

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS 2006



9-25 May
2006

Foreword



Ideas are the lifeblood of cities. Debate and discussion with leading writers, commentators and broadcasters help us develop ideas and find new futures for our life, work and cities.

The Bristol Festival of Ideas promotes such debate and discussion. This year, as we celebrate the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, we look at the Brunellian themes of creativity and progress and apply these to issues of contemporary concern and opportunity. We look at Bristol as a centre for ideas, and ask the question 'are we open to new ideas?'. We consider progress generally, with futurists and commentators, and examine the potential of progress in the natural world. We look at what happens to ideas and how some stick and others fall away, and we examine the nature of heroism. As ever we have some of the very best writers coming to Bristol. Our website, www.ideasfestival.co.uk, has full details of speakers, carries copies of reports and articles, and gives you the opportunity to join the debate.

Andrew Kelly
Director

Summary programme

Apart from free sessions, and unless otherwise stated in the brochure, all tickets are priced £6.00 (full) and £4.50 (concessions). Tickets must be purchased at the venue at which the event will take place. Free sessions are ticketed and on a first come, first served basis. Please note that the programme may be subject to change. Check www.ideasfestival.co.uk for updates.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
9 MAY	Tim Mowl on William Kent: architect, designer, opportunist	18.00-19.00	The Architecture Centre, Bristol
	Tariq Modood and Ziauddin Sardar	19.30-20.30	Arnolfini
10 MAY	Should we apologise for the past?	19.00-21.00	British Empire and Commonwealth Museum
11 MAY	Sir Jeremy Isaacs on television	18.00-19.30	Watershed Media Centre
12 MAY	Geoff Dyer on photography	18.00-19.00	Watershed Media Centre
14 MAY	The Baggini Masterclass: <i>Barton Fink</i> : The moral vision of the Coen Brothers	14.00-16.30	Watershed Media Centre
15 MAY	Jonathan Kaplan on being a war surgeon	18.00-19.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Sara Wheeler	19.30-20.30	British Empire and Commonwealth Museum
16 MAY	Chris Luebke	07.30-09.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Andrea Levy and <i>Small Island</i>	12.30-13.30	Watershed Media Centre
	Tariq Ramadan and Tariq Modood	17.00-18.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Julia Hobsbawm on integrity in public relations	17.00-18.00	Watershed Media Centre
	The progress debate	19.00-21.30	At-Bristol
17 MAY	Tim Harford on the <i>Undercover Economist</i>	07.30-09.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Bristol: open to ideas?	14.00-15.45	Watershed Media Centre
	Children's Session: Philip Ardagh on the Victorians and inventions	16.00-17.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Lewis Wolpert on Belief	17.00-18.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Geoff Mulgan on good and bad power	18.10-19.10	At-Bristol
	Victorians with Nicolette Jones	18.00-19.00	At-Bristol
	Professor Anthony Elliott	19.00-20.30	Watershed Media Centre
	What happens to ideas?	19.30-21.00	At-Bristol

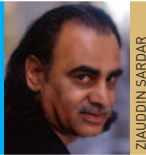
DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
18 MAY	Chris Smith on the future of cultural leadership	10.30-11.30	Watershed Media Centre
	Eric Sykes	12.30-13.30	Watershed Media Centre
	How should the South West celebrate Darwin 2009?	14.00-16.30	Watershed Media Centre
	Amanda Mitchinson on Brunel	16.00-17.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Roy Hattersley on <i>The Edwardians</i>	18.00-19.00	At-Bristol
	James Lovelock and John Gray	18.00-19.00	Arnolfini
	The nature debate	19.30-21.00	Arnolfini
19 MAY	Charles Handy	12.30-13.30	Watershed Media Centre
	The creativity of the past: the industrial revolution, Prague and the Edinburgh Enlightenment	14.00-16.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Amanda Mitchinson on Brunel	16.00-17.00	Watershed Media Centre
	Pankaj Mishra	18.00-19.00	Watershed Media Centre
20 MAY	Victorian crime fiction with Andrew Taylor, Andrew Martin and D J Taylor	12.00-13.15	Watershed Media Centre
	The Baggini Masterclass: the philosophy of <i>The Simpsons</i>	15.00-17.00	Watershed Media Centre
21 MAY	<i>Nanook of the North</i> event with Melanie McGrath	14.00-16.30	Watershed Media Centre
22 MAY	Heroes with Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Angela Hobbs, Bettany Hughes and Christine Macleod	19.00-21.00	At-Bristol
23 MAY	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> with Paul Rusesabagina	20.00-22.30	Watershed Media Centre
25 MAY	Sebastian Junger	18.00-19.00	Arnolfini
	A celebration of birds with Graeme Gibson	18.00-19.00	At-Bristol
	Margaret Atwood	19.30-20.30	Arnolfini



TIM MOWL



TARIQ MODOOD



ZIAUDDIN SARDAR



A C GRAYLING



ANDREW ROBERTS



EKOW ESHUN



LOLA YOUNG



JEREMY ISAACS



GEOFF DYER

9 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Tim Mowl on William Kent: architect, designer, opportunist

The Architecture Centre, Bristol
£6.00/£4.50

In an illustrated talk, Tim Mowl tells the story of William Kent (1685-1748), the subject of his latest book, a con man who became one of the artistic geniuses of his age. Kent redecorated Kensington Palace; fulfilled Queen Caroline's vision of a new scientific Britain with his projects at Richmond; turned Houghton Hall in Norfolk into an imperial palace for Sir Robert Walpole; and invented the Gothic Revival out at Esher. Late in life, Kent discovered his true genius, laying out casually at Esher, Stowe in Buckinghamshire and Rousham near Oxford the Arcadian image of the 'English Garden' that would take the continent by storm as, according to Mowl, England's only original contribution to European culture.

Tim Mowl photograph © Clare Hickman

9 MAY: 19.30-20.30

Tariq Modood and Ziauddin Sardar in conversation on multiculturalism and liberalism

Arnolfini
£6.00/£4.50

Broadcaster, journalist and futurist Ziauddin Sardar joins University of Bristol professor Tariq Modood, to debate the future of multiculturalism, Islam, and Muslims in the West. Ziauddin Sardar's books include *Desperately Seeking Paradise: journeys of a sceptical Muslim* and *Islam, Postmodernism and Other Futures*. Modood's latest book is *Multicultural Politics: Racism, Ethnicity and Muslims in Britain*.

10 MAY: 19.00-21.00

Debate: Should we apologise for the past?

British Empire and Commonwealth Museum
£6.00/£4.50

Richard Dowden, Ekow Eshun, A C Grayling, Christopher Hitchens, Andrew Roberts and Lola Young

The decision of the General Synod of the Church of England to apologise for its role in the slave trade, and Tony Blair's apology to the Irish people, have opened up again the question of whether we should apologise for the past. Do such apologies work? Are they meaningful? Do they go far enough? Should Bristol apologise for its role in the slave trade? As the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade approaches, leading historians, writers, broadcasters and artistic leaders debate this critical moral, ethical and political issue. Chaired by A C Grayling, author most recently of a book on the ethics of bombing German cities in the second world war, *Dead Cities*, critic and commentator Christopher Hitchens joins Baroness Young, Richard Dowden, director of the Royal African Society, Ekow Eshun, author of *Black Gold of the Sun*, which charted his search for his roots in Africa, and Andrew Roberts, prolific author, currently writing *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900*.

Ekow Eshun photograph courtesy of Eva Vermandel and the ICA

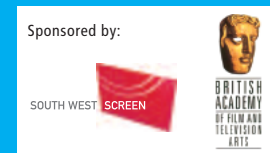
11 MAY: 18.00-19.30

Sir Jeremy Isaacs on television

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

In a career of more than 45 years, Jeremy Isaacs has been at the forefront of making television the cultural force it is today working for Granada, BBC and Rediffusion – where he made the celebrated series *The World at War*. He was the founding director of Channel 4 creating an eclectic mix of programmes and putting television into the hands of entrepreneurial film-makers. He then worked for the Royal Opera House and is now heading Artworld for Sky. His talk and discussion looks back at this history, recounted in his new autobiography, *Look me in the Eye: a life in television* and reflects on the state of television now.



12 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Geoff Dyer on photography

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

The *Sunday Telegraph* called Geoff Dyer's new book *The Ongoing Moment*, 'one of the most graceful ruminations on photography ever... as inspirational as it is accessible'. One of our most intelligent and perceptive critics, having written previously on jazz and D H Lawrence, among others, Dyer turns his attention to photography. Seeking to identify their signature styles, he looks at the ways in which such canonical figures as Alfred Stieglitz, Paul Strand, Walker Evans, André Kertész, Edward Weston, Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus and William Eggleston, among others, have photographed the same things (barber shops, benches, hands, roads and signs). In doing so, he constructs a narrative in which these photographers – many of whom never met – constantly encounter one another. Great photographs change the way we see the world; *The Ongoing Moment* changes the way we look at both.

14-16 MAY



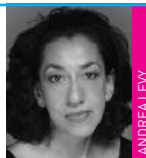
JULIAN BAGGINI



SARA WHEELER



CHRIS LUEBKEMAN



ANDREA LEVY



TARIQ RAMADAN



JULIA HOBBSBWM



BRYAN APPELYARD



JOHN GRAY



RICHARD SCHOCH



JOAN BAKEWELL

14-16 MAY

14 MAY: 14.00-16.30

The Baggini Masterclass: *Barton Fink: The moral vision of the Coen Brothers*

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

In this screening and talk, Julian Baggini, author of *What's It All About? philosophy and the meaning of life* and *The Pig that Wants to be Eaten* and 99 other thought experiments will argue that the films of the Coen Brothers articulate a profound and subtle moral philosophy, an ethic ideally suited to expression through film. Baggini argues that this work is an example of how cinema cannot just present philosophical ideas, but actually do philosophy.

15 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Jonathan Kaplan on being a war surgeon

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Jonathan Kaplan escaped from apartheid South Africa and travelled the world before he ended up in Angola and took charge of a hospital serving 160,000 civilians. He later worked in Baghdad. His first book, *The Dressing Station*, showed the true reality of war. His second book, *Contact Wounds*, continues to provide an insight into the horrors of war as a surgeon, as well as reflect on his upbringing and his time on a Kibbutz. Kaplan's work is always brutally honest and funny.

15 MAY: 19.30-20.30

Sara Wheeler on Denys Finch Hatton British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

£6.00/£4.50

Having tackled Apsley Cherry-Garrard and the Arctic, Sara Wheeler turns her attention to Denys Finch Hatton, the charismatic partner to Karen Blixen who wrote about him in *Out of Africa*. *Too Close to the Sun* tells the story of this legendary love affair and the settlers in east Africa. Hatton was a soldier in the East Africa Campaign, a white hunter, a farmer, a pilot, the epitome of the brave pioneer. *The Times* said: 'He always left an impression of greatness... and aroused interest as no one else could. It was not only his magnificent physique and striking features; there was the ready intuition and sympathy with every type of character, a wonderful sense of humour, determination; and yet behind it all, indefinite but ever present, a feeling of waste.'

Sara Wheeler photograph © Niall McDiarmid

16 MAY: 07.30-09.00

Chris Luebke on Watershed Media Centre

£20.00 (to include copy of the book *Drivers of Change and breakfast*) or £6.00/£4.50

What does the future hold for business and life? Chris Luebke, director and leader of Arup's global Foresight and Innovation Initiative, takes us through a whistle-stop tour of the next 50 years. From resource problems in water and oil, through climate change, to changing demographics and desires, Chris will show what businesses, organisations and individuals need to do to learn about change, and to change and prosper.

16 MAY: 12.30-13.30

Andrea Levy and *Small Island* Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Andrea Levy's *Small Island* is one of the great books of the first part of the century and has won many prizes including both the Orange Prize and the Whitbread. She comes to Bristol to talk about her work, which has been chosen for the 2007 Great Reading Adventure. She will be interviewed by Joan Bakewell.

16 MAY: 17.00-18.00

Tariq Ramadan and Tariq Modood on multiculturalism, Muslims and the West

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

In 2000 Tariq Ramadan was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most important innovators of the twenty-first century. He argues that Islam can and should feel at home in the West. His book, *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*, looks at Islamic law and whether Islam is in conflict with Western ideals and puts forward several key areas where Islam's universal principles can be engaged in the West, including education, interreligious dialogue, economic resistance and spirituality. University of Bristol professor Tariq Modood has just published *Multiculturalism, Muslims and Citizenship: A European Approach*. An essential guide to a problem-strewn debate.

16 MAY: 17.00-18.00

Julia Hobsbawm on integrity in public relations

Watershed Media Centre

£11.75 (to include copy of *Where the Truth Lies*) or £6.00/£4.50

Julia Hobsbawm, pioneer of 'integrity PR', has been described by PR Week as 'a cross between Rosa Luxembourg and Edina from *Absolutely Fabulous*'. Julia talks about the need for a greater commitment to truth-telling in the media world. Her new book, *Where the Truth Lies*, investigates these issues. An essential session for all involved and interested in public relations and the media.

Photograph © Linda Nyland

16 MAY: 19.00-21.30

Debate: Has the age of progress come to an end?

At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

With John Gray, Bryan Appleyard, Joan Bakewell, Chris Luebke, Tariq Ramadan and Richard Schoch

In the year of Brunel 200, a debate about progress is essential. But is progress possible now in a time of fear and conflict? John Gray, political philosopher, starts the evening with a keynote lecture. Chris Luebke responds, and then leading commentators debate and provide their own views on the issue. Panellists include Joan Bakewell, broadcaster and columnist, author Bryan Appleyard from the *Sunday Times*, Richard Schoch, author of *The Secrets of Happiness* and Tariq Ramadan.

Joan Bakewell photograph © Maciek Jolozynski



TIM HARFORD



PHILIP ARDAGH



LEWIS WOLPERT



ALEXANDRA JONES



CHARLES LANDRY



GEOFF MULGAN



NICOLETTE JONES

17 MAY: 07.30-09.00

Tim Harford on the *Undercover Economist*

Watershed Media Centre

£17.50 (to include copy of the book and breakfast) or £6.00/£4.50

Tim's columns for the *Financial Times* ask the questions we all want answering in explaining the fundamental principles of the modern economy. Who makes most money from the demand for cappuccinos early in the morning at Waterloo Station? Why is it impossible to get a foot on the property ladder? How do the Mafia make money from laundries when street gangs pushing drugs don't? Who really benefits from immigration? How can China, in just 50 years, go from the world's worst ever famine to being in the middle of one of the greatest economic revolutions of all time, lifting a million people out of poverty a month? Tim shows that economics is no dismal science.

17 MAY: 14.00-15.45

Bristol: open to ideas?

The launch of the research studies: *Bristol the Ideopolis* by The Work Foundation and Comedia's *How Open is Bristol?*

Watershed Media Centre

Free but bookable

How can knowledge cities like Bristol continue to maintain their advantage over others? What does it mean to be a city of ideas? And while traditionally port cities are regarded as open to ideas, does Bristol buck the trend? Two new studies will be launched and debated at this

event: The Work Foundation's Ideopolis study and Comedia's report on what makes an intercultural city. Charles Landry from Comedia joins Alexandra Jones from The Work Foundation and a specially picked panel.

17 MAY: 16.00-17.00

Children's Session: Philip Ardagh on the Victorians and inventions

Watershed Media Centre

Free but bookable

Madcap writer Philip Ardagh is the bestselling author of over 60 brilliant books including the *Eddie Dickens* series and *Unlikely Exploits*. Much taller than Brunel, who features in an aside in one of his books, he admires the engineer and comes to Bristol to talk about his work. Expect wonderful inventions, an affection for the Victorians and a stuffed stoat called Malcolm.

17 MAY: 17.00-18.00

Lewis Wolpert on belief, interviewed by Julian Baggini

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Why do 70 per cent of Americans believe in angels, and thousands more that they have been abducted by aliens? Why does every society around the world have a religious tradition of some sort? What makes people believe in things when all the evidence points to the contrary? Why do 13 per cent of British scientists touch wood? Professor Lewis Wolpert investigates the nature of belief and its causes in his new book *Six Impossible Things to Do Before Breakfast*. He looks at belief's psychological basis and its possible

evolutionary origins; explores the different types of belief – including that of animals, of children, of the religious, and of those suffering from psychiatric disorders. And he asks whether it is possible to live without belief at all or whether it is a necessary component of a functioning society.

17 MAY: 18.10-19.10

Geoff Mulgan on good and bad power

At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

The oldest question in politics, one rarely answered, is how can we make the governments on which we depend for our welfare and survival behave like servants rather than masters? In much of the world states remain oppressive, secretive and violent. It is no surprise that so much recent political theory has been concerned with how to protect people from dangerous states. Yet the only things as bad as states that are too strong are states that are too weak. The old democracies of western Europe and North America have achieved a rough balance between being too strong and too weak, yet still suffer from constant crises of moral purpose. Geoff Mulgan, founder of Demos, now head of The Young Foundation, and having worked at the heart of Blair's government, reflects on anti-politics, falling turnout, the assumption that politicians represent the worst venality rather than the highest ideals and how we can change the world and see the power of governments used for good. Geoff is the author of the new book *Good and Bad Power: the ideals and betrayals of government*.

17 MAY: 18.00-19.00

The Victorian Philanthropist with Nicolette Jones in discussion with Philip Ardagh

At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

Samuel Plimsoll was a nineteenth-century hero whose tireless campaigning ended scandalous shipping malpractices and saved hundreds of sailors' lives. Prior to the introduction of the 'Plimsoll Line', greedy shipowners would send dangerously overladen ships to sea, which even light breezes could capsize and sink. Plimsoll ended the practice. He also campaigned to stop the abhorrent insurance scam of 'coffin-ships', by which sailors were forced to put to sea in unseaworthy vessels. Lauded by the public and slandered by the powerful shipping magnates, Plimsoll was a philanthropist whose notions of reform characterised the Victorian era. Nicolette Jones captures the spirit of a period when less than ten per cent of the population had the vote and public opinion found expression through extra-parliamentary pressure. She joins Philip Ardagh, best selling children's writer, to debate the Victorians.



ANTHONY ELLIOTT



PHILIP BALL



CARMEN CALILL



LESLY CHAMBERLAIN



CHRIS SMITH



ERIC SYKES



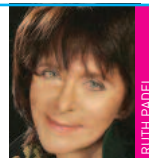
JAMES MOORE



REBECCA STOTT



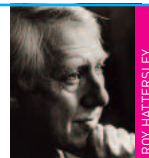
KEITH THOMSON



RUTH PADEL



AMANDA MITCHINSON



ROY HATTERSLEY

17 MAY: 19.00-20.30

Professor Anthony Elliott on *Extreme Reinvention – the rise of makeover culture*

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

In this provocative talk on the cultural consequences of the globalizing of makeover culture, Anthony Elliott, Professor of Sociology, University of Kent, Canterbury, investigates what drives people to demand instant self-reinvention, from plastic surgery to online therapy, from compulsive consumerism to reality TV. He argues that we are witnessing the emergence of a 'new individualism' generated by global capitalism, and outlines a new way of thinking about people's emotional experiences of globalism.

This talk is presented in association with the Centre for Critical Theory, UWE.

17 MAY: 19.30-21.00

What happens to ideas? At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

With Philip Ball, Carmen Calill, Lesley Chamberlain and Geoff Mulgan

Why do some ideas capture the imagination and others fall by the wayside? What influence do think tanks have? Is there a tipping point when radical ideas join the mainstream? Have we come to the end of new ideas? Four leading writers and commentators join the debate. Lesley Chamberlain tells the story of the 160 intellectuals deported from Russia on Lenin's instructions in 1922 and the contribution that they made subsequently to the cultural and intellectual life of the twentieth century. Carmen Calill founded Virago books, which bought back to public attention the writings and ideas of many women, and is also a writer. Her new book, *Bad Faith: a forgotten history of family and fatherland*, is the story of one of history's most despicable villains and conmen, Louis Darquier 'de Pellepoix', Nazi collaborator and 'Commissioner for Jewish Affairs'. In his recent books, Philip Ball has looked at the impact of critical mass on ideas and change and, most recently, the life and work of Paracelsus, a founder of modern science, in the turmoil of post-Reformation Europe. Finally, Geoff Mulgan looks at how ideas come to influence governments and politics.

Carman Calill photograph © Monica Curtin

18 MAY: 10.30-11.30

Chris Smith on the future of cultural leadership, chaired by Nick Capaldi

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Chris Smith led cultural planning in the first term of the Labour government and has worked since to transform cultural leadership as director of the Clore Leadership programme. He talks in Bristol on the future of cultural leadership and then debates with a specially convened panel of cultural leaders from Bristol and the South West.

18 MAY: 12.30-13.30

Eric Sykes Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Comedy sometimes has the best ideas of all. Bristol welcomes Eric Sykes, the leading British comedian and fine actor, to talk about his autobiography *If I Don't Write It, Nobody Else Will*. A lunchtime treat guaranteed to send you back to work or study with a spring in your step.

18 MAY: 14.00-16.30

How should the South West celebrate Darwin 2009?

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

The approaching bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species* in 2009 come at a time of increasing controversy about evolution with the growth of the intelligent design movement.

Darwin sailed from Plymouth on the *Beagle* on the journey that changed the world. Given the success of Brunel 200, is there merit in a major celebration of Darwin and the South West? Join leading Darwin writers Rebecca Stott on the man and his work; James Moore on James Cowles Prichard, the Bristol physician and his influence on Darwin; Ruth Padel, Darwin's great, great grand-daughter, who provides a personal, writer's and poet's view; and Keith Thomson, who will talk about the voyage of the *Beagle*.

18 MAY: 16.00-17.00

Amanda Mitchinson on Brunel Watershed Media Centre

Free but bookable

Star children's biographer Amanda Mitchinson comes to Bristol for two sessions on her new book on the life and work of Brunel. Amanda will talk about Brunel and what she discovered in her writing of the book. All present get a free copy of Amanda's book to keep.

18 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Roy Hattersley on *The Edwardians* At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

Roy Hattersley transforms our view of the Edwardians from a period of dull conservatism to one of political, scientific and technological progress, artistic and cultural brilliance, and outstanding architecture. An independent view, praised widely, from an historian and commentator responsible for successful books on John Wesley and the Booths, as well as many novels and memoirs.



JAMES LOVELOCK



IAN JACK



CHARLES HANDY



JAMES BUCHAN



PETER MARSHALL



PANKAJ MISHRA

18 MAY: 18.00-19.00

James Lovelock with John Gray Arnolfini

£6.00/£4.50

James Lovelock's manifesto *The Revenge of Gaia* made front page news with his view that it is probably too late to stop climate change. He argues that science and technology – including the use of nuclear power – are essential as they provide secure, safe and reliable sources of energy but also represent the only way to counter the lethal heat waves and rising sea levels that will increasingly threaten civilisations. Drawing on 40 years' experience, James discusses his book with political philosopher John Gray.

James Lovelock photograph © Sandy Lovelock

18 MAY: 19.30-21.00

Debate: The end of nature? Arnolfini

Free with James Lovelock session above

With Roy Hattersley, Ruth Padel, Ian Jack and John Gray

Starting with James Lovelock's book, but ranging widely over deep ecology, animal welfare, nature and the protection of the environment, and the state of wildlife, four leading writers debate how we can come to terms with the natural world. Roy Hattersley, known widely for his books and *Guardian* articles has taken an increasing interest in environmental issues; Ian Jack, editor of *Granta*, has a long held interest in the environment; Ruth Padel's poetry and her recent book *Tigers in Red Weather* reflect great interest in, and concern for, wildlife. They join John Gray who chairs the discussion.

19 MAY: 12.30-13.30

Charles Handy, introduced by Simon Cooper

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Charles Handy is regarded as one of the top ten business gurus in the world, working for Shell, helping to found the Open and London Business Schools, and as a writer on business matters. In a range of books, selling over one million in total, including *The Age of Unreason*, *The Empty Raincoat* and *The Hungry Spirit*, Charles has helped transform our view of work and organisations as well as pioneer new approaches to life and work in the form of portfolio careers. He talks about his new book *Myself and Other More Important Matters* in which he explores the moral and creative issues faced by his long career. What do we really value? Is it money? Time? Family and community? What is the role of work in our lives? What do we find fulfilling? Engaging and witty, Charles Handy provides us with the opportunity to learn life-lessons from one of our wisest contemporaries – and ultimately to inform and influence our own major decisions.

Sponsored by:



19 MAY: 14.00-16.00

The creativity of the past: the industrial revolution, Prague and the Edinburgh Enlightenment

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

With Gavin Weightman, James Buchan and Peter Marshall

In the modern economy, creativity and culture are seen as essential. What can we learn from the creative periods of the past? Three leading writers reflect on their work to identify what makes a creative time? What kinds of people and skills are needed? Are there creativity leaders? Are patrons and philanthropists needed? And what happens when creativity dies? James Buchan talks about the remarkable period of the Edinburgh Enlightenment and Adam Smith in particular; Peter Marshall looks at Renaissance Prague; and Gavin Weightman explores the industrial revolution.

Peter Marshall photograph © Elizabeth Ashton Hill

19 MAY: 16.00-17.00

Amanda Mitchinson on Brunel

Watershed Media Centre

Free but bookable

Star children's biographer Amanda Mitchinson comes to Bristol for her second session on her new book on the life and work of Brunel. Amanda will talk about Brunel and what she discovered in her writing of the book. All present get a free copy of Amanda's book to keep.

19 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Pankaj Mishra

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Pankaj Mishra is one of our leading authorities on South Asia and India. His book *An End to Suffering: the Buddha in the world* was widely praised. His new book, *Temptations of the West*, brings literary authority and political insight to bear on travels that are at once epic and personal. Travelling in the changing cultures of South Asia, Mishra sees the pressures – the temptations – of Western-style modernity and prosperity, and teases out the paradoxes of globalization. *Temptations of the West* is a book concerned with history still in the making. An essential session about a conflicted and rapidly changing region.





D J TAYLOR



ANDREW MARTIN



ANDREW TAYLOR



LUCY HUGHES-HALLETT



MELANIE MCGRATH



BETTANY HUGHES



PAUL RUSESABAGINA

20 MAY: 12.00-13.15

Victorians, Edwardians, trains, crime and the novel

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50 (includes free copy of Andrew Taylor's Brunel 200 novel *Fingers to the Bone*)

With Andrew Taylor, Andrew Martin and D J Taylor

Leading crime writer Andrew Taylor, author of the Richard and Judy bestseller *The American Boy*, was commissioned by Brunel 200 to write a short story featuring Brunel, *Fingers to the Bone*. He talks about the creation of this story, and discusses Victorian and Edwardian crime fiction with Andrew Martin, author of the Jim Stringer series (*The Necropolis Railway*, *The Blackpool Highflyer* and *The Lost Luggage Porter*) and biographer and novelist D J Taylor, author most recently of *Kept*, a Victorian mystery involving naturalists, poachers and Scotland Yard during the time of progress.

D J Taylor photograph © Katie Vandyck

20 MAY: 15.00-17.00

The Baggini Masterclass: The philosophy of *The Simpsons*

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

The Simpsons lays claim to being not just the most significant popular cultural production of the late twentieth century, but the most important cultural production, full stop. In this session, with the use of extracts, writer and philosopher Julian Baggini will look at the real philosophy in the series as well as addressing the issue of why cartoon comedy provides the most suitable vehicle of our times for insightful social commentary.

21 MAY: 14.00-16.30

Nanook of the North event with showing of the film with musical accompaniment by Rita Ray and Max Reinhardt, and talk by Melanie McGrath

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Nanook of the North is a beautifully filmed, simple account of a few weeks in the life of Nanook, an Inuit living east of the Hudson Bay, and his family. Today the film is hailed as a milestone of silent cinema. Director Robert Flaherty presented Inuit people as an intelligent, distinguished culture who make the best of their nomadic lifestyle. A few months after Flaherty shot the film, the man who played Nanook starved to death hunting for food, a fact that dramatically underpins the earnest and relentless quest for survival portrayed in the film. Melanie McGrath, author of the forthcoming *The Long Exile: a true story of deception and survival amongst the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic*, tells the chilling story of what happened after the film with the death of Nanook and the story of the illegitimate son of Robert Flaherty, who having grown up Inuit, was forcibly resettled in 1953 to what was falsely described as an Arctic Eden.

The film is accompanied by music specially composed by Rita Ray and Max Reinhardt.

22 MAY: 19.00-21.00

Heroes

At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

With Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Angela Hobbs, Bettany Hughes and Christine Macleod

Brunel was one of the heroes of the industrial age along with other great engineers and scientists. There are few true heroes now; celebrities seem to be preferred. Four leading writers explore the nature of heroes and heroism in fact and fiction. Lucy Hughes-Hallett starts the evening with a lecture on heroes based on her book *Heroes: saviours, traitors, supermen*. This is discussed by Angela Hobbs, author and broadcaster, whose books include *Plato and the Hero*, Bettany Hughes, broadcaster and author of *Helen of Troy: goddess, princess, whore* and Christine MacLeod, who has written about the nineteenth-century engineer as a cultural hero.

Bettany Hughes photograph © Sarah Turton

23 MAY: 20.00-22.30

Hotel Rwanda with Paul Rusesabagina

Watershed Media Centre

£6.00/£4.50

Paul Rusesabagina is a modern day hero, the model for Don Cheadle's remarkable performance in *Hotel Rwanda*. His autobiography, *An Ordinary Man*, brings the reader inside the hotel during those awful 100 days, relating the anguish of those who saw loved ones hacked to pieces, and describing Rusesabagina's ambivalence at pouring the Scotch and lighting the cigars of killers in the swimming pool bar, even as he was trying to cram as many refugees as possible inside the guest rooms upstairs. The book explores Rusesabagina's inner life as he discusses his racial complexity (he is a Hutu married to a Tutsi) and his complete estrangement from the madness that surrounded him during the genocide. The talk is accompanied by a showing of *Hotel Rwanda*.



SEBASTIAN JUNGER



GRAEME GIBSON



MARGARET ATWOOD

25 MAY: 18.00-19.00

Sebastian Junger on *A Death in Belmont*

Arnolfini

£6.00/£4.50

Sebastian Junger, author of the bestsellers *The Perfect Storm* and *Fire*, provides in his new book a compelling portrait of 1960s America that takes as its starting point the brutal events of 11 March 1963, the day on which the lives of three complete strangers – a black handyman, an Italian-American carpenter and a second-generation Jewish housewife – collided in the leafy Boston suburb of Belmont. These three people did not know one another but, by the end of the day, the housewife had been raped and strangled, the handyman had been arrested on suspicion of being the notorious Boston Strangler, and the real Boston Strangler – carpenter Al DeSalvo – had returned home to his wife and children. Drawn into the drama was one-year-old Sebastian Junger's own family, who posed for a photograph with DeSalvo the day after the Belmont strangling, at the completion of his work on their studio. Taking the chilling family snap as his inspiration, Junger explores the worlds of the three protagonists and, in so doing, creates a portrait of America in the 1960s that touches on the historic themes of the era: the Kennedy assassination, the rise of the immigrants and the troubling race relations that prefigured the death of Martin Luther King. *A Death in Belmont* encompasses an entire nation at a time of extraordinary social turmoil.

25 MAY: 18.00-19.00

A celebration of birds with Graeme Gibson

At-Bristol

£6.00/£4.50

Interest in birds has never been higher. Graeme Gibson is the author of four novels including *Perpetual Motion* and *Gentleman Death*. A past president of PEN Canada, a council member of WWF Canada, and chairman of Pelee Island Bird Observatory, he lives in Toronto with his wife, the writer Margaret Atwood. His latest book, *The Bedside Book of Birds*, is a glorious anthology of writings about birds and a tribute to the way birds are generally associated with creativity and the human spirit. Graeme reads from his book and talks about his fascination with birds.

25 MAY: 19.30-20.30

Margaret Atwood Arnolfini

£6.00/£4.50

Margaret Atwood comes to Bristol to talk about her new collection, *The Tent*. One of the world's most celebrated authors, Margaret Atwood's smart and entertaining mini fictions, in the genre of her popular books *Good Bones* and *Murder in the Dark*, are accompanied by her own illustrations. Chilling and witty, prescient and personal, delectable and tart, these highly imaginative, vintage Atwoodian essays speak on a broad range of subjects, reflecting the times we live in with deadly accuracy and knife-edge precision. She reads from her work.

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Visitor information and booking

Below are listed details of where to book tickets. Please book tickets in the venue where the event will be taking place.

The Architecture Centre

Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

Ticket sales available Tuesday to Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 12-5pm.

T: 0117 922 1540

E: info@architecturecentre.co.uk

Arnolfini

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

T: 0117 917 2300/01

Phone lines are open from 9.30am-9.30pm daily or in person at the box office (open from 10am-9.30pm daily).

E: boxoffice@arnolfini.org.ukwww.arnolfini.org.uk/booking/index.php

At-Bristol

Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB

T: 0845 345 1235 9am-5pm Monday to Friday; 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-4pm on Saturdays; 11am-3pm on Sundays.

Calls charged at local rate (£1 booking fee per transaction).

British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads

Bristol BS1 6QH

T: 0117 925 4980

E: bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk

Normal opening hours are 10am-5pm.

Watershed Media Centre

1 Canons Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX

T: 0117 927 5100

Open 9am-10.30pm weekdays and 10am-10.30pm weekends.

www.watershed.co.uk/info/box_office.php

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