



**Saturday
18 MARCH 2023**



**DEPTFORD
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL**



**Celebrating the creativity and
diversity of Deptford and Lewisham
through words, stories and
performance**



#DeptfordLitFest

More info and book: deptfordlitfest.com



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





WELCOME

Welcome to Deptford Literature Festival, celebrating the diversity and creativity of Deptford and Lewisham through words, stories and performance.

The programme invites you to explore what literature means to us today in Deptford, with many events programmed under the Festival themes of nature, climate and food. The programme features workshops, talks, walks and performances, including ways for you to get involved from home. We also have a special programme of family and children's activities run by Round Table Books for our younger Festival goers (see pages 17 and 18).

All the Festival workshops are open to writers with different levels of experience – from regular writers to complete beginners. Unless otherwise stated, all events in this programme take place on Saturday 18 March.

Come along and check out local literary talent and organisations; Deptford Literature Festival is for anyone who wants to have a go.

Deptford Literature Festival is run by Spread the Word with creative producer Tom MacAndrew and funded by Arts Council England with support from The Albany and Deptford Lounge.

HOW TO BOOK

Book your tickets and find out more at: deptfordlitfest.com or the QR code on the brochure cover.

Please note that the general programme of events is suitable for ages 16+ unless otherwise stated. For the children's and family programme, please see each event for its recommended age range. All children attending family events must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

For travel information and a map of Festival venues, see page 22.

All events are free, except the Caleb Femi x SLOGhouse event at The Albany which has free tickets available for low income Lewisham residents. Please see the Festival website for more information.

Tickets can be booked for all in-person and livestreamed events on our ticketing platform Eventbrite.

If you are experiencing difficulties making a booking, please contact: festival@spreadtheword.org.uk

For programme updates, please follow the Festival hashtag #DeptfordLitFest



ACCESS

All Deptford Literature Festival events are BSL interpreted and marked in the programme with **BSL**

All events are wheelchair accessible, with accessible toilets, except Isla Ray Café which doesn't have an accessible toilet. A quiet space is available during the day at Deptford Lounge, in the Music Room, on the first floor.

Entelechy Arts' Ambient Jam Collective event at The Albany is a relaxed performance.

Six events will be livestreamed and live captioned. The Disabled Poets Prize Award Announcement will be livestreamed with BSL and live captioning. The link to the livestream for each event will be emailed to ticket holders prior to the Festival day.

Deptford Lounge has Changing Place facilities, an induction loop and assistance dogs are welcome. For more information visit: deptfordlounge.org.uk/access

The Albany has an induction loop and assistance dogs are welcome. Free tickets can be booked for companions or personal assistants. For more information visit: thealbany.org.uk/accessibility

For travel to the Festival and parking see page 22.

If you require additional access provision in order to attend or take part in the Festival, for example larger print handouts at workshops, or a Scribe, please get in touch before the Festival day at: access@spreadtheword.org.uk

If you require assistance on the Festival day itself, please come to the Festival Hub in the foyer of Deptford Lounge where we will be happy to help you.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS – Keeping You Safe

Keeping you safe is our priority.

We politely ask anyone displaying Covid-like symptoms not to attend the Festival and we encourage you to consider wearing a mask as some of our artists and audiences may be vulnerable.

We may ask some audiences for specific events to wear masks unless exempt due to the health of facilitators / speakers at the event they are running. We will email these event attendees with this request in advance of the Festival.

Masks will be available at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge. There will be hand sanitiser and air filters for events and workshops in the following spaces at Deptford Lounge: Main Hall, Room 1, Room 2, Room 3 and the Studio.

Please make sure you check our website and your ticket email confirmations and reminders for the most up to date COVID-19 guidance to help ensure your safety and wellbeing at Deptford Literature Festival.

FESTIVAL STALLS & SIGNINGS

Books by Deptford Literature Festival writers and artists will be available to buy from The Word bookshop (fiction, nonfiction and poetry for adults) and Round Table Books (children and young adult titles).

Local publishers and literature organisations including Fitzcarraldo Editions and Arachne Press will have stalls with titles to browse and buy.

Author Angela Catherine Cain will be selling and talking about her book *Deptford Show Ground* that follows the fortunes of her great grandfather, a travelling showman, his wife and family who ran the Deptford Show Ground from 1890, which stood on the site of Deptford Lounge until 1961.

Book signings by featured Festival authors will take place in the foyer of Deptford Lounge soon after events have taken place. Books need to be purchased in advance of signings.



GIVING BACK

In recognition of the impact of the cost of living on many within our community, we are putting in place the following for this year's Festival:

A community mutual aid notice board in the foyer at Deptford Lounge, inviting people to buy a book from one of the Festival booksellers, if they can, for people who cannot afford one.

A collection point for a local food bank. If you are in a position to donate, please watch out for the list of items that are needed by the food bank on our social media in the run up to the Festival and bring your donation to the Festival Hub at Deptford Lounge on the Festival day between 10am–5pm.

FESTIVAL AT HOME

There are lots of ways you can take part in Deptford Literature Festival at Home.

Festival writers Laurie Bolger, Khairani Barokka, Nadine Matheson and Tice Cin have created writing workshops for you to do in your own space and time that will be available to download in PDF format from the Festival website.

Seven of our events will be livestreamed and you can book tickets to tune into these from home.

Festival writers Tice Cin and Carinya Sharples have made short captioned films with writing exercises for you to do at home, which will be available from the Festival website.



FESTIVAL ANTHOLOGY by TOKEN MAGAZINE

A special Deptford Literature Festival 2023 anthology, produced by *TOKEN Magazine* and edited by local writer Sara Jafari is free and available to pick up at the Festival. It features short stories and creative nonfiction inspired by the Festival themes of nature, climate and food.

The anthology will be launched at a pre-Festival event at Isla Ray Café on Friday 17 March from 6:30pm till late, with contributors reading from 7.30pm.

TOKEN



FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

CREATING WITH DEPTFORD NATURE hosted by LAURA & LILI



Time: 10am–4.30pm

Location: Brookmill Park

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL** accessible toilet, paths are tarmac, bench seating available

Join Laura Barker and LiLi K. Bright for a day of creativity and writing workshops inspired by and exploring nature, climate and science in Brookmill Park.

Open to all ages. Parents, guardians or carers must stay with their children during these events.

The workshops will be taking place outdoors, so please dress for the weather!

10am – 12pm Climate Imaginarium

Explore climate science and solutions through interactive games using writing and imagination to explore cause and effect, creating new science fiction.

1pm – 3pm Divination and Dreams

Are you dreaming now? An interactive writing workshop working with found materials from nature and collective consciousness.

3.30pm – 4.30pm Birds + Words: Spells or Science?

Craft a spell inspired by Brookmill Park birds and their scientific names. In this relaxed, outdoor workshop, we'll create collective names for birds and write bird conjurings inspired by the local birdlife. Guided by creative prompts and writing activities, you'll write stories, poetry and prose, and explore the enchanting nature of Brookmill Park.

Supported by the Friends of Brookmill Park.



Photo credit: Julia Rowntree



FESTIVAL WALK

BLACK HISTORY WALKING TOUR OF DEPTFORD by JODY BURTON



Time: Anytime
Location: Start and finish at Deptford Lounge
Length: 5 miles
Price: FREE
Access: Transcript available. Route is along paved roads, with some cobbled sections



Explore the long history of Black presence in the Deptford area, connecting the locality, the fundamental role Deptford played in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the challenging history of race and resistance.

This self-guided walk will highlight key locations and figures including: St Nicholas Church, Master Shipwrights House and Deptford Docks, Stephen Lawrence and Olaudah Equiano.

Written by Lewisham resident Jody Burton, co-author of *Black London: History, Art and Culture in Over 120 Places*.

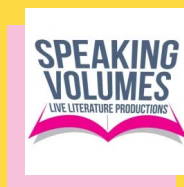
Download the audio tour, transcript and a PDF map from the Festival website. Maps and transcripts will also be available at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



ALL YOU CAN DO IS HUM by JOSHUA IDEHEN

Time: 10.15am–11am
Location: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: **BSL**



All You Can Do Is Hum is a dynamic spoken word/ music performance by Joshua Idehen. Exploring his own experiences of isolation and a sense of not belonging, the show invites audiences to come together to 'spin grief into joy' through the power of words and music. Inspired by Nigerian churches, Idehen's charismatic 'sermon leader' will transform strangers into a united 'congregation', lifting his audience up through the creative magic of poetry and energetic beats.

Produced by Speaking Volumes. Funded by Arts Council England.

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

IDENTITIES & NATURE: WORKSHOP with OAKLEY FLANAGAN and COURTNEY CONRAD



Photo credit: Sabiha Anwar

Time: 10am-11am
Location: Room 3, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: **BSL**

Join a co-facilitated workshop on nature poetry, sexuality and race with Oakley Flanagan and Courtney Conrad. These writing exercises will generate new nature poems. Participants who attend this workshop will have the opportunity to read the poems they've created to a live audience.



READING with OAKLEY FLANAGAN, COURTNEY CONRAD and CECILIA KNAPP



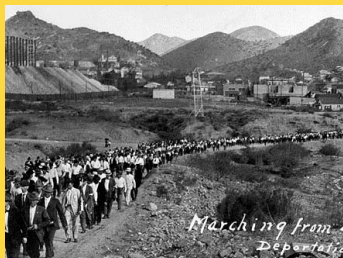
Time: 11.30am-12.30pm
Location: the Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: **BSL**

Oakley Flanagan will be reading from *G&T*, forthcoming with Out-Spoken Press. Courtney Conrad (Eric Gregory Award Winner) will read work inspired by themes of food, Caribbean migration and nature. Cecilia Knapp will be reading from *Peach Pig*. They will be joined by workshop participants sharing new work created earlier in the day.

WRITING ABOUT LABOUR RIGHTS with POETRY LONDON

Time: 10am-11.30am
Location: Room 2, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: **BSL**

poetry
london



How do we craft class-aware poems that fit into the notion of a social poetics? This workshop will explore how the labour movement has been written about by workers themselves, taking a specific look at the poetry written in the wake of the Bisbee Deportation of 1917, when 1,200 striking miners and their families were banished from a copper town in the southern mountains of Arizona. Led by Declan Ryan for *Poetry London*.



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

CREATIVE WRITING & MINDFULNESS FOR FAMILIES with LAURIE BOLGER

Time: 11am-1pm

For: Children / young people (aged 4 to 14) and families.
Parents, guardians or carers must stay with their children during this workshop.

Location: Foyer, Deptford Lounge

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**



Are you a young aspiring writer or a family based in Lewisham? Join Lewisham poet Laurie Bolger for some mindful scribbling in celebration of kindness to ourselves. Laurie will guide you through playful creative exercises to boost your wellbeing and celebrate the things around us. You are welcome to join this relaxed session to write, create, express yourself and share your thoughts on writing and creativity.

Drop in for any part of the session or stay for the whole duration. Together we'll do some fun activities to get your words flowing, express what's important to you and imagine a more creative future for Lewisham – and you.

WRITING LEWISHAM: A CREATIVE CONVERSATION with CARINYA SHARPLES



Time: 2pm-4pm

Location: Room 1, Deptford Lounge

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**

Are you a writer or aspiring writer based in Lewisham? Join Carinya Sharples for a relaxed session to share your thoughts on writing and creativity in Lewisham, get to know other writers in your area, and most importantly, write! Whether you write regularly or have never written creatively before, you are very welcome. We will be doing a few creative-writing activities to get the words flowing and exploring ideas for creativity in the borough.



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



IMAGINING FANTASY WORLDS & BODIES: JUDITH BRYAN INTERVIEWS LEONE ROSS ABOUT WORLD BUILDING

Time: 11.30am–12.30pm

Location: in-person: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge;
online: livestreamed

Price: FREE

Access: in person: **BSL** online: live captioned

Local author Leone Ross has been writing the fantastical – erotic horror, magic realism, Caribbean-flavoured fantasy – for decades and is best known for her critically acclaimed novel *This One Sky Day/Popisho* (Faber, 2021) and collection of weird and wonderful short stories in *Come Let Us Sing Anyway* (Peepal Tree Press, 2019). She is the editor of *Glimpse*, the first-ever collection of Black British speculative fiction (Peepal Tree Press, 2022).

Now Ross sits down with close friend, playwright and novelist Judith Bryan to discuss the technical and emotional process of creating new worlds and strange people. The interview will cover the highs and lows of story-making, include short readings – and give you the chance to ask any questions you would like to both writers.

EXPERIMENTS WITH FORM WORKSHOP with NATASHA BROWN

Time: 12.30pm–2pm

Location: Room 2, Deptford Lounge

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**



Natasha Brown, author of *Assembly*, shortlisted for the Folio Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize and the Orwell Prize for Fiction, leads a participatory workshop exploring form. Participants will be able to explore how experiments with language and structure can bring another dimension to their writing. Drawing on form-defying work from authors such as Meena Kandasamy, Lydia Davis, Claudia Rankine and others, participants will examine different approaches with plenty of opportunities for hands-on literary experiments.



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

DISABILITY POETICS with DANIEL SLUMAN and KHAIRANI BAROKKA

Time: 1pm–2pm

Location: in-person: the Studio, Deptford Lounge;
online: livestreamed

Price: FREE

Access: in-person: **BSL** ;online: live captioned

Disability poetry is an important area of literature. However, there has been a real lack of discussion about the poetics of disability, and the concepts and experiences that disabled writers share.

This event will be a conversation between Daniel Sluman whose collection *Single Window* (Nine Arches Press, 2021) was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize and Khairani Barokka whose collection *Ultimatum Orangutan* (Nine Arches Press, 2021) was shortlisted for the Barbellion Prize, about the barriers faced in reaching publication as well as the ideas and experiences that inform their work and make their own 'disability poetics' unique, alongside a reading from their work.



HOW MEMORY SURVIVES: THE DRUM with CHRISTOPHER OLIVER and VÉRONIQUE BELINGA

Time: 1.15pm–3pm

Location: Irie Dance Theatre, Moonshot Centre

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**

How Memory Survives: The Drum is a performance-based workshop exploring African and African-Caribbean literature through the drum. The workshop will focus on the materials used to make the drum, and how drumming has been used as a tool to gather community, sound resistance, and preserve cultural memory. In the workshop, participants will also be prompted to reflect on how drum rhythms connect the African continent with the Caribbean and Britain.





EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



ON NATURE AND THE NATURAL: A READING by JAMIE HALE

Time: 2.30pm–3pm
 Location: in-person: the Studio, Deptford Lounge;
 online: livestreamed
 Price: FREE
 Access: in person: **BSL** ; online: live captioned

Where does the othered body belong in the natural world? This poetry reading from former Jerwood Poetry Fellow, Jamie Hale, explores the queer, trans, and crip body, siting it within nature, and nature within it. They will be reading from their acclaimed pamphlet, *Shield*, as well as sharing new work, trying to unpick what it means to truly be a part of nature – especially when you're told bodies like yours never will.

FITZCARRALDO EDITIONS present SHORT STORIES with VANESSA ONWUEMEZI, ANNA WOOD and ALICE SLATER

Time: 2.30pm–3.30pm
 Location: in-person: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge;
 online: livestreamed
 Price: FREE
 Access: in person: **BSL** ; online: live captioned

Fitzcarraldo Editions are internationally renowned and Prize-winning publishers based in Deptford. They present two exciting UK based short story writers – Vanessa Onwuemezi and Anna Wood in conversation with the author Alice Slater. Enjoy and participate in a conversation with the authors about the power, possibilities, and limitations of the short story. The three writers will discuss shared themes in their work as well as craft and the short story form.

Photo credit: Lewis Khan



Fitzcarraldo Editions



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

ENTELECHY ARTS present AMBIENT JAM COLLECTIVE



Photo credit: Samuel Dore

Time: 2pm–3.30pm
Location: The Albany Theatre
Price: FREE
Access: **BSL**; relaxed performance

entelechy
arts

Ambient Jam Collective invites you to an immersive, inclusive, sensory 'happening' where gesture and sound become poetry and non-verbal stories emerge.

Expect the unexpected with an immersive multi-sensory happening by a vibrant community of differently abled people and artists. Ambient Jam improvisations are playful, mindful, surreal, and sometimes wondrously messy; conjuring sensory ways of being that benefit us all. Enjoy an unfolding, evolving landscape where you can hang out and just be, or join in and improvise with us, or a bit of both.

Ambient Jam Collective has grown from a 32-year collaboration of weekly improvisation between people with profound, complex and learning disabilities (PMLD) and dance/music/sculpture artists. Deeply rooted in South-East London, but owned by everyone. It is an improvisation to de-institutionalise ourselves.

Drop in for any part of the event or stay for the whole duration.

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

THE GIRL, THE STAR AND THE END OF ALL THINGS: STORYTELLING with NIALL MOORJANI

Time: 3pm–4pm

Location: Isla Ray Café

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL** ; nearest accessible toilet is Deptford Lounge

“The pale man has stolen the moon. Devastated by the loss of her love, the sun has stopped shining. The world has turned grey with rain, flooding the land, and with no sunlight the plants may cease to grow.

All seems lost, but for one girl and a star who want to help. Together they travel the world looking for answers in the shape of giants, witches and dragons to save the dying world...”

Award winning local storyteller Niall Moorjani gives a one-off performance of their much-loved storytelling show for adults, with live music from Tom Birch. Come for the queer and BPOC fantasy, stay for the hopeful messaging about saving the world from the end of all things.



I KNOW A SPOT: FOOD AND PLACE with TICE CIN

Time: 3.30pm–5pm

Location: Room 2, Deptford Lounge

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**

We often associate the places we know deeply with the foods that bring them to life. What does it mean to archive foods that make a place through writing? Interdisciplinary

artist Tice Cin will lead us through writing exercises inspired by Food TikTok, our local surroundings and writing from the likes of poet Romalyn Ante, novelist Caleb Azumah Nelson and food writer Rebecca May Johnson. Through this you will see that detailed sensory writing can activate the heartiest of writing.





DISABLED POETS PRIZE 2023 AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Time: 3.30pm–4.30pm

Location: online event with screening in the Studio, Deptford Lounge

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**; live captioned

DISABLED
POETS
PRIZE
2 0 2 3

Join us for the announcement of the national Prize for deaf and disabled poets prize-winners and highly commended poets in the inaugural Disabled Poets Prize. With a range of voices, styles, and approaches, celebrate the talents and successes of writers from deaf and disabled communities.

Founded by Jamie Hale, the Disabled Poets Prize aims to find the best work created by UK based deaf and disabled poets and offers significant professional development opportunities for the winning writers, including a publication deal with Verve Poetry Press and development prizes from Spread the Word, CRIPtic Arts, The Literary Consultancy and Arvon Foundation.

The Prizes for best single poem and best unpublished pamphlet will be announced by Jamie, and the prize-winners from across the UK will read from their work.

MATCHSTICK THEATRE COMPANY presents HITS AND PIECES

Time: 3.30pm–5pm

Location: Matchstick Pie House

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**



Deptford-based Matchstick Theatre Company supports new writing and champions original theatre. This January, Matchstick Theatre Company launched *Hits and Pieces* – a night of original short plays all inspired by a popular song.

This special Deptford Literature Festival event will feature four short pieces by local writers all inspired by a song, chosen via an online poll, that references one of Deptford Literature Festival's themes for 2023: climate, nature or food.

MATCHSTICK
THEATRE
COMPANY



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

CRIME WRITERS OF SOUTH LONDON IN CONVERSATION



Time: 4pm-5pm

Location: in-person: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
online: livestreamed

Price: FREE

Access: in-person: **BSL** ; online: live captioned



Join bestselling and award-winning local crime authors: Nadine Matheson whose debut, *The Jigsaw Man* (HarperCollins, 2021), has been translated into 15 languages and second novel, *The Binding Room*, featuring DI Henley and the Serial Crimes Unit was published in July 2022; Adam Simcox whose supernatural crime thriller *The Generation Killer* (Gollancz, 2022) is part of his debut series, *The Dying Squad* and Lara Thompson whose debut novel, *One Night, New York* (Virago, 2021) was shortlisted for The Guardian's 2022 CrimeFest and Specsavers Crime Fiction Debut Awards as they discuss their work, the influence of local places in their writing, their different paths into publishing and building a career as a commercial fiction writer.

Chaired by Spread the Word's Bobby Nayyar.



QUEER POETRY AT TRIANGLE

Time: 7pm-9.30pm

Location: Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre

Price: FREE

Access: **BSL**

Celebrate LGBTQ+ poetry at Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre with open mic slots, featured artists, and headline sets from Ollie O'Neill and Remi Graves. Bring your page/concrete poetry to add to our gallery, put your name in the hat to share your words in the open mic, sell your zines and books in our pop-up bookshop and enjoy a drink or three in the cosy social club bar. Presented by Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre and SL Grange.





EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

CALEB FEMI X SLOGHOUSE present BLINDMOUTH

Time: 7.30pm-9.15pm

Location: in-person: The Albany Theatre
online: livestreamed

Price: £10. Free tickets available for low income Lewisham residents – see Festival website for details.

Access: in-person: **(BSL)** ; online: live captioned

Caleb Femi x SLOGhouse present an evening of film, poetry and music. Capturing the energy of a South London party/ club, this event will feature a new short, abstract film, exploring the theme of community, accompanied by performances from SLOGhouse poets and DJs including James Massiah, Latekid & fwdmtn, Danielle Wilde and Dillon Kalyabe.

The film, performances and DJ will draw on the new direction of Caleb's work, building on the themes of his prize-winning collection *POOR* and dealing with community, designed spaces, archiving and joy.

SLOGhouse is an institution of creative play and expression, blending art forms, mediums and genres to respond to community discussions.

Tickets available at: thealbany.org.uk/shows-and-events





A day of special events for younger members of our community and their families. Four events are delivered in collaboration with Round Table Books.

All children's and family events are FREE to attend and take place at Deptford Lounge Children's Library, 9 Giffin Street, London SE8 4RJ and are BSL interpreted.

Parents, guardians or carers must stay with their children during these events, apart from Milk Honey Bees where parents, guardians or carers are required to stay nearby in Deptford Lounge.

There will be fresh fruit and healthy snacks available for children attending the workshops.

I AM NEFERTITI! SING-A-LONG with ANNEMARIE ANANG

Time: 10am-10.45am

Age recommendation: 3-7 years

Access: **BSL**

Join Annemarie Anang for an empowering story-time with her debut children's book *I am Nefertiti!* Sing-a-long with her ukulele and learn about some of the wonderful global instruments in the story.



SUNFLOWER SISTERS READING AND WORKSHOP with MONIKA SINGH GANGOTRA

Time: 11.30am-12.15pm

Age recommendation: 5-8 years

Access: **BSL**

Join Dr Monika Singh Gangotra for a reading and inspirational workshop. Inspired by joy and colourful celebrations, her book *Sunflower Sisters* is a journey of self-love and sisterhood, empowering women and girls everywhere. During this interactive session, children will have the chance to get creative and celebrate their identities and cultures.



JOYFUL, JOYFUL STORY-MAKING WORKSHOP with DAPO ADEOLA AND FUNMBI OMOTAYO

Time: 1pm-1.45pm

Age recommendation: 7-14 years

Access: **BSL**

After an introduction to the book *Joyful, Joyful*, a gorgeous collection of stories and poems celebrating joy, showcasing 40 talented Black writers and artists from across the world, join illustrator, curator and collaborator Dapo Adeola and author Funmbi Omotayo for a story-making workshop. In this interactive session, children can celebrate the joy in their lives and identities and work together to create their very own story with support from Dapo and Funmbi.



MILK HONEY BEES with EBINEHITA IYERE

Time: 4pm-4.45pm

For: Young Black women aged 14 and above

Access: **BSL**

Join Ebinehita Iyere alongside authors of *Girlhood Unfiltered* for an intimate creative workshop! Ebinehita is the founder of Milk Honey Bees – a creative and expressive safe space for young Black women and girls to put H.E.R (Healing, Empowerment and Resilience) first. It's more than just an organisation: it's a sisterhood, a family. Their essay collection *Girlhood Unfiltered* reflects on the multifaceted experience of Black girlhood. Ebinehita will be asking what H.E.R. means in an interactive talking workshop. Ask questions, share and hear stories, and be a part of this empowering collective.





COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In addition to its public programme, Deptford Literature Festival is delivering community engagement projects in the local area.

LEWISHAM COMEDY NOVICES

Working with Phoenix Community Housing during January and February, Lewisham Comedy Novices offered local housing association residents and tenants the chance to try something new by giving stand-up comedy a go in a positive and encouraging environment, via a series of workshops led by professional comedian Bentley Browning.

Come and support the Lewisham Comedy Novices who will be performing their debut routines at a free pre-Festival event hosted by Bentley at The Fellowship Inn, Bellingham on Monday 13 March, 7pm-8.30pm.

Access: accessible toilets on both floors, lift.

Tickets can be booked through the Festival website:
deptfordlitfest.com

Lewisham Comedy Novices is funded by Phoenix Community Chest



YOUNG PEOPLE'S FILM-IN-A-DAY

Working with Youth First, Lewisham's youth service provider, who run youth centres and playgrounds across the borough, and artists Kobi Essah and Mmoloki Chrystie, the Festival has been engaging local young people from Woodpecker Youth Club with words, stories and film-making. Participants aged 11-16 years worked across February half term to create a film-in-a-day responding to their concerns and interests. A premiere of the film will take place at the Youth Club to the young people's friends and families.



The young people's film will be available to watch on the Festival website.



SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL

Deptford Literature Festival celebrates local talent and introduces exciting new writers from Lewisham and nearby boroughs.

We want everyone to be able to join in the workshops, readings, events and community projects for free. We do not want finances to be a barrier to anyone taking part.

If you are in a position to make a donation, please give a gift today. Anything you give will help more people come to future Festivals for free. Our typical ticket price, without donations, is £10.

Please give what you can through this link: totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/deptfordlitfest or use the QR code below.

The organisers behind the Deptford Literature Festival are Spread the Word, a registered charity that has to raise all the funds to pay local writers, host events and make them accessible to our communities.

Make a donation:



Tell us what you thought:



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE FESTIVAL

We'd love to know what you thought of your experience at Deptford Literature Festival 2023.

Through the Festival you'll find QR codes linking you to a feedback form where you can share your thoughts and experiences at the Festival. By completing the form you could win one of 4x £20 book tokens.

Festival volunteers can also support you to share your feedback online or on a paper form, and there will be opportunities for you to share your ideas for future Deptford Literature Festivals.

Give your feedback through this link: bit.ly/DLF23feedback or the QR code above.



Photo credits Kashif Haque



FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Sustainability is fundamental to Deptford Literature Festival. We acknowledge the climate emergency and the impacts it is having on our communities in Lewisham.

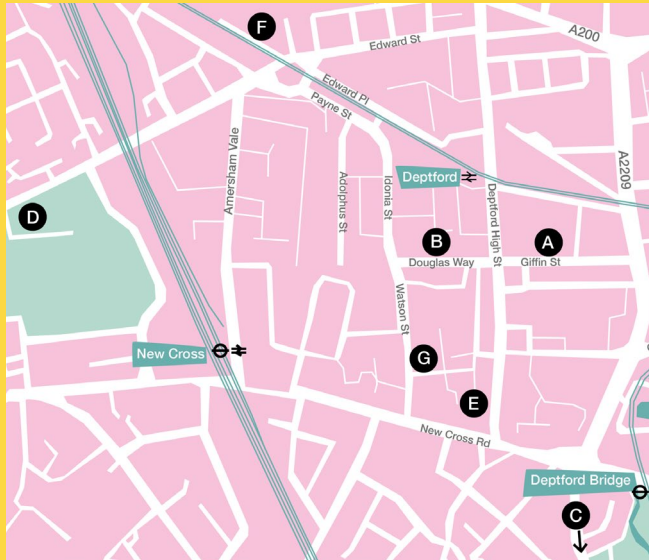
We are committed to mitigating the environmental impacts of creating a live festival, reducing our carbon footprint and advocating for action on climate change, through:

- Promoting and sign-posting Festival goers, artists, suppliers and team to use local public transport links or to walk or cycle to attend the Festival;
- Reducing use of single use plastic by providing drinking water in glass bottles and recyclable cups in workshop spaces in Deptford Lounge and having a water dispenser in the foyer for filling water bottles;
- Reducing printed paper usage with all Festival events bookable online for digital tickets;
- Using email, social media and the Festival website to communicate about the Festival;
- Producing our Festival brochure online and, where printed, using recyclable material using FSC standard paper, and ensuring it is recycled after its use;
- Prioritising working with local organisations and businesses as suppliers to keep travel down to a minimum and help keep money circulating within the local community;
- Working with our partner venues, to operate a system through which we seek to recycle the maximum amount of waste produced on site;
- Programming talks, workshops and artistic commissions responding to the natural world, directly addressing the relationship between people and the environment, shining a light on some of the most critical issues of our times.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to improve the sustainability of the Festival. Please email: festival@spreadtheword.org.uk

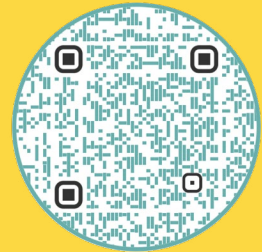
FESTIVAL MAP

Deptford Lounge is the Hub of the Festival and where you'll be able to get more information about what is taking place during the day and evening.



- A. Deptford Lounge**
9 Giffin Street, London SE8 4RJ
- B. The Albany**
Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG
- C. Brookmill Park**
47 Brookmill Road,
London, SE8 4JP
- D. Irie Dance Theatre**
Moonshot Centre, Angus Street,
London, SE14 6LU
- E. Isla Ray Café**
37 Deptford High Street,
London, SE8 4AD
- F. Matchstick Piehouse**
Railway Arches, 213-214 Edward St,
London, SE8 5HD
- G. Triangle LGBTQ+
Cultural Centre**, 34 Watson's St,
London, SE8 4AU

Festival Map online:



GETTING TO DEPTFORD

Train: Deptford (2 min walk to Deptford Lounge)

Access: lift to both platforms, step free access

DLR: Deptford Bridge (9 min walk to Deptford Lounge)

Access: lift to both platforms, step free access

Train/overground: New Cross (8 min walk to Deptford Lounge)

Access: lift to platforms, ramp for train access, step free access, staff help available

Buses: 47 / 53 / 177 / 188 / 199 / 225 / 253

Bike parking: Spaces outside Deptford Lounge and The Albany.

Disabled car parking: Franklin Street car park is the closest to Deptford Lounge with seven disabled bays. The pay-and-display parking bays are 77 steps away from the Lounge.

Taxi drop off point: If you are travelling via taxi, the drop off point is on Giffin Street directly next to Deptford Lounge.

DEPTFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

THANKS

We are grateful to our principal funders Arts Council England. Thanks also to our main partners The Albany and Deptford Lounge for their support. Thanks to Phoenix Community Chest for supporting Lewisham Comedy Novices.

Thank you to our partners Fitzcarraldo Editions, the Friends of Brookmill Park, Round Table Books, TOKEN Magazine, Poetry London, Entelechy Arts, Moonshot Centre, Irie Dance Theatre, Arachne Press, Isla Ray Café, Matchstick Piehouse, Matchstick Theatre Company, Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre, Speaking Volumes, SLOGhouse, The Word, Poetry London, CRIPtic Arts, The Fellowship Inn, Youth First and all who play a part in the Festival. Thanks to our designer Patricia Ferguson.

Thank you to our Festival volunteers, as well as the great artists, BSL interpreters, live captioners, photographers and support staff who are contributing to this year's programme.

Most of all, thank you to you, for coming and supporting the Festival.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

