

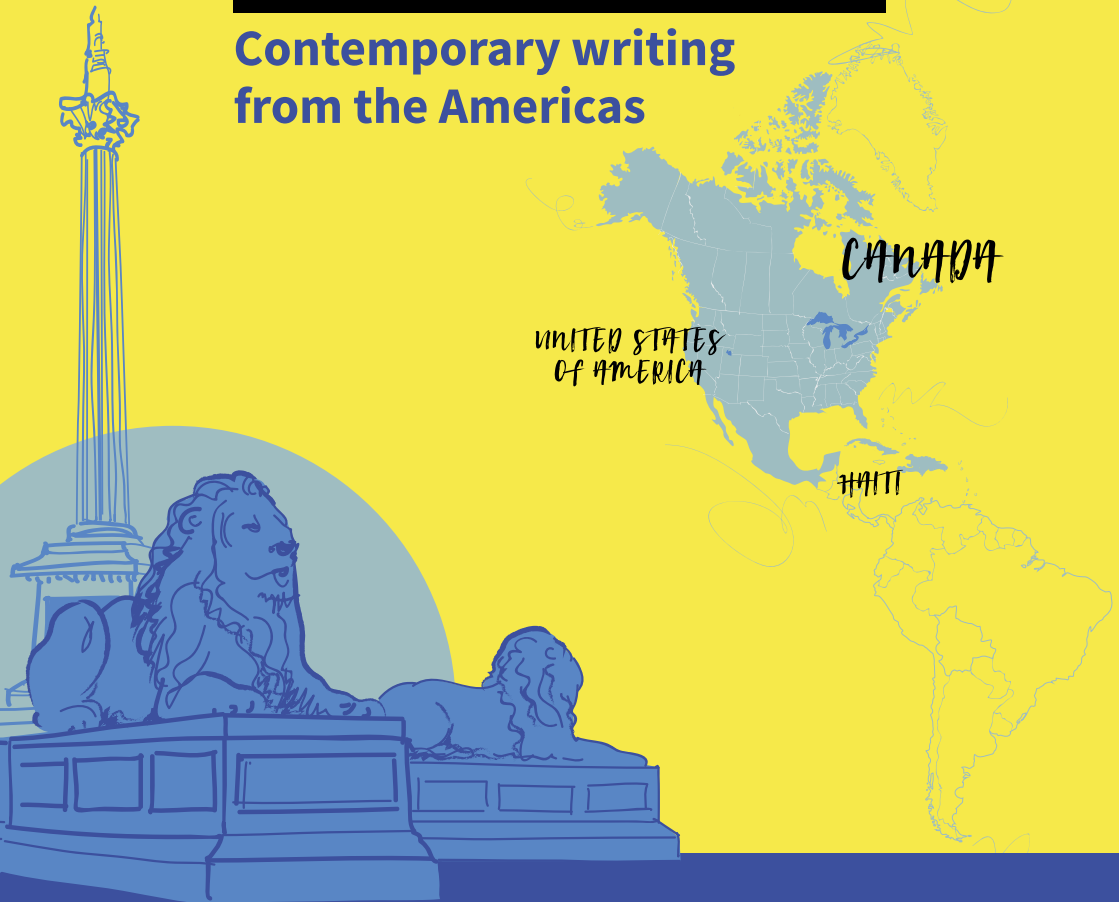


*FESTIVAL*

**AMERICA**

**24th – 27th September 2018**

**Contemporary writing  
from the Americas**



Presented by **LIVE LIT**

**[festivalamerica.co.uk](http://festivalamerica.co.uk)**

# LIVE LIT

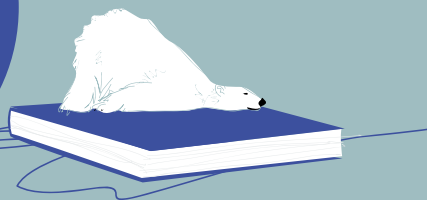
Presents

## Festival America in London

24th – 27th September 2018  
At venues around Trafalgar Square

Bookselling partner

Waterstones  
Trafalgar Square



Books available in English in the UK will be on sale

MILD

LIVE LIT



DULWICH BOOKS

Save the date

**Dulwich Literary Festival**  
9th – 11th November 2018  
at Dulwich College and other venues  
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020 7405 7422

Welcome to



Welcome to Festival America – inaugural London edition, September 2018

We live in dark times. The world appears to be dislocating, with new forces in power and new allegiances being formed at both high and grassroots levels. As Britain continues its preparations for Brexit and the world appears to be retreating from its hard-won 20th century compact, our relationships with Europe and the Americas remain crucial for writers, readers, and audiences alike, the entire fragile global ecosystem of literature. 2018, therefore, is the ideal moment for London to provide a satellite for the much-lauded Festival America, founded in Vincennes in 2002. A large group of writers from across the continent will visit their French publishers and readers, and we are delighted that a contingent will travel on to London.

The range of voices and themes is exceptionally rich. There is darkness, dystopia and despair, from authors such as Michael Farris Smith, John Vigna, Cherie Dimaline and Jennie Melamed; there is crime, poverty and systemic collapse, from authors such as Tommy Orange, Omar El Akkad, Ivy Pochoda and Andrée Michaud. But there are also moments of high comedy from Patrick DeWitt, Nathan Hill, Ben Markowitz and Jonathan Ames, and lighter-hearted, serious-minded narratives from Heather O'Neill and Emma Hooper.

Society, the role of women and the American Dream are under scrutiny from Brad Watson, Nancy Lee, Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott, Brit Bennett and Sarah Churchwell. For sheer narrative arabesques and invention look no further than four exceptional Canadian writers Christian Guay-Poliquin, Guillaume Morissette, Eric Plamondon and Michael Redhill.

And for serious weight and a historical view, we have the much-garlanded Canadian champion author Guy Vanderhaeghe, as well as the announcement of the Cundill Prize for History at a gala event headlined by British historian Peter Frankopan, and we welcome the outstanding Académie Française member Dany Laferrière, whose novel *The Enigma of the Return* encapsulates the exile's perpetual paradox.

With the support of our UK, US, Canada, Québec and French partners we are looking forward to a magical few days around Trafalgar Square in late September. Do join us.

Director of Festival America in London  
and CEO of the MILD Group, July 2018

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**Tuesday 3rd July**

**18.30**

### **There There**

**Celebrating the launch of Tommy Orange's début novel**

*'There There drops on us like a thunderclap; the big, booming, explosive sound of 21st century literature finally announcing itself. Essential.'* - Marlon James, Man Booker Prize-winning author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings*.

**Tommy Orange's** first novel is set in Oakland, California, a place of which Gertrude Stein said 'there is no there there'. Highly ambitious and polyphonic, it unites a disparate group of people as they converge on a pow wow, with dynamic results. *There There* was an instant bestseller in the USA on its first publication, garnering ecstatic and widespread review coverage, and we are delighted that Tommy will be in conversation with his French editor **Francis Geffard**, founder of the original Paris edition of Festival America.

**Venue: Waterstones Trafalgar Square (see VENUES)**

**Price: £5, from [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)**

**Monday 24th September**

**19.00**

### **The World Is Moving: A Celebration of French Caribbean Culture**

Elected to the Académie Française in 2013, Montreal-based Haitian writer **Dany Laferrière** is coming to the UK for the Festival America in London. In partnership with Festival America, the British Library, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Québec Government Office in London, this French Caribbean evening will be an exceptional opportunity to hear Dany Laferrière talk about his writing and in particular *The Enigma of the Return* (MacLehose Press). The talk will be followed by a book signing and a music session. Guadeloupian drummer and composer Arnaud Dolmen will perform with pianist Leonardo Montana, after an introduction to 'jazz creole' from journalist Kevin Legendre.

**Venue: Institut Français (see VENUES)**

**Price: £10**

Book tickets at [festivalamerica.co.uk](http://festivalamerica.co.uk)

# COMMONWEALTH WRITERS

12.00

## Canadian women from West to East

Cherie Dimaline, Nancy Lee and Andrée Michaud

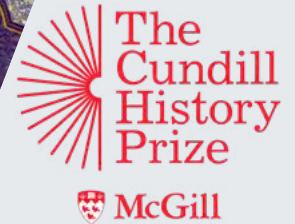
in conversation with Leslie Hurtig

**Cherie** is from the Métis community and her book *The Marrow Thieves* explores a world in which ethnic minorities have their bone marrow harvested to heal the white races; **Nancy** is from Vancouver and her stories in *Dead Girls* skewer women in all their guises; **Andrée** is French-speaking Québécois and her latest book *The Last Summer* is an elegaic tribute to teenage beauty. They are all sassy and wise and exciting, bringing stories from the dystopian and the dark side to this event hosted by the director of the Vancouver Writers Fest, Leslie Hurtig.

**Venue:** Marlborough House (see VENUES)

**Price:** £5 including drinks and nibbles

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to Marlborough House requires prior registration. Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance



17.00

## Cundill History Prize shortlist 2018 announcement

Peter Frankopan, Mark Gilbert and Antonia Maioni

Run by McGill University in Montreal, the international Cundill History Prize rewards the best history writing in English. Chosen by an eminent jury of world-leading historians, the shortlist to be revealed at Festival America will represent the finest history books of the year. Please join **Antonia Maioni**, Dean of Arts at McGill University, **Mark Gilbert**, Chair of the Jury, and the juror **Peter Frankopan**, author of *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*, to celebrate works of outstanding historical scholarship that are also fantastic reads.

The announcement will be followed by a short reception hosted by the **High Commission of Canada in the UK** for which all ticket-holders are welcome to stay.

**Venue:** Canada House (see VENUES)

**Price:** £5



**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to Canada House requires photo ID; please allow sufficient time for security checks. Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance.

Tuesday 25th September

18.30

## Exploring the violent underbelly of North America

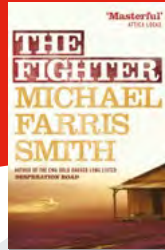
Michael Farris Smith, Ivy Pochoda and John Vigna

in conversation with Karen Sullivan

These fierce and vivid writers – **Michael Farris Smith**, author of the brutal and brutalising *The Fighter*, **Ivy Pochoda**, author of the shimmering *Wonder Valley*, and **John Vigna**, author of the linked stories *Bull Head* - take you viscerally into a world of violence and disorder and will be discussing crime, social conditions, drivers such as poverty, deprivation and displacement with one of the UK's leading publishers of crime fiction, **Karen Sullivan** of Orenda Books, who is herself Canadian.

**Venue:** Waterstones Trafalgar Square (see VENUES)

**Price:** £5



19.30

## Are all happy families really the same?

Patrick DeWitt and Ben Markovits

in conversation with Lisa Appignanesi

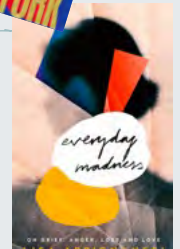
**Patrick DeWitt**, shortlisted for many awards including the Man Booker Prize, the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award, returns on sparkling form with *French Exit*, a wonderful novel of manners, a tragic comedy that travels from New York City to Paris.

**Ben Markovits'** Essinger family, the focus of *A Weekend in New York*, gathers for the US Open to see a beloved scion play for the final time.

These two brilliant and dazzling novelists take us from North America to Paris and back again, in keeping with our Festival America transatlantic themes. They will be in conversation with Canadian-born **Lisa Appignanesi**, whose most recent book *Everyday Madness* also grapples with themes of death, grief and love.

**Venue:** Canada House (see VENUES)

**Price:** £5 or £30 including hard back copies of *French Exit* and *Weekend in New York*



**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to Canada House requires photo ID; please allow sufficient time for security checks. Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance.





19.00

## Highballs and high society

Jonathan Ames and Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott

in conversation with Matt Gilbert

**Jonathan Ames** is the creator of TV series including *Blunt Talk* and *Bored to Death*; he is also the author of the novel *You Were Never Really Here*, made into a movie starring Joaquin Phoenix. His 1998 novel *The Extra Man* riffs on New York high society and is a tale of friendship and frustration, cocktails and cross-dressing.

**Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott's** novel *Swan Song* portrays Truman Capote and his betrayal of the women he appeared to need and adore – his Swans, inhabitants of the upper East Side who gave him an entrée and their trust. Join us for an evening of high society and low gossip, and our special Festival America cocktail.

**Venue:** Dulwich Books (see VENUES)

**Price:** £10 including cocktails

Wednesday 26th September



13.00

## Myths, moods and melodies

Christian Guay-Poliquin, Nancy Lee, Emma Hooper

in conversation with Lennie Goodings

**Christian Guay-Poliquin's** third novel *Running on Fumes* electrified the Québécois literary community with its lyrical blend of mythology, contemporary issues and road movie. His second, *The Weight of Snow*, similarly takes us through an apocalyptic landscape and won a major Canadian award, the Governor General's Award for a novel in French. He is joined by **Emma Hooper**, who now lives in Bath and whose most recent novel *Our Homesick Songs* is set in Newfoundland in 1992. Together with **Nancy Lee** from Vancouver they will be discussing their writing with **Lennie Goodings**, co-founder of Virago Press and highly cherished Canadian literary ex-pat in London.

**Venue:** Canada House (see VENUES)

**Price:** £5



**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to Canada House requires photo ID; please allow sufficient time for security checks.

Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance.

18.30

**North America today: Black Lives Matter, terrorism and contemporary politics**

**Brit Bennett, Omar El Akkad and Nathan Hill**

**in conversation with Erica Wagner**

Three of the most powerful contemporary voices from the USA and Canada take to the stage with **Erica Wagner**, herself an important writer now based in London. **Nathan Hill's** *The Nix* garnered ecstatic reviews on UK publication, earning him comparisons to Dickens and John Irving; **Brit Bennett's** *The Mothers* explores big secrets in a small community; and **Omar El Akkad's** haunting post-apocalyptic *American War* has been compared to Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. Join them for an explosive discussion of contemporary America.

**Venue: Waterstones Trafalgar Square (see VENUES)**

**Price: £5**



18.30

**Leading Canadian prize-winning authors**

**Michael Redhill, Heather O'Neill and Guy Vanderhaeghe**

**in conversation with Georgina Godwin**

Canada has a rich and heterogenous culture of literary prizes, as befits such a vast landmass. We are privileged to host three of the most important writers in the contemporary literary firmament: **Michael Redhill**, winner of the 2017 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his audacious and inventive novel *Bellevue Square*, Montreal author **Heather O'Neill**, author of *The Lonely Hearts Hotel* and a judge of this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize, and the winner of many prizes in her own right, and **Guy Vanderhaeghe**, one of the most distinguished and garlanded writers in Canada today. They will discuss and read from their work, and how they see the role of the writer in the global ecology of books.

**Venue: Canada House (see VENUES)**

**Price: £5 or £20 including paperbacks of Bellevue Square and The Lonely Hearts Hotel**



**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to Canada House requires photo ID; please allow sufficient time for security checks. Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance.

Thursday 27th September

13.00

## Liberated by invention: crossing genres and speculative fiction

Jennie Melamed, Eric Plamondon and Omar El Akkad

For fans of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Power*, **Jennie Melamed** has written a stunning debut speculative tale of female empowerment. **Eric Plamondon**, born in Québec, weaves together a dazzling narrative of stories including those of Johnny Weissmuller, Al Capone and Fidel Castro, darting around in time and space; and **Omar El Akkad's** *American War* is dizzying in both form and content. Spice up your lunchtime with these stimulating and exciting writers.

Venue: Canada House (see VENUES)

Price: £5



**IMPORTANT:** Photo ID required

18.30

## Investigating language as the basis of culture

Guillaume Morissette, Christian Guay-Poliquin and Cherie Dimaline



**Guillaume Morissette** is a young and dynamic Québécois author whose new book *The Original Face* tells the story of a struggling digital artist facing up to the anxieties of the internet age. **Christian Guay-Poliquin**, also from Québec, is the author of *Running on Fumes*, which was recently translated into English - a disquieting tale of survival set in an apocalyptic Canada without electricity. They will be in conversation with Georgian Bay Métis author **Cherie Dimaline** whose first novel *The Marrow Thieves* is a dystopia centered on the Indigenous peoples of North America - a deeply symbolic story in which the Natives are the only people who retain the ability to dream. These three authors all master language to express different ideas and themes, and they will discuss the impact of language on culture.

The discussion will be followed by a reception hosted by the **Québec Government Office in London** for which all ticket-holders are welcome to stay.

Venue: Québec Government Office in London (see VENUES)

Price: £5

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that admission to this venue requires prior registration. Tickets cannot be bought on the door and must be purchased in advance



18.30

## Living a long & happy life - the American Dream

Brad Watson and Sarah Churchwell



**Brad Watson** is a much-admired and widely read American author from the South. His life story itself is almost a novel, and he has written short stories and longer narratives over the course of many decades. *Miss Jane*, which was shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize Award in 2017, is an exceptionally beautiful and moving narrative of a girl child born without defining sex characteristics at the beginning of the 20th century, meaning that marriage and childbearing - the two roles deemed suitable for women - were closed to her. This novel explores the nature of gender, sexuality, society, community and nature in the context of the USA throughout the last century.

**Sarah Churchwell** is Professor of American Literature and Public Understanding at the University of London and, most recently, the author of *Behold America: A History of America First and the American Dream*.

These two exceptional writers will discuss the great American 20th Century and how women such as Miss Jane contributed to it, and how it shaped them.

Venue: Waterstones Trafalgar Square (see VENUES)

Price: £5



## Artists

### Jonathan Ames

Tuesday 25th September 19.00



Jonathan Ames is the author of nine books including *Wake Up, Sir!* and *You Were Never Really Here*, both published by Pushkin Press. He also created the hit HBO comedy *Bored to Death*, starring Ted Danson, Zach Galifianakis and Jason Schwartzman, and *Blunt Talk*, starring Patrick Stewart. He has fought in two amateur boxing matches as “The Herring Wonder”. He lives in Los Angeles.

Tuesday 25th September 19.30

### Lisa Appignanesi



Lisa Appignanesi OBE is a prize-winning writer, novelist, cultural commentator, and Chair of the Royal Society of Literature. She was born in Poland, brought up in Paris and Montreal, came to the UK as a graduate student and lives in London. She was for many years Chair of the Freud Museum London and President of English PEN. She is a Visiting Professor in Literature and Medical Humanities at King's College London and was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in recognition of her contribution to literature.

### Brit Bennett

Wednesday 26th September 18.30



Born and raised in Southern California, Brit Bennett graduated from Stanford University and later earned her MFA in fiction at the University of Michigan, where she won a Hopwood Award in Graduate Short Fiction as well as the 2014 Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers. Her work is featured in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Paris Review*, and *Jezebel*. She is one of the National Book Foundation's 2016 5 Under 35 honorees.

Thursday 27th September 18.30

### Sarah Churchwell



Sarah Churchwell is Professor in American Literature and Chair of Public Understanding of the Humanities at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. She has judged many literary prizes, including the 2014 Man Booker Prize and the 2017 Baillie Gifford Prize for nonfiction, and she was a co-winner of the 2015 Eccles British Library Writer's Award. Her new book, *Behold, America: A History of America First and the American Dream*, was published by Bloomsbury in spring 2018 and will be published in the US in the autumn.

### Patrick DeWitt

Tuesday 25th September 19.30



Patrick deWitt is the author of Man Booker Prize-shortlisted *The Sisters Brothers*, which won the Governor General's Award and was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize. He is also the author of *Ablutions* and *Undermajordomo Minor*. The *Sisters Brothers* film by Jacques Audiard, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Joaquin Phoenix and Riz Ahmed, will be released in autumn 2018.

Tuesday 25th Sept 12.00 and Thursday 27th Sept 18.30

### Cherie Dimaline



Cherie Dimaline is a writer and editor from the Georgian Bay Métis Community in Ontario who has published 4 books of short stories, literary fiction and young adult fiction. Her latest book, *The Marrow Thieves*, won the 2017 Governor General's Award and the prestigious Kirkus Prize for Young Readers. Cherie currently lives in Toronto, Ontario where she coordinates the annual Indigenous Writers' Gathering. She recently signed a 4-book deal with Penguin Random House and writes for TV.

### Omar El Akkad

Wednesday 26th Sept 18.30 and Thursday 27th Sept 13.00



Omar El Akkad is an award-winning journalist and author who has travelled around the world to cover many of the most important news stories of the last decade. His reporting includes dispatches from the NATO-led war in Afghanistan, the military trials at Guantanamo Bay, the Arab Spring revolution in Egypt and the Black Lives Matter movement in Ferguson, Missouri. He is a recipient of a National Newspaper Award for investigative reporting and the Goff Penny Memorial Prize for Young Journalists, as well as three National Magazine Award honorable mentions. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Tuesday 25th September 18.30

### Michael Farris Smith



Michael Farris Smith is the award-winning author of *Rivers*, *The Hands of Strangers* and *Desperation Road*. *Rivers* was named in numerous Best Books of the Year lists and garnered the 2014 Mississippi Author Award for Fiction. *Desperation Road* was longlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger 2017. Michael's short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and his essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Writer's Bone*, and more. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife and two daughters.

### Peter Frankopan

Tuesday 25th September 17.00



Peter Frankopan, juror for the 2018 Cundill History Prize, is Professor of Global History at Oxford University, where he is founding Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College. He has been Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Fellow in Hellenic Studies at Princeton, Scaliger Visiting Professor at Leiden and Presidential Scholar at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. His most recent book, *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* has been described as ‘magnificent’ (*Sunday Times*) and ‘dazzling’ (*Guardian*).

Tuesday 25th September 17.00

### Mark Gilbert



Mark Gilbert is Professor of History and International Studies at the Bologna campus of the School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University. Gilbert is primarily a scholar of contemporary European, Italian and British political history. His most recent book, co-authored with P.M.H. Bell, is *The World Since 1945*. Gilbert is associate editor of the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* and is a frequent commentator on Italian and European politics.

### Matt Gilbert

Tuesday 25th September 19.00



Matt Gilbert is a copywriter who also writes about books, place and other diversions on his blog *Richly Evocative*.

Wednesday 26th September 18.30

## Georgina Godwin

Georgina Godwin is an independent broadcast journalist. A regular chair of literary events worldwide, she's the voice of the Arts Podcast for The British Council. She is also Books Editor for Monocle 24 and presenter of the in-depth author interview show "Meet the Writers". She is a frequent host of the award winning current affairs programme "The Globalist" and a commentator on Southern African politics. She was a founder member of SWRadio Africa, Zimbabwe's first independent radio station (for which she was deemed "an enemy of the state" and banned from the country of her birth), and of the Harare International Festival of the Arts.



## Lennie Goodings

Wednesday 26th September 13.00

Lennie Goodings is Chair at Virago Press where she is editor of, among others, Marilynne Robinson, Sarah Waters, Naomi Wolf, Sarah Dunant, Margaret Atwood. She is Canadian and has lived in London for years. She is writing a book, *The Idealistic Publisher*, for Oxford University Press.



Tuesday 25th September 19.00

## Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott

Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott was born and raised in Houston, Texas, before coming to call Los Angeles and London her adopted homes. She is a graduate of UEA's Creative Writing MA course and was the winner of the Bridport Prize Peggy Chapman-Andrews Award. *Swan Song* is her first novel.



## Christian Guay-Poliquin

Wed 26th Sept 13.00 and Thurs 27th Sept 18.30

Christian Guay-Poliquin was born just north of the U.S. border in Québec, in 1982. He believes that the art of narrative is grounded in the demands and details of our daily life and situated in a world shaped by experience. His second novel, *Le poids de la neige* has won several awards in Canada, including the Governor General's Award, and is currently being translated in ten different countries.



Wednesday 26th September 18.30

## Nathan Hill

Nathan Hill was born in Iowa in 1975 and lives with his wife in Naples, Florida. *The Nix* is his first novel.



## Emma Hooper

Wednesday 26th September 13.00

Emma Hooper is an author, musician and academic. Her debut novel, *Etta and Otto and Russell and James*, has been published in 23 territories and 18 languages. Her next book, *Our Homesick Songs*, will be published by Penguin Canada in 2018. Her viola-accordion-saw-and-loop-pedal solo act Waitress For The Bees has earned her a Finnish Cultural knighthood and her quartet Stringbeans have performed with Peter Gabriel, The Heavy, Newton Faulkner and many others. She teaches pop-music sociology at Bath Spa university. Although Emma lives in the UK, she visits home in Alberta to cross-country ski as often as she can.



## Leslie Hurtig

Tuesday 25th September 12.00

Leslie Hurtig is the Artistic Director of the Vancouver Writers Fest. She was born into a house of books and has made her career from various points within Canada's book industry. Hurtig has worked for some of Canada's best bookstores, acted as a sales representative and publicist for some of North America's great publishers, and worked as a foreign rights and contracts manager at Raincoast Books. She sat on the Vancouver Writers Fest's Board of Directors for 18 years, filling many roles. When not at work, Leslie can be found at play with her three sons, two cats, one dog and husband.



Monday 24th September 19.00

## Dany Laferrière

On 12th December 2013 Dany Laferrière was appointed to the Académie française. Laferrière was born in Port-au-Prince and spent his childhood with his grand-mother in Petit-Goâve. In 1976 he fled dictatorship in Haiti to go to Québec, where he started to write, working on his first novel *How to Make Love to a Negro without being Tired* (1985). His *American Autobiography* soon made him the representative of a generation which would revolutionize the writing of fiction. In 2018 he published *Autoportrait de Paris avec Chat*; a 320-page book which was entirely hand-drawn. In total Laferrière has published 30 books that have been translated into more than 15 languages.



## Nancy Lee

Tuesday 25th Sept 12.00 and Wednesday 26th Sept 13.00

Lee's work has been published in the U.K., France, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. She has served as Visiting Canadian Fellow for the University of East Anglia, as well as Writer-in-Residence for Historic Joy Kogawa House, the City of Richmond and the Ville de Vincennes, France. A dedicated creative writing teacher, Nancy has taught fiction writing to students of all ages and backgrounds in Canada, the U.K. and France, and now holds the position of Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. She is also the co-creator of the popular three-part EdX online education series, *How to Write a Novel*.



Tuesday 25th September 17.00

## Antonia Maioni

Antonia Maioni is the Dean of Arts at McGill University, which runs the Cundill History Prize. She holds a B.A. from Université Laval, an M.A. from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University. As Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Institute for Health and Social Policy, she previously served as Associate Vice-Principal for Research and International Relations (2015-2016), and Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (2001-2011).



## Ben Markovits

Tuesday 25th September 19.30

Benjamin Markovits grew up in Texas, London and Berlin. He is the author of seven previous novels, including *You Don't Have to Live Like This*, which won the 2015 James Tait Black Prize. He has written essays, stories, poetry and reviews for the Guardian, Granta, the Paris Review and the New York Times among other publications. In 2013 he was chosen as one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists. He lives in London and teaches creative writing at Royal Holloway, University of London.





## Jennie Melamed

Thursday 27th September 13.00

Jennie Melamed is a psychiatric nurse practitioner who specialises in working with traumatised children. She lives in Seattle. *Gather The Daughters* is her first novel.

Tuesday 25th Sept 12.00

## Andrée Michaud

Andrée A. Michaud is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the recipient of the Arthur Ellis Award and the Prix Saint-Pacôme for Best Crime Novel for *Bondrée* (published in the UK as *The Last Summer*), as well as the 2006 Prix Ringuelet for *Mirror*. As she has done since her very first novel, Michaud fashions an eminently personal work that never ceases to garner praise from critics and avid mystery readers alike.



## Guillaume Morissette

Thursday 27th September 18.30

Guillaume Morissette is the author of *The Original Face*, one of The Globe And Mail's best books for 2017, and *New Tab*, a finalist for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award. Both books have been translated and published in French by Éditions du Boréal. His work has appeared in *Maison-neuve Magazine*, *Vice*, *Electric Literature*, *The Millions*, *The Walrus*, *Nouveau Projet*, *Funhouse Magazine*, *The Quietus* & many other publications. He lives in Montreal.

Wednesday 26th September 18.30

## Heather O'Neill

Heather O'Neill has written for *This American Life* and the *New York Times*. Her first novel, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, was shortlisted for the Orange Women's Prize; her second, *The Girl who was Saturday Night*, was longlisted for the Baileys Women's Fiction Prize, and shortlisted for the Giller Prize. Her collection of short stories, *Daydreams of Angels*, won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and was also shortlisted for the Giller Prize. *The Lonely Hearts Hotel* was published in February 2017. She lives in Montreal with her daughter and a chihuahua named Hamlet.



## Tommy Orange

Tuesday 3rd July 18.30

Tommy Orange was born and raised in Oakland, California. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He currently teaches at the MFA programme at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Thursday 27th September 13.00

## Eric Plamondon

Éric Plamondon was born in Québec in 1969 and currently lives in Bordeaux. He is the author of the 1984 trilogy quickly considered shining examples of a new generation of Québécois literary innovation. His last novel, *Taqawan* (published in Europe by Quidam éditeur), is highly praised by booksellers and the press.



Tuesday 25th September 18.30

## Ivy Pochoda

Ivy Pochoda is a novelist and writer, previously a world ranked squash player. Her novel *Visitation Street* was chosen as an Amazon Best Book of 2013 and a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. She has written for a number of outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books* and *The Huffington Post*. She teaches creative writing at the Lamp Arts Studio in Skid Row. Ivy will be in the UK in September to coincide with the publication of *Wonder Valley*, her third novel.



## Michael Redhill

Wednesday 26th September 18.30



Michael Redhill is the author of the novels *Consolation*, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and *Martin Sloane*, a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. He's written a novel for young adults, four collections of poetry and two plays, including the internationally celebrated *Goodness*. He also writes a series of crime novels under the name Inger Ash Wolfe. His most recent novel, *Bellevue Square*, won the 2017 Giller Prize. Michael lives in Toronto.

Wednesday 26th September 18.30

## Guy Vanderhaeghe

Guy Vanderhaeghe is the author of five novels, four collections of short stories, two plays, and one teleplay. He is a three-time winner of the Governor General's Award for English language fiction for his collections of short stories, *Man Descending* and *Daddy Lenin*, and for his novel *The Englishman's Boy*. He has also received the Timothy Findley Prize and the Harbourfront Literary Prize, both for a body of work. Guy Vanderhaeghe is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.



## John Vigna

Tuesday 25th September 18.30



John Vigna is the author of *Bull Head*, selected by Quill & Quire as an editor's pick of the year and finalist for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award. It was published in France by Éditions Albin Michel (*Loin de la violence des hommes*). He is the recipient of the Dave Greber Award for Freelance Writers, winner of the sub-Terrain Lush Triumphant fiction contest and finalist for a Western Magazine Award, the Event creative non-fiction contest, and the CBC literary non-fiction contest. John is an Instructor at the University of British Columbia in the Creative Writing Program and lives in Steveston, BC.

Wednesday 26th September 18.30

## Erica Wagner

Erica Wagner is Consulting Literary Editor for Harper's Bazaar. She was the literary editor of the *Times* for seventeen years and is now a contributing writer for the *New Statesman*, as well as writing for many other publications. She has twice been a judge of the Man Booker Prize. Her most recent book is *Chief Engineer: Washington Roebling, The Man Who Built the Brooklyn Bridge*, now out in paperback.



## Brad Watson

Thursday 27th September 18.30



Brad Watson teaches creative writing at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. His first collection, *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, won the Sue Kaufman Award for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; his first novel, *The Heaven of Mercury*, was shortlisted for the National Book Award, and his second story collection *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives* was shortlisted for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.



## Venues

### Canada House

Trafalgar Square, SW1Y 5BJ

020 7004 6000

[www.canadainternational.gc.ca/united\\_kingdom-royaume\\_uni](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/united_kingdom-royaume_uni)

Canada House is home to the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom

Nearest underground station: Charing Cross, Bakerloo Line or Northern Line



### Waterstones Trafalgar Square

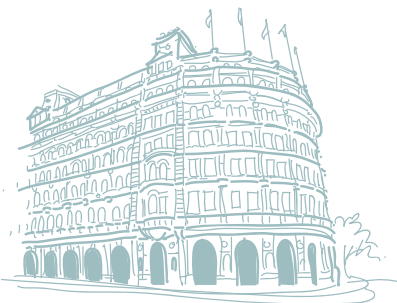
The Grand Building, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5EJ

020 7839 4411

[www.waterstones.com/bookshops/trafalgar-square](http://www.waterstones.com/bookshops/trafalgar-square)

Waterstones Trafalgar Square is situated in the heart of Central London in the shadow of Nelson's Column, under the arches of the Grand Building. We welcome book lovers from London and all over the world.

Nearest underground station: Charing Cross, Bakerloo Line or Northern Line



### Québec Government Office in London

59 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5JH

020 7766 5900

[www.quebec.org.uk](http://www.quebec.org.uk)

Opened in 1962, The Québec Government Office in London works to develop and promote Québec's interests in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Nordic countries in the areas of cultural, economic, public and political affairs.

Nearest underground station: Green Park, Jubilee Line or Victoria Line



### Institut Français

17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT

020 7871 3515

[www.institut-francais.org.uk](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk)

Part of a worldwide network, the Institut Français in London encourages cross-cultural exchange and presents the best of French culture. The Institut welcomes 200,000 people each year, thanks to its wide range of activities extending from film screenings, debates and festivals, to concerts, kids events and French courses.

Nearest underground station: South Kensington, Circle Line, District Line or Northern Line



### Marlborough House

Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HY

020 7930 3783

[www.commonwealthfoundation.com](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com)

The Commonwealth Foundation is an international organisation based at Marlborough House. It is the Commonwealth's agency for Civil Society, supporting people's participation in democracy and development.

Nearest underground station: Green Park, Jubilee Line or Victoria Line



### Dulwich Books

6 Croxted Road, West Dulwich, SE21 8SW

020 8670 1920

[www.dulwichbooks.co.uk](http://www.dulwichbooks.co.uk)

Dulwich Books is an award-winning independent bookshop. Based in West Dulwich on Croxted Road, we have been here for 33 years, serving the community, book lovers and local schools.

Bus: Line 3, to Crystal Palace, stop: Ildersly Grove  
Nearest railway station: West Dulwich, 12 minutes from Victoria station.



## Partners

### Québec Government Office in London

The Québec Government Office in London opened in 1962. Its cultural department works with a far-reaching and diverse range of partners across the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Nordic countries in order to assist the advancement of international partnerships and exchanges with Québec. It also works to create market development, promotional and networking opportunities for Québec artists and companies across all art forms.

[www.quebec.org.uk](http://www.quebec.org.uk)



### British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)



### Cundill History Prize

Run by McGill University in Montreal, the international Cundill History Prize rewards the best history writing in English. Chosen by an eminent jury of world-leading historians, the shortlist to be revealed at Festival America will represent the finest history books of the year.



[www.cundillprize.com](http://www.cundillprize.com)

### Festival America Vincennes

Festival America was established in 2002 by French publisher Francis Geffard, editor of English-language literature at Albin Michel. The idea caught fire among the French literary community and the festival now attracts more than 35,000 attendees to enjoy its biannual programme of readings, exhibitions, screenings and events.

[www.festival-america.com](http://www.festival-america.com)



### No Exit Press

For over 30 years No Exit Press has published award-winning fiction and non-fiction including the work of Canada's Giller Prize winner Michael Redhill, and winner of the Governor General's Award for Fiction The Last Summer by Andrée A. Michaud. Desperation Road by Michael Farris Smith was longlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger 2017.

[www.noexit.co.uk](http://www.noexit.co.uk)



### Waterstones

[www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

Waterstones

### Commonwealth Writers

Commonwealth Writers is the cultural initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation. We work with writers and storytellers across the Commonwealth, both in craft development and providing platforms for their work.

[www.commonwealthwriters.org](http://www.commonwealthwriters.org)



Commonwealth  
Foundation



### Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec



Conseil  
des arts  
et des lettres  
du Québec

The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) supports, throughout Québec, creation, experimentation, production and dissemination in the realms of the visual arts, the arts and crafts, literature, the performing arts, the multidisciplinary arts, cinema and video, the digital arts and architectural research. CALQ also seeks to broaden the influence of artists, writers, arts organizations and their works in Québec, Canada and abroad. [www.calq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.calq.gouv.qc.ca)

### The High Commission of Canada in the UK

Canada

The High Commission of Canada is the base for Canada's diplomatic outreach to the United Kingdom.

Based in Canada House on Trafalgar Square, the High Commission works to advance the close relationship between Canada and UK across the cultural sphere through initiatives led by UK-based arts and cultural organisations and the creative industries in support of Canadian writers, artists, musicians, designers, digital pioneers and performers. Through an ongoing programme of cultural promotion, the High Commission helps Canada's cultural sectors to engage with new audiences across the UK and beyond.

[www.canadainternational.gc.ca](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca)

### Vancouver Writers Fest

Now in its 31st year, The Vancouver Writers Fest brings readers and writers together to reimagine our lives and our world. We encourage readers of all ages to explore the power of storytelling, dialogue and books, through our dozens of events with local and international writers. The Vancouver Writers Fest has year-round events with our flagship festival held the third week of October, attracting over 16,000 attendees.

[www.writersfest.bc.ca](http://www.writersfest.bc.ca)



### Granta

GRANTA

Granta, which celebrates its 40th birthday in 2019, is Britain's most prestigious literary magazine. The magazine is published four times a year, bringing together the best new fiction, reportage, memoir, poetry and photography from around the world.

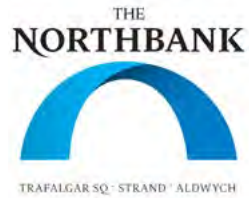
[www.grantabooks.com](http://www.grantabooks.com)



## The Northbank

The Northbank is London's riverside cultural quarter and an important part of the internationally famous West End. It is a centre for world class cultural institutions, educational excellence and outstanding business; attracting visitors from across the world with a vibrant programme of theatre shows, events and exhibitions.

[www.thenorthbank.london](http://www.thenorthbank.london)



## Canadian Council of Arts

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.



Canada Council  
for the Arts

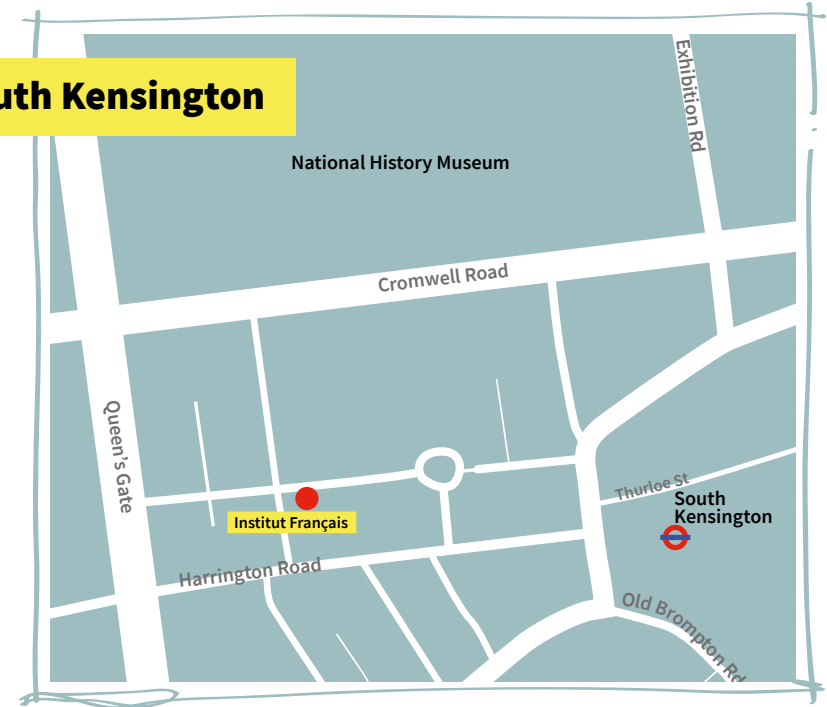
Conseil des arts  
du Canada

## Institut Français

Part of a worldwide network, the Institut Français in London encourages cross-cultural exchange and presents the best of French culture. The Institut welcomes 200,000 people each year, thanks to its wide range of activities extending from film screenings, debates and festivals, to concerts, kids events and French courses.

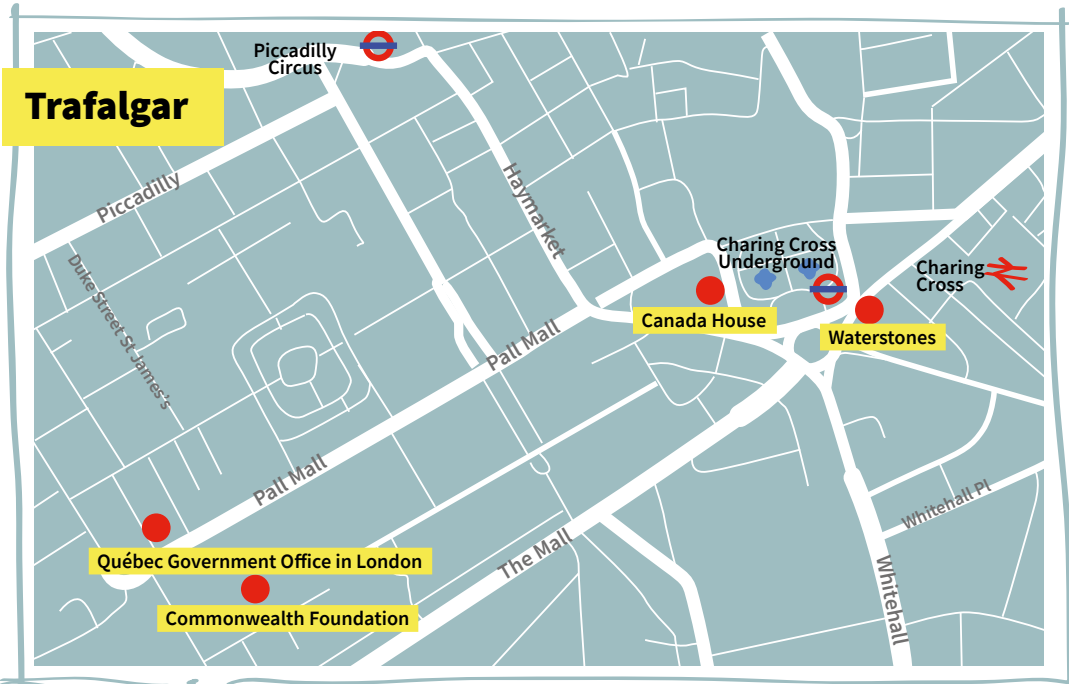
[www.institut-francais.org.uk](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk)

## South Kensington

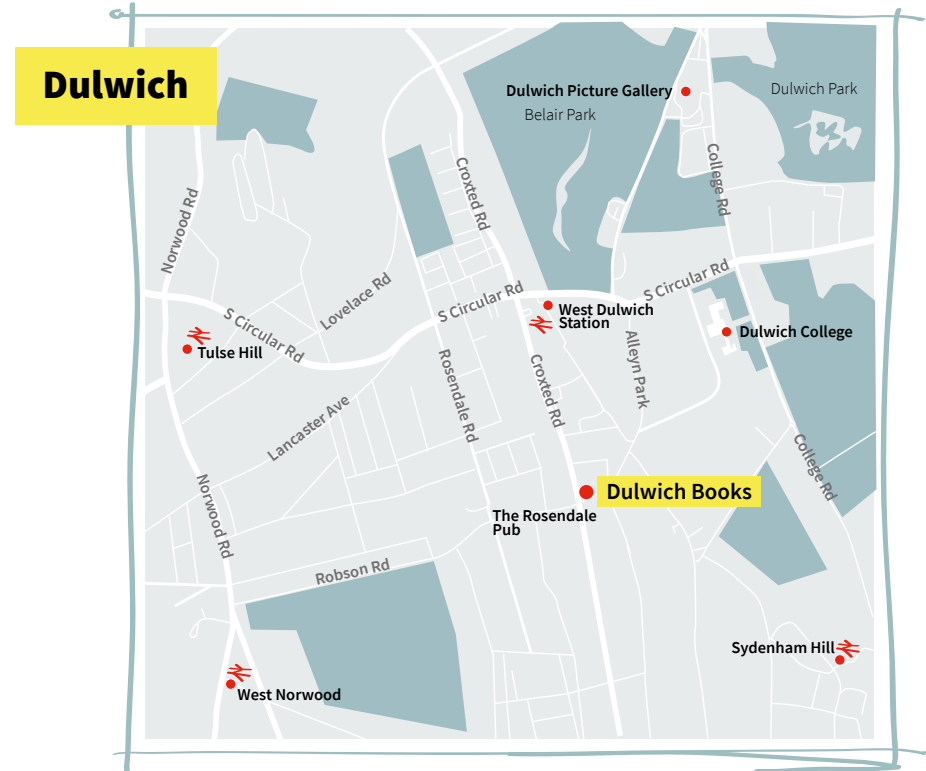


## Maps

### Trafalgar



### Dulwich





## How to book

Tickets can be booked online at **[festivalamerica.co.uk](http://festivalamerica.co.uk)**

All online ticketing is done through Eventbrite.

If you would prefer to book over the phone then please call Dulwich Books on **020 8670 1920**.

Please note that we are unable to refund tickets except when an event is cancelled.

Book and ticket combination deals are only available in advance and are not valid on the day of the event

The contents of this programme are accurate at the time of print in July 2018.

**f festival america**    **t @festivalamericaldn**

**[festivalamerica.co.uk](http://festivalamerica.co.uk)**