

in association with **TheObserver**

BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS



MAY 2013 EVENTS

In association with



www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Our ninth annual May Festival of Ideas addresses the crisis in capitalism and the banks; looks at the work of the great social historian E P Thompson (with some rarely seen films); debates feminism and what the sexual revolution has delivered; examines science and technology; discusses God, Humanism, religion and the Bible; asks whether we are denying our children freedom; addresses identity and immigration; explores modernism and the arts; and much more.

With speakers including Nate Silver and Sandi Toksvig, James Salter and Alice Rawsthorn, Tracey Thorn and Lord Sainsbury, Linda Grant and Peter Hitchens, Michael J Sandel and Darcey Bussell, Rebecca Solnit and Peter Tatchell, there are treats in store for all. Once again we are delighted to be working in partnership with the *Observer*, and also from this year with the University of Bristol. This support means we can bring even more speakers to Bristol, continue to celebrate the ideas in this city, and promote debate about ideas and Bristol nationally and internationally. We look forward to seeing you and enjoying discussions in May and beyond.

Andrew Kelly
Director

APRIL EGYPT PROGRAMME

PHARAOH: KING OF EGYPT

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

Sat 16 March - Sun 21 July 2013,
£5.00 / £4.00 / £3.00

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery's Pharaoh: King of Egypt is a touring exhibition from the British Museum that explores the times of the pharaohs through fascinating objects from its world-class collection of Ancient Egyptian artefacts, many of which had never before been on display outside of London.

TUTMANIA BY SIR CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING

Watershed, Bristol
Sat 20 April 2013, 14.00 (appx 1hr), £7.00 /
£6.00 (or £10.00 / £8.00 with *The Mummy*)

There had been crazes for the Nile style in Britain before autumn 1922 but nothing on the scale of Tutmania. The discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings led to unprecedented public interest in things Egyptian. In the process, the 'look' of ancient Egypt was established in popular culture. This illustrated talk traces the rise and spread of Tutmania. No scientific discovery until the moon landing in the late 1960s was to make quite such an impact on the public imagination. Presented in partnership with Watershed. There will be a screening of *The Mummy* (1932) to accompany this event (£5.50 / £4.00 film only) and Watershed's Egypt Now Film season in April focuses on the recent surge of Egyptian filmmaking.
www.watershed.co.uk.

MAY FESTIVAL



Nate Silver



Michael J Sandel

NATE SILVER

*THE SIGNAL AND THE NOISE:
WHY MOST PREDICTIONS FAIL –
BUT SOME SUCCEED*

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 3 May 2013, 12.30-13.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Barack Obama calls Nate Silver 'A superstar... my rock, my foundation'. He correctly predicted the winner of all 50 states in the 2012 US Presidential election. His book, *The Signal and the Noise*, was a number one bestseller in 2012. Silver will explain how expert forecasters think and what lies behind their success, across a range of areas including the stock market, the poker table, politics, sports, earthquakes, the weather and disease control helping us to distinguish the true insights from the noise of useless data.

MICHAEL J SANDEL

*WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY:
THE MORAL LIMITS OF MARKETS*

St George's Bristol

Tue 7 May 2013, 18.15-19.45, £8.00 / £6.50

In recent decades, market values have impinged on almost every aspect of life – medicine, education, government, law, even family life. We have drifted from *having* a market economy to *being* a market society.

Michael J Sandel asks: Isn't there something wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? And how do we protect the things that really matter?

ANAT ADMATI

*WHAT'S STILL WRONG WITH
THE BANKS AND HOW DO WE
MAKE THEM WORK?*

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 10 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

The past few years have shown that risks in banking can impose significant costs on the economy and they continue to fail the economy and society. Anat Admati argues we can have a safer and healthier banking system at essentially no cost to society. Cutting through the jargon, she calls for ambitious reform and outlines specific and highly beneficial steps that can be taken immediately.

GEOFF MULGAN

*THE LOCUST AND THE BEE:
PREDATORS AND CREATORS IN
CAPITALISM'S FUTURE*

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 10 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

The recent and ongoing economic crisis is a dramatic reminder that capitalism can both produce and destroy. It's a system that encourages predators and creators. But, Geoff Mulgan (Chief Executive NESTA) argues the crisis also presents an historic opportunity to choose a radically different future for capitalism, one that maximizes its creative power and minimizes its destructive force.

MARTIN PALMER
SACRED BRISTOL WALK
Starting from Watershed cafe

Sat 11 May 2013, 10.30-12.45, £8.00 / £7.00
(includes refreshments on arrival)

Join Martin Palmer, author of *Sacred Land: Decoding Britain's Extraordinary Past Through its Towns, Villages and Countryside*, for a guided walk of Sacred Bristol. Starting at Harbourside, it will include stories of the struggle between Catholic and Celtic Christianity on College Green, Brandon Hill, named after the saint who discovered America c 700 AD, and the churches of St Stephen, St Peter and St Nicholas.

RICHARD SENNETT
TOGETHER: THE RITUALS,
PLEASURES AND POLITICS OF
COOPERATION
Watershed, Bristol

Sat 11 May 2013, 11.30-12.30, £7.00 / £6.00
In his new book, *Together*, Richard Sennett explores the nature of co-operation. He argues that co-operation needs more than good will: it is a craft that requires skill. In modern society traditional bonds are waning, and we must develop new forms of secular, civic ritual that make us more skilful in living with others.

PHILIP FRENCH
FIFTY YEARS AS A FILM CRITIC
Watershed, Bristol

Sat 11 May 2013, 13.00-14.30, £7.00 / £6.00
(or £10.00 / £8.00 with *Heaven's Gate*)
Philip French celebrates 50 years of writing about film for the *Observer* this year. He spent his formative cinema-going years in Bristol between 1948 and 1959. He looks back on these years, including the influence on his life of a double bill of *Ace in the Hole* and *Horse Feathers* screened at the Ritz Brislington. Includes film clips.



Richard Sennett



Alice Rawsthorn

HEAVEN'S GATE (18)
Watershed, Bristol

Sat 11 May 2013, 15.00-19.06
(including 30 minute interval), £5.50 / £4.00
(or £10.00 / £8.00 with Philip French)

Heaven's Gate, Michael Cimino's 1981 follow-up to *The Deer Hunter*, divided critics and the public alike on its initial release. It became a symbol of all that was wrong with Hollywood and its excesses. Philip French was one of the few critics to hail the film as a masterpiece from the start, and he introduces here the digitally restored, full director's cut.

FRANCES HARRISON
AND BIDISHA
SRI LANKA AND PALESTINE:
WRITING WAR
Watershed, Bristol

Sat 11 May 2013, 15.00-16.00, £7.00 / £6.00
As decades of civil war reached its bloody climax, Sri Lanka became a hell for its Tamil minority. A strict media blackout meant that the world was unaware of the suffering of hundreds of thousands of civilians. In *Still Counting the Dead* Frances Harrison recounts those crimes in sobering, shattering detail. She is in discussion with writer and broadcaster Bidisha who has spent time in recent years in the Middle East resulting in *Beyond the Wall: Writing a Path Through Palestine*.

JAY GRIFFITHS
KITH: THE RIDDLE OF
THE CHILDSCAPE
Watershed, Bristol

Sat 11 May 2013, 16.30-17.30, £7.00 / £6.00
Moving from communities in West Papua and the Arctic to the ostracised young people of contemporary Britain, Jay Griffiths asks why we have enclosed our children in a consumerist cornucopia and denied them the freedoms of space, time and deep play. She uses history, philosophy, language and literature to illustrate children's affinity for the natural world.

ALICE RAWSTHORN
HELLO WORLD: WHERE
DESIGN MEETS LIFE
Spike Island, Bristol
Sat 11 May 2013, 18.00-19.00, £7.00 / £6.00
Alice Rawsthorn, design critic for the *International Herald Tribune*, explores design's influence on our lives, from the macabre symbol invented by eighteenth-century pirates to terrorise their victims into surrender, to one woman's quest for the best possible prosthetic legs. Presented in partnership with Spike Island and The West of England Design Forum.

DAMIAN BARR
MAGGIE & ME
Watershed, Bristol
Sat 11 May 2013, 18.00-19.00, £7.00 / £6.00
Journalist and cultural entrepreneur Damian Barr's *Maggie & Me* is a touching, harsh and darkly witty memoir about surviving Thatcher's Britain; coping with being different in working-class Motherwell; and growing up gay in a straight world and coming out the other side, having discovered that stories can save your life.

ALICE OSWALD
Watershed, Bristol
Sat 11 May 2013, 19.30-20.30, £7.00 / £6.00
Alice Oswald is one of our finest poets, admired widely by readers, poets and critics with work ranging from *Dart* – telling the story of the River Dart in Devon in verse and prose – to *Memorial*, her latest work, a translation of Homer's Iliad and a brilliantly original poem. The *Guardian* said she is 'a special kind of poet – re-imagining Nature's contemporary aspects in truly original ways.' She talks about and reads from her work. In association with Poetry Can.

THE HAPPY LANDS (12A)
FILM AND DIRECTOR'S Q&A
Watershed, Bristol
Sun 12 May 2013, 13.00-15.30, £8.00 / £6.50
Robert Rae's epic, sweeping portrait of a definitive moment in the history of social justice charts the lives of three Scottish families as they deal with questions of loyalty, honour, love and trust in the midst of the General Strike. It was created with over 1,000 members of the Fife community. After the screening Rae will be interviewed about the making of the film.

MARK ROWLANDS
RUNNING WITH THE PACK:
THOUGHTS FROM THE ROAD ON
MEANING AND MORALITY
Watershed, Bristol
Sun 12 May 2013, 14.30-15.30, £7.00 / £6.00
For Mark Rowlands running and philosophising are inextricably connected. In *Running with the Pack* he tells us about the most significant runs of his life while offering profound meditations on mortality, midlife and the meaning of life. He will make the philosophically inclined want to run, and those who love running become intoxicated by philosophical ideas.

KEVIN FONG

EXTREMES: LIFE, DEATH AND THE LIMITS OF THE HUMAN BODY

Watershed, Bristol

Sun 12 May 2013, 16.00-17.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Drawing on his experiences as a doctor specialising on anaesthesia and intensive care medicine, Kevin Fong explores the human body's response when tested by the extremes of fire, ice, space flight, trauma, age and disease. He probes the very limits of our biology for a better appreciation of how our bodies work, of what life is, and what it means to be human.

MIRIAM DARLINGTON, CASPAR HENDERSON AND MARK ROWLANDS

ANIMALS AND HUMANS

Watershed, Bristol

Sun 12 May 2013, 17.30-19.00, £7.00 / £6.00

How humans respond to, interact and live with animals is a key issue for our age promoting huge debate. Our panellists – Mark Rowlands (*The Philosopher and the Wolf*), Miriam Darlington (*Otter Country*) and Caspar Henderson (*The Book of Barely Imagined Beings*) – invite us to better imagine the world around us, look at animals in new ways and reappraise what it means to be human.

GAVIN HEWITT

THE LOST CONTINENT: EUROPE IN CRISIS

Watershed, Bristol

Mon 13 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

BBC Europe Editor Gavin Hewitt tells the story of the flawed dream that led Europe into its gravest crisis since World War Two. A shared currency seduced some countries into a wild spending binge. After the financial crash in the US, Europe caught the cold and was left with a debt crisis that came to threaten the entire European project. He tells the astonishing story of how we got here and where we might be headed.



Kevin Fong



Gavin Hewitt

GEORGE MONBIOT

REWILDING

St George's Bristol

Mon 13 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

In his latest book, *Feral*, George Monbiot, one of the world's most celebrated radical thinkers, explores a new, positive environmentalism, which shows how damaged ecosystems on land and at sea can be restored, and how this restoration can revitalise and enrich our own lives. The process of rewilding, he argues, offers the chance for ecological processes to resume and humans to draw closer to the natural world.

FRANCIS SPUFFORD

UNAPOLOGETIC: WHY, DESPITE EVERYTHING, CHRISTIANITY CAN MAKE SURPRISING EMOTIONAL SENSE

Watershed, Bristol

Mon 13 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic* is a brief, witty, personal, sharp-tongued defence of Christian belief, taking on Dawkins' *The God Delusion* and Christopher Hitchens' *God is Not Great*. But it isn't an argument that Christianity is true. It's an argument that Christianity is *recognisable*, drawing on the deep and deeply ordinary vocabulary of human feeling.

PHILIP GLASS

IN CONVERSATION

Watershed, Bristol

Tue 14 May 2013, 13.00-14.00, £5.50 / £4.00

Philip Glass has had an extraordinary and unprecedented impact upon the musical and intellectual life of his times, composing more than 20 operas, 50 film scores, eight symphonies and several concertos. As part of Filmic 2013 he talks with conductor Charles Hazlewood about his music, art and creativity. Glass performs live at St George's Bristol in the evening. Watershed is also showing a season of related films.

DAVID STUCKLER

THE BODY ECONOMIC: WHY AUSTERITY KILLS

Watershed, Bristol

Tue 14 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

David Stuckler argues that austerity is seriously bad for health. We can prevent financial crises from becoming epidemics, but to do so, we must acknowledge what the hard data tells us: that, throughout history, there is a causal link between the strength of a community's health and its social protection systems. Our commitment to the building of fairer societies will determine the health of our body economic.

CHASE MADAR

BRADLEY MANNING

Watershed, Bristol

Tue 14 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

Chase Madar presents a riveting account of Bradley Manning's imprisonment for allegedly leaking classified government documents. He reveals exclusive, never before seen material, as well as a no holds barred analysis of the punitive regime enforced by the US State, designed, he argues, to serve as a warning to other prospective whistleblowers.

A C GRAYLING

THE GOD ARGUMENT: THE CASE AGAINST RELIGION AND FOR HUMANISM

At-Bristol

Tue 14 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

A C Grayling's new book is the first to deal with all the arguments against religion and, equally important, to put forward an alternative – humanism. There has been a bad-tempered quarrel between defenders and critics of religion in recent years. *The God Argument* is the definitive examination of the issue.

BRISTOL IDEAS FORUM: MAYOR'S CONFERENCE 2013: WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR?

Watershed, Bristol

Wed 15 May 2013, 09.00-17.00, £30.00 / £25.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)

There's much debate about the future of local government in this age of austerity, major financial cutbacks and potentially new forms of governance. Is local government simply a means for national government to organise local affairs; should local authorities be involved in non-statutory activities; what is the role of a councillor; are there more efficient ways of sharing services; are there new ways of funding local activity; and how can local authorities reinvent themselves for the modern age? Speakers at this special forum include Alexandra Jones (Centre for Cities), Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, TUC; Lord Heseltine; Greg Clarke, Financial Secretary to the Treasury; city leaders from the UK; Mayor George Ferguson and others. See website for complete programme.

TRACEY THORN

*BEDSIT DISCO QUEEN:
HOW I GREW UP AND TRIED
TO BE A POP STAR*

Arnolfini, Bristol

Wed 15 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Tracey Thorn was only 16 when she bought an electric guitar and joined a band. Between 1982 and 2000, she was one half of the group Everything But the Girl. She has now written a funny, perceptive and candid story of her 30-year pop career (including time working with Massive Attack). She shares the thrills and wonders, moments of doubt, mistakes, and violent lifestyle changes, from luxury to squalor and back again.

ADAM RUTHERFORD

*THE ORIGIN OF LIFE/
THE FUTURE OF LIFE*

Watershed, Bristol

Wed 15 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Drawing on recent and dramatic advances in experimental biology, Adam Rutherford takes us on a gripping, four-billion-year journey of discovery to explain exactly how life happened. He also looks to the future: our mastery of genetics now allows us to create entirely new life-forms within the laboratory, offering tailor-made solutions to the crises of food shortage, pandemic disease and climate change.

RICHARD HOLMES

FALLING UPWARDS

Watershed, Bristol

Wed 15 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

In *Falling Upwards* Richard Holmes offers another of his subtle portraits of human endeavour, recklessness and vision. He tells the story of the many writers and dreamers who felt the imaginative impact of flight and of the enigmatic group of men and women who risked their lives to take to the air, and so discovered a new dimension of human experience.

ROBIN INCE

*THE IMPORTANCE OF
BEING INTERESTED*

Arnolfini, Bristol

Wed 15 May 2013, 19.45-21.40

(includes interval), £10.00 / £8.00

In his new show the award-winning comedian and science enthusiast Robin Ince takes a loving look into the minds of two giants of human imagination who changed our worldview: Charles Darwin and Richard Feynman. Find out why we have eyebrows, why bald dogs have bad teeth, how heavy metal music makes pigs deaf and why spaghetti snaps into four pieces.

LORD SAINSBURY

*THE OBSERVER LECTURE 2013:
PROGRESSIVE CAPITALISM*

St George's Bristol

Thu 16 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

Lord Sainsbury of Turville, former Minister of Science and Innovation, will deliver the second annual *Observer* lecture. Progressive Capitalists believe in the crucial role of institutions, the need for the state to design institutions and the use of social justice (fairness) as an important measure of a country's economic performance. He shows how a progressive political economy can be used by politicians and policymakers to produce a programme of economic change through reforming the UK's equity markets, corporate governance, innovation, education and training institutions with the state having an enabling role rather than the command-and-control stance of traditional socialism or the minimalist role of neoliberalism.



Richard Holmes



Lord Sainsbury

PETER J CONRADI

FRANK THOMPSON

Arnolfini, Bristol

Thu 16 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Peter J Conradi's *A Very English Hero: The Making of Frank Thompson* is 'a compelling portrait of a generation that is slipping from memory' (*Spectator*). Gentle, modest, handsome, eccentric, a fine poet, who wrote the great poem of the Second World War, and an unlikely soldier and war hero (and also the brother of radical historian E P Thompson), Thompson was a rare combination of brilliant mind and enormous heart. Part of our celebration of the life and work of E P Thompson.

MICHAEL PALIN

IN CONVERSATION

St George's Bristol

Thu 16 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £8.00 / £6.50

Michael Palin established his reputation as a writer and performer with the acclaimed Monty Python's Flying Circus. His films include *A Private Function* and an award-winning role in *A Fish Called Wanda*. As a celebrated globetrotter his television credits include the travel series *Around the World in 80 Days, Pole to Pole* and, most recently, *Brazil*. He has also published two volumes of remarkable diaries which have been praised widely. He discusses these and his work with Christopher Stevens, biographer of Kenneth Williams (another indefatigable diarist).

JOHN GRAY

*THE SILENCE OF ANIMALS:
ON PROGRESS AND OTHER
MODERN MYTHS*

Arnolfini, Bristol

Thu 16 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

John Gray is one of our leading philosophers. In his latest book he draws on an extraordinary array of memoirs, poems, fiction and philosophy to provide a penetrating, beautiful and chilling insight into the human condition, reimagining our place in the world. He delights in the conundrum of our existence, where we twist and turn to avoid acknowledging that we too are animals.

IAN ROBERTSON

*THE WINNER EFFECT: HOW
POWER AFFECTS YOUR BRAIN*

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 17 May 2013, 12.30-13.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Success changes the chemistry of the brain, making you more focused, smarter, more confident and more aggressive. The more you win, the more you will go on to win. But the downside is that winning can become physically addictive. Neuroscientist Ian Robertson explains what makes a winner or a loser and how we can use this understanding.

ANTONIA FRASER

*PERILOUS QUESTION:
REFORM OR REVOLUTION?
BRITAIN ON THE BRINK, 1832*

Arnolfini, Bristol

Fri 17 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Internationally bestselling historian Antonia Fraser's new book brilliantly evokes one year of pre-Victorian political and social history marked by the passing of the Great Reform Bill of 1832. A battle between radicals, reformers and conservatives – and one that affected Bristol directly with the 1831 riots – Fraser tells the story of how the way we are governed was changed forever. There are also resonances today with the troubled history of parliamentary reform.

STEVE JONES

THE SERPENT'S PROMISE: THE BIBLE RETOLD AS SCIENCE

St George's Bristol

Fri 17 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

Steve Jones, one of our great science popularisers, steps aside from the noisy debate between religious believers and non-believers to show how the questions that preoccupy today are those of biblical times – and that science offers many of the answers. He gives a witty and thoughtful account of the ability and the limits of science to tell us what we are.

SANDI TOKSVIG

VALENTINE GREY

St George's Bristol

Fri 17 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £8.00 / £6.50

Valentine Grey is a huge and sweeping story about love, liberty, empire and freedom from one of the nation's best-loved writers and performers. 1897: Valentine arrives in England from the sunny climes of India. The only bright spot is her exciting cousin, Reggie. When Valentine puts on Reggie's uniform to take his place in the Boer War, it is glorious and liberating for both of them for a while, but it cannot last.

DAVID GOODHART

THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE

Arncliffe, Bristol

Fri 17 May 2013, 19.45-21.15, £7.00 / £6.00

There have been three periods of high immigration since 1945: in the 1950s, the 1970s and finally in the years following 1997, when the country absorbed the highest levels of net immigration in its history. David Goodhart, author of *The British Dream: Successes and Failures of British Immigration*, believes that Britain has been immensely enriched by the enterprise and diversity of its immigrant populations, but that the number of newcomers in the last 15 years has strained community relations in some parts of the country and may have weakened the consensus surrounding



Steve Jones

welfare provision. He discusses the issues with Sunder Katwala, director of the identity and integration think-tank British Future and Nazek Ramadan, director, Migrant Voice. Chaired by philosopher Julian Baggini, author of *Welcome to Everytown: A Journey into the English Mind*.

EUGENE BYRNE

UNBUILT BRISTOL WALKING TOUR

Starting from Watershed cafe

Sat 18 May 2013, 10.00-12.00, £8.00 / £7.00

(includes refreshments on arrival)

Join Eugene Byrne for a walking tour of some of the sites explored in his new book, *Unbuilt Bristol: The City That Might Have Been 1750-2050*. Learn about proposals for schemes that never happened ranging from the idealistic, through the commercially hard-headed, and onwards to developments which would have been brutally inappropriate or just plain mad.

SHEREEN EL FEKI

SEX IN THE ARAB WORLD

Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 11.00-12.00, £7.00 / £6.00

As political change sweeps the public spaces of the Arab world, Shereen El Feki has been looking at upheaval a little closer to home – in the sexual lives of men and women in Egypt and across the region. The result is an informative, insightful and engaging account of a highly sensitive, and still largely secret, aspect of Arab society.

SILVIA CASALE, IAN COBAIN AND MALCOLM EVANS

ON TORTURE

Arncliffe, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 12.15-13.30, £7.00 / £6.00

In his new book, *Cruel Britannia*, journalist Ian Cobain shows how the British have repeatedly resorted to torture, turning a blind eye where necessary, bending the law where they can, and issuing categorical denials all the while. He is in discussion with Malcolm Evans, Chair of the UN Sub Committee for the Prevention of Torture and a member of the UK Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights, and Silvia Casale, former President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

DARIAN LEADER

STRICTLY BIPOLAR

Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 12.30-13.30, £7.00 / £6.00

If the post-war period was called the 'Age of Anxiety' and the 1980s and '90s the 'Antidepressant Era', we now live in Bipolar times. Mood-stabilising medication is routinely prescribed to adults and children alike. Darian Leader challenges the rise of 'bipolar' as a catch-all solution to complex problems, and argues that we need to rethink the highs and lows of mania and depression.

E P THOMPSON CELEBRATION

FILMS AND PANEL

Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 13.00-17.10

(with intervals), £12.00 / £10.00

2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of E P Thompson's *The Making of the English Working Class*, a book still widely acknowledged as an important work of social history. We celebrate Thompson with the screening of films about his life and work and a panel discussion on his importance as an historian, intellectual and activist for social

ANDREW SOLOMON

FAR FROM THE TREE: A DOZEN KINDS OF LOVE

Arncliffe, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 14.00-15.00, £7.00 / £6.00

In *Far from the Tree* Andrew Solomon introduces us to families coping with their exceptional children and finding profound meaning in doing so. He documents repeated triumphs of human love and compassion and explores themes of generosity, acceptance and tolerance, to show that the shared experience of difference is what unites us and expands our definition of what it is to be human.

WHAT THE FROCK!

WHY WOMEN ARE FUNNY

Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 14.00-15.30, £7.00 / £6.00

There's been a lot of talk in the past few years about whether women are capable of being funny. Jane Duffus, founder of What The Frock! in Bristol, joins comedians Kate Smurthwaite and Viv Groskop for a panel discussion on women in comedy. The event is chaired by BBC Bristol's Elise Rayner, a champion of women in the arts.

justice and peace. The panellists include Emma Griffin, author of *Liberty's Dawn: a People's History of the Industrial Revolution*, and Steve Poole, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural History and Director, Regional History Centre, UWE. Films: *Rear Window: A Life of Dissent – Remembering E P Thompson* (Channel 4, 1993), *Something to Say: Edward Thompson on William Blake* (BBC, 1969), *Arena: Taking Our Time* (BBC, 1977-8). See also the event on 16 May with Peter J Conradi on Frank Thompson.



Mary Whitehouse



Peter Tatchell

WILL STORR

THE HERETICS: ADVENTURES WITH THE ENEMIES OF SCIENCE Arnolfini, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 15.30-16.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Using a unique mix of highly personal memoir, investigative journalism and the latest research from neuroscience and experimental psychology, Will Storr reveals how the stories we tell ourselves about the world invisibly shape our beliefs, and can easily lead to self-deception, toxic partisanship and science denial.

BEN THOMPSON WITH SHOW OF STRENGTH

MARY WHITEHOUSE: BAN THIS FILTH Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 16.00-17.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Mary Whitehouse led campaigns against swearing and sexual license on television for nearly 40 years. There was outrage and affront but, far from being the last of a dying breed, might Mary have been the harbinger – if not quite the agent – of a change in the tide of cultural history? Ben Thompson, author of *Ban This Filth: Letters from the Mary Whitehouse Archive*, talks about Mary Whitehouse, accompanied by streams of original Whitehouse letters and the tortuous replies of the unfortunate BBC executives who got on the wrong side of her pen. Read by Show of Strength's Sheila Hannon and Simon Cook.

T J CLARK

PICASSO AND TRUTH: FROM CUBISM TO GUERNICA Arnolfini, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 17.00-18.00, £7.00 / £6.00

The art historian T J Clark offers a breathtaking and original new look at the most significant artist of the modern era. Offering a striking reassessment of Picasso's paintings from the 1920s and 1930s, Clark rescues the artist from the celebrity culture that trivialises his accomplishments and returns us to the tragic vision of his art.

TONY LEE MORAL

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MOVIE MAKING MASTERCLASS Arnolfini Dark Studio

Sat 18 May 2013, 17.00-18.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Hitchcock author and aficionado Tony Lee Moral takes you through the process of making a motion picture, Hitchcock-style, using anecdotes from the Master of Suspense himself and his cast and crew members including Kim Novak, Doris Day, Eva Marie-Saint, Joseph Stefano and Norman Lloyd.

KEVIN JACKSON

CONSTELLATION OF GENIUS: 1922: MODERNISM YEAR ONE Watershed, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 18.30-19.45, £7.00 / £6.00

1922 was a year of remarkable firsts, births, and foundations. It began with the publication of *Ulysses* and ended with the publication of *The Waste Land*. Dada was put to rest, Proust died; Hollywood transformed the nature of fame; Kandinsky and Klee joined the Bauhaus; and Louis Armstrong took the train from New Orleans to Chicago. Kevin Jackson tells the story.

NIGEL COSTLEY

WEST COUNTRY REBELS Arnolfini, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 18.30-19.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Nigel Costley, author of *West Country Rebels*, tells the story through words and pictures of West Country trade unionism, from the Tolpuddle Martyrs in Dorset to the battle for rights at GCHQ in Cheltenham and beyond, and of the characters who defied convention and helped organise around dangerous ideas of freedom, equality and justice. Event includes songs performed by Red Notes, Bristol's Socialist choir.

WHAT THE FROCK! AT THE FESTIVAL OF IDEAS 2013

Arnolfini, Bristol

Sat 18 May 2013, 20.30-23.00,
£12.00 / £10.00

After launching at last year's festival, What The Frock! has continued to grow and prove that there is a huge demand from audiences for the countless talented female comedians on the UK circuit. We are pleased to welcome Tiffany Stevenson back to Bristol for an evening of stand-up comedy. She will be supported by Bethany Black, with Luisa Omielan as MC. A first anniversary What the Frock! event takes place tonight 20.30.

JESSE NORMAN MP

EDMUND BURKE Watershed, Bristol

Sun 19 May 2013, 14.00-15.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Jesse Norman vividly depicts Edmund Burke's dazzling intellect, imagination and empathy, and his lasting ideologies. Burke's wisdom applies well beyond the times of empire to the democratic politics of Britain and America today. We cannot understand the defects of the modern world, or modern politics, without Burke. Burke was MP for Bristol 1774-1780 and made his famous Speech to the Electors of Bristol in 1774.



Tiffany Stevenson



Bethany Black

POLLY MORLAND AND PETER TATCHELL HOW TO BE BRAVE

Arnolfini, Bristol

Sun 19 May 2013, 15.30-16.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Are brave people somehow fundamentally different from the rest of us, or is courage something that we can learn? As anxiety levels reach pandemic proportions, courage has become a virtue in crisis. Polly Morland seeks the truth about what courage today really means and how it comes about. She discusses this with Peter Tatchell who has fought over many decades for the rights of others.

LINDA GRANT AND PETER HITCHENS

THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION – PROGRESS OR DECADENCE? Watershed, Bristol

Sun 19 May 2013, 15.30-16.30, £7.00 / £6.00

In this year of the publication of *Fifty Shades of Feminism* (see event at 17.00) and the fiftieth anniversary of Betty Freidan's *The Feminine Mystique*, Peter Hitchens, *Mail on Sunday* columnist and author of books on Britain's cultural revolution, crime and punishment, politics, liberty and drugs, debates the sexual revolution and its impact with Linda Grant, feminist, novelist and commentator whose books include *Sexing the Millennium: A Political History of the Sexual Revolution* and *We Had It So Good*, a portrait of the baby boomers and their legacy.

LISA APPIGNANESI, BIDISHA,
LINDA GRANT AND
RACHEL HOLMES

FIFTY SHADES OF FEMINISM

Arnolfini, Bristol

Sun 19 May 2013, 17.00-18.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Fifty years after the publication of *The Feminine Mystique*, have women really exchanged purity and maternity to become desiring machines inspired only by variations of sex, shopping and masochism – all coloured a brilliant neuro-pink? Lisa Appignanesi, Bidisha, Linda Grant and Rachel Holmes reflect on the shades of feminism that inspired them and what being a woman means to them today.

DIARMAID MACCULLOCH

SILENCE: A CHRISTIAN HISTORY

Arnolfini, Bristol

Sun 19 May 2013, 18.30-19.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Diarmaid MacCulloch, acknowledged master of the big picture in Christian history, unravels a polyphony of silences from the history of Christianity and beyond. Behind all this is the silence of God. MacCulloch brings a message of optimism for those who still seek God beyond the clamorous noise of over-confident certainties.

DARCEY BUSSELL:

A LIFE IN BALLET

St George's Bristol

Tue 21 May 2013, 18.10-19.10, £8.00 / £6.50

Darcey Bussell, one of the greatest English ballerinas of all time, talks about her career from her early years through to her final performance of MacMillan's *Song of the Earth* in 2007. She provides a fascinating insight into the ballet world, looking back on her now famous performances in ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, *Manon*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty* and also talks about her role as a judge in *Strictly Come Dancing*. There'll be film and pictures of her work, from the new book *Darcey Bussell*.



James Salter

JAMES SALTER

ALL THAT IS

Watershed, Bristol

Thu 23 May 2013, 18.10-20.30

(includes screening and interval), £7.00 / £6.00

This is a rare opportunity to hear James Salter talk about his latest novel, a sweeping, seductive love story set in post-World War II America that draws together the great themes of Salter's writing: warfare, love, sex and marriage, and what it means to write. Includes first-UK screening of the documentary *A Sport and a Pastime*, which traces Salter's lifelong love affair with France.

JULIA UNWIN

*WHAT WOULD BEVERIDGE
SAY NOW?*

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 24 May 2013, 12.30-13.30, £7.00 / £6.00

The Beveridge Report, which formed the basis of the Welfare State and the creation of the NHS was published just over 50 years ago. Julia Unwin, Chief Executive, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) discusses the social, economic and political changes experienced in the UK since the ground-breaking and revolutionary report was published; explores the implications of those changes and the nature of a 21st-century response; and argues that nothing less than a new settlement, fit for the 21st century, is needed to address contemporary challenges.



Rebecca Solnit

LEE SMOLIN

TIME REBORN

St George's Bristol

Fri 24 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

Lee Smolin, one of our foremost theoretical physicists, proposes a 'revolutionary' hypothesis about the true nature of time; that the laws of physics are not fixed, but that they evolve, in real time. This is a spectacular shift of viewpoint, which opens up the possibility of resolving some of the big open issues in physics today and places profound importance on human agency.

THE SPIRIT OF '45 (U)

FILM AND PANEL

Watershed, Bristol

Fri 24 May 2013, 18.00-19.40 (film), interval,
20.00-21.00 panel, £5.50 / £4.00 film only;
£7.00 / £6.00 panel only; combined ticket
£10.00 / £8.00

Ken Loach's *The Spirit of '45* is an impassioned documentary about how the unity which buoyed Britain during the war years carried through to create a vision of a fairer, united society. After the film, Loach will be joined by panellists Jason Cowley, editor, *New Statesman* and Julia Unwin, Chief Executive, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, to discuss a period of unprecedented community spirit in the UK and its legacy.



George Saunders

DANIEL C DENNETT

*INTUITION PUMPS AND OTHER
TOOLS FOR THINKING*

St George's Bristol

Tue 28 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

Daniel C Dennett, one of the world's most original and provocative thinkers, takes us on a profound, illuminating and highly entertaining philosophical journey revealing a collection of his favourite thinking tools, or 'intuition pumps', that he and others have developed for addressing life's most fundamental questions.

REBECCA SOLNIT

THE FARAWAY NEARBY

Watershed, Bristol

Thu 30 May 2013, 18.00-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

From one of the most widely admired American writers and public intellectuals, Rebecca Solnit's new book, *The Faraway Nearby*, tells us how, one summer, an unexpected gift from her ill mother led to an exploration of stories – including the library of water in Iceland, the basin of the Grand Canyon, explorers and artists, the Marquis de Sade, Che Guevara among the leper colonies, Mary Shelley's Dr Frankenstein, the living and the dead – providing an impassioned defence of the spaces we share and the ways in which they form us.

GEORGE SAUNDERS

TENTH OF DECEMBER

Watershed, Bristol

Thu 30 May 2013, 20.00-21.00, £7.00 / £6.00

From the undisputed master of the short story comes a dazzling and disturbing new collection. His most wryly hilarious work to date, *Tenth of December* illuminates human experience and explores figures lost in a labyrinth of troubling preoccupations, with dark visions of the future riffing against ghosts of the past.

NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB
ANTIFRAGILE: THINGS THAT GAIN FROM DISORDER

At-Bristol

Fri 31 May 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

How can we thrive in an uncertain world? Just as human bones get stronger when subjected to stress and tension, many things in life benefit from stress, disorder, volatility, and turmoil. In his new book *Antifragile* Nassim Nicholas Taleb, author of the bestselling *The Black Swan* and one of the foremost thinkers of our time, stands uncertainty on its head, making it desirable, even necessary and the way to thrive in an uncertain world.

MICHAEL POLLAN
COOKING AS A POLITICAL ACT
At-Bristol

Fri 31 May 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

Using his own kitchen adventures as the thread, Michael Pollan makes a compelling case that cooking is one of the simplest and most important steps people can take to improve their family's health and well-being, build community, help fix our broken food system, and break our growing dependence on corporations. Cooking therefore becomes a political act.

FUTURE EVENTS

VIV GRSKOP
I LAUGHED, I CRIED: HOW ONE WOMAN TOOK ON STAND-UP AND (ALMOST) RUINED HER LIFE
Watershed, Bristol

Wed 3 July 2013, 18.15-19.15, £7.00 / £6.00

When is it too late to become the person you were meant to be? In her new book, Viv Groskop tells how – pushing 40 and a mother of three – she realised her ambition to become a stand-up comedian. It was an alarmingly specific and reckless experiment that has a reassuringly universal and inspiring message for all.



Viv Groskop



Margaret Atwood

MICHAEL WOOD AND MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN
ITALO CALVINO: A LIFE
Watershed, Bristol

Wed 3 July 2013, 19.45-20.45, £7.00 / £6.00

Italy's most important postwar novelist, Italo Calvino achieved worldwide fame. Michael Wood and Martin McLaughlin, editors of the new collection of Calvino letters, talk about his work, his writings, culture and politics, as well as his life, with, among other events, his resignation from the Communist party, his eye-opening trip to the US in 1959-60, his move to Paris, and his trip to his birthplace in Cuba.

MARGARET ATWOOD
MADDADDAM
St George's Bristol

Wed 28 August 2013, 18.15-19.15, £8.00 / £6.50

Margaret Atwood's presentation of *The Year of the Flood* was one of the highlights of the 2009 Festival of Ideas – and one of the best book launches ever. Her new novel, *MaddAddam*, is the concluding part to the Oryx and Crake Trilogy. Told with wit, dizzying imagination, and dark humour, this unpredictable, chilling, and hilarious book takes us further into a challenging dystopian world and holds up a skewed mirror to our own possible future. She remains one of the world's leading writers and thinkers.

BIG GREEN WEEK

All events are £7.50 and take place at Arnolfini

We're partnering with BIG Green Week, Bristol's celebration of all things green, with some special speakers on the environment.
www.biggreenweek.com.

All events take place in Arnolfini and are £7.50 each.



TONY JUNIPER
WHAT HAS NATURE EVER DONE FOR US?

Thur 20 June 2013, 12.30-13.30

From Indian vultures to Chinese bees, nature provides the 'natural services' that keep the economy going, with an estimated worth double that of the annual global GDP. We take most of these for granted, imagining them free and limitless – until they suddenly switch off. Tony Juniper will change the way you think about life, the planet and the economy.

GEORGE CLARKE
Fri 21 June 2013, 12.30-13.30

George Clarke is an architect and a Creative Director of architectural practice George Clarke + Partners as well as a writer, lecturer and TV presenter. He's passionate about the way architecture can transform our everyday lives. He talks about his aims to make architecture popular and accessible to everyone. His programmes include Channel 4's *Restoration Man*, *The Great British Property Scandal* and *George Clarke's Amazing Spaces*.

BEYOND (PARTY) POLITICS
Fri 21 June 2013, 18.30-20.00

In the past year, the south-west has transformed local politics: in Frome, 10 independents – a 'majority' – took over their local council; then Bristol elected independent George Ferguson as its first mayor; and seven candidates are standing, as an 'independent group', in Bristol's local elections in May. Frome's Pippa Goldfinger (now Mayor) and Peter Macfadyen join George Ferguson, Bristol candidate Brenda McLennan, and Jonathon Porritt, co-founder of the Ecology (now Green) Party, to discuss the impact of operating outside the restrictions of political parties. In association with the Schumacher Society.

ALICE ROBERTS
Sat 22 June 2013, 12.30-13.30

Professor Alice Roberts discusses the lives and extinctions of the megafauna that roamed Ice age America and Eurasia, with some behind-the-scenes insights from filming her latest series with the BBC Natural History Unit.

Book for all BIG Green Week events:
www.biggreenweek.com

Our events with George Monbiot, Rebecca Solnit, Michael Pollan are advance events for BIG Green Week.

MEDEA BENJAMIN

DRONE WARFARE: KILLING BY REMOTE CONTROL

Tue 23 April 2013, 18.30-19.30

Medea Benjamin provides the first extensive analysis of who is producing drones, where they are being used, who pilots them, and what are the legal and moral implications. Benjamin argues that the assassinations being carried out from the air in what is becoming one of the fastest-growing – and most secretive – fronts in global war will come back to haunt us.

SHEILA HETI

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE?

Wed 1 May 2013, 18.30-19.30

With her latest book the brilliant and always innovative Sheila Heti has crafted a work that is part literary novel, part self-help manual, and part bawdy confessional. It's a totally shameless and dynamic exploration into the way we live now, which breathes fresh wisdom into the eternal questions: What is the sincerest way to love? What kind of person should you be? Sheila Heti is in conversation with novelist Nikeshe Shukla.

ANTHEA NICHOLSON

THE BANNER OF THE PASSING CLOUDS

Thur 2 May 2013, 18.30-19.30

Anthea Nicholson's debut novel gives an extraordinary insight into living under communism in Georgia before independence and vividly describes life in Tbilisi. Its compelling narrator, who is born on the day Stalin dies, is both a victim of the regime and complicit in its ideology and practises. He is an unquestioning citizen of communism, yet a curiously moving figure.

COLUM MCCANN

TRANSATLANTIC

Wed 22 May 2013, 18.30-19.30

Colum McCann's new novel is an outstanding act of literary bravura. From the stories of Alcock and Brown, the First World War, Senator George Mitchell working in search of an Irish peace, and Frederick Douglass, a black American slave, championing ideas of democracy and freedom, he asks can we cross from the new world to the old? And how does the past shape the future?

Festival of Ideas Recommends:

CHARLIE HIGSON

THE SACRIFICE

Bristol Grammar School

Wed 19 June 2013, 18.00, £5.00

Writer, actor and comedian (star of *The Fast Show*) Charlie Higson, author of the phenomenally successful Young Bond series of novels and best-selling zombie adventure series for teenagers, *The Enemy*, will be talking about his writing and his latest teen book *The Sacrifice*. Tickets: lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk.

The Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of discussion and debate. The Festival, established in 2005, covers a wide range of topics, and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP):

BCDP culture | ideas | arts and sciences



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Front cover (left to right): Sandi Toksvig (by Catherine Shakespeare), Michael Palin (by John Swannell), Tracey Thorn (by Edward Bishop), Ken Loach and Darcey Bussell (by Charlotte Macmillan)

Text pages (in order of appearance): Richard Sennett (by Thomas Struth), Alice Rawsthorn (International Herald Tribune), Kevin Fong (by Anthony Cullen), Bethany Black (by Rosie Parker), James Salter (by Lana Rys), Rebecca Solnit (by Jim Herrington), George Saunders (by Basso Cannarsa)

Design: www.qubedesign.com

VENUES AND HOW TO BOOK

Our events take place in venues across Bristol city centre. Please contact the relevant venues below to book and purchase your tickets (prices are listed next to each event). Events start punctually and, out of consideration to other audience members and speakers, our policy is not to admit or issue refunds to latecomers. Please allow enough time to collect your ticket/s from the relevant box office (if these haven't already been posted to you), and make sure to arrive before the advertised start time to take your seat/s. Most venues have online booking for events. Go to individual event details on www.ideasfestival.co.uk for links to individual venues and full booking conditions.

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

Tel: 0117 917 2300 (08.30-17.30 daily), Email: boxoffice@arnolfini.org.uk, www.arnolfini.org.uk

At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB

Tel: 0845 4586 499 (local rate calls) (09.00-17.00 weekdays), www.at-bristol.org.uk

BIG Green Week – further details of bookings at www.biggreenweek.com
or check website for details

Foyles – tickets for free events at Foyles are booked via the relevant event page on the Festival of Ideas website, www.ideasfestival.co.uk

St George's Bristol, Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RR

Tel: 0845 4024 001 (12.00-18.00 weekdays), www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

Spike Island, 133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX

Tel: 0117 929 2266 or visit in person (09.00-17.00 weekdays; 12.00-17.00 weekend),
no online booking available

Watershed, 1 Canons Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX

Tel: 0117 927 5100 (10.00-20.30 daily), www.watershed.co.uk

FESTIVAL UPDATES

Full programme details and booking information can be found on our website at: www.ideasfestival.co.uk. You can also sign up to our E-newsletters and Twitter feed for advance notification of events. This programme is subject to change and additional events may be added. Please visit the website for updates and further information about those chairing and interviewing speakers.