

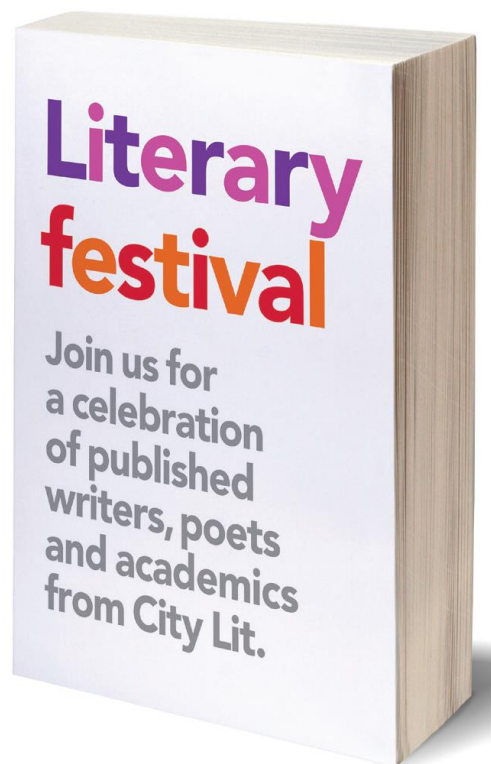
city lit

Literary festival

13th September 2014

10 am to 7 pm

Tickets cost £5 per lecture
Enrol at www.eventbrite.co.uk



A series of literary lectures and readings from authors and academics associated with City Lit

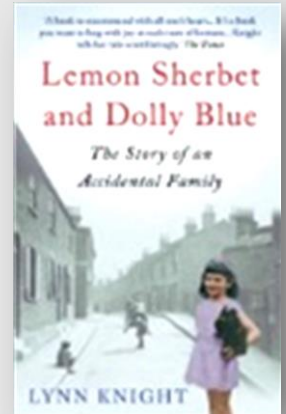
Programme

Writers revealed

Talks and Readings by City Lit Literature Tutors

By City Lit Literature tutors:

- Marguerite Alexander's 'How we know Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare' focuses on the controversy surrounding Shakespeare's authorship
- Hugh Epstein explores 'Sensation and Nature in Four 19th Century novels'
- Jenny Baynes investigates 'Women and Madness in Victorian Literature'
- Lynn Knight reads from and talks about her family memoir, *Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue: The Story of an Accidental Family*, a Radio 4 'Book of the Week'
- Laurie Smith discusses the American poet, Elizabeth Bishop, now recognised as one of the great poets of the 20th Century



Join us for a celebration of top authors, poets and academics from City Lit.

Patricia Sweeney, Literature Co-ordinator in the Humanities Department writes about City Lit's first Literary Festival, taking place on 13 September.

Since our foundation in 1919 the City Literary Institute has promoted the writing and study of literature with the aim of cultivating the Humanities, through initiating a curriculum where students are inspired to 'find their own level and where experiment is encouraged'.

This remains part of the City Lit ethos today. However, despite the fact that for almost one hundred years, well-known authors and academics teaching and studying her (including Dylan Thomas, Andrea Levy and Malorie Blackman to name a few), we have never hosted

a literary festival to celebrate contemporary writing and literary criticism.

Our inaugural one-day Literary Festival on 13 September, 2014, will showcase writing and scholarship by creative writing and literature tutors and alumni at City Lit, with talks and readings throughout the day.

In keeping with our literary traditions the festival will open with a talk by Chris Baldick, Professor of English at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Chris will revisit a lecture series organised by City Lit in 1929, in which T S

Eliot, Edith Sitwell, Edmund Blunden and other contemporary writers' debated "tradition" or "experiment" in modern literature.

Our keynote speaker, Esther Freud, will read from and discuss her new novel, *Mr Mac and Me*, published in September 2014



(Bloomsbury). Esther, a former creative writing student here at City Lit, is the author of seven novels, including *Hideous Kinky*, which was shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. She was chosen by Granta as one of the Best of Young Novelists in 1993.

The Festival will promote discussion and debate through a range of specialist talks and readings by academics, poets and fiction writers who are part of the City Lit community.

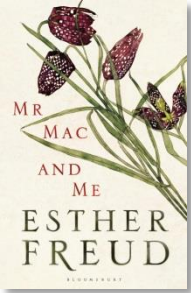
Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction talks and readings By City Lit creative writing alumni and tutors:


- Nicholas Murray and Martina Evans will be giving a joint reading, Nicholas from *Of Earth, Water, Air and Fire: animal poems* and his new satirical poem about the Great War Centenary, *Trench Feet* and Martina from her prose poem, *Petrol*.
- Zoe Fairbairns will talk about short stories, and read some of her new ones. She will also talk about her novel *Benefits*, written in the 1970's as a dystopia, one which some say has now been overtaken by events.
- Barbara Marsh will read from her recently published first collection of poems, *To the Boneyard*
- Sally O'Reilly will meditate on issues which pertain to writing historical fiction and the importance of genre in 21st century publishing. She will read from her historical novel, *Dark Aemelia*, based on the first woman poet to be professionally published in England.
- Scott Bradfield will read from his recently published novel, *The People who Watched her Pass By* (Two Dollar Radio Press). He also discusses his reissued first novel, *The History of Luminous Motion* (Calamari Press), of which J G Ballard said, "If you spot it, grab it. A powerful piece of work."
- Jackie Bennett will be reading from her new book, *The Writer's Garden*
- Malika Booker will be reading from her poetry collection, *Pepper Seed*, and talk about the poems, her work and writing.

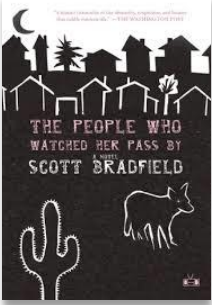

Magazine and publishing stands will be available throughout the day.

For more information and to book ticket, please visit:
www.citylit.ac.uk/literaryfestival

The Programme

<p>Chris Baldick 'The importance of City Lit's ground breaking 1929 lecture series with Edith Sitwell, Edmund Blunden and TS Eliot'</p>	<p>The talk will be about the lecture series organised by the City Lit in early 1929, in which T S Eliot, Edith Sitwell, Edmund Blunden and a few other contemporary writers were lined up to speak on either "tradition" or "experiment" in modern literature, in pairings that invited some conflict between those supposedly antagonistic principles. In the event, they nearly all wriggled out of the staged combat by arguing that tradition and experiment were in one way or another the same thing. Chris Baldick is Professor of English at Goldsmiths College, University of London.</p>	<p>10:30 - 11:20</p>
<p>Lynn Knight 'Family Memoir'</p>	<p>Lynn Knight will be reading from and talking about her memoir, Lemon Sherbet and Dolly Blue: The Story of An Accidental Family, a Radio 4 'Book of the Week'. For further information about her work visit www.lynnknight.co.uk.</p>	<p>11:30 - 12:20</p>
<p>Sally O'Reilly 'Dark Aemilia'</p>	<p>Sally O'Reilly will be reading a short extract from her historical novel Dark Aemilia, published by Myriad Editions in the UK and Picador in the US. The novel is based on the life of Aemilia Bassano Lanyer, the first woman to be published professionally as a poet in England, and possibly also the 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's later sonnets.</p> <p>Sally will also be talking about writing historical fiction, the importance of genre in 21st century publishing and the slow burning literary career. This is her first historical novel, but her fourth published book.</p>	<p>11:30 - 12:20</p>
<p>Esther Freud 'Mr Mac and Me'</p> 	<p>The writer Esther Freud will be reading from and giving a talk on her new novel, Mr Mac and Me, which is due for release in September 2014 (Bloomsbury Publishing) and is set in Walberswick, Suffolk, at the outbreak of the First World War. Esther Freud is the renowned author of seven novels, including Hideous Kinky, which was shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. She was named by Granta as one of the Best of Young Novelists in 1993. As well as novels, she currently writes for newspapers and magazines.</p>	<p>13:00 - 13.50</p>

<p>Laurie Smith 'The American poet, Elizabeth Bishop'</p>	<p>Laurie Smith will talk on the American poet, Elizabeth Bishop, a poet who wrote in traditional forms, often very slowly, but is now recognised as one of the greatest 20th century poets. We look at the mysterious depths beneath her apparently simple surfaces and why readers return to her poems again and again.</p>	<p>14:00 - 14:50</p>
<p>Zoe Fairbairns Talk and short story readings</p> 	<p>Zoe Fairbairns will talk about short stories, and read some of her new ones. She will also talk about her novel Benefits, which was written in the 1970s as a dystopia, but which some say has now been overtaken by events.</p>	<p>14:00 - 14:50</p>
<p>Marguerite Alexander 'How we know Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare'</p>	<p>Doubts about Shakespeare's authorship of the works that bear his name were only raised two hundred years after his death, and were ignored by scholars for the next two hundred years. Now, without new evidence coming to light, but with the assistance of the Internet, which creates instant communities and fuels the public taste for conspiracy theories; and with celebrities prepared to champion rival claimants, the authorship question has gained momentum and the academic world is fighting back. "Drawing on recent scholarship, and my own insight, acquired over decades of teaching and writing about Shakespeare, I shall be setting out the case for Shakespeare's authorship of the works attributed to him."</p>	<p>15:00 - 15:50</p>
<p>Jenny Baynes 'Maidens and Monsters: women and madness in Victorian literature'</p>	<p>This talk will look at some of the women characters in the novels of George Eliot and Charlotte Bronte in the light of the Victorian construct of womanhood. Novels referred to will include Middlemarch, Daniel Deronda and The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot and Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.</p>	<p>16:00 - 16:50</p>

<p>Scott Bradfield 'The People Who Watched Her Pass By'</p> 	<p>Scott Bradfield will read from his latest novel, <i>The People Who Watched Her Pass By</i> (Two Dollar Radio Press) and from his recently reissued first novel, <i>The History of Luminous Motion</i>, (Calamari Press).</p>	<p>16:00- 16:50</p>
<p>Jackie Bennett 'The Writer's Garden'</p>	<p>Jackie Bennett will be reading from her new book, <i>The Writer's Garden</i>.</p> <p>A talk based on her up and coming book about the influence of gardens on writers.</p>	<p>17:00 - 17:50</p>
<p>Barbara Marsh 'To the Boneyard'</p> 	<p>Barbara Marsh will be reading from <i>To the Boneyard</i> (Eyewear Publishing). <i>To The Boneyard</i> is a first collection of poems where candour, humour and revelation meet in a hotel bar for cocktails. Here are encounters with the mythologies of love and loss, memories filtered through exile, a suite of epiphanies wrapped in brisk modernity.</p>	<p>17:00 - 17:50</p>
<p>Readings by Nicolas Murray and Martina Evans</p>	<p>Nicholas will be reading from his recent poetry collection, <i>Of Earth, water, air and fire: animal poems</i> (Melos Press) and his new satirical poem about the Great War Centenary, <i>Trench Feet</i> (Rack Press). Martina Evans will be reading from her prose poem, <i>Petrol</i> (Anvil Press 2012).</p>	<p>18:00 - 18:50</p>
<p>Hugh Epstein 'Sensation and nature in four 19th century novels'</p>	<p>Hugh Epstein's talk will explore some uses of the rich vein of descriptive writing that enters the novel so noticeably in the second half of the nineteenth century. In particular, he will look at instances in which such writing deals with characters facing nature, in order to examine how such encounters change during this period.</p>	<p>18:00 - 18:50</p>

