
British Literature Lecture Series

This series of four lectures (will explore a range of topics related to British literature. Well-known writers associated with Kingston Writing School and Kingston University will read excerpts from their work, and engage with audiences in a relaxed atmosphere of stimulating critical reflection.

The lecture series will take place at Polis Art Café (Book Arcade, 5 Pasmazoglou Street, 105 64 Athens) at 11.00. Admission is free.

Saturday, 6 June 2015, 11.00

Discussion with KJ Orr, Ed Docx and Linda Cracknell

KJ Orr is a short fiction writer, whose work has been widely published, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and shortlisted for numerous awards, including the BBC National Short Story Award. She has worked as a writing mentor in London, published critical work and interviews on the short story and is completing a PhD on the form. She is a graduate of the MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her collection, *Light Box*, is due to be published in 2016.

Edward Docx is a British writer who lives and works in London. He has taught Arvon courses and Guardian masterclasses. His first novel, *The Calligrapher*, was cited by the San Francisco Chronicle as a best book of the year (2004) and was a finalist in The William Saroyan Prize and The Guilford. It has been translated into eight languages. His second novel, *Self Help in the UK and Pravda in the US*, won The Geoffrey Faber Prize and was long-listed for the Man Booker. Amazon (USA) listed *Pravda* as one of the best books of the year (2008), and The Hay Festival committee named Docx as one of the 21 most gifted young writers from around the world. His third novel, *The Devil's Garden*, has recently been published.

Linda Cracknell published *Doubling Back: Ten Paths Trodden in Memory* in May 2014. Narrative non-fiction that explores the relationship between landscape, walking and memory, the book has been described as 'a winning combination of memoir, travelogue and literary meditation' and was broadcast in abridged form as BBC Radio Four's Book of the Week. She also writes fiction – two collections of short stories, which are in print, and a novel, *Call of the Undertow* – and radio drama. She teaches creative writing in many settings and is currently writer in residence at a children's hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland. You can visit her website at www.lindacracknell.com.

Saturday, 13 June 2015, 11.00

Discussion with Howard Cunnell and AJ Hartley

Dr Howard Cunnell is a novelist, short story writer and academic. He has a PhD from the University of London and has been a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Sussex. He is the author of the novels *Marine Boy* (2008) and *The Sea on Fire* (2012), which the Guardian described as 'mapping new noir territory'. Dr Cunnell is the editor of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road – The Original Scroll* (2007), called by the New York Times 'the living version for our time'. Writer-in-residence with the Kingston Writing School, he is currently completing a memoir, *Hard to Love*, and *Whitman*, a collection of short stories.

A.J. Hartley is the New York Times and USA Today best-selling author of books in a variety of genres. His thrillers include *The Mask of Atreus*, *On The Fifth Day*, *What Time Devours* and *Tears of the Jaguar*, all of which have been translated into almost thirty languages worldwide. His fantasy adventure series (*Act of Will* and *Will Power*), centering on eighteen-year-old actor, Will Hawthorne, was first published by Tor. With David Hewson, he is the co-author of *Macbeth, a Novel*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's play written specially for audio, voiced by Alan Cumming, nominated for a 2012 Audie in the Best Original Work category and published as a conventional book in spring 2012.

Saturday, 20 June 2015, 11.00

Discussion with Francesca Kay and Winsome Pinnock

Francesca Kay is an award-winning writer of fiction. Her first novel, *An Equal Stillness*, was serialised on BBC Radio, won the Orange Award for New Writers and was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' prize and the Authors' Club First Novel Award. Her second, *The Translation of the Bones*, was long-listed for the Orange Prize in 2012. Both books have been translated into several languages, including Chinese. She won an Asham prize for her short story *Holding the Baby*. Her third novel, *Starveling*, will be published by Faber & Faber in 2016.

Winsome Pinnock is a scriptwriter whose plays include *Taken*, *Leave Taking*, *Talking in Tongues* and *One Under*. Her plays have been produced at the Royal Court Theatre, Royal National Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith and Soho Theatre in London, in San Francisco (Magic Theatre), Los Angeles (Ahmandson Theatre), and in Jamaica and Australia. Prizes include the George Devine Award, Unity Theatre Award and Pearson Plays on Stage Award. She was runner-up for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She was Senior Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and worked as a Script Editor for BBC television. She has also written for radio and television, and has taught with the Royal Court's International Department. She is currently Head of Department for Creative Writing at Kingston University.

Saturday, 27 June 2015, 11.00

Discussion with Jonathan Gibbs and Ahren Warner

Jonathan Gibbs is a novelist, academic and critic. His novel *Randall, or The Painted Grape*, was published last year by Galley Beggar Press and is also available/forthcoming in Dutch and French. His short fiction has appeared in publications such as *The Barcelona Review*, *The Best British Short Stories 2014* and *Gorse*. He has taught creative writing at the University of East Anglia and has written on books for the *Independent*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement* and elsewhere.

Ahren Warner is the Poetry Editor of *Poetry London*, the leading independent poetry magazine in the UK, and a Research Associate with the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts. His books include *Confer* (2011) and *Pretty* (2013). He is the recipient of an Arts Foundation Fellowship, a Society of Authors Eric Gregory Award and two Poetry Book Society Recommendations.