



FRIDAY 6TH JUNE

BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS



THE ORANGERY

1.15 - 2.15pm

LIFE ON PLANET EARTH:

Booker Prize-winner **Samantha Harvey** (*Orbital*) in conversation with Nobel Prize-winner **Abdulrazak Gurnah** (*Theft*). With arts critic and novelist **Sue Rainsford**.

2.15pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): **Samantha Harvey, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Merlin Sheldrake, Manchán Magan**

2.45 - 3.45pm

THE LOVE OF A WINGED CREATURE:

Seán Ronayne (*Nature Boy: A Journey of Birdsong and Belonging*) talks to **Helen Macdonald** (*H is for Hawk*) about adventures in nature, a love of birds, and how the natural world has healed them both.

THE ROOKERY

SECRET MIRACLE WORKERS:

Biologist and mycologist **Merlin Sheldrake** (*Entangled Lives*) talks to **Manchán Magan** (*Listen to the Land and Speak*) about how the study of fungi and their underground networks transform our understanding of how all life works.

THE GREAT YES; THE GREAT NO: KEEPING OPTIMISM IN CHECK AND NIHILISM AT BAY:

Renowned artist **William Kentridge** never fails to mesmerise, whether with ever-morphing charcoal sketches, puppetry, opera, or multi-media projection. Here in an illustrated conversation with **Fintan O'Toole**.

THE OWLERY

CAN EUROPE SURVIVE?: Given the shifting US stance on NATO, MEP **Cynthia Ní Mhurchú**, along with member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, **Bruno Maçães** (*World Builders: Technology and the New Geopolitics*) consider the fate of Europe. In conversation with journalists **Lara Marlowe** and **Carole Cadwalladr**.
In partnership with European Parliament.

3.45pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): **Seán Ronayne, Helen Macdonald, Bruno Maçães, William Kentridge**

4.15 - 5.15pm

A WOMAN ON THE OUTERMOST EDGE:

In *The Place of Tides*, **James Rebanks** (*The Shepherd's Life*) travels to a remote Norwegian island to learn from Anna Måsøy, one of the last women harvesting eiderdown by hand. This is a mesmerising meditation on friendship, history and redemption. With **Sue Rainsford**.

WHAT IT IS TO REMEMBER:

Human rights lawyer **Philippe Sands** (*38 Londres Street*) talks to **Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse** (*The Convoy*) about her powerful literary exploration of displacement, memory – drawing on her experience as a survivor of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda.

ABDUCTION, ADOPTION AND SEPARATED TWINS:

Journalist **Barbara Demick** (*Daughters of the Bamboo Grove*) delves into the lasting repercussions of China's 'one-child policy' and the unregulated foreign adoptions that followed. With **Lindsey Hilsum**.

5.15pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): **James Rebanks, Philippe Sands, Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, Barbara Demick**

5.45 - 6.40pm

FOOLS GOLD: Celebrated novelist, biographer and activist **Margaret Drabble** (*The Millstone, Jerusalem The Golden*) has long explored the undercurrents beneath the apparent calm of family life. She talks about her life in writing with **Alex Clark**.

REALM OF IDEAS: **William Dalrymple** (*The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World*) explores how Indian concepts in mathematics, philosophy, science and art helped forge a path toward modernity.

WORLD DOMINATION: THE USA - CHINA TECH WAR: **Misha Glenny** unpacks a rivalry that is reshaping the global electronics sector, and the full array of dirty tricks (trade disruptions, tariffs export controls, restrictions on market access) being deployed in this race to the top.

6.40pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): **Margaret Drabble, William Dalrymple, Misha Glenny, Jules Montague, Suzanne O'Sullivan**

7 - 7.55pm

THE GREAT UNSETTLER: "It's often assumed that the role of poetry is to comfort, but for me it's the great unsettlér," **Alice Oswald** once wrote. Join her as she reads from her work and talks to **Clair Wills**.
Supported by the TS Eliot Foundation.

A MEDITATION ON PHOTOGRAPHY: Bass player **Colin Greenwood** (*How to Disappear: A Portrait of Radiohead*) and **Geoff Dyer** (*The Ongoing Moment*) explore what it means to read a photograph, and the stories they can tell us about our past, present and selves.

LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND BETRAYAL: Nobel Prize-winner **Abdulrazak Gurnah** (*Theft*) talks to journalist **Kirsty Lang** about his latest novel, a quicksilver coming-of-age tale of three young people in 1990s Tanzania that explores the intricacies of friendship, power, identity and belonging.

7.55pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): **Alice Oswald, Colin Greenwood, Geoff Dyer, Abdulrazak Gurnah**

8.15 - 9.15pm

THE MUSIC OF EVERYWHERE: Legendary record producer **Joe Boyd** (and author of *And the Rhythm of Roots Remain*) has spent a lifetime exploring global music. He talks of revolutionary personalities, historic events and political backdrops across continents - we visit Havana, Lagos, Harlem, Buenos Aires, Soweto, Liverpool, Rio.... Historian **William Dalrymple** joins him on the journey as they delve into his record collection.

TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE: **Paul Howard** is **Ross O'Carroll Kelly**, and these are his eight worst dates. A world premiere.

9.15pm

BOOK SIGNINGS (in talk venue): **Joe Boyd, Paul Howard**

THE BALLROOM

SWIMMING IN THE OCEANS OF QUACKERY:

Neurologist **Suzanne O'Sullivan** (*The Age of Diagnosis: Sickness, Health and Why Medicine Has Gone Too Far*) is joined by **Jules Montague** (*The Imaginary Patient: How Diagnosis Gets Us Wrong*) to explore the injustices of the modern medical system, and the ways in which diagnosis often fails the patient. With psychiatrist-turned-writer **Rivka Galchen** (*Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch*).



LIVE MUSIC IN THE ROOKERY

9.30-11pm

Composer and fiddle player **Martin Hayes** with cellist **Kate Ellis**, artistic director of Crash Ensemble.

11.05pm -12am

A blend of American Old Time and Irish Folk, **DUG** is the name given to the transatlantic music project of Scottish Irishman **Lorkin O'Reilly** and California native **Jonny Pickett**.

