

14-22
OCT
2023

Discover...

STORIES
FOR
ADULTS &
CHILDREN

#hsf2023

Hastings Storytelling Festival

Billy Childish
Tasneem
Abdur-Rashid
Jordan Stephens
Bev Lee Harling
Children's Day
& more



hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

FREE
Events for
Under-10s



Welcome to Hastings Storytelling Festival 2023

This year's theme of **DISCOVER** has been initiated by our patron **Lauren Child**.

To start the festival on Saturday 14 October we welcome **Jordan Stephens** (of Rizzle Kicks and now passionate writer and campaigner) together with illustrator **Beth Suzanna**.

Later in the week, discover British Bengali author **Tasneem Abdur-Rashid** at The Nest. Authors will be working in schools as our Storytellers-in-Residence sharing their stories with many more children, including **Zanib Mian** (*Planet Omar*), **Kate Pankhurst** (*Fantastically Great Women* series) and

Emma Norrey (short-listed for the Diverse Book Awards). **The Poetry Takeaway** will also serve up personalised, quality poetry for teachers: performed and wrapped to takeaway.

We are very excited to welcome to Hastings the **Little Angel Theatre** with their story of *Wow Said the Owl* for public audiences at Sandown School. **Out of the Bag Theatre** has a new show at the Mini Playhouse. **Thomas Taylor** returns with his latest story set in Eerie-on-Sea.

We invite adults to enjoy stories too, with locally acclaimed **Bev Lee Harling's** *Ploughing the Salt Sea* with a newly commissioned song and workshop; **Phil Okwedy**, arrives from Cardiff to weave

myths, songs, folktales, and legends from the African diaspora; and everybody's favourite clown-priestess **Lucy Hopkins** brings her show *Dark Mother* from the Soho Theatre.

Our headline show brings **Billy Childish** and the **Chatham Singers** back to Hastings with quirky stories, discussion and music. Billy has designed a tote bag for the festival. Don't miss him at White Rock Theatre on Saturday 21 October.

Discover a new commission from local digital artists **Zeroh** who are developing activities in Broomgrove based on the patterns of moth wings to create an 'Eclipse of Moths'.

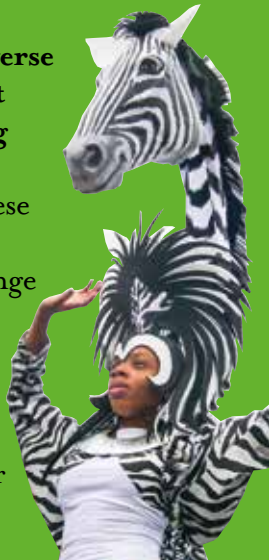
Our popular **Children's Day** returns on Sunday 22 October. This really has become the festival for

children in the town with the very best national street theatre, puppets and parade. Think chaos – with acrobatics tumbling from enormous skirts, swan pedalos 'in love', and the Moomins. Notting Hill Carnival also comes to town with workshops to help prepare for the children's carnival. Dress up and join us.

Over the last year Hastings Storytelling Festival has forged a dynamic network in partnership with **Adverse Camber** and the **East Anglian Storytelling Festival** and our collaboration with these other producers is facilitating the exchange of new ideas and new commissions. Thanks to our **funders, supporters** and **patrons** for their support.

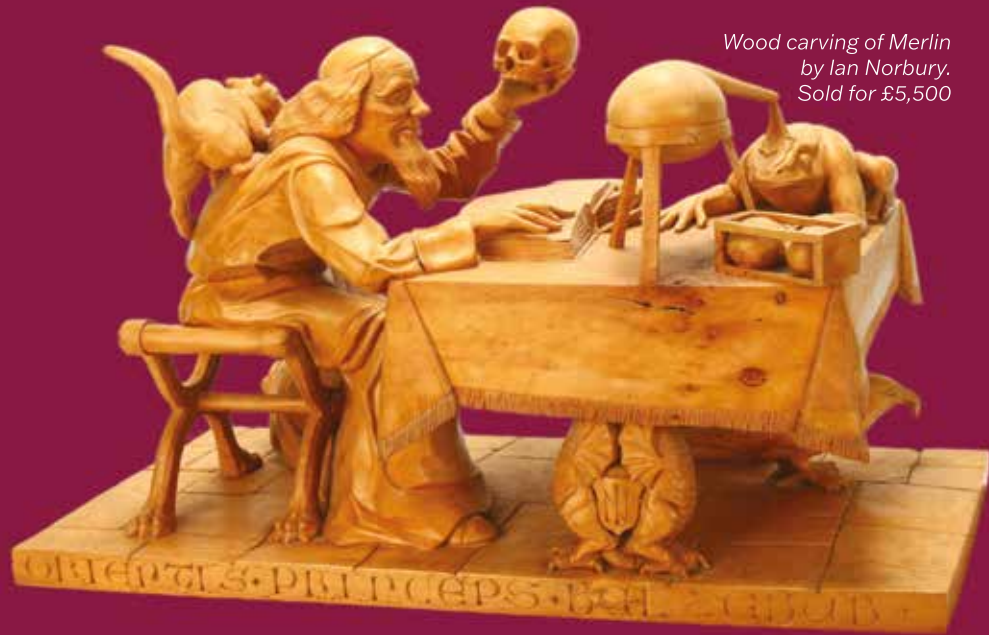
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#hsf2023 PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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Wood carving of Merlin
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www.burstowandhewett.co.uk

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER JORDAN STEPHENS & BETH SUZANNA: THE MISSING PIECE

A heart-warming, fresh and original story about family and friendship.

Sunny loves jigsaw puzzles – the bigger the better. When she completes one, she gets a warm, happy honeybee buzz. One day, her Gran gives her a **one-thousand-piece** puzzle. Piece after piece, all by herself, she puts together the picture, until... **disaster!** The final piece is missing.



Jordan Stephens is a writer and performer best known for being one-half of the pop duo Rizzle Kicks, achieving fame at only 19. Jordan is now a writer, performer and campaigner. He's also passionate about books and reading. *The Missing Piece* is his first picture book.



Beth Suzanna is a Bristol-based illustrator and designer. An advocate for diverse representation, and often commenting on recurrent issues in society. Beth was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for her debut picture book, *The Missing Piece*, alongside author Jordan Stephens, and was an artist in residence at the Hay Festival in 2023.



11am
Hastings Library
3 Claremont
TN34 1HE
FREE
(Limited space – arrive early)





SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

BEV LEE HARLING: PLOUGHING THE SALT SEA

Ploughing the Salt Sea represents a culmination of **Bev Lee Harling's** research into her unspoken family history. She tells of a great uncle lost at sea; a dastardly grandfather running amok with the law; a great great grandmother, proprietor of several net huts down on Rock-a-Nore; the decline in her own mother's health. She shares precious memories, real and imagined.

Hastings Storytelling Festival has commissioned a new song for this performance, and two Ganseys (fishing jumpers).

Participate in a **Ganseys workshop** at **Hastings Museum** with Bev Lee Harling. Bring your favourite sweater and take the opportunity to explore more about your family lineage.



PHOTO: GEMRIE SCOTT

Workshop: 11am–1pm
The Durbar Hall
Hastings Museum & Art Gallery TN34 1ET
FREE (Limited space – please arrive early)

Performance: 7.30pm
East Hastings Sea Angling Association
The Stade TN34 3FJ
£10 – booking advised
Book online: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

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TANDOORI GHOR



Tel: 01424 436064
Opening Hours: 12-2.30pm - 6-11.30pm
11 Grand Parade, St Leonards TN37 0DD

The Tandoori Ghor Indian restaurant and takeaway with free home delivery serving Hastings and St Leonards. Our team of highly skilled chefs use only the finest ingredients, purchasing fresh spices which are painstakingly ground and mixed by hand, ensuring excellent quality. We cater for all types of functions including birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and corporate events, please book in advance so we can make the occasion extra special. We look forward to welcoming you to your table at The Tandoori Ghor.

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER
PHIL OKWEDY:
THE GODS ARE ALL HERE



that uncovers Phil's experiences growing up as a child of dual heritage in 1960s & '70s Wales.

Charting the time of life when children are said to view their parents as gods, but never having actually lived with them, Phil considers if his parents were the gods he had imagined them to be...

Exploring equality, freedom, racism, family and growing up without your birth parents, in an enthralling performance, you'll discover *The Gods Are All Here* is both timeless and very much a story of now!

7pm

Sussex Hall, White Rock Theatre TN34 1JX

Tickets: £5

Suitable for 12+

Content includes some discriminatory language

Book online: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Sparked by the discovery of a series of letters from his father in Nigeria to his mother in Wales, *The Gods Are All Here* is a moving, funny and warm-hearted, one-man performance from first-class storyteller, Phil Okwedy.

As part of Black History Month, this captivating storytelling show skilfully weaves myth, song, folktales and legends of the African diaspora with an astonishing personal story



18 Hours is driven by a passion for fostering global understanding through education and events

www.18hours.org.uk

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE: WOW! SAID THE OWL



Explore the wonderful world of colours with a curious little owl, who is determined to stay awake and see what day light brings.

WOW! Said the Owl, the acclaimed children's book by award winning author, Tim Hopgood, is brought to life through a blend of beautiful storytelling, puppetry, and music.

"[A] cracking adaptation of Tim Hopgood's picture book... [and a] warm and sparky show... As director Joy Haynes' production progresses, the set is flooded with colour, as the little owl discovers the bright-hued joys of the daytime."

THE GUARDIAN

4.30pm

Sandown School, The Ridge TN34 2AA

FREE – Limited space – please arrive early



WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

LUCY HOPKINS: DARK MOTHER

Calling the sweet, the courageous, the devoted and the broken to a ceremony of twinkling in the depths: a ritual of healing, a prayer to Mother and an unquantifiable silly time in the dark. Brought humbly to you by everybody's favourite clown-priestess, light-braider, shadow-dancer and Dark Mother, Lucy Hopkins.

Lucy Hopkins is an internationally touring, award-winning clown/director/teacher/lover of humans.

Don't be afraid of the dark. Mummy's here.



"Hopkins is fantastic" **Guardian**

"A legend among Gaulier clowns"
SCOTSMAN

"Only Lucy Hopkins can Lucy Hopkins like Lucy Hopkins" **FRINGE REVIEW**

"Outstandingly original... Lucy Hopkins is a revelation" **TODOLIST**

"The dark is unpredictable and full of magic and laughter... it's beautiful" **ON THE MIC**

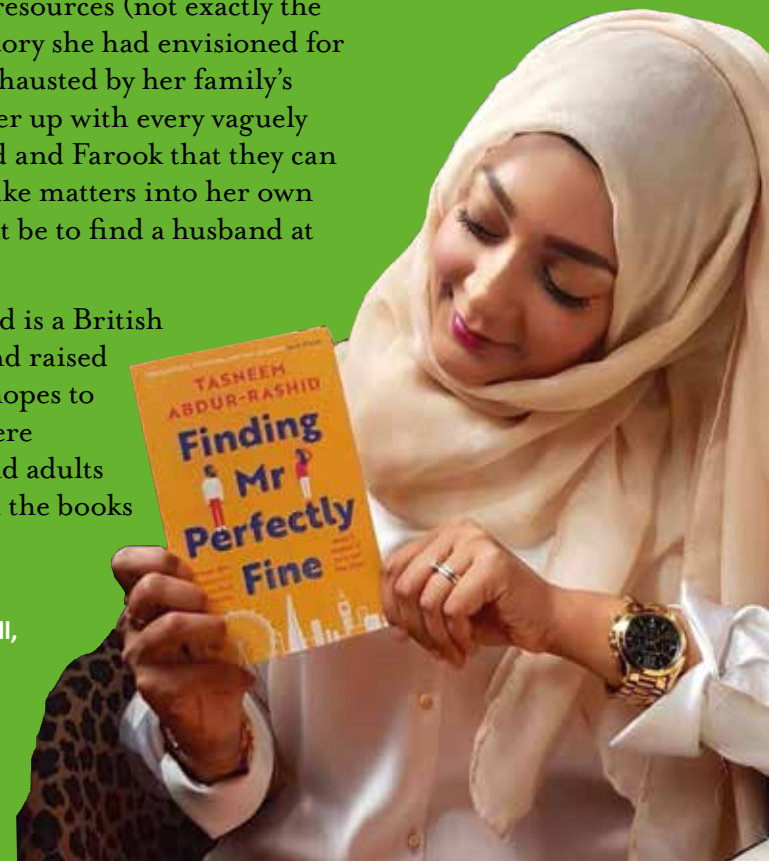
7pm
The Durbar Hall
Hastings Museum &
Art Gallery TN34 1ET
£8 in advance,
£10 on door
Bar from 6.30pm
18+ contains nudity
and strobe lighting
Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER TASNEEM ABDUR-RASHID: FINDING MR PERFECTLY FINE

When Zara's Mum puts together the most archaic of arranged marriage resources (not exactly the romcom-worthy love story she had envisioned for herself), she is soon exhausted by her family's failed attempts to set her up with every vaguely suitable Abdul, Ahmed and Farook that they can find. Zara decides to take matters into her own hands. How hard can it be to find a husband at twenty-nine?

Tasneem Abdur-Rashid is a British Bengali writer born and raised in London. Tasneem hopes to help create a world where everyone – children and adults – can see themselves in the books that they read.

7 pm
The Nest, The Old Town Hall,
Hastings TN34 3EW
FREE





FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

ZEROH:

THE BROOMGROVE ECLIPSE

Following on from their 'Caught a Curiosity' project last year ZEROH will be holding a workshop at Broomgrove Community Centre engaging the local residents. The workshop will invite children along with their parents to contribute to a Moth swarm, or an Eclipse of Moths as they are collectively known, by creating Moth wing patterns which will then be turned into 3D models and animated to become part of a swarm.

The results of the project will have a number of outlets with results

being shared with all the residents of Broomgrove estate as well as the wider community of the town.

The multimedia project will focus on the patterning of Moths and how they can adapt to their environment in order to survive in a time of challenges brought about by the changing climate.

The workshop will be free to attend with all art supplies provided.

From 4pm
Chiltern Drive, Broomgrove
FREE

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER STORYTELLING WITH OUT OF THE BAG THEATRE: IS IT A DRAGON?



Join Out of the Bag Theatre (Lizzy Likes Lizards & Apple Magic) to get to the heart of the story. Immerse yourself in the world of a creaky old house and put yourself in the shoes of Dania, new to this place, new to this strange world.

Catch glimpses, snatch snippets of some strange tune: could it be a dragon?

10am & 11.30am

**Mini Playhouse,
26 White Rock, Hastings
TN34 1JY**

FREE

THOMAS TAYLOR: MERMEDUSA



Eerie-on-Sea has been invaded by a famous podcast crew, determined to uncover all the secrets of Eerie, especially the famous legend of the fearsome Malamander. But Herbie and Violet are faced with a new mystery, one that threatens to shake the town to its very core. Is the Deepest Secret of Eerie-on-Sea about to be revealed?

With *Mermedusa*, the last book in the Eerie-on-Sea series published this month, join

author and illustrator Thomas Taylor to hear about his Hastings inspiration for the books, which – starting with the acclaimed *Malamander* – have now sold more than half a million copies world wide. There will be live drawing, secrets revealed, as well as a chance to ask questions and get books signed.

2pm – doors open at 1.30pm

**Sussex Hall, White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX**

FREE

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

BILLY CHILDISH AND THE CHATHAM SINGERS

Billy Childish excels in painting, music, writing, and more. A prolific painter and talented performer with a 37 year career, creating over 125 LPs.

Billy will open with spoken word pieces and Q&A, followed by music with the Chatham Singers. Don't miss him – and bag your limited edition tote at the same time.



7.30pm

White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX

£18

Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 12-4PM CHILDREN'S DAY & CARNIVAL

THE STADE, ROCK-A-NORE ROAD TN34 3DW

An array of live performances, workshops, stories and a lively and noisy parade.

Gary & Pel: Live Action Cartoon – Swan in Love brings a delightful 7-foot Swan Pedalo, inviting audiences to slow dance, capture memories, and embark on a charming 'romantic ride' in this captivating, 'Swantastic' walkabout performance.



Ben Watson: Mind The Monsters – Welcome to Planet Brain



Circo Rum Ba Ba: Dress Circle – a giantess with a theatre in her skirts!



Murmuration Arts: The Owl & the Pussycat
Join our fowl and feline pair on their adventures whilst they serenade you with nonsense!
Based on Edward Lear's poem, with originally composed music. Children and adults alike will love this adaptation of a well loved classic.



PHOTO: ROSIE POWELL

Ella Mesma Company: The Rainbow Butterfly



Hula-hooping workshops with Xena Flame



Carnival Workshops with Mahogany Carnival Arts
Fresh from Notting Hill Carnival to help make our Parade sparkle!



Join the Carnival Parade!

**12-4pm
The Stade
FREE**

Carnival Parade at 3pm



Drum performance by Open Door Drummers

Drum workshop with Jamie Harris



Richard Storybeard
Enchanting stories told in a cosy yurt

Get Lost and Found: Mischief & Mysteries in Moomin Valley – a moomin-themed puppet show starting at 12pm. Limited space – arrive early to avoid disappointment.



PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**If it's wet, don't fret!
Most of our stories are under cover.**



ABOUT HASTINGS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The Hastings Storytelling Festival, established in 2011, has since become a registered charity and maintains a year-round presence at various events.

The majority of festival events are free, and all are free for children under the age of 10 to attend.

VOLUNTEER!

Would you like to volunteer at one of our events? contact us at office@hastingsstoryfest.org.uk



PHOTO: POLLY BORLAND

MEET THE PATRONS

Hastings Storytelling Festival has three very active Patrons:



Multi-award-winning poet, playwright, performer and graphic artist **Inua Ellams** was born

in Nigeria and lives in London. Displacement and Destiny are reoccurring themes in his work.



Award-winning writer and illustrator **Lauren Child's** books have sold over 15 million copies worldwide

and feature much-loved characters Charlie & Lola, Clarice Bean, Ruby Redfort and Hubert Horatio. Lauren is working with the festival for three years culminating in a locally produced and illustrated book. Lauren has kindly designed this year's booklet front cover.



Local author **Thomas Taylor's** imaginary town, Eerie-on-Sea bears an uncanny resemblance to his hometown, Hastings.

This mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up, features in his books *Gargantis*, *Shadowghast*, *Malamander*, *Festergrimm* and the most recent, *Mermedusa*. *Malamander* won the Awesome Book Award in 2021.

Our three patrons join Founding Patron, author and illustrator **Sir Quentin Blake**, who has supported the festival since it began.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sat 14 Oct 11am
**Jordan Stephens
& Beth Suzanna:**
The Missing Piece
Hastings Library
TN34 1HE FREE

Sun 15 Oct 11am–12.30pm
Bev Lee Harling:
Ploughing the Salt Sea
(Workshop)
The Durbar Hall, Hastings
Museum and Art Gallery
TN34 1ET FREE

Bev Lee Harling: 7.30pm
Ploughing the Salt Sea
(Performance)
East Hastings
Sea Angling Association
The Stade, Rock-a-Nore Rd
TN34 3FJ £10
Booking advised

Mon 16 Oct 7pm
Phil Okwedy:
The Gods are all Here
Sussex Hall, White Rock
Theatre TN34 1JX
£5 – Suitable for 12+

Tue 17 Oct 4.30pm
Little Angel Theatre:
Wow! Said the Owl
Sandown School
The Ridge
TN34 2AA FREE
Arrive early, limited space

Wed 18 Oct 7pm
Lucy Hopkins:
Dark Mother
The Durbar Hall
Hastings Museum and
Art Gallery TN34 1ET
£8 in advance / £10 on door
18+

Thu 19 Oct 7pm
Tasneem Abdur-Rashid:
Finding Mr Perfectly Fine
The Nest, The Old Town Hall,
Hastings TN34 3EW FREE

Fri 20 Oct from 4pm
Zeroh:
The Broomgrove Eclipse
Downs Farm, Broomgrove
FREE

Sat 21 Oct
Out of the Bag Theatre:
Is it a Dragon?
Mini Playhouse
26 White Rock
Hastings TN34 1JY FREE

Thomas Taylor: **Doors: 1.30pm**
Mermedusa **start: 2pm**
Talk followed by signing
White Rock Theatre
TN34 1JX FREE

Billy Childish & 7.30pm
the Chatham Singers
White Rock, Hastings
TN34 1JX £18
Booking advised

Sun 22 Oct 12–4pm
Children's Day
& Carnival
The Stade
Rock-a-Nore Road
TN34 3DW FREE

HASTINGS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL CHARITY NUMBER: 1168229

