

A stone sculpture of a face, possibly a classical or indigenous figure, is the central focus. The sculpture is dark and textured, with several pink flowers and green leaves placed on its surface, particularly around the eyes and nose. The background is a soft, hazy green, suggesting a natural setting. The overall mood is artistic and serene.

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ON

Charleston
Festival
16–27 May

At Charleston experimental thinking has always been at the centre of everyday life. Charleston Festival brings together today's most exciting artists, writers and changemakers to imagine society differently.

Join us for 10 days packed full of events, conversations, performances and workshops, and come face to face with some of the most influential and creative thinkers of our times.



At a Glance

Thu 16 May

The Power of Reading
Joseph Coelho with Lenny Henry, Joanna Lumley and special guest
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 11am ✦ £10–25

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm ✦ £7.50

☆ **What I Believe**
Lenny Henry with William Nicholson
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm ✦ £10–25

Writing the Body
Dean Atta
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 2pm ✦ £60
🔗 WORKSHOP

Food Wisdom
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Bee Wilson
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm ✦ £10–20

Poetry and Protest
Jackie Kay with Dean Atta
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm ✦ £10–18

Depraved New World
John Crace and Rosie Holt
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–20

Fri 17 May

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm ✦ £7.50

👁 **Visions of Tomorrow: Money**
Daniel Chandler and George Monbiot
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm ✦ £10–18

Breaking the News
Emily Maitlis
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm ✦ £10–25

Being Human
Nitin Sawhney and Meera Syal
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm ✦ £10–20

☆ **The Charleston Monologue**
Freakosystem by Bryony Kimmings
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–20

Sat 18 May

Make Your Own Festival Wings
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 10am ✦ £5
❤️ FAMILY WORKSHOP

Tom Gates
Doodling fun with creator Liz Pichon
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 11am ✦ £5–10
❤️ FAMILY EVENT

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm ✦ £7.50

A Common Paradise
Olivia Laing and Dan Pearson with Jonny Bruce
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm ✦ £10–20

Art, Love and Peace
Mark Hussey and Toby Jones with Lennie Goodings
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm ✦ £10–25

Art on the Margins
Dannielle Hodson, Grayson Perry and Marc Steene
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm ✦ £10–25

The Lion and the Unicorn
Billy Bragg and Caroline Lucas
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–20

Sun 19 May

Build a Mini Sailing Boat
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 10am ✦ £5
❤️ FAMILY WORKSHOP

Tales from Shakespeare
Michael Morpurgo
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 11am ✦ £5–10
❤️ FAMILY EVENT

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm ✦ £7.50

All the Rage
Virginia Nicholson with Susie Orbach
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm ✦ £10–20

Writing the Plot
Eleanor Catton
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 2pm ✦ £60
🔗 WORKSHOP

A Life in Politics
Nicola Sturgeon with Juno Dawson
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm ✦ £10–25

Big Tech, Big Corp, Big Problem
Eleanor Catton and Naomi Alderman with Chris Power
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm ✦ £10–20

Queen Macbeth
Val McDermid with Nicola Sturgeon
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–20

Tue 21 May

☆ **Music and Word: *The Rite of Spring* and *The Afternoon of a Faun***
Churen Li and Melvyn Tan
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–50

Wed 22 May

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm ✦ £7.50

Wonder and the Ancient World
Bettany Hughes and Islam Issa
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm ✦ £10–18

Africa: The Full Story
Ayòbámi Adébáyò and Zeinab Badawi with Dipo Faloyin
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm ✦ £10–18

Genesis
Marilynne Robinson with Revd. Richard Coles
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm ✦ £10–20

Judi Dench in Conversation
with Bill Nighy
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm ✦ £10–40

At a Glance

Thu 23 May

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £7.50

👁 **Visions of Tomorrow: Al**
Verity Harding and Nigel Toon with Madhumita Murgia
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm 💎 £10-18

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times
Margaret Drabble, David Kynaston and Helena Bonham Carter
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm 💎 £10-25

Gilbert & George in Conversation
with Nicholas Cullinan
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm 💎 £10-25

Real Love
David Nicholls and Kalliane Bradley
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm 💎 £10-20

Fri 24 May

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £7.50

👁 **Visions of Tomorrow: Global Power**
Peter R. Neumann and Sathnam Sanghera
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm 💎 £10-18

Historical Fiction
A.K. Blakemore
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 2pm 💎 £60
🔪 WORKSHOP

Human Architecture
Thomas Heatherwick with Nancy Durrant
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm 💎 £10-18

Monsters in Literature
A.K. Blakemore and Mark O'Connell
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm 💎 £10-18

Worlds that don't Exist
Es Devlin with Ekow Eshun
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm 💎 £10-20

Sat 25 May

Make Your Own Mask
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 10am 💎 £5
❤️ FAMILY WORKSHOP

Diary of a Big Bad Wolf
Ben Miller
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £5-10
❤️ FAMILY EVENT

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £7.50

☆ **My Life in Art**
Don McCullin with Sean O'Hagan
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm 💎 £10-20

Truth and Narrative
Mark O'Connell
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 2pm 💎 £60
🔪 WORKSHOP

Orwell and the Future
Dorian Lynskey, Lisa Mullen, Sandra Newman and Louise Brealey
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm 💎 £10-18

300,000 Kisses
Luke Edward Hall and Seán Hewitt
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm 💎 £10-20

Baldwin vs Buckley
Omari Douglas with David McAlmont
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm 💎 £10-20

Sun 26 May

Make a Mini Clay Beast
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 10am 💎 £5
❤️ FAMILY WORKSHOP

Picture This!
Chris Riddell
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 11am 💎 £5-£10
❤️ FAMILY EVENT

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £7.50

State of the Nation
Andrew O'Hagan and Jacqueline Crooks with Alex Clark
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm 💎 £10-18

Life Writing
Alexander Masters
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 2pm 💎 £60
🔪 WORKSHOP

World on Fire
John Vaillant
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm £10-18

This Woman's Work
Ysenda Maxtone Graham, Cathy Newman and Frances O'Grady
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm 💎 £10-18

☆ **Power in the People: Jeremy Hutchinson Memorial Lecture**
Michael Mansfield with Helena Kennedy
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm 💎 £10-20

Mon 27 May

Long Island
Colm Tóibín with Claire Armitstead
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 11.30am 💎 £10-20

Festival Book Group
→ Orchard Tent
⌚ 12pm 💎 £7.50

Books within Books
Marlon James and David Mitchell with Alex Clark
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 1.30pm 💎 £10-20

On Pottery
Florian Gadsby with Laura Freeman
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 3.30pm 💎 £10-18

History of Women in 101 Objects
Annabelle Hirsch with Alice Rawsthorn
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 5.30pm 💎 £10-20

Satire Unleashed
Jesse Armstrong and Lucy Prebble
→ Festival Tent
⌚ 7.30pm 💎 £10-25

Celebrating our 35th festival, this year we bring you more genre-defying events than ever before.

Witness unexpected discussions and unique performances from world-leading voices across art, literature, politics and more, as the beautiful grounds at Charleston burst into life.

👁 Visions of Tomorrow

When George Orwell's novel *1984* was published, 75 years ago, it imagined what the future might look like in 35 years' time. His bleak and brilliant vision still feels sharply resonant today, inspiring our question 'what will the future look like 35 years from now?'

Look out for the 👁 to enjoy this special series of events that invite leading thinkers to respond to the future of our society, whether that's climate change or the rise of AI.

Charleston is a charity that receives no regular public funding. All festival ticket income helps us deliver our year-round artistic programme and care for our house and collection.

☆ Charleston Festival Originals

Look out for the ☆ to explore our annual festival originals – unique events commissioned and produced by Charleston. These include *What I Believe*, inspired by E.M. Forster's 1938 famous defence of secular values; *The Jeremy Hutchinson Memorial Lecture*, in honour of the formidable barrister; *My Life in Art*, which asks a speaker to reflect on their creative life; and *The Charleston Monologue*, a newly-penned response to our times.

Festival Book Group

New for 2024, each day of the festival take part in a book group hosted by writer and editor Holly Dawson. The full list of books, featured within the festival programme, will be available online so you have plenty of time to prepare.

Thursday 16–Sunday 19 May and Wednesday 22–Monday 27 May, 12pm, £7.50

See website for full reading list at charleston.org.uk/festivals

The Power of Reading

Joseph Coelho with Lenny Henry, Joanna Lumley and special guest

🕒 Thursday 16 May, 11am
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

There are few things in life as powerful as reading. Books read in childhood hold a special place in our hearts and our imaginations.

In this very special opening event for both children and grown-ups, we celebrate the magic of children's literature with Joseph Coelho, the award-winning performance poet, children's author and Waterstones Children's Laureate.

A star-studded lineup, including Lenny Henry, Joanna Lumley and a very special surprise guest, will join Joseph to share the stories that have fed their imagination over the years and inspire a whole new generation of readers.

*Thanks to a generous donation, 250 tickets for this event are being provided free to local state schools. Find out more about making a donation at charleston.org.uk/support



What I Believe

Lenny Henry with William Nicholson



☆ Charleston Festival Original

🕒 Thursday 16 May, 1.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Comedian, actor and writer Lenny Henry is one of Britain's most highly respected comic actors. Mercurial and open-hearted, his work has spanned four extraordinary decades at the heart of British entertainment at a time of both cultural and political change.

In conversation with Oscar-nominated screenwriter William Nicholson, Henry will reflect on his life to share his values and the truths he stands by today.

This annual series event is inspired by E. M. Forster's 1938 pamphlet which famously began 'I do not believe in Belief'.

Food Wisdom

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
and Bee Wilson



🕒 Thursday 16 May, 3.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Chef and food campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall joins forces with award-winning food writer Bee Wilson to explore the moral, ethical and health choices we're forced to make about food every day.

In *How to Eat 30 Plants a Week*, Hugh investigates new developments in nutrition while continuing to champion sustainable, ethical eating and above all, taste. In her latest book *The Secret of Cooking*, Bee Wilson – acclaimed by Yotam Ottolenghi as the 'ultimate food scholar' – reflects on what it means to eat well.

Together they will be discussing how to make well-informed decisions about food in a world of ever-changing food trends.

Poetry and Protest

Jackie Kay with Dean Atta

🕒 Thursday 16 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

One of our best-loved writers and former Makar of Scotland Jackie Kay talks about her latest collection. *Mayday* brings together poems that reflect on several decades of political activism, from formative political campaigning with her parents in the 1970s, through the feminist, LGBTQ+ and anti-racist movements of the 1980s and 1990s, to now.

In conversation with fellow poet and children's author Dean Atta, winner of the 2020 Stonewall Book Award for *The Black Flamingo*, Kay will discuss writing this collection of poems that is infused with love and celebration.



Depraved New World

John Crace and Rosie Holt



🕒 Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

John Crace is The Guardian's parliamentary sketch writer. His latest book *Depraved New World* captures British politics at its most absurd, from 'partygate', through the melodrama of leadership contests, and the shenanigans of the party front bench.

Comedian and writer Rosie Holt became a viral sensation over

lockdown when she created satirical videos of a fake politician who many people continue to mistake as real.

Together, they will discuss how trust in politicians has been strained to breaking point while providing some desperately needed comic relief.

Money

Daniel Chandler and George Monbiot

👁 Part of Visions of Tomorrow

🕒 Friday 17 May, 1.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

In the first in our series of events marking the 75th anniversary of George Orwell's *1984*, we ask two experts in their field to imagine what our country's economic landscape could look like in 35 years' time.

Author, columnist at The Guardian and environmental campaigner George Monbiot, and economist and philosopher Daniel Chandler, come together to reimagine a future society inspired by questions posed in their latest books like: 'is there an alternative to neoliberalism?' and 'what would a fair society look like?'

In Monbiot's latest book *The Invisible Doctrine*, he examines neoliberalist policy, how it drives inequality and harms our mental wellbeing and the environment.

Chandler's book *Free and Equal: What would a fair society look like?* builds a case for fundamentally re-designing our basic institutions, giving everyone a fair share – not just of income and wealth – but of power, dignity and self-respect.



Breaking the News

Emily Maitlis

🕒 Friday 17 May, 3.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

In a rare reversal of roles, interviewer, journalist and broadcaster Emily Maitlis, whose career has taken her from the newsrooms of the BBC to the top of the podcast charts with *The News Agents*, joins us to explore the changing face of journalism.

Respected by both audiences and industry for her robust reporting, deep analysis and era-defining interviews, Emily Maitlis will discuss impartiality, bias and journalism's complex relationship with the truth.



Being Human

Nitin Sawhney and Meera Syal



🕒 Friday 17 May, 5.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Long-time friends and collaborators Nitin Sawhney and Meera Syal come together to explore the symbiotic relationship between art, politics and society.

Nitin Sawhney is a world-class composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist whose practice is rooted in spirituality and science. His most recent album *Identity* is 'a love letter to us all, for who we are.' Meera Syal is one of our best loved actors and writers, whose writing credits include *Goodness Gracious Me*, *The Kumars at No 42* and *Anita and Me*.

Together, they will discuss the power of art and music to transcend boundaries in a fractured world.

The Charleston Monologue: Freakosystem

Written and performed by Bryony Kimmings

☆ Charleston Festival Original

★★★★★ 'A choking and exhilarating ride'

(The Guardian on *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch!*)

🕒 Friday 17 May, 7.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Writer, comedian and creator of multiple hit touring shows, most recently the critically acclaimed *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch!*, Bryony Kimmings is an explosive performance talent. Warped and wonderful, her work challenges stigma, social injustice and turns previously unconquered subjects into the year's hot topics.

Freakosystem will take a deep dive into these strange and unsettling times, exploring the connections between climate breakdown, anxiety and mental health. This newly-penned commission will premiere and be performed live for the first time by Kimmings in a direct and thrilling communion with the audience.

Followed by a Q&A.



A Common Paradise

Olivia Laing and Dan Pearson

with Jonny Bruce



🕒 Saturday 18 May, 1.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The story of the garden is intimately entwined with the history of humanity, telling tales of wealth, power and exclusion. But gardens can also be places for dreamers, for possibility and discovery.

Writer and critic Olivia Laing's book *A Common Paradise* chronicles the restoration of a walled garden in Suffolk and her exhilarating investigation of real and imagined paradises. Internationally recognised garden designer Dan Pearson has created and restored gardens from the Bonnington Square squat to the Tokachi Millennium Forest Garden. In conversation with writer and gardener Jonny Bruce, they explore how gardens can be places of communal dreams and shared wonder.

Art, Love and Peace:

The Letters of Clive Bell

and Virginia Woolf

Mark Hussey and Toby Jones

with Lennie Goodings

🕒 Saturday 18 May, 3.30pm

→ Festival Tent

💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Charmingly shambolic, Clive Bell's significance in the history of modern art is sometimes overlooked. His trailblazing book *Art* daringly defended new ways of seeing and understanding the world, mirrored by his sister-in-law Virginia Woolf, who was forging her own path as a pioneer in literature.

Flirtatious, witty and antagonistic, Woolf and Bell were intellectual equals sparring over the nature of both love and art. Their letters – astute, fierce and very funny – will be brought to life by biographer Mark Hussey and celebrated British actor Toby Jones, recent star of ITV's *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*.





Art on the Margins

Dannielle Hodson, Grayson Perry
and Marc Steene

🕒 Saturday 18 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

What constitutes art and who gets to be an artist? Artist, potter and cultural icon Grayson Perry joins forces with Marc Steene, founder and director of award-winning charity Outside In, to celebrate the wonders of art being created on the margins.

Together with artist Dannielle Hodson they will interrogate the phenomenon of 'outsider art' and celebrate the diversity of creators in our communities. Taking some of the themes in Steene's recently published book *Outside In: Exploring the Margins of Art*, they will look at how non-traditional ways of working, or creating art in unlikely situations, can make for some of the most original results.

The Lion and the Unicorn

Billy Bragg and Caroline Lucas



🕒 Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

George Orwell's 1946 essay *The Lion and the Unicorn* explored the idea of national identity stripped of what he called 'all the Rule Britannia stuff'. We ask, can patriotism be reclaimed from the far right?

Caroline Lucas has led the Green Party and has been MP for Brighton Pavilion since 2010. In her new book *Another England*, she challenges the idea of 'Englishness' as a byword for imperial nostalgia and seeks to reclaim it.

Together with musician and activist Billy Bragg, a self-styled 'progressive patriot' and a national institution in protest songs, they will be sketching out an alternative version of English identity that progressives can embrace.

All the Rage

Virginia Nicholson with Susie Orbach



🕒 Sunday 19 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The century between the crinoline and the bikini saw more mutations in the 'ideal' western woman's body shape than any other period.

Renowned social historian Virginia Nicholson unravels a century of women's lives, exploring fashion and beauty from 1860 to 1960 in her latest book *All the Rage*. Discussing her richly detailed account, encompassing two world wars and a revolution in women's rights, Nicholson will be joined by pioneering psychoanalyst Susie Orbach, author of *Fat is a Feminist Issue*, to explore the power, the pain and the pleasure involved in adorning the female body.

A Life in Politics

Nicola Sturgeon with Juno Dawson

🕒 Sunday 19 May, 3.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

As leader of the Scottish National Party and Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon was the first woman to be elected into either post.

Her leadership saw membership surge and in 2015 her party swept the UK general election. One of the most significant figures in contemporary politics, she is a passionate advocate for equality, often motivated by a sense of injustice. With author and activist Juno Dawson, Sturgeon will reflect on her time in government, as well as her love of literature and the role the arts play in her life.



Big Tech, Big Corp, Big Problem

Naomi Alderman and Eleanor Catton with Chris Power



🕒 Sunday 19 May, 5.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Eleanor Catton, winner of the 2013 Booker Prize for *The Luminaries*, will be joined by 2017 Women's Prize winner Naomi Alderman (*The Power*) to discuss their latest books, Catton's *Birnam Wood* and Alderman's *The Future*. Both politically charged and environmentally conscious, these compelling, page-turning novels are cautionary tales that warn against climate complacency.

They will be talking to Chris Power about tech billionaires, the climate emergency, and the power of stories to change how we think and behave.

Queen Macbeth

Val McDermid with Nicola Sturgeon

🕒 Sunday 19 May, 7.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Val McDermid is one of the UK's most successful and respected crime writers, selling over 19 million books worldwide. She will be talking about her new novel *Queen Macbeth*, a fresh take on the life of that most intriguing and complex of Shakespearean characters, with former Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Set against a dramatic highland backdrop, Val McDermid invites us to encounter a new and more realised Lady Macbeth, bringing a schemer in the shadows out into the light, while exposing the patriarchal prejudices of history.



Music + Word: The Rite of Spring and The Afternoon of a Faun

Churen Li and Melvyn Tan

☆ Charleston Festival Original

🕒 Tuesday 21 May, 7.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £50, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Prelude no. 1 Danseuses de Delphes
Claude Debussy

Le Sacre du Printemps
Igor Stravinsky

L'Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune
Claude Debussy

The Bloomsbury group were at the heart of a period of radical change in art and music taking place across Europe. This performance recreates two of the most scandalous landmarks of modernism, Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Debussy's *The Afternoon of a Faun* performed live in the Festival Tent on two concert Steinway pianos by celebrated pianists Melvyn Tan and Churen Li.

These two works of modernist music caused near-riots when performed over 100 years ago and changed how the world thought about music and dance. The performance will be accompanied by dramatic readings by a special guest reader.

Please see our website for programme and artist announcements.



Wonder and the Ancient World

Bettany Hughes and Islam Issa

🕒 Wednesday 22 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%



🕒 Wednesday 22 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Award-winning historian and broadcaster Bettany Hughes discusses her new book *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*, which provides a compelling new history told through these celebrated monuments of human ingenuity.

Joined by Islam Issa, author of *Alexandria: The City that Changed the World*, they will discuss how these places and their inhabitants created a rich cultural legacy, helping to shape the military and political history of the last two millennia.

Africa: The Full Story

Ayòbámi Adébáyò and
Zeinab Badawi with Dipo Faloyin

🕒 Wednesday 22 May, 3.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Africa's history has long been described through the lens of slavery and colonialism, portrayed by western narratives as a place of danger and poverty. As a result, it has long been denied its rightful place in our global story.

Zeinab Badawi, award-winning TV presenter and documentarian, will discuss her book *An African History of Africa* which seeks to redress this imbalance. She is joined by Nigerian novelist Ayòbámi Adébáyò, whose first two prize-nominated novels have been praised for shining a light on Nigerian life, and Dipo Faloyin, senior editor at VICE and author of *Africa is not a Country*.



Genesis

Marilynne Robinson
with Revd. Richard Coles

🕒 Wednesday 22 May, 5.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The first book of the Bible, *Genesis*, holds a grip over us with stories like Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and the father-son drama of Abraham and Isaac, intriguing believers and non-believers alike.

In her book *Reading Genesis* Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Marilynne Robinson explores the text through a literary lens, reflecting on its enduring themes and narrative touchstones.

Renowned for works like the Orange Prize-winning *Home* and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead*, Robinson was honoured with a 2012 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama. She discusses her close reading of this enigmatic text with author and broadcaster Reverend Richard Coles, delving into themes of faith and forgiveness.

Judi Dench in Conversation

with Bill Nighy

🕒 Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £40, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The legendary actress of stage and screen looks back at an extraordinary life.

Join us for a warm and insightful conversation into the life of one of Britain's greatest actors, Judi Dench, with none other than her long-time friend, collaborator and fellow actor, Bill Nighy.

From Shakespeare to Bond, Dench has blazed a trail with performances full of expression, nuance and poise. Acclaimed by critics and adored by audiences, she talks about her time in the spotlight and the enduring magic of theatre.



AI

Verity Harding and Nigel Toon
with Madhumita Murgia

👁 Part of Visions of Tomorrow



🕒 Thursday 23 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

As the scramble to keep pace with the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence rages on, there's a growing conversation that often swings from the utopian to the dystopian.

Two of the leading voices in the field come together to grapple with the real-world impact of artificial intelligence on all of our lives. Nigel Toon is the brains behind Graphcore, a key player in the machine intelligence revolution, and Verity Harding is one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in AI and Director of the AI and Geopolitics Project at Bennett Institute.

They will be talking to Madhumita Murgia, Artificial Intelligence Editor of the *Financial Times* and author of *Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI*, to make sense of the risks and rewards that this explosive new technology promises.

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times

Margaret Drabble, David Kynaston
and Helena Bonham Carter

🕒 Thursday 23 May, 3.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

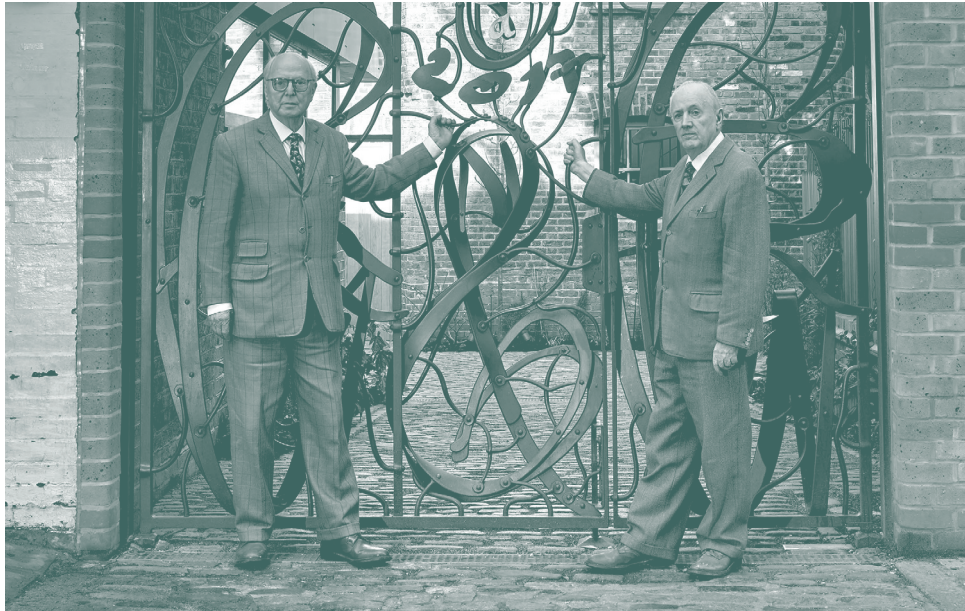
David Kynaston's post-war history books have been hailed by Nick Hornby as 'one of the most remarkable literary projects of this century'. His latest, *A Northern Wind: 1962-1965*, draws on diary extracts, memoirs and press cuttings, to re-examine the political and cultural shockwaves of the era.

Kynaston will be joined by novelist Margaret Drabble, whose debut novel was published in 1963, to reflect on those turbulent times. Award-winning actor Helena Bonham Carter will read extracts, including from the diaries of her grandmother, the writer, politician and close confidant of Winston Churchill, Violet Bonham Carter.



Gilbert & George in Conversation

with Nicholas Cullinan



🕒 Thursday 23 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

For over 50 years, the iconic art duo Gilbert & George have been chronicling the world around them with vivid, graphic works that challenges as much as it entertains.

Their extraordinary artistic partnership, in which they have become living sculptures, is embedded in their belief that great art is necessarily personal and deeply serious. Far from being cosy, national treasures, their work blazes

with anger and over the years has generated both celebration and criticism. From intimate postcards to epic photomontages, their work reflects the turmoil of modern life back at us, with its shifting attitudes to violence, class, religion and identity.

In conversation with Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, they will discuss life, art, provocation and transgression.

Real Love

David Nicholls and Kaliane Bradley

🕒 Thursday 23 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Too often novels just don't get relationships right, with authors falling back on idealised depictions of love.

With books like *Us* and *One Day*, David Nicholls has consistently proved that writing about real relationships, flaws and all, can often make for very relatable – and subsequently funny – reading. His latest novel *You Are Here*, a story of first encounters and second chances, has been described as 'one of the saddest stories I've ever read, and one of the funniest' (Daisy Buchanan).

He's joined by debut novelist Kaliane Bradley, author of the *The Ministry of Time*. Tipped as one of The Sunday Times' '40 best books of 2024', it describes a troublesome love story between a civil servant and a 19th century arctic explorer, who are brought together through time travel.

Together they will explore the humour, pain and occasional banality of writing about love.



Global Power

Sathnam Sanghera
and Peter R. Neumann

👁 Part of Visions of Tomorrow



🕒 Friday 24 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Who will hold the reins of global power in the future?

Join Sathnam Sanghera, highly regarded journalist and expert on the impact of the British Empire, as he interrogates the contradictions and legacies of colonial rule in his book *Empireworld*. Joining him is Peter R. Neumann, former UN advisor to the USA and geopolitics expert, who offers insights from his book *The New World Disorder*, which explores how the West has lost its global advantage.

Together they will examine how global power structures will inevitably shift, and speculate on the new world order that will come in its place.

Human Architecture

Thomas Heatherwick
with Nancy Durrant

🕒 Friday 24 May, 3.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The mantra 'form follows function' has ruled the design world for more than 100 years. But what if it misses out the most important thing of all: human emotion?

Fighting 'an epidemic of boringness' English designer Thomas Heatherwick, founder of Heatherwick Studio, reflects on 30 years of making bold, beautiful buildings and taking influence from neuroscience and cognitive psychology.

In conversation with culture writer Nancy Durrant, he will share his contagious enthusiasm for simple feats of engineering, and celebrate when form meets function in beautiful and surprising ways.



Monsters in Literature

Mark O'Connell and A.K. Blakemore



🕒 Friday 24 May, 5.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

From *Frankenstein* to true crime books like Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, monstrous characters have long been a source of inspiration and dark fascination in literature.

For her latest novel *The Glutton* award-winning author A.K. Blakemore (*The Manningtree Witches*) tells the story of 18th century Frenchman Tarare who was consigned to history as a freak show

attraction thanks to his monstrous appetite. Mark O'Connell's *A Thread of Violence* (Irish Non-Fiction Book of the Year) paints a portrait of wealthy socialite Malcolm Macarthur, who became front page news in 1982 when he inexplicably committed a brutal double killing.

Together, they will explore why writers often seek to evoke empathy for monstrous characters.



Worlds that don't Exist

Es Devlin with Ekow Eshun

🕒 Friday 24 May, 7.30pm

➔ Festival Tent

💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Es Devlin is renowned for work that transports audiences away from time and place, immersing them in living dreamscapes. Her career as an artist and stage designer has taken her from the great stages of the Metropolitan Opera to the United Nations, from the Superbowl half-time show to Beyoncé's *Renaissance* tour. Her work takes stage design to a whole new level with supersized stage sculptures and kinetic installations on a monumental scale.

In conversation with acclaimed writer, curator and journalist Ekow Eshun, she explores how art, whether in a gallery or on an epic arena-scale, can create profound cognitive and societal shifts.

My Life in Art

Don McCullin with Sean O'Hagan

★ Charleston Festival Original



🕒 Saturday 25 May, 1.30pm

➔ Festival Tent

💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Don McCullin has earned a reputation as one of the world's greatest war photographers, documenting some of the most violent conflicts of the late 20th century. More recently, he has become an acclaimed landscape artist, travelling the world and turning his lens to the countryside around his home in Somerset.

Journeying from an impoverished childhood in 1940s London to multiple theatres of war around the globe, Don will reflect on the ethical and moral challenges of capturing images of the harshest realities of conflict with photography journalist Sean O'Hagan.

Orwell and The Future

Dorian Lynskey, Lisa Mullen,
Sandra Newman and Louise Brealey

+ *The Orwell Prize*
shortlist announcement

🕒 Saturday 25 May, 3.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

George Orwell's *1984* is widely regarded as a masterwork of dystopian literature. Seventy-five years on, and with new problems to contend with, how relevant is Orwell's writing today?

Dorian Lynskey is an Orwell scholar, and author of *Everything Must Go: The Stories We Tell About The End of the World*. He is joined by *Sherlock* and *Back* actor Louise Brealey who will perform readings, and novelist Sandra Newman, whose Sunday Times bestselling *Julia* is a retelling of *1984* from a female character's perspective. Alongside Dr Lisa Mullen, English Fellow at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and presenter for Radio 3's *Free Thinking*, they will discuss Orwell's ongoing legacy.

The Orwell Foundation will join us for this event to announce the shortlist for the 2024 Orwell Prize.

300,000 Kisses

Luke Edward Hall and Seán Hewitt



🕒 Saturday 25 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

*'Steeped in honey, Juventius,
your golden eyes, and as sweet too
when I press my lips to them -
three hundred thousand kisses
is not close to enough'*

Discover the unravelled queer stories of the ancient world, with poet Seán Hewitt and artist Luke Edward Hall, newly revealed within their recent book *300,000 Kisses*. Bringing together 40 of the most exhilarating tales, they place a new and colourful lens on Greek and Roman love and desire in literary tradition – and reflect on the puritanism of our own.

Baldwin vs Buckley

Omari Douglas
+ National Youth Theatre
with David McAlmont

🕒 Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

*'The American dream is at the
expense of the American Negro.'*

In 1965, to a packed chamber at the University of Cambridge, writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin powerfully dismantled the injustices at the heart of the 'American dream'.

Televised across the world, the debate against conservative intellectual William F Buckley, came to be seen as one of the most important debates on race relations in America.

To mark the centenary of James Baldwin's birth, we re-create this legendary debate between two intellectual titans of the times, with BAFTA nominee and star of *It's a Sin* and *I Hate Suzie Too*, Omari Douglas.

Following a 15-minute interval, we will return for a reflection and Q&A on the historical relevance of this debate with vocalist, essayist and historian David McAlmont.



State of the Nation

Jacqueline Crooks and
Andrew O'Hagan with Alex Clark

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 1.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

When our political, social and economic landscapes are in peril, the 'state of the nation' novel comes into its own, capturing the zeitgeist and providing a commentary for our times.

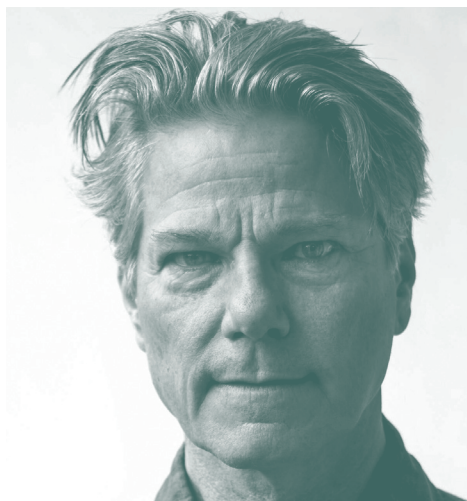
Booker-shortlisted writer and non-fiction author Andrew O'Hagan's latest novel *Caledonian Road*, tells the story of an art historian and celebrity intellectual, whose life implodes due to a series of crimes and scandals, painting a picture of Britain in the midst of an existential crisis.

He will be joined by Jacqueline Crooks, whose Women's Prize shortlisted novel *Fire Rush* is set amid the Jamaican diaspora in London at the dawn of the 1980s. Drawing on stories of aspiration, love and music it is as relevant to today's social injustices as the era it depicts.

They will be in conversation with literary journalist and editor Alex Clark.

World on Fire

John Vaillant



🕒 Sunday 26 May, 3.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

In 2016, Fort McMurray, the hub of Canada's oil industry, was engulfed by a fire so powerful that it created its own climate and drove 90,000 people from their homes.

In John Vaillant's international bestselling book and winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize, *Fire Weather*, he captured the majesty and horror of the disaster in a damning critique of both the oil industry and of climate change discourse.

Join him to explore the past and the future of our ever-hotter, more flammable world.

This Woman's Work

Ysenda Maxtone Graham,
Cathy Newman and Frances O'Grady

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

From unsung heroines to influential trailblazers, women have always shaped the world of work.

Journalist and author Cathy Newman (*The Ladder*) joins author Ysenda Maxtone Graham (*Jobs for Girls*) along with labour advocate and former general secretary of the TUC, Frances O'Grady, to uncover the challenges and triumphs of women's experience in the workplace.

Together, they will explore life lessons from some of the women who scaled the heights and dodged the snakes to make it to the very top of their professions and examine the often-overlooked narratives of women's contributions to the evolution of labour practices.



Power in the People

Jeremy Hutchinson Memorial Lecture

Michael Mansfield with
Helena Kennedy

☆ Charleston Festival Original

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Barrister Michael Mansfield KC has spent his career taking on some of the most controversial cases of our times, including the Birmingham Six, Bloody Sunday, the striking miners, Stephen Lawrence, Hillsborough and Grenfell.

His experiences at the coalface of the English legal system have provided him with a fascinating insight into its many idiosyncrasies from the late 1960s to now. Michael will be delivering a lecture reflecting on his experiences with the law, explaining how challenging the status quo is becoming increasingly difficult.

This will be followed by an onstage conversation with Helena Kennedy KC, a leading barrister and expert in human rights law, civil liberties, and the constitution.

This event is held in honour of the renowned barrister Jeremy Hutchinson who had a life-long association with Charleston and the Bloomsbury group.

Long Island

Colm Tóibín with Claire Armitstead



🕒 Monday 27 May, 11.30am
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Colm Tóibín, three-time Booker Prize nominee and Laureate for Irish Fiction (2022–2024), delves into his extensive literary career.

Join him in conversation with Claire Armitstead as he discusses his latest novel, *Long Island*, a sequel to

the bestselling *Brooklyn*, adapted into an Academy Award-nominated film starring Saoirse Ronan and Domhnall Gleeson. *Long Island* expands on the lives of protagonists Ellis and Tony two decades later and their transition from the bustle of city life to the solitude of the suburbs.

Books within Books

Marlon James and David Mitchell with Alex Clark

🕒 Monday 27 May, 1.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

How are writers influenced and inspired by other literary works?

In 2024, Marlon James and David Mitchell are each marking anniversaries of career-defining books. It is ten years since James won the Booker Prize for *A Brief History of Seven Killings* and 20 years since the publication of Mitchell's Booker-shortlisted *Cloud Atlas*.

Journalist and editor Alex Clark will talk to them about their creative process, literary inspiration and the influence of wide reading on these celebrated novels.



On Pottery

Florian Gadsby with Laura Freeman



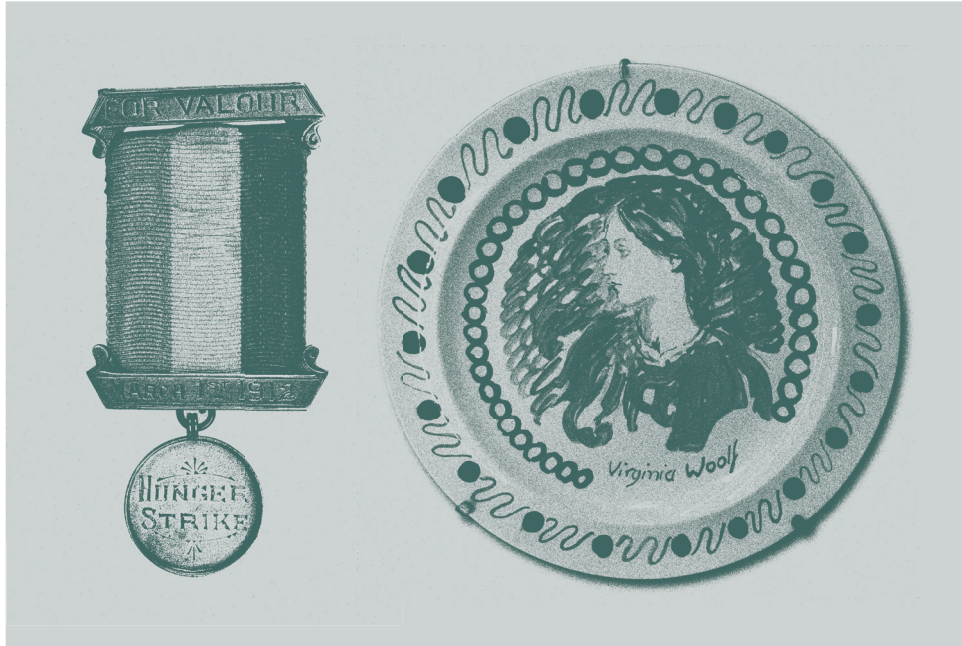
🕒 Monday 27 May, 3.30pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £18, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Cult potter Florian Gadsby is followed on social media by millions of people across the world, fascinated by his process and discipline. His work is shaped by the art of simplicity and the beauty that can be found in small things.

In conversation with art critic and author Laura Freeman he will share a unique insight into the power that pottery holds, the alchemy of process and what it reveals about us.

A History of Women in 101 Objects

Annabelle Hirsch with Alice Rawsthorn



🕒 Monday 27 May, 5.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £20, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

Come on an intimate journey through women's history with writer and journalist Annabelle Hirsch, whose book *A History of Women in 101 Objects* holds a magnifying glass to the small, particular and fascinating stories of women throughout time.

Some are objects of pleasure, such as a 16th century glass dildo. Others celebrate women's history, such as Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant's

Famous Women Dinner Service. And some, like radium-laced chocolate, are just fundamentally ill-conceived.

Hirsch will discuss how she compiled the list with Alice Rawsthorn, author of *Design as an Attitude* and co-founder of Design Emergency.

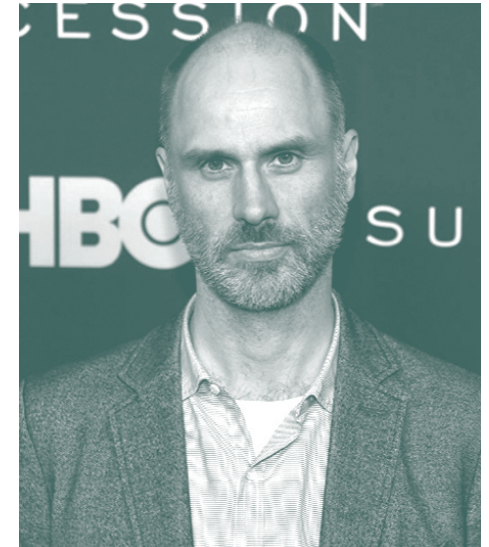
Satire Unleashed

Jesse Armstrong and Lucy Prebble

🕒 Monday 27 May, 7.30pm
➔ Festival Tent
💎 £25, Under 30s £10, Conc. 15%

The multiple Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning TV series *Succession* has become the most successful satirical drama of the last decade. With its depiction of a media empire in crisis, *Succession* provided a compelling exploration of the human cost of ambition and poked fun at those in power. Its writers join us to discuss how satire can help keep us sane in a post-truth world.

Jesse Armstrong is the creator and showrunner of *Succession*, and co-wrote *The Thick of It*, *Peep Show*, *Four Lions* and *Fresh Meat*. Lucy Prebble is his *Succession* co-writer and the co-creator of *I Hate Suzie*. Together, they will answer questions like: is it harder to satirise politicians when respect for them is at an all-time low? Are there limits to what topics can be satirised? And who – elected officials, the mega-rich, or the media – deserves our wrath most of all?



♥ Family Events

Tom Gates

Doodling fun with creator Liz Pichon

🕒 Saturday 18 May, 11am
→ Festival Tent
💎 £5 Child, £10 Adult

Age 7+

Pencils at the ready!
It's doodling time.

Join Liz Pichon, the incredible author-illustrator of the bestselling *Tom Gates* series and winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, for a show full of storytelling, games, draw-along and more. Learn to doodle in *Tom Gates'* style, and hear all about the inspiration behind the books and characters.

Tales from Shakespeare

Michael Morpurgo

🕒 Sunday 19 May, 11am
→ Festival Tent
💎 £5 Child, £10 Adult

Age 7+

Michael Morpurgo shares some of his best-loved William Shakespeare stories, first discovered when he was at school, and now newly brought to life for school-age children.

In Michael Morpurgo's *Tales from Shakespeare*, he artfully revisits stories that have stood the test of time, including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Retaining the magic of Shakespeare's verses, they are written with Morpurgo's inimitable charm, and in a way that chimes with the spirit of our times.

Diary of a Big, Bad Wolf

Ben Miller

🕒 Saturday 25 May, 12pm
→ Festival Tent
💎 £5 Child, £10 Adult

Age 7+

Join actor, comedian and bestselling author Ben Miller as he shares the fun he's had turning the land of fairy tales on its head in his latest children's book, *The Diary of the Big, Bad Wolf*, and the stories of giants that inspired *Once upon a Legend*. Laughs are guaranteed in this fun event for all the family.

Picture this!

Chris Riddell

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 11am
→ Festival Tent
💎 £5 Child, £10 Adult

Age 7+

Join the former Children's Laureate, acclaimed illustrator and bestselling children's author as he explores the magic that happens when words and pictures meet. Chris Riddell is the author of books like *100 Hugs*, the *Ottoline* series, and co-creator of the hugely successful *Edge Chronicles* with Paul Stewart.

With lots of insights into storytelling and some great artistic tips, this is a must-see event for any budding artist or aspiring writer.

Family Workshops

Our series of popular family workshops takes place in the Orchard Tent with workshop leader Tanja Gangar.

Make your own Wings

🕒 Saturday 18 May, 10am
💎 £5

Age 5+

Build a Mini Sailing Boat

🕒 Sunday 19 May, 10am
💎 £5

Age 5+

Make your own Mask

🕒 Saturday 25 May, 10am
💎 £5

Age 5+

Make a Mini Clay Beast

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 10am
💎 £5

Age 5+

Workshops

Writing the Body

Dean Atta

🕒 Thursday 16 May, 2pm
→ Orchard Tent 💎 £60

Join a creative writing workshop all about the body. What stories does your body ache to tell about you? And which part of your body would you love to write an ode to?

Writing the Plot

Eleanor Catton

🕒 Sunday 19 May, 2pm
→ Orchard Tent 💎 £60

Learn about marshalling narratives, keeping characters' motivations on track and playing with structure with Eleanor Catton, author of three novels and winner of the 2013 Booker Prize.

Historical Fiction

A.K. Blakemore

🕒 Friday 24 May, 2pm
→ Orchard Tent 💎 £60

Historical portraiture has long served as a potent source of inspiration for novelists. Drawing on a range of portraiture, including those on show at Charleston, award-winning novelist A.K. Blakemore (*The Manningtree Witches*) will help hone your instincts for characterisation and description.

Truth and Narrative

Mark O'Connell

🕒 Saturday 25 May, 2pm
→ Orchard Tent 💎 £60

Mark O'Connell, author of the New York Times' 'Book of the Year' *A Thread of Violence*, will explore the complicated relationship between truth and fiction, guiding you on the problems and opportunities it presents to non-fiction writers.

Life Writing

Alexander Masters

🕒 Sunday 26 May, 2pm
→ Orchard Tent 💎 £60

Good life writing captures the very essence of personal experience. In this session, award winning writer and biographer Alexander Masters (*Stuart: A Life Backwards*) will discuss five useful methods to create lively, engaging personal stories.

Your visit

Charleston now operates across two locations: the artists' house, garden and galleries at Firle, the original gathering place for the Bloomsbury group, and our new cultural centre in Lewes. Charleston Festival takes place in the grounds at Firle, where you can take a stroll through the walled garden or picnic by the pond. Include a visit to the house or spring exhibitions as part of your festival experience, or even enjoy a walk or cycle from our beautiful South Downs setting.

charleston.org.uk/visit

City Books

Throughout the festival we are joined by much-loved booksellers, Brighton and Hove's City Books, who run a pop-up bookshop inside the Festival Tent. Browse their well-stocked bookshop, join a book signing after your event and take home some inspiring new reads.

Caccia & Tails

Our café partner Caccia & Tails will be serving delicious Italian-inspired street food. Find freshly baked focaccia, seasonal salads and sweet treats all handmade on site. There will also be food stalls and pop-up bars across our grounds, serving local wines and beers, plus freshly baked cakes and locally roasted coffee in the café.

Visit Charleston in Lewes

You can now experience Charleston in our new space in Lewes. Our new cultural centre, just a short walk from Lewes train station, is home to two galleries showcasing unmissable exhibitions, a shop brimming with Bloomsbury-inspired gifts and homewares, and a delicious café by Caccia & Tails.



Booking

Book online:

charleston.org.uk/festivals

Priority booking opens

Tuesday 27 February, 10am

Public booking opens

Thursday 29 February, 10am

Box office:

01323 408520

Monday–Friday, 10am–2pm

In person in our shops in Firle and Lewes:

Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm

Priority booking

Friends+, Patrons and Benefactors get access to festival tickets 48-hours before they go on general sale. Our box office phone lines will be open from 10am–5pm.

charleston.org.uk/support

A £2.50 booking fee applies per transaction.

Day tickets

Make a day of it. Book a day ticket and attend all of the events on your chosen day for a discounted price.*

Day tickets start from £60.

For our full list of day ticket prices, visit our website:
charleston.org.uk/festivals.

*Day tickets do not include *The Power of Reading*, family events or workshops.

House and exhibition tickets are also available to book throughout the festival.

Family events in the Festival Tent

Adult ticket	£10
Child ticket	£5

Family workshops in the Orchard Tent

Child ticket	£5
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Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Under 30s

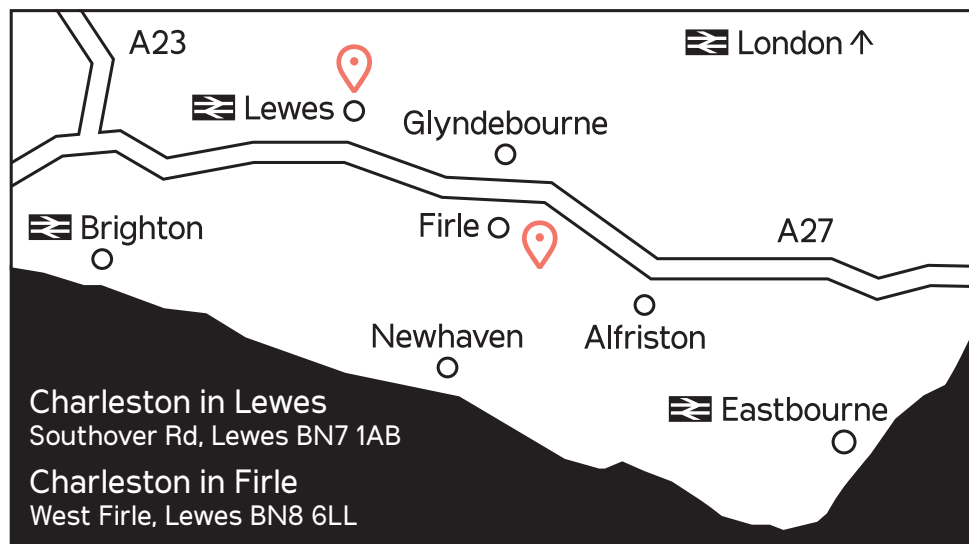
Sign up for our free Under 30s scheme to access £10 tickets for all events in the Festival Tent. Join at charleston.org.uk/support

Concessions

15% discount for students, disabled visitors, universal credit, pension credit recipients and green travellers who arrive by public transport, by bike or on foot.

Plan your visit

We're halfway between Brighton and Eastbourne, five miles east of Lewes and signposted off the A27.



Rail

Services run regularly to Lewes from London Victoria, Brighton and Eastbourne. The minibus shuttle service and taxis are available from Lewes station.

Road

Parking is limited, please consider car sharing or using the minibus shuttle service.

Bus

A minibus will run between Lewes station and Charleston throughout the festival. Visitors arriving by minibus are eligible for the 'green traveller' concession.

Accessibility

Accessible seating is available at all events, plus allocated parking spaces near the Festival Tent. Please book accessible seating, and free companion tickets if required, via the box office over the phone. There is a hearing loop in the Festival Tent and assistance dogs are welcome across the site.

charleston.org.uk/accessibility

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Art Direction and Design: Kellenberger-White
Photography: Lewis Ronald
Brochure Design: Will Mower

Portrait photography credits,
in order of appearance:

Charleston Festival 2023 by Emma Croman
Joseph Coelho by Hayley Madden
Lenny Henry by Danny Kasirye
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall by Matt Austin
Jackie Kay by Denise Else
George Monbiot by Guy Reece
Nitin Sawhney by Ray Burmiston
Bryony Kimmings by Alex Lake
Grayson Perry by Steven Hatton
Billy Bragg by Jacob Blickenstaff
Virginia Nicholson by Edward Reeves
Eleanor Catton by Murdo MacLeod
Val McDermid by Charlotte Graham
The Afternoon of a Faun by Léon Bakst, high res scan (1912)
Zeinab Badawi by Jamie Simonds
Judi Dench by Robert Wilson
Helena Bonham Carter by Steven Hatton
Gilbert & George by Prudence Coming
David Nicholls by Sophia Spring
Thomas Heatherwick by Raquel Diniz
A.K. Blakemore by Alice Zoo
Luke Edward Hall and Seán Hewitt by Desiree Adams
Omari Douglas by Phil Sharp
John Vaillant by John Sinal

Cathy Newman, courtesy of ITN by Peter Searle
Colm Tóibín by Reynaldo Rivera
Florian Gadsby by Lizzie Mayson
A History of Women in 101 Objects, scans
c/o Canongate Books
Lucy Prebble by Marc Brenner
Charleston Festival 2023 by Lewis Ronald

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The information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to print (January 2024).

Charleston reserves the right to alter programmes and artists without notice.
All tickets subject to availability.

16–27 May 2024

Jesse Armstrong
Helena Bonham Carter
Judi Dench
Es Devlin
Omari Douglas
Gilbert & George
Lenny Henry
Toby Jones
Emily Maitlis
David Nicholls
Nicola Sturgeon
Meera Syal