



University of  
Leicester

DAVID WILSON LIBRARY  
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Wednesday 9 November – Saturday 12 November 2011

# Literary Leicester

GRACE NICHOLS JOHN AGARD COLM TOIBIN  
HERMIONE LEE JULIA DONALDSON BALI RAI  
ALAN HOLLINGHURST JEREMY TREGLOWN  
JONATHON GREEN ALAN JENKINS IAN PARKS  
MARTIN STANNARD ALEXANDER WAUGH  
GRACE NICHOLS JOHN AGARD COLM TOIBIN  
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[www.le.ac.uk/literaryleicester](http://www.le.ac.uk/literaryleicester)

## Welcome

*We hope you will join us to celebrate the written word at the fourth Literary Leicester festival in the inspiring surroundings of the award-winning David Wilson Library at the University of Leicester.*

Once again we have lined up a scintillating mix of events, including readings by award-winning novelists, poetry, life-writing and our first excursion into the fascinating world of slang. There is always something new at Literary Leicester; this year, we are offering two lunchtime festival fringe events on Salinger and on film adaptations of the Romantics. For younger readers there will be an unmissable opportunity to meet Julia Donaldson, the creator of the Gruffalo on Saturday afternoon.

Between events there will be a chance to meet the writers, buy a book or browse in our award-winning University Library.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises once more to be a stimulating and memorable literary event.

Festival organizers:

David Wilson Library: Christine Fyfe

School of English: Corinne Fowler, Catherine Morley, Martin Stannard



# Information

## Tickets



Entry to all events is free. Most of the events are ticketed and these are highlighted in the programme. You can collect your tickets on the door or we can post them to you.

**Book online** at [www.embracearts.co.uk](http://www.embracearts.co.uk)

**Email** [litleic@le.ac.uk](mailto:litleic@le.ac.uk) to order tickets.

**Call** 0116 252 2455 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mondays – Fridays.

**Post** details of the tickets you would like to Literary Leicester, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Fielding Johnson Building, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

**Pop in** to Embrace Arts, Richard Attenborough centre, Lancaster Road, Leicester LE1 7HA and pick up tickets over the counter. The Embrace Arts box office for Literary Leicester is open Mondays – Fridays, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.



The Literary Leicester Box Office is provided in partnership with **Embrace Arts**, the University of Leicester's arts centre.

## Venue

The events are taking place in the Fielding Johnson Building South Wing (see map on back cover) which is fully accessible.

## Book signings



Opportunities to have a book signed are highlighted in the programme. The University's independent bookshop will offer a sales point at many of the events.

## Children

The Saturday afternoon event is particularly suitable for children. Other events are unsuitable for children below the age of 12.

## British Sign Language Interpretation



The BSL interpreters are provided by Leicester based Action Deafness Books.

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

## Parking

Limited car parking is available on campus and at the satellite car park on Welford Road – see map on the back cover. Visitors are advised to use public transport.

## Refreshments

The David Wilson Library Café is open throughout the Festival.

## Wednesday 9 November

6.00 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

### Opening of the Literary Leicester Festival

**Professor Sir Robert Burgess**

Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester

followed by:



### The Empty Family; an Evening with Colm Tóibín

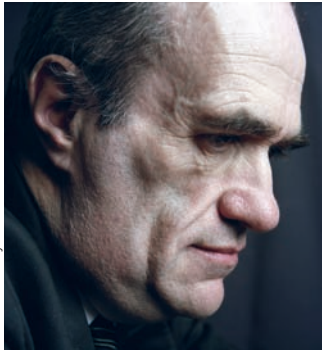


Photo: Steve Pyke

**Chair: Sarah Graham**

Colm Tóibín is a multi-award-winning novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, journalist, critic, and, most recently, poet.

Colm Tóibín was born in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in 1955. He studied at University College Dublin and lived in Barcelona between 1975 and 1978. Out of his experience in Barcelona he produced two books, the novel *The South* (winner of the Irish Times/ Aer Lingus First Fiction Award) and *Homage to Barcelona*,

both published in 1990. His journalism from the 1980s was collected in *The Trial of the Generals* (1990). His other work as a journalist and travel writer includes *Bad Blood: A Walk Along the Irish Border* (1987) and *The Sign of the Cross: Travels in Catholic Europe* (1994). His other novels are: *The Heather Blazing* (1992, winner of the Encore Award); *The Story of the Night* (1996, winner of the Ferro-Grumley Prize); *The Blackwater Lightship* (1999); *The Master* (2004, winner of the Dublin IMPAC Prize; the Prix du Meilleur Livre; the LA Times Novel of the Year); *Brooklyn* (2009, winner of the Costa Novel of the Year). His collections of short stories comprise *Mothers and Sons* (2006, winner of the Edge Hill Prize) and *The Empty Family* (2010). His play *Beauty in a Broken Place* was performed at the Peacock Theatre in Dublin in 2004. He has twice been Stein Visiting Writer at Stanford University and is currently Leonard Milberg Lecturer in Irish Letters at Princeton University.



Book tickets online at [www.embracearts.co.uk](http://www.embracearts.co.uk)  
Email bookings: [litleic@le.ac.uk](mailto:litleic@le.ac.uk)

## Wednesday 9 November

7.30 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing



### An evening with Bali Rai

Chair: Corinne Fowler

Young people have long been considered as comprising a distinctive readership in their own right. Generations of youthful readers have enjoyed classic novels such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Jungle Book* and *Lord of the Flies*. Today the genre of young adult fiction continues to feature protagonists and themes with which its readership can identify. As the first prominent British Asian writer for teenagers,



though, Bali Rai has radically updated the genre's form and content. In this event a leading voice in teenage fiction reads from his work and contextualises some recent innovations in the genre.

The author of over twenty novels, Bali Rai's work is inspired by his Punjabi, Sikh heritage. He first came to critical attention with his debut novel entitled *(Un)arranged Marriage* (2001), which won four book awards and was translated into eleven languages. Reviewers have since described his writing as containing 'verbal brilliance on every page' (*Times Educational Supplement*).

Bali Rai has never shied away from controversial themes and his work deals with forced marriage, interracial love and honour killing.



**Telephone bookings:** 0116 252 2455 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays  
**General enquiries:** 0116 252 2320 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays

## Thursday 10 November

1.00 - 2.00 pm

Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

FRINGE EVENT · NO TICKET REQUIRED

### Sarah Graham: *The Catcher in the Rye* 60 years on

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger is sixty years old in 2011. Still one of the best-loved American novels of the twentieth century, it has also attracted controversy for its depiction of the teenage Holden Caulfield, who expresses his hatred of the adult world of 'phonies' as he roams Manhattan, drunk and desolate. This talk will consider why Holden and his misadventures became and remain so popular; it will also show how the novel has influenced innumerable depictions of adolescent rebellion in post-war fiction and film.

Sarah Graham lectures in American literature at the University of Leicester and has a particular interest in representations of adolescence. She has published two studies of *The Catcher in the Rye* and is currently writing a book about Salinger's short fiction.

6.00 pm

Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing



### Alan Jenkins and Ian Parks read from their poetry

Chair: Rory Waterman



**Alan Jenkins** was the recipient of a Cholmondeley Award in 2007. His books of poetry include *Harm* (Forward Prize for Best Collection, 1994), *The Drift* (a Poetry Book Society Choice), *A Shorter Life* (2005, shortlisted for the Forward Prize), *Drunken Boats*, his acclaimed translation of Rimbaud's 'Le Bateau ivre' (2007), *The Lost World*, and *Blue Days: The Sailor's Return* (both 2010). He is Deputy Editor and Poetry Editor at the *Times Literary Supplement*, where he has worked since the 1980s.



**Ian Parks** was one of the Poetry Society New Poets in 1996. His first collection was published in 1986 (the same year in which he received a Yorkshire Arts Award) and he was made a Hawthornden Fellow in 1991. His collections include *Shell Island* (2006), *The Cage* (2008), *Love Poems 1979-2009* and *The Landing Stage*. His poems have appeared in *Poetry Review*, *Poetry* (Chicago), *The Liberal* and *New Walk Magazine*. *The Exile's House* is due from Waterloo in 2011.



## Thursday 10 November

Interval – Drinks and refreshments are available for purchase

7.30 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

In association with renaissance one



### Grace Nichols and John Agard in their joint performance show 'Sunris' and 'Man to Pan'



Experience a dance of words as award-winning poets **Grace Nichols** and **John Agard** weave together their prize-winning collections to form a unique Spoken Word 'duet'.

The poets will individually read poems from their various books and then together they will perform an interwoven duet of 'Sunris' and 'Man to Pan' which explores two iconic Caribbean metaphors of transfiguration – Carnival and Steel Pan.

Both poets are studied on the GCSE curriculum. *Sunris*, about a woman's journey of self-naming through Carnival, was winner of the Guyana Prize and *Man to Pan*, about the evolution of the steelpan, was winner of the Casa de las Americas Poetry Prize.



The show is part of a mini-tour produced by renaissance one – [www.renaissanceone.co.uk](http://www.renaissanceone.co.uk)



*'Agard is one of the most eloquent contemporary poets... rich in literary and cultural allusion, yet as direct as a voice in the bus queue.'*

Observer

*'Nichols has been a strong presence in the linguistic interweave between the Caribbean and the UK... there is wit, irony and passion... real poise.'*

Poetry Review

Telephone bookings: 0116 252 2455 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays  
 General enquiries: 0116 252 2320 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays

## Friday 11 November

**1.00 - 2.00 pm**

Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

**FRINGE EVENT · NO TICKET REQUIRED**

### Felicity James, Julian North and Phil Shaw: Lives of the Romantics on Screen

The lives of Lord Byron, Jane Austen, Keats, Wordsworth and Coleridge have inspired filmmakers from the 1940s to the present day. Felicity James, Julian North and Phil Shaw, from the School of English, University of Leicester will talk about *The Bad Lord Byron*, *Becoming Jane*, *Miss Austen Regrets*, *Bright Star* and *Pandaemonium*. They will be asking how accurate these 'biopics' are; how they deal with these writers' love lives; how they represent their creativity; and how their lives have been updated for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences. There will also be an opportunity for you to say what you think about these films.

**6.00 pm**

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing



### Hermione Lee From Memory: Literary Encounters and Life-Stories

Hermione Lee is a biographer, critic and teacher. Her books include biographies of Virginia Woolf and Edith Wharton. She has also written books on Elizabeth Bowen, Philip Roth, Willa Cather, and on biography. She is currently writing a biography of Penelope Fitzgerald. She is President of Wolfson College Oxford, an FRSL, FBA, and CBE.



Photo: Jane Bown

## Friday 11 November

Interval – Drinks and refreshments are available for purchase

7.30 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

### Who Owns a Life? Literary Biography Today

**Hermione Lee** chairs a panel of literary biographers including Martin Stannard, Jeremy Treglown and Alexander Waugh who will discuss the ethical issues of writing biography and the problems of using copyright material.



**Martin Stannard** is Professor of Modern English Literature at the University of Leicester and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His two-volume biography of Evelyn Waugh (1986, 1992) was warmly received in the UK and America, as was his recent life of Muriel Spark (2009). Currently he is planning a new biography of Ford Madox Ford and is co-Executive Editor of Oxford University Press's *The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh*.



Much of **Jeremy Treglown's** work has been linked by a biographically-based concern with the relations between social history and literary high culture, especially in the twentieth century, including the practicalities of authorship and the nature of the "literary establishment". He has published acclaimed biographies of Roald Dahl (1994), Henry Green (2000) and V S Pritchett (2004). He was editor of the *Times Literary Supplement* from 1981 to 1990.



**Alexander Waugh** is the acclaimed author of *God* (2002) and of *Fathers and Sons* (2004), a portrait of the male relations in his own family, which was made into a 90 minute documentary film by BBC 4. His book, *The House of Wittgenstein* (2008) traces the triumphs and vicissitudes of a family held together by a fanatical love of music yet torn apart by many conflicts of loyalty and the cataclysmic upheaval of two world wars.

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## Saturday 12 November

2.00 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Age  
5+

FREE  
TICKET

### Freddie and the Fairy and other stories with Julia Donaldson

An hour of fun with award-winning author Julia Donaldson and her husband Malcolm, who will be acting out Julia's stories and singing her songs, with lots of help from the audience.

Come and meet the Freddie, the deaf fairy, and many other characters from Julia's books, and be prepared for a guest appearance by the Gruffalo himself. After the event, Julia will be signing copies of her books.



Photo: Chris Watt

**Julia Donaldson** is the Children's Laureate. Her rhyming stories regularly top the children's bestselling charts, and the animation of *The Gruffalo* has been a big hit on BBC television. Julia has also written many songs, plays and novels, and is the author of the popular Songbirds series of phonic reading books for schools. Her husband Malcolm enjoys taking time off from his job as a doctor to play the guitar and act in her shows.

For more information, visit [www.juliadonaldson.co.uk](http://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk) and [www.childrenslaureate.org.uk](http://www.childrenslaureate.org.uk)



## Saturday 12 November

6.00 pm

Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

### Jonathon Green and Julie Coleman discuss the future of the history of slang

2010 saw the publication of *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, a historical account of the history of slang around the English-speaking world. This event brings together the world's leading slang lexicographer and the world's foremost expert on slang lexicography.

In 1567, Thomas Harman's *Caveat or Warning to Common Cursitors* revealed the secret language used by beggars in tricking honest citizens out of their hard-won cash. Eighteenth-century slang dictionaries concentrated on the language of highwayman and thieves. By the nineteenth century, lexicographers of slang were interested in the language of London's poor. Groups whose slang has received attention in the United States include drug-users, the beats, jazz-musicians, and gang members. Through the centuries, slang dictionaries have engulfed the words collected by previous lexicographers, but also revealed the social anxieties of their time and place.

**Julie Coleman** is Professor of English Language at the University of Leicester. Her four-volume *History of Cant and Slang Dictionaries (2004-2010)* traces the expansion of the slang dictionary tradition with reference to its socio-historical context. She has recently completed *A History of Slang* for Oxford University Press.



Photo: Gabriel Green

**Jonathon Green** is the UK's leading lexicographer of slang and as such one of the English-speaking world's slang experts. His *Contemporary Dictionary of Slang* (1984), with three revised editions to 1995, grew into the *Cassell Dictionary of Slang* (1998, 2005), and the *Chambers Slang Dictionary* (2008). The three volumes of *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) list some 110,000 slang words and phrases, supported by around 415,000 citations. Other publications include *Slang Down the Ages* (1993), *Chasing the Sun: Dictionary-Makers and the Dictionaries they Made* (1996). Green is a regular broadcaster and lecturer on slang.

Telephone bookings: 0116 252 2455 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays  
 General enquiries: 0116 252 2320 10 am – 4 pm Mondays – Fridays

## Saturday 12 November (continued)

7.30 pm

New Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing



### An Evening with Alan Hollinghurst

Chair: Julian North

Alan Hollinghurst was born in 1954. He is the author of the novels *The Swimming-Pool Library*, *The Folding Star*, *The Spell* and *The Line of Beauty* (which won the 2004 Man Booker Prize, and was adapted for BBC2 by Andrew Davies). His most recent book, *The Stranger's Child*, has been warmly received by readers and critics alike:

'An intricate, witty, playful meditation on what is now beginning to emerge as one of Hollinghurst's chief concerns: Englishness. Comedy of manners, investigation of class, changing political and social landscape – all the reliable pleasures that his fiction offers – are here in their dense, detailed richness... It is woven with stupendous deftness, its internal assonances making a complex, comprehensive harmony... A magnificent coherence'

*The Times*



'Masterful... There is a huge cleverness to the book at a structural and, as it were, managerial level. Characters are named with an aptness which is light-footed and unswervingly accurate... Hollinghurst, as ever, is quietly brilliant about architecture, both in the specific sense of a cultural discourse about buildings, and the broader sense of how people behave in different kinds of place... there is something symphonic about [the novel's] wholeness. There is also something filmic in the book's enveloping embrace; not the heritage cinema of Merchant Ivory et al, but the more experimental, argumentative efforts of the Sixties and Seventies. I often found myself recalling Joseph Losey's version of *The Go-Between*, and occasionally the anguished exquisites of Michelangelo Antonioni... there's also a lot that is purely and simply very funny'.

*Daily Telegraph*



Book tickets online at [www.embracearts.co.uk](http://www.embracearts.co.uk)  
Email bookings: [litleic@le.ac.uk](mailto:litleic@le.ac.uk)

# actionDEAFNESS Books

## Supporting the Leicester University Literary Festival

Action Deafness Books is a specialist book store and publisher of books, DVDs and resources on hearing loss, sign language and deaf issues.

This is our 3rd year supporting Leicester University Literary Festival, providing BSL interpreting and helping to ensure that a number of the festival's activities are accessible to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, please visit our website, contact us or follow us on Twitter!

 @ActionDeafBooks

Email: [adbooks@actiondeafness.org.uk](mailto:adbooks@actiondeafness.org.uk)

Tel: **0844 593 8440** Web: [www.actiondeafness.org.uk](http://www.actiondeafness.org.uk)



## New Walk Magazine

**New Walk** is a new magazine for poetry and the arts, published from Leicester each spring and autumn, featuring poetry, articles, features, reviews, interviews, fiction and art. Alan Jenkins and Ian Parks are among its contributors, alongside J.M. Coetzee, Alice Oswald, Medbh McGuckian, Andrew Motion. Issues will be available throughout this year's Festival.

For further information and subscription details, visit [www.newwalkmagazine.wordpress.com](http://www.newwalkmagazine.wordpress.com)



# University of Leicester Bookshop

David Wilson Library

- Open to the public all year round
- Not just books for students – a wide range of books of general and local interest
- University of Leicester gifts and clothing
- Fast free order service for books not in stock

## Contact us

Telephone: **0116 229 7440**

Online: **<http://shop.le.ac.uk>**

Email: **[bookshop@le.ac.uk](mailto:bookshop@le.ac.uk)**

## Opening Hours

Monday – Friday

09.00 – 17.30 (Term Time)

09.00 – 17.00 (Vacation)

Open Saturdays

09.00 – 12.30



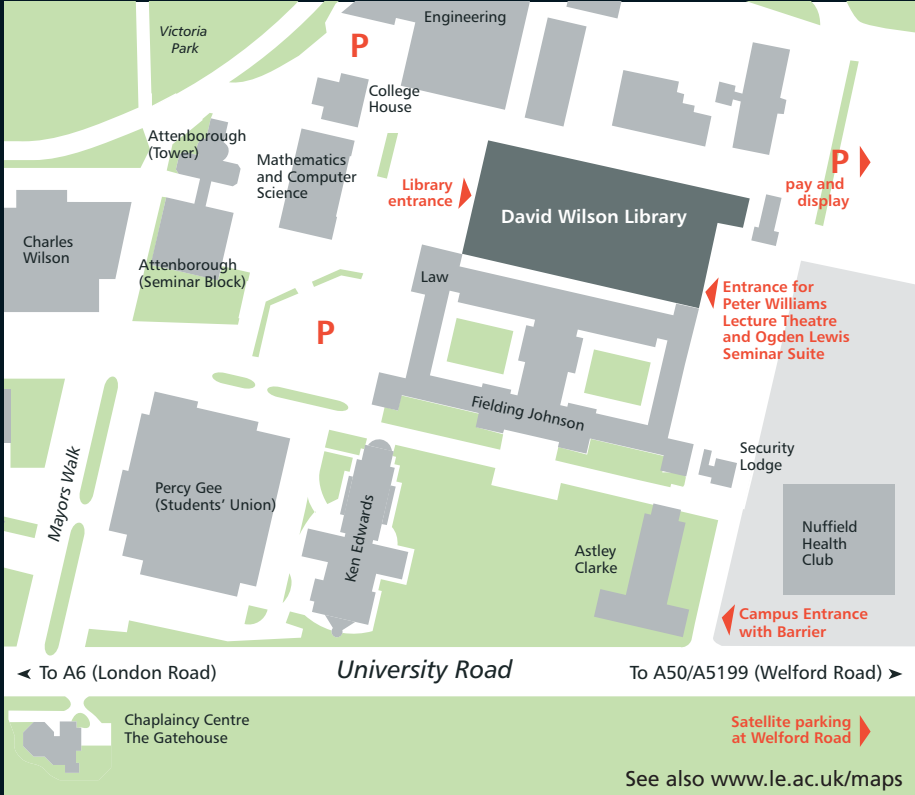
Dates for your Diary

# Literary Leicester 2012

Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 November 2012

- Talks, workshops and performances, covering a wide range of genres
- For adults and children
- A chance to meet the authors
- Book signings
- Many free events

# How to find the venues



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