers interested in experimentation and innovation. Within a few years, all emerging writers will be expected to be engaged with new forms as well as new ways of connecting with audiences. But what happens to literature once it moves off the page and into a web-browser, onto tablets, mobiles and other devices? As the digital and physical merge, what new territories will literature explore?

At Bath Spa University, digital forms are embedded in the creative writing curriculum from undergraduate through MA and PhD level.

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