

BRISTOL
FESTIVAL OF IDEAS
MAY 2010
EVENTS



BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Welcome to the Bristol Festival of Ideas' sixth annual May Festival. We launch a new theme this year – **The Bristol Phenomenon** – which looks at creativity in Bristol through time. Whether it be the engineering genius of Brunel, Thomas Beddoes' work in Hotwells, achievements in film, theatre and television, animation, medicine, music, digital media and aerospace, Bristol is one of the leading creative cities, full of innovative and imaginative people, and we celebrate that.

This May, the Bristol Festival of Ideas offers a real treat for hearts and minds. Special themes include paranoia, inequality and animal rights, and we're delighted to welcome back philosopher Peter Singer who will present a special lecture on his book *Animal Liberation* 35 years on. We will also be launching the first annual Louis Sherwood Memorial Lecture on 19th May, and there will be events with speakers including Antonia Fraser on Harold Pinter, Gary Younge and Brooke Magnanti (better known as Belle de Jour) on identity, Peter Hitchens and Christopher Hitchens, Andrea Levy on her new novel, and Melvyn Bragg, the best communicator of ideas in our time. Other events will look at the visual arts, heart surgery, aid and trade, the Cold War, happiness, scepticism, atheism, God and the afterlife, slavery and feminism. On 19th May we will announce the winner of the second **Bristol Festival of Ideas Book Prize**, supported by Arts & Business. See page 11 for our stunning shortlist.

Our events take place in venues across Bristol city centre. See the inside back cover for information on how to book and where to find each venue. Full programme details and booking information, along with updates and announcements of new events, can be found on our website at: www.ideasfestival.co.uk.

Andrew Kelly
Director

Cover photographs (left to right): Melvyn Bragg, Dorothy Rowe (by Bob Seary), Andrea Levy (by Laurie Fletcher), Antonia Fraser (by Sue Greenhill) and Gary Younge.



Jonathan Balcombe

JONATHAN BALCOMBE THE INNER LIVES OF ANIMALS

30 March 2010, 18.00-19.00

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £4.00 / £3.00

For centuries we believed that humans were the only ones that mattered. The idea that animals had feelings was either dismissed or considered heresy. Today, that's all changing. New scientific studies of animal behaviour reveal perceptions, intelligences, awareness and social skills that would have been deemed fantasy a generation ago. The implications make our troubled relationship with animals one of the most pressing moral issues of our time. In an illustrated presentation, Jonathan Balcombe, author of *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good*, and now, *Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals*, looks at animal behaviour.

PHILLIP BLOND AND JOHN GRAY RED TORYISM

15 April 2010, 18.00-19.00

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Conventional politics is at a crossroads. Amid recession, poverty, increasing violence and rising inequality, politics is exhausted. In *Red*



Phillip Blond

Tory, Phillip Blond argues that only a radical new political settlement can tackle these problems. *Red Toryism* combines economic egalitarianism with social conservatism, calling for an end to the monopolisation of society and the private sphere by the state and the market. Blond proposes a progressive Conservatism that restores social equality and revives British culture, strengthens local communities and economies, ends dispossession, redistributes the tax burden and restores the nuclear family. Phillip Blond will be interviewed by political philosopher and author John Gray.

PETER SINGER ANIMAL LIBERATION 35 YEARS ON

The 2010 Tom Ewer Memorial Lecture

5 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50



Peter Singer is one of the world's great philosophers. His *Animal Liberation*, published 35 years ago, immediately became a classic book about humanity's treatment of animals, remains in print worldwide, and continues to be influential in teaching, research and campaigning. In this special lecture, Peter Singer looks at the progress of animal liberation 35 years on, examines changing attitudes to farm animals and animal experimentation in that time, and reflects on the development and future of animal liberation philosophy and action.

This event is linked to *Farm Animal Minds*, a University of Bristol lecture, presented by Christine Nicol and Mike Mendl, which will take place at Watershed on 11th May, 18.00-19.30. See www.ideasfestival.co.uk for further details.



Christopher Frayling

CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING HORACE WALPOLE'S CAT

7 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

In February 1747, Selima the tabby fell into a Chinese porcelain tub in Walpole's Mayfair house and never returned to dry land. The poem by Thomas Gray, *Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold-fishes*, was written as her epitaph. Here is the true history of that event, and a look at the sparking social and cultural life of the 18th century, helping our understanding of people and their pets. The presentation is beautifully illustrated with Richard Bentley's original series of designs for the poem, William Blake's wonderful watercolours of some 50 years later, and the unpublished illustrations produced in the 1940s by Kathleen Hale, of *Orlando the Cat* fame.

JULIAN BELL A NEW HISTORY OF ART

7 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

What is art and where did it begin? Why do we make it and why does it change? These are some of the questions that Julian Bell considers in his new book *Mirror of the World: A New History of Art*. Bell, himself a painter and teacher of art history, takes a global perspective on humankind's universal creative instinct. Bell presents his work in an illustrated lecture, from the very beginnings of art with cave drawings to the present day.

JOHN BOORMAN A LIFE IN FILM

10 May 2010, 18.00-19.30

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £7.00 / £5.50

The Bristol Phenomenon

John Boorman, one of the world's leading film makers, became head of the BBC's Bristol-based Documentary Unit in 1962. He produced *The Newcomers*, a series centred on ACH Smith and his wife Alison. Providing a unique view of Clifton and creative Bristol in the 1960s (the film also features Tom Stoppard and other Bristol writers and artists), Boorman will also talk about his film career with clips from *Catch Us If You Can*, *Point Blank*, *Deliverance*, *Hope and Glory*, *The Emerald Forest* and *The Tailor of Panama*, among others. The talk will be followed by a screening of the first episode of *The Newcomers*, the complete series of which will be shown at Watershed on 16th May, 13.00-17.40 (see page 7 for details).

GIANNI ANGELINI AND GAVIN MURPHY BRISTOL HEART SURGERY

10 May 2010, 19.00-21.00

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £10.00

The Bristol Phenomenon

SCIENCE = BRISTOL
CITY REGION



The Bristol Heart Institute, part of the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, is one of the world's leading heart surgery facilities. Professor Gianni Angelini, director of the cardiac unit, has pioneered a radical new technique that enables surgery to take place on a beating heart. He is in conversation with Dr Vivienne Nathanson, Director of Professional Activities at the British Medical Association. Surgeon Gavin Murphy will talk the audience through footage of an operation using Angelini's technique that was filmed earlier this year to accompany the event. This event includes detailed footage of open heart surgery.

DOUBLE BILL EVENT

Both events: £8.00 / £6.00

Individual prices below



Will Hutton



Kate Pickett



Richard Wilkinson

WILL HUTTON THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM

11 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

The suddenness and depth of the recession has raised questions about the workability of capitalism not seen since the 1930s. One of the constraints on recovery is the growing belief that if the old model did not work there is no new one on offer. Hutton argues that reconstructing a bust financial system is not just a technical question. It cannot be done without a wholesale revision of the wider system and values on which it is based – and fairness must be placed at the heart of the new capitalism for society's future well-being.

These events are supported
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Rathbone Greenbank Investments

RICHARD WILKINSON AND KATE PICKETT

WHY MORE EQUAL SOCIETIES
ALMOST ALWAYS DO BETTER

11 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Large income inequalities have often been regarded as divisive and corrosive. Wilkinson and Pickett's groundbreaking book, *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*, demonstrates that more unequal societies are bad for both the well-off and the poor, with almost every modern social and environmental problem – ill-health, lack of community life, violence, drugs, obesity, mental illness, long working hours, large prison populations – more likely to occur. Shifting from self-interested 'consumerism' to a friendlier and more collaborative society, and finding a solution to social and environmental problems, is key to improving the real quality of life for everyone.

HAMISH MCRAE WHAT WORKS IN BUSINESS, LIFE AND LEISURE

12 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Award-winning *Independent* journalist Hamish McRae takes us on a journey in pursuit of the flimsy difference between triumph and failure. Why do some initiatives take off while others flounder? How have some communities managed to achieve so much while others struggle? Covering the Mumbai community made famous by *Slumdog Millionaire*, the Whistler ski resort, Zurich's anti-drug policies, the use of Hong Kong's gambling profits to help its residents enjoy economic freedom, and the Edinburgh Festival, McRae tells the story of success and speculates what these lessons hold for the choices we now have to make about the future of our species and our planet.

PAUL COLLIER PEACE AND THE PLUNDERED PLANET

12 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Paul Collier is one of our leading economists and commentators on aid and trade. *The Bottom Billion* had a profound impact on thinking about global poverty. *Wars, Guns and Votes* argued that nasty and protracted civil wars, military coups and failing economies will plague the bottom billion unless national sovereignty is curtailed and economic disciplines introduced. *The Plundered Planet* looks at how to reconcile prosperity with nature. Criticising unchecked profiteering and backward-looking environmental romanticism, he shows that economic and environmental



Jack Liebeck (left) and Brian Foster (right)

interests are not in fact competing: they are mutually dependent and need to be reconciled for survival.

EINSTEIN'S UNIVERSE WITH BRIAN FOSTER, JACK LIEBECK (VIOLIN) AND ASHLEY WASS (PIANO)

**12 May 2010
18.15-19.45 (lecture), 20.15-21.15 (concert)**

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £13.00 (young people aged 8-22 years in full time education pay £2.00 when quoting the Cavatina Music Scheme)

Professor Brian Foster, Head of Particle Physics at Oxford University, and award-winning musician Jack Liebeck, present an event that highlights Einstein's love of the violin while examining how his ideas have shaped our modern view of the universe. Discover more about the key concepts of modern physics that Einstein did so much to found, and how these theories are being addressed today through work with the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. In the concert that follows the lecture, Jack Liebeck is joined by World Piano Competition winner Ashley Wass to perform music associated with Einstein, from Mozart and Brahms to Bloch.

JOHN GEIGER THE THIRD MAN FACTOR

28 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

Please note: The date for this event has now changed from 12th to 28th May

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

People at the very edge of death often experience a benevolent presence beside them which encourages them to make one final effort to survive. Divers, polar explorers, prisoners of war, solo sailors, aviators, astronauts and 9/11 survivors have all escaped traumatic events only to tell strikingly similar stories of having experienced the close presence of a helper or guardian. Is this hallucination, neuroscience or divine intervention? John Geiger, described by William Burroughs as a "fellow writer of exploration literature", explores this phenomenon in his new book *The Third Man Factor*.

NORMAN STONE THE ATLANTIC AND ITS ENEMIES: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE COLD WAR

13 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

For many decades after 1945, the 'Atlantic' world – the USA, Britain and a handful of allies – was on the defensive. For every Atlantic success there were a dozen Communist or 'Third World' successes, with most of the world under Communist rule or lost in a permanent violent stagnancy. Even in the late 1970s, with the collapse of Iran, the oil shock and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the initiative seemed to lie with the Communist forces. Then, suddenly, the Atlantic won – economically, ideologically and militarily



John Geiger

– with astonishing speed and completeness. Norman Stone provides a surprising, highly entertaining and pugnacious guide to this tumultuous period.

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE? WITH SARAH BAKEWELL, JOHN COTTINGHAM AND MICHAEL FOLEY

13 May 2010, 19.30-21.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50



The big question we all face is how to live. How do you do the good or honourable thing while flourishing and feeling happy? Sarah Bakewell's book, *How to Live: A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer*, looks at how the renaissance writer Michel de Montaigne explored this question in his best-selling essays. Michael Foley, in *The Age of Absurdity*, argues that contemporary culture discourages what the great thinkers have proposed for happiness and fulfilment and believes that we should find happiness in absurdity. John Cottingham is the author of many books including *Philosophy and the Good Life*, *Why Believe?* and *On the Meaning of Life*. He combines religious belief with a search for how to live better.

DO STATUES WEEP? THE IMPORTANCE OF SCEPTICISM

WITH WENDY GROSSMAN, SIMON HOGGART AND CHRISTINE MOHR

14 May 2010, 18.00-19.30

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Why do statues weep? Did Nostradamus really predict 9/11? Is it true that we only use 10% of our brain power? Does quantum theory explain the mystery of consciousness? For 21 years *The Skeptic* magazine, dedicated to truth through reason and evidence, has been answering these questions. The best have now been brought together in one myth-busting volume covering psychic fraudsters, psychic healing, alien abduction, near-death experiences, false memories and much more. Speakers include Wendy Grossman, founder and editor of *The Skeptic*, commentator and writer Simon Hoggart and Christine Mohr, one of the founders of Bristol Skeptics.



Christine Mohr



Julian Baggini

PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOP

WITH JULIAN BAGGINI AND PETER FOSL

15 May 2010, 11.00-13.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Philosophy is often said to be not so much a body of knowledge as a way of thinking. In this workshop the authors of *The Philosopher's Toolkit* and *The Ethics Toolkit* will be introducing some of the key tools of argument and thinking, used by philosophers past and present. There will be a mixture of presentations and tasks, so come prepared to give your brain a thorough work-out.

THE NEWCOMERS

Dir. John Boorman, BBC, UK 1964, 4hr 40mins

16 May 2010, 13.00-17.40 (with a 30 minute interval)

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £7.00 / £5.50

The Bristol Phenomenon

A complete screening of the 1964 television documentary following the lives of a number of people in Bristol as they try to live and work in the city, writing and participating in the arts. Featuring ACH Smith, Bristol writer and playwright, Derek Balmer, current President of the Royal West of England Academy, and Tom Stoppard among many others, it is a unique view of the city in the early 1960s, brilliantly filmed and edited, at a time of social, cultural and economic change. John Boorman, director of *The Newcomers*, will also appear at the Watershed on 10th May, 18.00-19.30, for an event about his life in film (see page 3 for details).

WATERSHED

PETER HITCHENS

HOW ATHEISM DROVE ME TO FAITH

17 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Peter Hitchens, *Mail on Sunday*, lost faith as a teenager. Eventually finding atheism barren, he came to his current affiliation to an un-modernised belief in Christianity. For Hitchens, faith is the best antidote to utopianism, dismissing the dangerous idea of earthly perfection, discouraging men and women from acting as if they were God, and encouraging men and women to act in the belief that there is a God and an ordered, purposeful universe, governed by an unalterable law. He explores these beliefs in this session.

A TERRIBLE BEAUTY: THE ART OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

WITH PAUL GOUGH AND DAVID BOYD HAYCOCK

17 May 2010, 19.30-20.45

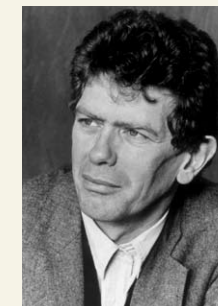
WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Despite recent revisionism, the First World War is still seen as boys led by donkeys; a slaughter that wasted a nation's youth where all were destroyed, even those who had escaped its shells. The visual arts have played a major part in the creation of this collective view and have sometimes contested it. Professor Paul Gough's *A Terrible Beauty* and David Boyd Haycock's *A Crisis of Brilliance* both look at the British artists of the war, including Muirhead Bone, Christopher Nevinson, Wyndham Lewis, Stanley Spencer, Mark Gertler and Paul Nash. They discuss how, in the midst of the madness of the "War to end Wars", these artists were able to create great art.



Paul Gough



Ben Shephard

BEN SHEPHARD

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

18 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Can you plan for the aftermath of a war? American failure to prepare for post-combat Iraq is thought to have led to the disastrous events which followed. Preparations for the occupation of Germany after World War II had been going on for years but did that make the occupation itself a success? Ben Shephard, producer of the classic series *The World at War* and author of *The Long Road Home: The Aftermath of the Second World War*, argues that much of post-Second World War planning was based on false assumptions, and was either ignored, overtaken by events, or actively harmful. It was new medical technologies, developed during the war, and the practical experience in handling civilians that made the difference. However, that experience had also exposed the military's limitations: when confronted with psychological or political complexities, they were out of their depth – just as their successors are in Afghanistan today.

DOUBLE BILL EVENT

Both events: £8.00 / £6.00
Individual prices below

BEN GOLDACRE DRUG COMPANY BULLSHIT

18 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Ben Goldacre's book, *Bad Science*, reached number one in the non-fiction charts, has sold 200,000 copies in the UK and is being translated into 17 languages. Goldacre's work focuses on unpicking the evidence behind misleading claims from journalists, the pharmaceutical industry, alternative therapists and government reports. In this event he turns his attention to the technical tricks used by pharmaceutical companies to make sure drug trials are positive and unflattering results disappear, revealing the sinister, glamorous world of drug reps.

FRANCIS WHEEN PARANOIA AND THE 1970S

18 May 2010, 19.30-20.45

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £7.00 / £5.50

The nostalgic whiff of the 1970s evokes memories of loons and disco, Abba and *Fawlty Towers*, but beneath the long hair there was mass paranoia, power cuts, military coups, economic anarchy and the arrival of Uri Geller. The world was on the verge of a collective nervous breakdown, huddled over candles waiting for the next terrorist bomb, kidnapping or food shortage warning, and facing Nixon's demented behaviour in the White House, Harold Wilson's insistence that 'they' were out to get him, and the trial of Rupert Bear. Illustrated with clips from some of the great seventies films, Francis Wheen, author of *Strange Days Indeed: The Golden Age of Paranoia*, hilariously and jaw-droppingly reveals the golden age of the paranoid style.

DR BEDDOES AND BRISTOL WITH MIKE JAY AND BEN GOLDACRE

18 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

The Bristol
Phenomenon

The Bristol Pneumatic Institution, founded in the closing years of the 18th century, led not only to a revolution in scientific medicine but also in the history of ideas. Guided by maverick doctor Thomas Beddoes, it was the first modern medical research institution. In *The Atmosphere of Heaven: The Unnatural Experiments of Dr Beddoes and His Sons of Genius*, Mike Jay tells the riveting story of Beddoes and his brilliant circle: Erasmus Darwin, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, James Watt, Thomas Wedgwood and Humphry Davy, and reveals its crucial influence on modern drug culture, attitudes toward objective and subjective knowledge, the development of anaesthetic surgery and the birth of the Romantic movement. Jay is interviewed by Ben Goldacre.



Francis Wheen

WATERSHED SUNDAY BRUNCHES

WATERSHED

THE 1970S: PARANOIA, POLITICS AND PUNK

Tickets for all Sunday films are £4.50 / £3.50 (available from Watershed), and entitle you to £1.00 off a tasty full breakfast at Watershed café/bar before each screening.

Francis Wheen reminds us that the 1970s was an era of intense political paranoia with the Cold War and Watergate, but it was this climate of political fear and corruption that helped to produce one of the most fertile decades in American cinema. In the UK, a different kind of political turmoil led to a unique revolution – punk.

THE PARALLAX VIEW (15)

Dir. Alan J Pakula, USA 1974, 1hr 42mins

2 May 2010, 12.00-14.00

Taking its cue from Kennedy assassination conspiracy theories, *The Parallax View* epitomises the 1970s paranoia film. Warren Beatty is excellent as a dogged, idealistic journalist who goes undercover as an assassin for a shady, all-powerful corporation only to find himself stranded like Alice in a malevolent Wonderland, where nothing is what it seems.

CHINATOWN (15)

Dir. Roman Polanski, USA 1974, 2hr 6mins

9 May 2010, 12.00-14.15

Polanski's film noir turns its back on the idealism of the 1960s and illustrates the moral and political ambiguity of the 1970s. There are no good guys or happy endings. Set in 1930s Los Angeles, cop-turned-private eye JJ 'Jake' Gittes (Jack Nicholson) makes a living from sleazy divorce cases, and is called upon to investigate the private life of the head of the Department of Water and Power.

COMA (15)

Dir. Michael Crichton, USA 1978, 1hr 53mins

16 May 2010, 12.00-14.05

Dr Susan Wheeler (Genevieve Bujold) suspects her colleagues of foul play when her friend lapses into a coma following an operation.

Wheeler discovers a frequent pattern of unexplained comas in her hospital, and becomes obsessed with finding an answer, even when it puts her own career and life in danger.

THE CHINA SYNDROME (18)

Dir. James Bridges, USA 1979, 2hr 3mins

23 May 2010, 12.00-14.15

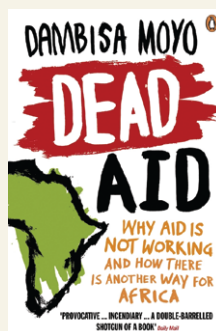
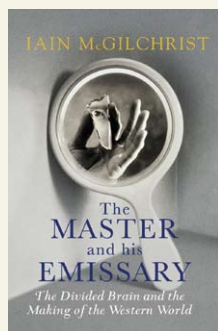
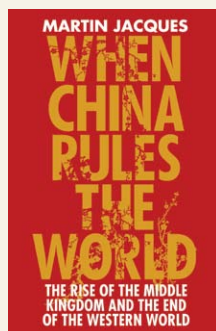
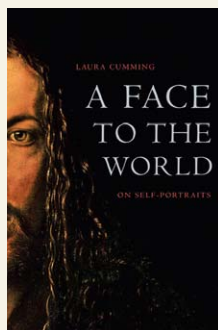
A story at the local nuclear power plant leads a TV reporter (Jane Fonda) to what may be an epic cover-up. The riveting story and performances are difficult to ignore even if you disagree with the anti-nuclear message. The drama carried an extra jolt when a real-life accident at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear plant occurred weeks after the film opened.

THE FILTH AND THE FURY (15)

Dir. Julien Temple, UK 2000, 1hr 48mins

30 May 2010, 12.00-14.00

The Filth and the Fury profiles punk rock pioneers the Sex Pistols. An enlightening, entertaining trip back to a time when the punk movement was just discovering itself, featuring archival footage, never-before-seen performances, rehearsals and recording sessions, as well as interviews with group members who lived to tell the tale.



BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS BOOK PRIZE AWARDS CEREMONY

19 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

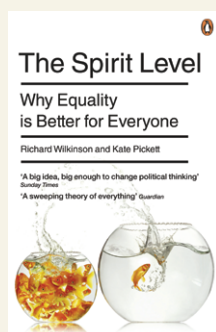
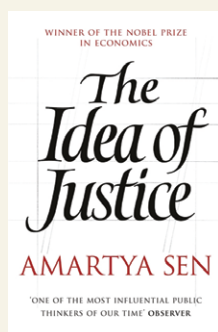
AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

2010 sees the Bristol Festival of Ideas award its second annual Book Prize, worth £10,000, in association with Arts & Business. Currently one of the largest book prizes in the UK, the award will be given to the book, first published in 2009, which presents new, important and challenging ideas, and which is engaging, accessible and rigorously argued. A final shortlist of six books has now been agreed, and the winner of this year's prize will be announced live at a special Book Prize Awards Ceremony as part of the May Festival.

The judges, Tim Dee (BBC Radio producer), Andrew Kelly (Director of the Bristol Festival of Ideas), Suzanne Rolt (Director of St George's Bristol), Judith Squires (Professor of Political Theory and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Bristol) and Adrian Tinniswood (historian and author) reviewed 130 submissions before arriving at this year's shortlist of six.

Join writers on the shortlist for a debate on contemporary ideas, followed by an announcement of the winning book. Writers attending include: Laura Cumming, Iain



McGilchrist, Dambisa Moyo, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

Our shortlist for 2010 is:

A Face to the World
by Laura Cumming (HarperPress)

When China Rules the World
by Martin Jacques (Allen Lane)

The Master and His Emissary
by Iain McGilchrist (Yale University Press)

Dead Aid
by Dambisa Moyo (Penguin)

The Idea of Justice
by Amartya Sen (Allen Lane)

The Spirit Level
by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett (Penguin)

**Arts
& Business**



Richard Holloway



Andrea Levy

RICHARD HOLLOWAY IN PRAISE OF DISLOYALTY

The 2010 Louis Sherwood Memorial Lecture

19 May 2010, 19.30-21.00

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £10.00 / £8.00



Darwin taught us how species evolve through billions of tiny adaptive changes over trillions of years; but how does social evolution occur? How do the institutions we create to carry value and order through time adapt and change? For example, what persuaded the male dominant institutions of democracy to admit women to the suffrage? A fundamental element was the importance of disloyalty. The disloyal mind refuses to conform to existing norms and allows new values and understandings to come in from the future. Richard Holloway, writer and former Bishop of Edinburgh, explores the role of disloyalty in the creative arts, and suggests that it is also an important virtue in religion.

Wessex Water and the RSA are pleased to support the inaugural Louis Sherwood Memorial Lecture. Louis was an invaluable member of the Wessex Water Services Board, the RSA Council, At-Bristol, and a patron of BCDP and the Festival of Ideas, providing great support for all. Funds from the event will be donated to a charity nominated by the Sherwood family.

ANDREA LEVY THE LONG SONG

20 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

COUNCIL HOUSE, BRISTOL

(BOOK THROUGH ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL)

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

In 2007 the people of Bristol read *Small Island*, Andrea Levy's classic novel about immigration to Britain and the life of immigrants in London during, and shortly after, the Second World War. Her new book, *The Long Song*, addresses an issue close to Bristol's heart: the slave trade. Telling the story of July, a slave girl who lives on a sugar plantation named Amity in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery, and the early years of freedom that followed, it is a heart-rending and poignant story of the tragedies of the appalling trade. A fine novel from a writer at the height of her powers.

EMILIE BICKERTON CAHIERS DU CINÉMA

21 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £3.00

A talk with film extracts on the journal that revolutionised filmmaking, criticism and art theory. *Cahiers du Cinéma* was responsible for establishing film as the seventh art, equal to literature, painting or music, and it revolutionised filmmaking and writing. Its contributors – among them Godard, Truffaut, Rivette, and Rohmer – were to become some of the greatest film directors. Emilie Bickerton, author of *A Short History of Cahiers du Cinéma*, explores its evolution and impact. Jean-Luc Godard's complete *Histoire(s) du Cinema* will be screened at Arnolfini on 22nd and 23rd May (see page 13 for details).

FEMINISM NOW

WITH KAT BANYARD,
MICHÈLE ROBERTS AND
SHEILA ROWBOTHAM

21 May 2010, 18.00-19.30

WATERSHED, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Today it is believed that women and men have achieved equality. This is an illusion: UK women workers earn on average 23% less than men; two-thirds of the world's illiterate people are women; the UK rape conviction rate is only 6.5%; 1.5 million people in the UK have an eating disorder, 90% of them women; the number of men paying for sex acts in the UK doubled during the 1990s; and one in four women living in the UK will experience violence at the hands of a current or former partner. But why has this happened? Kat Banyard, author of *The Equality Illusion*, discusses feminism today with Sheila Rowbotham, author of *Dreamers of a New Day: Women Who Invented the Twentieth Century*, a study of early feminism, and writer Michèle Roberts, whose latest collection is *Mud: Stories of Sex and Love*.

MIKE HODGES GET CARTER

In association with Crimefest
www.crimefest.com

21 May 2010, 19.30-22.15
(with a 20 minute interval
between interview and film)

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £8.00 / £6.00

Bristol-born Mike Hodges made one of the finest crime films ever with his 1971 debut *Get Carter*, for which he was both screenwriter and director. He went on to make *Pulp*, *The Terminal Man*, *Black Rainbow*, and *Croupier* among other films. Hodges has also worked as a documentary maker for British television and has recently written his first novel, *Watching the Wheels Come Off*, a noir comedy about a day in the life of a failed con man where everything goes from bad to worse. An uncompromising filmmaker, but one who is at last getting the recognition he deserves. Maxim Jakubowski interviews Mike Hodges, followed by a screening of the classic film *Get Carter*.



The Bristol
Phenomenon

HISTOIRE(S) DU CINEMA (18)

Dir. Jean-Luc Godard, France 1988

22 May 2010, 15.30-18.00 (parts 1a-2b, 2h 27m, subtitled)
23 May 2010, 15.30-17.30 (parts 3a-4b, 1h 59m, subtitled)

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.00 / £4.50 (or both events: £9.00 / £7.00)

A work of enormous scope and vision which eludes easy definition, and an extended essay on cinema by means of cinema, illuminated by Godard's encyclopaedic wit. The eight episodes that make up the *Histoire(s)* are homage and critique, anecdotal autobiography, epic poem, freely associative essay and vast multi-layered musical composition. Emilie Bickerton explores the evolution and impact of *Cahiers du Cinéma* at Arnolfini on 22nd and 23rd May (see page 12 for details).

ARNOLFINI



MELVYN BRAGG THE SOUTH BANK SHOW: FINAL CUT

24 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Melvyn Bragg is one of the finest broadcasters and novelists of our time. His *In Our Time* enlightens and entertains substantial audiences on BBC Radio 4, and his recent books include *12 Books That Changed the World* and the novels *A Time to Dance*, *The Soldier's Return* and *Remember Me*. His latest book is *The South Bank Show: Final Cut*. For over 30 years Bragg has interviewed many of the greatest cultural icons of our age, gaining revelatory insights into the lives and work of writers, actors, artists and musicians. What drives a musician to write extraordinary songs? How do writers create their worlds? How does an actor achieve greatness?

DOROTHY ROWE WHY WE LIE

25 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Clinical psychologist and writer Dorothy Rowe, renowned for her work in understanding the problems of depression and fear, has transformed many lives. Her new book is *Why We Lie*. Rowe looks at the reasons for lying and the damage that it causes. She addresses the role that lies have played in climate change and the global economic crisis, where many people prefer to continue lying rather than acknowledge that we are facing an uncertain but undoubtedly unpleasant future unless we learn how to prefer the truths of the real world in which we live rather than the comforting lies that ultimately betray us. Rowe asks: "We are capable of changing, but will we choose to do this?"



Melvyn Bragg



Dorothy Rowe

DAVID EAGLEMAN SUM: THE AFTERLIFE

25 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

AT-BRISTOL, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

SCIENCE = BRISTOL
CITY REGION

Neuroscientist and fiction writer, David Eagleman has, in his best-selling book *Sum*, written 40 tales from the afterlives. You may find that God is the size of a microbe and unaware of your existence. Perhaps the afterlife contains only those people whom you remember, or maybe God is a married couple struggling with discontent. In a different version, you work as a background character in other people's dreams, or discover that the hereafter includes the thousands of previous gods who no longer attract followers. A series of wonderfully imagined tales – funny, wistful and unsettling – all rooted in science, romance and awe at our mysterious existence: a mixture of hope, love and death that cuts through human nature at innovative angles. Stephen Fry said "You will not read a more dazzling book this year".



John O'Farrell



Antonia Fraser

ANTHONY JULIUS ANTI-SEMITISM IN ENGLAND

26 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Anthony Julius's *Trials of the Diaspora* identifies four distinct versions of English anti-Semitism: medieval England which culminated in 1290, the year of Edward I's expulsion of the Jews from England; literary anti-Semitism, from the anonymous medieval ballad of *Sir Hugh*, or *The Jew's Daughter* through to Shakespeare, TS Eliot and beyond; modern anti-Semitism, a quotidian anti-Semitism of insult and partial exclusion experienced by Jews from their 're-admission' to England in the mid-17th century through to the late 20th century; and contemporary anti-Semitism, a new configuration of anti-Zionisms emerging in the late 1960s and 70s, which treats Zionism and the State of Israel as illegitimate Jewish enterprises.

JOHN O'FARRELL AN UTTERLY EXASPERATED HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN

26 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Following his hugely popular account of the previous 2000 years, John O'Farrell brings British history bang up to date with *An Utterly Exasperated History of Modern Britain – Or 60 Years of Making the Same Stupid Mistakes as Always*. In this hilarious modern history, O'Farrell – one of Britain's best-known comedy writers and *Grumpy Old Men* – informs, elucidates and laughs at all the bizarre events, ridiculous characters and stupid decisions that have shaped Britain's story since 1945. A session guaranteed to make you laugh!

ANTONIA FRASER AND IAN RICKSON HAROLD PINTER

27 May 2010, 19.30-21.00

TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRE, BRISTOL

Price: £8.00 / £6.00

The Bristol
Phenomenon

Harold Pinter and Antonia Fraser lived together from August 1975 until his death 33 years later on Christmas Eve 2008. In *Must You Go*, Fraser provides a marvellously insightful testimony to modern literature's most celebrated marriage between the greatest playwright of the age and a famous prize-winning biographer. She is interviewed by Ian Rickson, formerly director of the Royal Court Theatre. Joining the event will be actors reading from some of Pinter's work, including his first play, *The Room*, which had its premiere in Bristol in 1957 (the review in the *Bristol Evening World* recommended that Harold Pinter "should go on writing") and his last, *The Celebration*.

BROOKE MAGNANTI IDENTITY AND IDENTIFICATION

27 May 2010, 18.00-19.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Brooke Magnanti is a Bristol-based researcher with a forensic science doctorate in human identification, but is better known as Belle de Jour. Magnanti started an award-winning blog in 2003, and her best-selling anonymous books were adapted into a television series starring Billie Piper. Magnanti reflects on both her research and her life as Belle de Jour, and the questions being raised about technology and ethics of online and real life identities, particularly in the age of digital social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

GARY YOUNGE WHO ARE WE – AND SHOULD IT MATTER IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

27 May 2010, 19.30-20.30

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

What does it mean to call yourself British in the 21st century? If Obama was raised by his white mother, why is he the first black president? Why do Muslims feel more at home in America than France? Who are we, and why does it matter? As borders disappear, more people travel and cultures mingle, you might think relations between people would become less fraught, but increasingly, people are recoiling into refuges of religion, nationality, race and region – either to defend themselves or attack others. In a brilliantly observed and deeply impassioned argument, Gary Younge urges us to halt this retreat, to search for a common, higher ground, or be prepared to see a society more dangerously divided than ever before.



Brooke Magnanti



Gary Younge

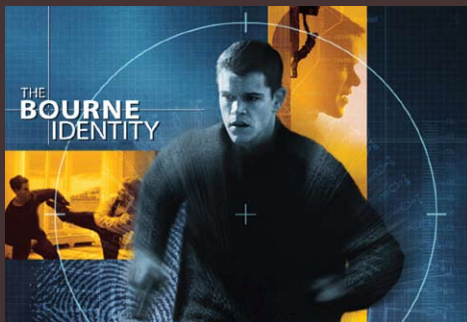
CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS CONFESSIONS AND CONTRADICTIONS

29 May 2010, 12.00-13.00

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Price: £6.50 / £4.50

Christopher Hitchens is one of the most important and controversial writers and intellectuals in the world. The best-selling author of *God Is Not Great* now turns his attention on himself in *Hitch 22*. Tracing his journey from a Portsmouth military family – including growing up with his equally fascinating brother Peter Hitchens – to Balliol College Oxford, and a glittering career as a public intellectual, wit and controversialist, Hitchens explores the reasons for his decisions, after 9/11, to support the invasion of Iraq and take US citizenship. Confessional, candid and very funny, Christopher Hitchens' memoir is a brilliant exposé of Britain's most controversial thinker: himself.



THE BOURNE TRILOGY (12A)

29 May 2010

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

14.00-16.00 THE BOURNE IDENTITY

Dir. Doug Liman, USA 2002, 1hr 59mins

16.15-18.05 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

Dir. Paul Greengrass, USA 2004, 1hr 48mins

19.00-21.00 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Dir. Paul Greengrass, USA 2007, 1hr 55mins

Price: £9.00 / £7.00 for all three films

As part of the Festival's paranoia strand we present, in association with Arnolfini, all three of the *Bourne* films back-to-back. Renegade CIA experiment-gone-wrong Jason Bourne runs around the world trying to remember his past in this thrilling trilogy; some of the slickest, most action-packed cinema of recent years.



WAR AND PEACE (PG)

Dir. Sergei Bondarchuk, USSR 1967

7hr 30mins with intervals

6 June 2010, 14.30-00.00

ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL

Price: £6.00 / £4.50

We pay tribute to the great work of Leo Tolstoy, in the centenary of his death, with a rare public screening of perhaps the most spectacular and expensive movie of all times: five years in the making at a cost of \$100,000,000, a cast of 120,000, and the Red Army mobilised to recreate Napoleon's battles exactly as they happened. Perhaps what is extraordinary about *War and Peace* is that Bondarchuk was able to take Tolstoy's novel and somehow transform it into this great work of film, balancing the spectacular, the human and the intellectual.

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.

ARNOLFINI

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

Tel: 0117 917 2300 (10.00-18.00 daily)

Email: boxoffice@arnolfini.org.uk

www.arnolfini.org.uk

AT-BRISTOL

Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB

Tel: 0845 345 1235 (local rate calls)

or 0117 915 5000 (09.00-17.00 weekdays)

www.at-bristol.org.uk

COUNCIL HOUSE

College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR

Book through St George's Bristol as above

ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL

Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RR

Tel: 0845 4024 001 (12.00-18.00 weekdays)

or book online

www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRE

Raleigh Road, Southville, Bristol BS3 1TF

Tel: 0117 902 0344

Email: tickets@tobaccofactory.com

www.tobaccofactory.com

WATERSHED

1 Canons Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX

Tel: 0117 927 5100 (10.00-20.30 daily)

www.watershed.co.uk

The South West Regional Development Agency is delighted to support the Bristol Festival of Ideas again in 2010. The Bristol Festival of Ideas always informs and challenges the audience. It's a fantastic resource that we all need as we confront a more uncertain future.

We use our economic intelligence and specialist expertise to identify innovative ways to drive forward the South West's economy, with a particular emphasis on a low carbon future. Visit our website www.southwestrda.org.uk to find out more.



ARNOLFINI

Photo credits: Phillip Blond (by Peter Matthews), Brian Foster and Jack Liebeck (by Richard Lea-Hair), Christine Mohr (by Chrystal Cherniwchan), Ben Shephard (by Sophie Baker), Andrea Levy (by Laurie Fletcher), Dorothy Rowe (by Bob Seary) and Antonia Fraser (by Sue Greenhill).

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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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 here 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.

The following organisations are partners, sponsors or supporters of the Bristol Festival of Ideas:



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