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LONDON

FESTIVAL OF WRITING
JERICHO WRITERS 2025

Leonardo Royal
Tower Bridge Hotel
28 - 29 JUNE 2025

“What a wonderful weekend of learning and meeting fellow writers. I’ve come away from the festival with a notebook brimming with notes and ideas!” - Trustpilot review

Since 2010, more than four hundred writers each year have attended The Festival of Writing, which sees writers, literary agents and industry professionals gather from around the world for a weekend of writing workshops, one-to-ones and more.

Join us for the weekend and participate in mini-courses and workshops, literary agent or book doctor one-to-ones, enter our iconic and career-making competition, and make lifelong connections and friends.

[Buy Tickets](#)



London Festival of Writing 2025 at a glance

*Timings and rooms subject to change

Saturday 28 June

9.45am	Opening Keynote with Ruth Ware	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
10.30am	Tea & Coffee Networking Break	Trinity & Goodmans Suite/Foyers
Morning workshop: Choose from...		
11.00am	What's Selling? with Morwenna Loughman & Phoebe Morgan	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
11.00am	Improving Your Prose with Rosie Fiore	Minory 2
11.00am	Preparing For Publication (And Rejection) with Ola Awonubi	Minory 1
12.30pm	Lunch	Trinity & Goodmans Suite/Foyers
Early afternoon workshop: Choose from...		
2.00pm	Writing The Past with H.B. Lyle, Rosie Fiore & Ola Awonubi	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
2.00pm	Pitches That Make Us Sit Up And Take Notice with Morwenna Loughman	Minory 2
2.00pm	Managing Your Author Career with The Society of Authors	Minory 1



*Timings and rooms subject to change

Saturday 28 June continued

3.15pm	Tea & Coffee Networking Break	Trinity & Goodmans/Foyers
Late afternoon workshop: Choose from...		
4.00pm	The World Needs Your Novel with Amie McNee & James Winestock	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
4.00pm	How To Write A Love Story That Readers Are Obsessed With with Aliya Ali-Afzal	Minory 1
4.00pm	Psychic Distance: The Key to Point of View with Debi Alper	Minory 2
6.00pm	Bar Opens	Atrium
6.30pm	Gala Dinner and Friday Night Live (but on a Saturday)	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
9.00pm	Friday Night Live (Voting & Winner)	Trinity & Goodmans Suite

Agent One-to-One and Book Doctor sessions will run throughout the day.

You will be able to slip quietly out of your workshops to attend your sessions.



*Timings and rooms subject to change

Sunday 29 June

9.30am	The Writer's Hall (Meet Agents, Publishers, Self-Pub Experts & The Jericho Team)	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
10.30am	Tea & Coffee Networking Break	Trinity & Goodmans Suite/Foyers
Morning workshop: Choose from...		
11.00am	Different Routes To Publication Panel With An Agent, Bookouture, Troubador & Debbie Young	Trinity & Goodmans Suite/Foyers
11.00am	Getting The Attention Of Young Readers with Angela Kecojevic	Minory 2
11.00am	Creating Epic Worlds with Tom Toner	Minory 1
12.30pm	Lunch	Trinity & Goodman Suite/Foyers



*Timings and rooms subject to change

Sunday 29 June continued

Early afternoon workshop: Choose from...

2.00pm	Thrills & Chills with Sophie Flynn & Becca Day	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
2.00pm	Writing Through The Hard Times with Abigail Johnson	Minory 2
2.00pm	Writing What You Don't Know with Davina Bhanabhai	Minory 1
3.00pm	Tea & Coffee Networking Break	Trinity & Goodmans Suite/Foyers

Late afternoon workshop: Choose from...

3.45pm	The Big Genre Write-In	Trinity & Goodmans Suite
3.45pm	Self-Edit Your Novel Mini Session with Debi Alper	Minory 2
3.45pm	The Art of Memoir with Nikesh Shukla	Minory 1
5.00pm	Closing Keynote with Kingsley Pearson	Trinity & Goodmans Suite



The Location

This year the Festival of Writing returns to London! The weekend will take place at the stunning Leonardo Royal Tower Bridge Hotel, London on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June. While the festival will still be non-residential, the hotel has offered 50 rooms at a reduced rate, so if you'd like to stay on site, you're best to get your booking in nice and early. There are also options such as a Travelodge and Premier Inn that are just across the street from the hotel, making it the perfect easy-to-access location.

Hotel Amenities (not included in your ticket)

Should you wish to stay at the hotel, you can take advantage of its luxurious 4* amenities such as:

- Complimentary access to the spa, gym and swimming pool
- Included breakfast
- In-room tea, coffee and complimentary toiletries
- Upgrade to double occupancy for just £20



WRITING WORKSHOPS

Saturday 28
June



Opening Keynote -
Who Do You Think You Are?
Writing Through Imposter
Syndrome with Ruth Ware



9.45am - 10.30am

With nine crime novels to her name, including *In a Dark Wood* and *One Perfect Couple*, Ruth will share her personal journey of battling insecurity in the face of success.

Ruth Ware is an international number one bestseller, with over nine million copies sold worldwide. Her books are published in over 40 languages and have been optioned for both film and TV.

What's Selling? with Morwenna Loughman & Phoebe Morgan

11.00am - 12.30pm



We're bringing together two powerhouse publishing figures to share their knowledge on what's trending in the publishing world, and get the inside scoop on what's selling now.

Morwenna: A literary agent at Aevitas Creative Management, Morwenna has over a decade of experience in publishing, having worked as a commissioning editor at HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, and Bonnier Books UK.

Phoebe: Bestselling author and Commercial Fiction Publishing Director at Hodder & Stoughton. With over a quarter of a million books sold, Phoebe is a true industry leader, always on the lookout for twisty thrillers and unique commercial hooks.

Improving Your Prose with Rosie Fiore

11.00am - 12.30pm

Writing, like art, music and dance, relies on craft. Work with experienced editor Rosie Fiore as she shares practical tips and techniques to sharpen your prose, sparkle your description and zing your dialogue. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and polish, polish, polish. We recommend you bring a page or two of your own writing to work on.

Rosie Fiore is the author of eight published novels. She is a tutor on our Ultimate Novel Writing Course and the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Middlesex University.





Preparing For Publication (And Rejection) with Ola Awonubi

11.00am - 12.30pm

Learn from Ola's 30-year journey to traditional publication and get practical tips on staying resilient through rejections. This workshop will help you prepare your work and mindset for the challenges of traditional publishing, leaving you ready for your next steps.

Ola Awonubi, born in London to Nigerian parents, is the author of eight books, including *A Nurse's Tale*, a historical fiction bestseller in Canada, and *Becoming Auntie Sade* (2025). After living in Nigeria as a child, she returned to London in the 90s and pursued her dream of writing with an MA in Creative Writing.



Writing The Past with H.B. Lyle, Rosie Fiore & Ola Awonubi

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Join this talented panel of authors for a dynamic workshop on bringing history to life and creating authentic characters. Whether you're new to historical fiction or looking to refine your craft, this workshop is perfect for anyone passionate about blending storytelling with the past.

Rosie Fiore is an author and tutor for our Ultimate Novel Writing Course. Ola Awonubi, author of *A Nurse's Tale*, is a book coach. H.B. Lyle, author of the *Irregular* series and *Spy Hunter*, has received critical acclaim, with his works featured in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror*.



Pitches That Make Us Sit up And Take Notice with Morwenna Loughman

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Join literary agent, Morwenna Loughman, for a workshop where you'll learn how to craft compelling pitches that capture the attention of agents and publishers.

Morwenna has over a decade of publishing experience, starting as a commissioning editor at HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, and Bonnier Books UK. She has worked with top authors like Hilary Mantel. Since becoming a literary agent, she has represented bestselling authors like Joe Wicks and Jill Halfpenny. Morwenna joined Aevitas Creative Management in 2024.



Managing Your Author Career with The Society of Authors (SoA)

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Learn about agents, publishing deals, contracts, copyright protection, grants, and building a portfolio career. The session will also cover SoA support for writers, leaving you empowered, industry-savvy, and knowing where to seek help.

Sarah Baxter, Senior Publishing Contracts Advisor, vets contracts and manages the Authors' Contingency Fund. She also supports literary estates like Virginia Woolf's. Lisa Dowdeswell, Head of Literary Estates and Senior Publishing Contracts Advisor, manages estates like Shaw and Woolf and leads the Comics Creators Network.



The World Needs Your Novel with Amie McNee & James Winestock

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Amie and James are here to convince you to write that book you've always wanted to. To finish it. To put it out there. To stop messing around and become the author you're meant to be. This conversation will explore why new books are needed, why your perspective and voice matter and how to get out of your own way and 'do the thing.'

Amie McNee is a novelist and speaker dedicated to empowering creatives to see their work as essential and impactful. Her most recent book, *We Need Your Art*, published by Penguin, is here to make sure you stop messing around and make something. James Winestock is a lapsed historian who is now head of editorial at Inspired to Write where he helps his wife Amie tag dialogue correctly.

Write unforgettable protagonists with chemistry, memorable meet-cutes, and gripping storylines. Explore popular romance tropes like enemies-to-lovers, forced proximity, second chance love and fake relationship, while learning to build tension and craft compelling love stories readers will adore. Fall in love with your main characters and learn how to write a love story that readers are obsessed with.

Aliya Ali-Afzal, author of *The Big Day* and *Would I Lie To You*, has been praised as "a refreshing new voice" by *Cosmopolitan* and "warm, intelligent... brilliantly wry" by Sophie Kinsella. She also mentors and teaches Creative Writing.



How To Write A Love Story That Readers Are Obsessed With with Aliya Ali-Afzal

4.00pm - 5.00pm



Psychic Distance: The Key to Point of View with Debi Alper

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Learning to use psychic distance – also called narrative distance – will make your writing more powerful, and your story more exciting and engaging for readers. In this session Debi will explain how this magical tool holds the key to point of view, narrative voice, characters' voices, and showing and telling.

Debi is the author of five novels. Since 2006, she has worked as a freelance editor and creative writing tutor, including running our phenomenally successful Self-Edit Your Novel course, together with Emma Darwin. She won the inaugural RNA Indie Editor of the Year Award in 2021 and was a reader for the Costa Short Story Awards.



Friday Night Live (But on a Saturday)

6.30pm - Late

It's time to get glam! Weekend and Saturday ticket holders, take a moment to freshen up and slip into your evening attire before we kick off our famous Friday Night Live (but on a Saturday) competition, which will unfold throughout the Gala Dinner. The excitement will build as the evening progresses, with readings, voting, and plenty of celebration.

This career-defining opportunity has launched authors like Joanna Cannon. All delegates can submit 500 words for a chance to compete on stage, with finalists reading to a live audience and a panel of agents, hosted by Debi Alper.

Gala Dinner

Saturday 27 June at 6.30pm – Late



Relax and connect with fellow writers over a delicious two-course meal. After mains, the excitement of Friday Night Live kicks off! Finalists will share their work, and after dessert, you'll have the chance to vote for the writer who deserves this career-defining opportunity.



The festival was an investment in me and my process. Writing can be so isolated yet every room was buzzing with inspiration and a shared love for creativity. I came away with new WhatsApp groups, membership for Jericho, a tonne of ideas and validation that this is the job for me.

– Karen Legge



The cost of your dinner is included in Saturday and Weekend tickets.



WRITING WORKSHOPS

Sunday 29 June

Join industry professionals in The Writer's Hall on Sunday morning for an exclusive networking opportunity. Meet agents from Greene & Heaton, Curtis Brown, Hera, publishers from Bookouture, and more to be announced! This is your chance to connect with agents, publishers, self-publishing experts, the Jericho Writers team, and fellow writers.

Whether you're seeking representation, publication advice, or self-publishing tips, this is the perfect opportunity to connect with those who can help bring your writing career to the next level.



The Writer's Hall (Meet Agents, Publishers, Self-Pub Experts & The Jericho Team)

9.30am - 10.30am



Different Routes To Publication Panel With An Agent, Bookouture, & Debbie Young

11.00am - 12.30pm

Not sure which route you want to take to get your book out there? In this panel, we'll be joined by a literary agent, digital first publisher Bookouture, and self-publishing expert Debbie Young, to discuss the varying routes you can take. We'll dive into the pros and cons of each, what each journey might look like, what it's like to go down each route, and help you to figure out where the perfect home for your work might be.

bookouture



Getting The Attention Of Young Readers with Angela Kecojevic

11.00am - 12.30pm

Grabbing the attention of young readers is tough in such a competitive bookish world. Angela will talk about the importance of crafting exciting chapter endings, the thrill of pace and the greatest hook of all: premise. You will explore what pulls children into stories and how to keep them glued to every page.

Angela is a children's author and creative writing tutor. She has written extensively for the Oxford Reading Tree and is part of the Climate Writers Fiction League, which uses climate issues in fiction. Her debut middle-grade novel Scareground was longlisted for the Historical Association's Young Quills Award.

Creating Epic Worlds with Tom Toner

11.00am - 12.30pm



Learn how to world build the strange and unexpected with critically acclaimed science fiction author Tom Toner, whose space opera novels often feature non-human protagonists and far-flung, bizarre settings.

Tom Toner is the author of the Amaranthine Spectrum, a far-future space opera trilogy published by Gollancz. He lives in Bath, Somerset.

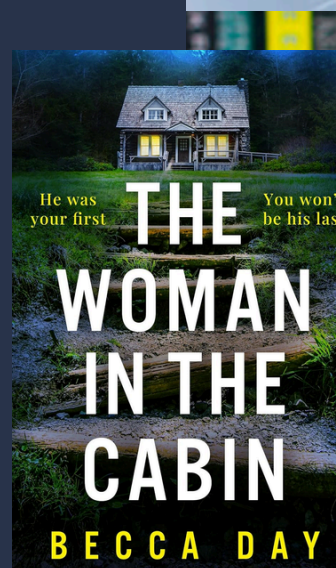
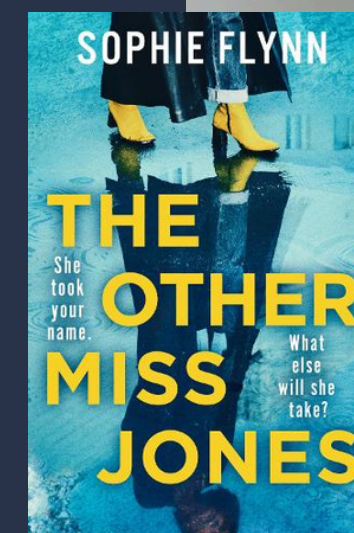
Thrills & Chills with Becca Day & Sophie Flynn

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Looking to inject a bit of thrill into your novel? In this panel, we're going to be discussing all things plot twists, pacing, red herrings, and everything else that goes into writing a page-turner.

Sophie Flynn is the author of five psychological thriller novels, published with Hera, and the managing director of Jericho Writers.

Becca Day is the author of four psychological thriller novels, published by Embla Books, with her 5th coming out in September with Bookouture. She is also Head of Membership at Jericho Writers.





Writing Through The Hard Times with Abigail Johnson

2.00pm - 3.00pm

If rejections are getting you down, how do you know when to give up? The answer is don't! Abigail shares her honest experience of becoming a traditionally published author and all the bumps in the road along the way to success. In talking about her writing journey, she will inspire you to hold on to your dreams and find ways to keep writing through the hard times.

Abigail Johnson's *The Secret Collector* was longlisted for the 2021 and 2022 Bath Novel Award. Her work has also been recognised by the Exeter Novel Award, Edinburgh Flash Fiction Award, and Friday Night Live. She lives in Birmingham.



Writing What You Don't Know with Davina Bhanabhai 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Join Davina on writing about unfamiliar topics with accuracy, sensitivity, and respect. Learn how to research, understand nuances, avoid stereotypes, and engage with lived experiences. Explore strategies for reflecting on biases and practicing empathy while ensuring your writing is responsible and authentic.

Davina lives in Leeds, Yorkshire, with her family. She's an authenticity (sensitivity) editor, copyeditor, proofreader, and marketing specialist. After an accident, she left her career as an Advanced Practitioner Sonographer to focus on recovery. Davina won a place on the HarperCollins UK Author and Design Academy in 2022 and is writing her own book.



The Big Genre Write-In

3.45pm - 4.45pm

Looking to connect with other writers in your genre? This is your opportunity.

Come along to our Genre Write-In, where you'll sit and work on your projects with other writers in your genre. After a writing sprint, you'll be invited to share your work with those on your table and encouraged to give and receive feedback.

At the end of the session, you'll have the chance to swap details with your fellow genre writers so that you can continue to connect long after the festival ends.

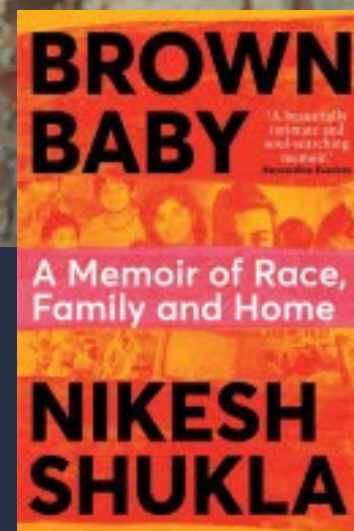
With years of experience and a deep understanding of the editing process, Debi will guide you through essential techniques to refine your manuscript, helping you craft a polished, professional draft. Perfect for writers at any stage!

Debi is the author of five novels. Since 2006, she has worked as a freelance editor and creative writing tutor, including running the phenomenally successful Jericho Writers' Self-Edit Your Novel course, together with Emma Darwin. She won the inaugural RNA Indie Editor of the Year Award in 2021 and was a reader for the Costa Short Story Awards.



Self-Edit Your Novel Mini Session
with Debi Alper

3.45pm - 4.45pm



The Art of Memoir with Nikesh Shukla 3.45pm - 4.45pm

Nikesh will share insights on why we tell stories, how to choose them, and finding your voice. Through practical exercises and discussions, you'll learn to craft compelling stories that reflect your unique perspective and resonate with others. Unlock the power of your personal experiences and storytelling skills!

Nikesh Shukla is a novelist, screenwriter, and author of *The Council of Good Friends* and *Brown Baby*. He edited the bestselling essay collection *The Good Immigrant* and co-founded The Good Literary Agency. Nikesh has written award-winning YA novels, TV projects, and the Spider-Man India comic book miniseries. His work has earned widespread acclaim, including Time Magazine's Cultural Leader recognition.



Closing Keynote with Kingsley Pearson & Debi Alper

5.00pm - 6.00pm

Join Kingsley Pearson and Debi Alper as they discuss why and how to keep going as writers. They'll look at common challenges all writers face, such as rejection and disappointment, and how to navigate these so you can still make the most of the journey, and reap the rewards writing has to offer.

Kingsley Pearson is a Clinical Psychologist and debut author of *Flat 401*. His writing has been longlisted for the Penguin Michael Joseph Undiscovered Writers Prize and shortlisted for the Mo Siewcharran and Joffe Books Prizes.

There will also be a prize draw for attendees.

Agent & Book Doctor One-To-Ones to be announced soon. Keep an eye for updates!





Celebrating 15 years of the Festival of Writing

“ I’m excited BEYOND BELIEF to announce that I am now rep’ed by the wonderful Kiya Evans at the incredible Mushens Entertainment. I first met with Kiya at the Jericho Writers Festival of Writing at the end of last year, and it was a real turning point in my writing and querying journey. ”

Rebecca Lewis Smith

“ Mind blowing . . . My goal in coming was to see the bigger picture re publishing, my career and my next steps in life and you really, really delivered. ”

Pearl Howie

“ I attended the Festival of Writing this year for the first time. A packed weekend but timetabled so well that nothing felt overwhelming. I'll definitely go back next year and would highly recommend. ”

Karen Barnes

“ I have been to many conferences in my life (sure enough not of the writing type), and this was hands down the friendliest of any event I have ever attended, even though I did not know a single person before I came. ”

Egle Rostron

Tickets

	FULL WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Date	28-29 June 2025	28 June 2025	29 June 2025
Workshops	7	3	4
Agent One-to-Ones/ Book Doctor Sessions	2	1	1
Entry into Friday Night Live Competition	Yes	Yes	No
Food & drink	Buffet lunch on both days Tea, coffee & snacks on both days Gala dinner on Saturday	Buffet lunch Tea, coffee & snacks Gala dinner	Buffet lunch Tea, coffee & snacks
Price	Full price: £430 Earlybird price: £415	Full price: £295 Earlybird price: £280	Full price: £225 Earlybird price: £210

Book Tickets