

Homeby10 Fest

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

#Homeby10 Fest

MAIN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME (subject to change)

Thursday 1 October National Poetry Day Event - Developing your practice, 7.30 - 8.30 pm

How can poets sustain their practice while developing their craft? As part of National Poetry Day and in association with The Asian Writer, poets Rishi Dastidar and Gita Ralleigh will discuss their poetic practice, routes to publication and the challenges they have faced along the way.

Friday 2 October In the Kitchen: Short stories book launch & Readings, 7.30 - 9 pm

Following last year's open call for short stories on the theme of kitchen, Dahlia Publishing will launch its first #ShortStorySeptember anthology live from the kitchen. Featuring discussion with co-editors Susmita Bhattacharya and Farhana Shaikh as well as readings by new and established voices published in the collection. Our anthology featuring all 20 short stories will be launched on the day.

Saturday 3 October

11 am - 12 pm Middle Way Mentoring Showcase

The Middle Way Mentoring project is a two year professional development scheme for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) writers based in the Midlands, funded by Arts Council England and led by Farhana Shaikh. Join us to celebrate exciting new voices as they launch their first publication - a collection of their work they have developed with their mentors and discuss how the scheme has transformed their writing life.

3-4 pm Writing and Publishing Commercial Fiction

What makes great commercial fiction and what do editors look for? In this session, run in partnership with Bookouture, author Shalini Boland will be joined by her editor Natasha Harding to discuss what makes commercial fiction work and how writers can make their manuscripts stand out.

Sunday 4 October Writers Spa Day + Coaching call with publisher Farhana Shaikh, 10 am til late

Welcome to our pop up Writers Spa, helping you to pamper your creativity and exercise your writing muscle. Perfect for anyone struggling to find the time or inspiration to write. Bring your work in progress along or kick start something new for this drop-in session. Spend glorious hours writing away without worry. A selection of virtual treatments will be available to indulge your inner artist. Ten writers will also receive a 10 minute coaching call as part of their session. Book your festival ticket and email f.shaikh@dahliapublishing.co.uk with 'Writers Spa Day Coaching call' in the subject heading to book your one-to-one.

Monday 5th Lunchtime Book Club discussion with Deepa Anappara, Twitter takeover, 1-2 pm

Join us on The Asian Writer's Twitter account (@theasianwriter) where Deepa Anappara will takeover our account to discuss her debut novel and this year's festival bookclub read, Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line. Attendees are encouraged to read the book in advance of the session.

Tuesday 6 October A Room of One's Own: Motherhood and Writing, 7.30 - 8.30 pm

Do mothers need a room of their own to write? What does it take to write about motherhood and should we as women bother to answer these type of questions? In this session, three writers who passionately celebrate motherhood in all its guises - Laura Besley, Laura Pearson and Lauren Hayhurst - discuss their own writing lives, motherhood and finding time for it all. This session is parent friendly. Children and babies in arms are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 7 October Talking Big in Children's/YA Fiction, time tbc

Do writers have a responsibility to tackle taboo issues? In this session, writers Emma Smith-Barton, Savita Kalhan and Sufiya Ahmed will share their experiences of writing for children, tackling big themes in their writing from mental health, race to sexual violence and discuss whether any topic is ever off-limits. Featuring readings and discussion followed by a Q&A.

Thursday 8 October A Life of Crime - 7.30 - 8.30 pm

What makes great crime fiction? How do you know you're on to a good idea and what holds readers' interest over a series? In this session, writers Vaseem Khan and Kia Abdullah will discuss their writing process and share tips on writing crime fiction. Featuring readings and discussion followed by a Q&A.

Friday 9 October Dahlia's 10th Birthday Party & Debut Showcase, 7.30 pm til late

Join us to celebrate Dahlia's 10th birthday. A virtual Zoom party with raffle prizes and a quiz. Featuring a showcase of debut authors. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday 10 October

11 am - 12 pm Writing in Transit: From short stories to novels with CG Menon and Roisin O'Donnell

How do writers transition from writing short stories to working on a novel? What skills do they develop in the process and what is it really like to work across forms? In this session, acclaimed writers Roisin O'Donnell and CG Menon share their experiences of starting their careers by writing short stories before turning their hand to novels. Featuring readings and discussion followed by a Q&A.

2-3pm Leicester Writes Short Story Prize Ceremony & Anthology launch

The Leicester Writes Short Story Prize was set up in 2017 to encourage anyone to have a go at writing a short story. This event will showcase writers from across the country who have been long-listed in this year's short story competition.

Join us for a chance to hear from this year's exceptional long-list and be inspired to enter next year's competition. Our prize anthology featuring all 20 short stories will be launched on the day.

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS TIMETABLE (subject to change)

Pre-festival workshop:

Friday 4 September - Short Story & Flash Fiction Charity Workshop with Divya Ghelani, 7.30-9 pm

This is the perfect generative workshop for those wishing to experiment and play by creating new short fiction! Participants will be offered a range of stimulus-based writing exercises to help them conjure new settings, characters, and voices. Expect to leave with new story drafts and ideas for many more!

Suitable for: Aged 16 plus

Cost £10 (minimum donation) All money raised goes to the charitable organisation Quetzal and their Breaking The Silence Initiative. Through this initiative, the charity aims to raise awareness about the trauma of childhood sexual abuse and the value of counseling in South Asian communities in Leicester City using a community-based approach. To highlight Quetzal's important work, Divya will close her workshop with a specially designed writing prompt based on healing and recovery. Read here for more information on what Quetzal do: <http://quetzal.org.uk/breaking-the-silence-initiative-leicester/>

Divya Ghelani was born in Gujarat and grew up in Loughborough. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia and an MPhil in Literary Studies from the University of Hong Kong. She lives between Berlin and the UK where she has published short stories and judged story and flash fiction competitions. She is working on her first novel. Visit www.divyaghelani.com

Short Story September Masterclasses ~ £10 each

Saturday 5 September, 3-5 pm

Imagery and Structure in Short Fiction with Farhana Khalique & Anita Goveas

This two hour class will focus on imagery and structure. In the first half, short fiction writer Farhana Khalique will introduce you to short stories that use imagery and guide you through a number of writing exercises. In the second half, flash fiction writer Anita Goveas will explore structure in flash fiction. You'll read through a number of short stories and consider different story structures including hermit crab flash and have a go at writing your own flash fiction.

Farhana Khalique is a writer, editor, voiceover artist and teacher from south-west London. Her writing has appeared in The Brown Anthology, Reflex Fiction, Lighthouse Literary Journal and elsewhere. Farhana has been longlisted for the Bath Flash Fiction Award, shortlisted for The Asian Writer Short Story Prize, and she has won a Word Factory Apprentice Award. She is also the editor of Desi Reads, has been a Reader in Residence for SmokeLong Quarterly, and she has performed her work at London's Tara Theatre. Find Farhana @HanaKhalique and www.farhanakhalique.com

Anita Goveas is British-Asian, London-based, and fuelled by strong coffee and paneer jalfrezi. She was first published in the 2016 London Short Story Prize anthology, most

recently in The Ilanot Review and Little Fiction. She's on the editorial team at Flashback Fiction, an editor at Mythic Picnic's Twitter zine, and tweets erratically @coffeeandpaneer. Her debut flash collection is forthcoming from Reflex Press, and links to her stories are at <https://coffeeandpaneer.wordpress.com>

Saturday 12 September, 2-3 pm

Using the senses: Make your writing come to life with Susmita Bhattacharya

Writers are often told to show not tell, but how can they make their writing come to life when applying this writing rule? This class will focus on using senses to improve and develop your writing with tips on when telling works well. The session will include a number of examples and writing exercises.

Susmita Bhattacharya is an Indian-born writer. Her novel, *The Normal State of Mind* (Parthian Books, 2015) was longlisted for the Word to Screen Prize at the Mumbai Film Festival. Her short story collection, *Table Manners* (Dahlia Books, 2018), won the Saboteur Award for best short story collection in 2019 and was featured on BBC Radio 4 Extra. Susmita's work has been featured in many magazines and BBC Radio 4. She also teaches creative writing at universities and to young people in the community, and has judged many short story competitions. She is a mentor on the Middle Way Mentoring programme and is a part of the UpClose Editing Services. She lives in Winchester.

Saturday 19 September, 2-3 pm

Getting your Short Stories Published with Rebecca Burns

This class will focus on getting your short stories published. We'll be looking at how to identify short story markets, using a submissions portal to discover opportunities, following submission guidelines and tips on polishing your work for publication.

Rebecca Burns is a novelist and short-story writer. Her two short story collections, *Catching the Barramundi* and *The Settling Earth*, were longlisted for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the UK's only award for short story collections. Rebecca also writes historical fiction - her novels *The Bishop's Girl* and *Beyond the Bay* were published in 2016 and 2018. *Quilaq* from *Next Chapter* is her latest work.

Saturday 26 September, 2-3 pm

Using Research in Short Stories with CG Menon,

This class will focus on how to use research to illuminate and improve your short fiction. We'll be looking at different research methods, at how to find the best sources, and at how to transform your research findings into compelling, credible short stories.

Catherine Menon is the author of *Fragile Monsters*, which will be published by Viking in 2021. Her debut short story collection, *Subjunctive Moods*, was published by Dahlia Publishing in 2018. She has a PhD in pure mathematics and an MA in creative writing from City University, for which she won the annual prize. She's won or been shortlisted in a number of competitions, including the Fish, Bridport, Bare Fiction, Willesden Herald, Asian Writer, Leicester Writes, Winchester Writers Festival and Short Fiction Journal awards.