

Welcome to our autumn season of events. We're looking at, among other things, what New Labour achieved; the baby boomers and their impact today; post-war British aviation (in the year that Bristol celebrates 100 years of flight); the mapping of Britain; the crisis in capitalism; the crisis in media with the blogging challenge.

We're delighted to have Simon Winchester here to talk about his new book on the Atlantic and William Gibson on his new novel (and much more). Join Kathryn Schulz on why it is acceptable to be wrong sometimes; meet Martin Creed, with his remarkable art (and a remarkable show); make sure all the numbers add up with Alex Bellos; and watch the waves and the clouds with Gavin Pretor-Pinney. And if that's not enough we've got a special tribute to Louise Brooks, a showing of the classic World War One drama, *Wings* and a look at how technological advance relies on war, adult film and fast food.

The brochure provides summary information of events. As ever, check out the website – www.ideasfestival.co.uk – and join the mailing list for full details of each event, new events and debates. We also have Twitter and Facebook pages.

Andrew Kelly
Director

For further details of all events, including biographies of speakers, links to articles as well as new events see www.ideasfestival.co.uk. Sign up to the mailing list and be the first to hear about new events and see the latest news and join debates at Twitter and Facebook.

BOOKING DETAILS

Unless otherwise stated, tickets must be booked at the venues where events take place. For online booking go to the Bristol Festival of Ideas website or to the websites of the hosting venues:

Arnolfini: call 0117 917 2300, book online, or visit in person.

Watershed Media Centre: call 0117 927 5100, book online, or visit in person.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Creative Projects (BCP):

BCP culture | ideas | arts and sciences



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The following organisations and companies are partners in the autumn 2010 Festival of Ideas programme:

ARNOLFINI

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Late additions for 2 November – check website for full details:

SUSAN GEORGE

TOWARDS A GREENER, FAIRER, RICHER WORLD

GWYNNE DYER

CLIMATE WARS: THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL AS THE WORLD OVERHEATS

BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS



AUTUMN/WINTER 2010 EVENTS

SIMON WINCHESTER

ATLANTIC: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AN OCEAN

Watershed 5 October 2010, 18.00-19.00
£7.00 / £5.50

Simon Winchester traces the history of the Atlantic – setting for some of the most important exchanges, ideas and challenges in the history of the world – from its birth to its eventual extinction millions of years in the future. A story of immense importance to the world, and specifically to Bristol.

KATHRYN SCHULZ

BEING WRONG: ADVENTURES IN THE MARGIN OF ERROR

Watershed 5 October 2010, 19.30-20.30
£7.00 / £5.50

Being wrong is an inescapable part of being alive. And yet people go through life tacitly assuming (or loudly insisting) that they are right about nearly everything – from political beliefs to private memories, grasp of scientific fact to the merits of favourite teams. In *Being Wrong* Kathryn Schulz draws on philosophy and neuroscience to see why this conviction has such a powerful grip.

WILLIAM GIBSON

ZERO HISTORY

Watershed 6 October 2010, 18.15-19.30
£7.00 / £5.50

William Gibson is the bestselling author of 10 novels and his first, *Neuromancer*, sold more than six million copies worldwide. His new book, *Zero History*, set largely in London, spookily captures the paranoia and fear of our post-Crash, late Capitalist times. A rare opportunity to see one of the world's finest writers, someone who has had, and continues to have, huge influence in the making and understanding of the modern world.

MARTIN CREED

WORKS

Arnolfini 12 October 2010, 18.00-19.00
£7.00 / £5.50

Turner Prize winning artist Martin Creed talks about his work. Simultaneously subtle and spectacular, austere and playful this evening (which will include music and live links) promises to be a special event.

JAMES HAMILTON-PATERSON



EMPIRE OF THE CLOUDS: WHEN BRITAIN'S AIRCRAFT RULED THE WORLD AND WHAT WENT WRONG

Arnolfini 15 October 2010, 18.00-19.00
£7.00 / £5.50

In 1945 Britain was the world's leading designer and builder of aircraft. James Hamilton-Paterson tells the story of this glorious age but argues in *Empire of the Clouds* that today there is not a single aircraft manufacturer of any significance. Is the exhilarating story of atomic-age aviation pioneers, their great and charismatic machines, and the men who flew them, forever a vanished age?

SHOULD THERE BE A ROBIN HOOD TAX?



Watershed 21 October 2010,
19.00-20.30 £4.00 / £3.00

The proposed Robin Hood or Tobin tax (a tiny tax on financial transactions) could raise £20bn annually for projects on climate change and world poverty. It's getting wide support, but will George Osborne go for it? Join a special panel of poverty and political experts to debate the tax. Organised in association with Oxfam.

WHAT'S THE BLOGGING STORY?



Watershed 22 October 2010,
19.00-20.30 £7.00 / £5.00

An evening of debate with mainstream journalists and bloggers. Who can you trust now? What's the debate between new and old media – the wired and the tired? Is blogging journalism? Speakers include Roy Greenslade (*Guardian*), Brooke Magnanti and Donnacha Delong (NUJ President-elect).

ALEX BELLOS

ALEX'S ADVENTURES IN NUMBERLAND: DISPATCHES FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MATHEMATICS

Arnolfini 22 October 2010, 18.00-19.00
£7.00 / £5.50

Mathematician and philosopher Alex Bellos explodes the myth that maths is best left to the geeks. Covering adding to algebra, set theory to statistics, logarithms to logical paradoxes, the mathematical patterns in nature, and the peculiar predictability of random behaviour, Bellos explains how mathematical ideas underpin just about everything.

GAVIN PRETOR-PINNEY

WATCHING WAVES AND CLOUDS

Arnolfini 22 October 2010, 19.30-20.30
£7.00 / £5.50

In his stunning bestseller, *The Cloudspotter's Guide*, Gavin Pretor-Pinney showed how important it is to look up. He now looks at waves. One day, on a beach in Cornwall, he took a break from cloudspotting and started watching the waves rolling into shore. He soon realised that waves don't just appear on the ocean, they are everywhere, and all life depends on them.



Shiv Malik



David Walker

ED HOWKER AND SHIV MALIK

THE BABY BOOMERS AND THEIR IMPACT TODAY

Arnolfini 28 October 2010, 18.00-19.00
£5.00 / £3.00

Are the baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) the golden generation with free education, cheap houses and guaranteed pensions? And have they left in their wake a jilted generation? Post-baby boomer journalists Ed Howker and Shiv Malik claim that their generation has lost out.

CELEBRATING LOUISE BROOKS

Arnolfini 29 October 2010,
18.00-21.15 (with 15-minute interval)
£8.00 / £6.00

A celebration of 10 years of Bristol Silent's with a tribute to Louise Brooks with *Diary of a Lost Girl* (live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney) and the documentary *Arena: Louise Brooks*.

POLLY TOYNBEE AND DAVID WALKER

DID LABOUR CHANGE BRITAIN?

Watershed 3 November 2010, 18.00-19.00
£7.00 / £5.50

Journalists Polly Toynbee and David Walker followed the New Labour story from the start. As it has come to the end they assess what was achieved: did Labour's policies worsen the recession? Did social mobility slow down? Does politics ever change anything?

HA-JOON CHANG AND JOHN LANCHESTER

THE PROBLEMS WITH CAPITALISM

Watershed 3 November 2010, 19.30-20.45
£7.00 / £5.50

Capitalism is in deep crisis with the banks failure leading many to question fundamentally whether the market can continue to deliver. Ha-Joon Chang, author of *23 Things they don't tell you about Capitalism*, discusses capitalism with John Lanchester, author of *Whoops: why everyone owes everyone and no-one can pay*, the best book on the financial crisis.

WINGS

Watershed 6 November 2010,
13.00-15.35 £8.00 / £6.00



To mark Armistice Day and as part of the BAC 100 celebrations, Festival of Ideas in partnership with Bristol Silents shows the newly restored classic World War One aviation drama *Wings*. Introduced by film historian and restorer, Kevin Brownlow. The film features Carl Davies' synchronised score.

PETER NOWAK

SEX, BOMBS AND BURGERS: HOW WAR, PORN AND FAST FOOD CREATED TECHNOLOGY AS WE KNOW IT

Watershed 8 November 2010, 18.00-19.00
£4.00 / £3.00

Pervasive in our culture, war, fast food and pornography may seem to represent the worst qualities of humankind. But what have our lust, greed and rage driven us to achieve? Science and technology journalist Peter Nowak argues that most of the major technological advances of the last 60 years have stemmed from the trio of billion-dollar industries that cater to our basest impulses.



John Lanchester



Rachel Hewitt

RACHEL HEWITT

MAPPING THE NATION

Watershed 8 November 2010, 19.30-20.30
£4.00 / £3.00

Rachel Hewitt's first book, *Map of a Nation*, already an award-winner, tells the story of the creation of the Ordnance Survey map – the first complete, accurate, map of the British Isles – and the men who dreamt and delivered it from its inception in 1791, right through to the OS MasterMap of the present day. The Ordnance Survey's early history is one of political revolutions, rebellions, and regional unions that altered the shape and identity of the United Kingdom over the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It's a deliciously readable account of a much-loved institution, of one of the great untold British adventure stories: the endeavour to make the country visible to itself for the first time.

SUZANNE MOORE

THE 2010 BENN LECTURE
IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST:
FROM MARGIN TO MAINSTREAM

Arnolfini 26 November 2010, 19.30-21.30
£7.50 / £5.50

The annual Benn Lecture on the state of the media. In 2010 Suzanne Moore, award-winning journalist, writer and columnist – and candidate in this year's General Election – charts her unusual journey from *Marxism Today* to the *Mail on Sunday*. Organised in association with Bristol NUJ.