

London's longest running literary festival

# BOOK

EVOLVING  
TIMES

# WEEK

2-10 MARCH  
2024

LONDON | ONLINE  
Tickets on sale: 11 Jan

JEWISH  
LITERARY  
FOUNDATION

[jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/bookweek/24](http://jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/bookweek/24)

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# Welcome to Book Week 24

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Game-changing  
conversations  
Unique performances  
Nuanced debates  
Inspiring workshops  
Enlightening talks  
Challenging questions

Join us at Kings Place,  
London, or online  
wherever you are for  
Book Week 24.

2-10 MARCH  
9 DAYS

90 EVENTS  
190 SPEAKERS

ACTORS  
ARTISTS  
CAMPAIGNERS  
COMEDIANS  
COOKS  
CRICKETERS  
DOCTORS  
EDUCATORS  
FILMMAKERS  
HISTORIANS  
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NOVELISTS  
PHILOSOPHERS  
PODCASTERS  
POLITICIANS  
POETS  
RABBIS  
SINGERS  
SCIENTISTS





# How to enjoy the festival

Whether in-person at Kings Place, London, or online wherever you are, we look forward to welcoming you to Book Week!

## TICKETS & BOOKING

Prices £5–22.50, plus free events

**Multi-buy offer:** Save 15% when you buy tickets for three or more events in one booking

**Online events:** Via Zoom link we will send to ticket holders. Book individually or get access to full online programme until the end of March with our great value Digipass for £39.50.

**Fringe:** Book your free ticket online

**Under-30s:** Limited amount of £5 tickets available for all events

**Concessions:** Email info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk

**Booking website:** kingsplace.co.uk/bookweek

**Box Office:** 020 7520 1440  
Mon-Fri, 1.30pm – 5pm

## KINGS PLACE, LONDON

Our in-person events are at Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

**Train/tube:** 8 min. walk from Kings Cross/St Pancras stations

**Buses:** 390, 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259 and 476

**Parking:** Available at St Pancras International station, with blue badge parking in marked bays on Crinan Street.

## SECURITY

Your safety is a priority for the Jewish Literary Foundation and Kings Place. Please arrive at least 30 minutes before your event to allow time to pass through security.

**Bag policy:** All bags brought to the venue will be subject to checks by security personnel. You will be permitted to take one cabin sized bag (40 x 20 x 25 cm) or smaller into the venue. If your bag is larger than this or you have multiple bags, we advise you to check it in to luggage storage at Kings Cross station. There is no facility to store large bags at the venue.

£5 tickets available for under 30s

# 90 events in-person & online





## Being Jewish in Modern Britain

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Emma Barnett | Sally Berkovic | Howard Jacobson**  
Chair: **Hugo Rifkind**

Long called 'the luckiest community in Europe', Jews have existed peacefully here since 1656, when Oliver Cromwell allowed a small number to be re-admitted following their expulsion by Edward I in 1290, becoming a fully integrated part of society. But amid unprecedented, intimidation and fear, is there a future for Jews in Britain? To open Book Week 24, *Times* columnist **Hugo Rifkind** is joined by *Woman's Hour* host **Emma Barnett**, Booker-winning writer **Howard Jacobson** and *Sally Berkovic* author and CEO of the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe to discuss their own experiences and those of the wider community.

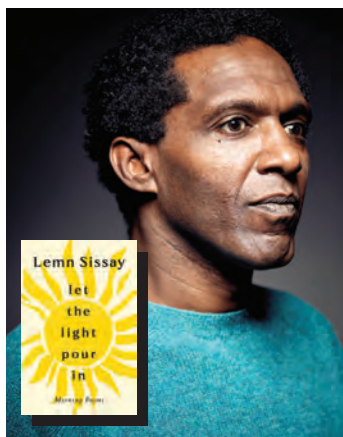
7.30–8.30pm Tickets £20

## Lemn Sissay: Let The Light Pour In

In association with Jewish Renaissance

'How do you do it?' said night 'How do you wake up and shine?' 'I keep it simple,' said light 'One day at a time'. Recipient of the PEN Pinter Prize, the Freedom of London and an OBE for services to literature, **Lemn Sissay** is one of our most beloved poets. Having recently adapted Kafka's *Metamorphosis* for the stage, he makes his Book Week debut with *Let The Light Pour In*, the follow-up to *Sunday Times* No.1 *My Name is Why*. This life-affirming collection, fuelled with resilience and defiant joy, features the best of the witty, wonder-filled poems he composes at the break of dawn, as well as chronicling his own battle with darkness and celebrating this morning practice.

7.15–8.15pm Tickets £16.50



## Burton & Taylor

**Roger Lewis | Chair: Tanya Gold**

It was one of the most iconic relationships of the 20th century, by turns triumphant and tragic, romantic and recriminatory. Richard Burton emerged from the mists and brimstone of Wales to be the greatest theatrical animal of his generation; Elizabeth Taylor was the child actress turned Oscar winner, noted Jewish convert and much-married screen star. Finally, the full story is told by *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* biographer **Roger Lewis** in *Erotic Vagrancy*. He joins journalist **Tanya Gold** to discuss his magisterial take on this story of celebrity, creativity, divorces and so much more.

8.45–9.45pm Tickets £16.50



## What is Jewish History For?

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Jonathan Brent | Miri Rubin | Simon Schama**  
Chair: **Adam Taub**

While few of us actively study Jewish history, so many of us would like to know more. Where, how, and to who is it to be taught? Most teaching of Jewish history in Europe and the United States concentrates on calamities, including the pogroms and the Shoah, and these are often taught without context. How might we teach it better, not only to Jewish students, but as part of the shared school curriculum? Could it become part of a diverse and inclusive general history curriculum? Professors **Miri Rubin**, **Simon Schama** and YIVO chief **Jonathan Brent** discuss with educator and Etgar co-founder **Adam Taub**.

11am–12noon Tickets £20

## Torah and Tradition in an Age of Doubt

In association with LSJS

**Raphael Zarum | Chair: Devorah Baum**

In these fast-changing, uncertain, and divided times, this new book from Rabbi Dr **Raphael Zarum** is most welcome. *In Questioning Belief*, runner-up in this year's Yeshiva University's Rabbi Sacks Book Prize, Zarum presents thorough, reasoned responses, based on Torah and tradition, to some of Judaism's most challenging questions of belief, science and ethics. The Dean of the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS), where he holds the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought, joins **Devorah Baum**, author of *Feeling Jewish*, in conversation.

11am–12noon Tickets £16.50



## Genesis Emerging Writers 2024

In partnership with the Genesis Foundation

The third edition of our Emerging Writers Programme in partnership with the Genesis Foundation culminates with this popular panel event. This year's writers are: **Sean Gilbert**, **Mariyam Karolia**, **Harriet Matthews** and **Susan Royston** (fiction) **Sharon Kanolik**, **Angus Reilly** and **Eleanor Thom** (non-fiction) **Beth Frieden**, **Michael Mullen** and **Evie Ward** (poetry). Their mentors are: Julie Cohen, Ruth Gilligan, Adam Lebor and Sophie Mackintosh (fiction); Helen Fry, Viv Groskop and Keiron Pim (non-fiction); Sarah Blake, Jen Calleja and Michael Pedersen (poetry).

11am–12noon Tickets Free





## Nicholas Hytner in Conversation

Sponsored by the Jewish Quarterly

**Chair: Elliot Levey**

The achievements of Sir **Nicholas Hytner** in any one of the media he has conquered could easily fill an hour. His *Miss Saigon* ran for a decade on both sides of the Atlantic; *Carousel* and *The History Boys* won him Olivier and Tony awards. He followed his innovative 12-year run as director of the National Theatre by co-founding The Bridge, the first wholly new theatre of scale to be added to London's commercial sector in 80 years. He has directed operas for ENO, the Met and Paris Opera and films including *The Madness of King George* and *The Crucible*. He joins fellow Olivier-winner **Elliot Levey** – whom he directed in *His Dark Materials* and *The Habit of Art* – to reflect on his extraordinary career.

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £20

## Kindertransport and Beyond

**Milena Grenfell-Baines MBE | Andrea Hammel  
Eithne Nightingale | Chair: Trudy Gold**

85 years after the Kindertransport, as children still flee their homes in search of safety, this special panel offers expertise and experience across nine decades. Lady **Milena Grenfell-Baines** was one of 669 children rescued by Nicholas Winton from Czechoslovakia in 1939. In *The Kindertransport: What Really Happened*, Dr **Andrea Hammel** explores uncomfortable truths behind the complex visa waiver scheme that brought 10,000 young people to the UK. And in *Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain* Dr **Eithne Nightingale** curates oral histories from 1930 to today. With educator **Trudy Gold**.

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £16.50



## The State of Desire

In association with BIAJS & BFHU

**Lea Taragin-Zeller | Chair: Karen Skinazi**

In recent years Israeli state policies have attempted to dissuade Orthodox Jews from creating large families, an objective that flies in the face of tradition. As the state's desire to cultivate a high-income, tech-centred nation comes into conflict with common Orthodox familial practices, Jewish couples are finding it increasingly difficult to fulfil their reproductive aims and communal expectations. Paying close attention to ethical dilemmas, cultural anthropologist **Lea Taragin-Zeller** joins **Karen Skinazi** to explore proceptive and contraceptive desires around family formation: when to have children, how many and at what cost?

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £10



## Philippe Sands: Lviv Then and Now

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

**Philippe Sands | Diana Matar | Chair: David Fishman**

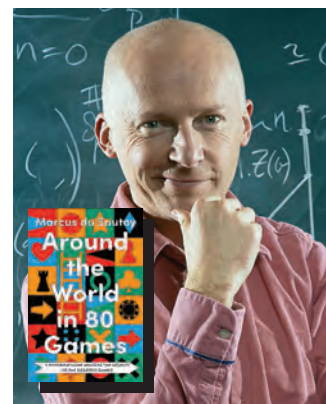
Two essays published together, separated by seven decades, united by one city. In 1946 the Polish novelist and poet Józef Wittlin wrote in exile about his beloved Lwów. Over 70 years later **Philippe Sands** shares his perspective as a descendent on what is now the Ukrainian city of Lviv. The *East West Street* author joins award-winning artist **Diana Matar**, whose stunning photographs feature alongside their words in *City of Lions: Portrait of a City in Two Acts*.

**2–3pm** Tickets £20

## Elif Shafak & Sarah Bernstein

Two of today's most vital and highly regarded writers, together for the first time. 2023 saw author **Sarah Bernstein** named a Granta Best Young British Novelist and Booker shortlisted for *Study for Obedience*, the story of an unnamed Jewish woman's move to the remote, unspecified country of her ancestors. And ahead of her highly anticipated 13th novel later this year, internationally bestselling *The Island of Missing Trees* author **Elif Shafak**, herself a 2019 Booker nominee and Blackwell's Book of the Year winner with *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*, returns to the festival.

**2–3pm** Tickets £16.50



## Marcus du Sautoy: Around the World in 80 Games

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Can pi help you win rock, paper, scissors? How did Mozart use maths to create music? And which is really the best property to own in Monopoly? These questions and many more are answered in *Around the World in 80 Games* by Oxford's Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science **Marcus du Sautoy**. The *Horizon* broadcaster and *The Creativity Code* author returns to the festival with his gleeful exploration - spanning millennia and continents - of how the games we love have forever been intertwined with mathematics, and how both are integral to human psychology and culture.

**2–3pm** Tickets £10





### Book Week 24 Keynote: Simon Schama

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

As we launch Book Week and the Jewish Literary Foundation to continue the journey we started 72 years ago with Jewish Book Week, who better for our keynote than Sir **Simon Schama**? A regular at the festival for decades, both as a sell-out speaker and avid audience member, this special event will reflect on his world-renowned work: as an award-winning and bestselling author from *Two Rothschilds and the Land of Israel* in the 1970s to last year's *Foreign Bodies*; as Professor of History at Columbia; and as a BBC broadcaster for three decades. In conversation with Jewish Literary Foundation director **Claudia Rubenstein**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £20

### Woman in Art: Helen Rosenau

In association with Ben Uri Gallery & Museum

**Griselda Pollock** | Chair: **Jaś Elsner**

Among the influential migration of European Jewish intellectuals who brought exciting innovations in Art History to Britain and the US in the 1930s, Helen Rosenau was unique in centring gender. 80 years after the publication of what she termed 'my little book': *Woman in Art: From Type to Personality*, a new volume resets Rosenau's radical text. **Griselda Pollock**, who edits and introduces this new edition, speaks to fellow art historian and Oxford professor **Jaś Elsner** to situate Rosenau as feminist, art historian and Jewish studies scholar.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £16.50



### Frederic Raphael: Last Post

Chair: **Mark Glanville**

Over 20 novels; biographies of Byron and Josephus; plays; translations; short stories; scripts made by John Schlesinger and Peter Bogdanovich... **Frederic Raphael's** trademark is versatility and it's on show in *Last Post*, part-epistolary-memoir, part social-geography. Alongside stories of Wittgenstein and George Steiner, the *Darling* Oscar-winner offers affectionate farewells and occasional raspberries to figures including Stanleys Donen and Kubrick and his daughter Sarah. With **Mark Glanville**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10



### YIVO and the Recovery of Jewish Memory

In partnership with YIVO

**Jonathan Brent** | Chair: **Philippe Sands**

Founded in 1925 in Berlin and Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) YIVO, or the Yiddish Scientific Institute, became the leading institution for scholarship in Yiddish, forced to move its HQ to New York in 1940. YIVO CEO and historian **Jonathan Brent** discusses with **Philippe Sands** the importance of the YIVO's discovery, preservation and digitisation of millions of pages of documents and books, spanning over 500 hundred years of Jewish life. What do these materials teach us? Why is this important today? How can these materials affect the Jewish future?

5–6pm Tickets £20

### Dannie Abse Centenary Celebration

**Maureen Lipman** | **Jeremy Robson**

Chair: **Michael Joseph**

Dannie Abse's writing is witty, colourful and profound, drawn from his Welsh background, his Jewish identity, and his experiences as a doctor. A sharp eye for humour and deep humanity add to the potency. 100 years after his birth and a decade since his passing, his close friend **Jeremy Robson** is joined for readings of Abse's poetry and prose by **Maureen Lipman**, his daughter **Keren Abse** and poet **Lynne Hjelmggaard**, his partner in later life. The event, which will also include rare footage of Dannie Abse reading, will be chaired by **Michael Joseph**, who hosted several memorable Abse events at his iconic bookshop.

5–6pm Tickets £16.50



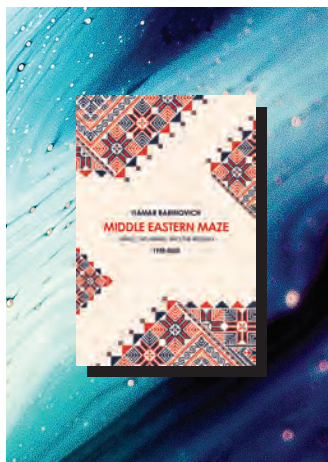
### Art Monsters

In association with Ben Uri Gallery & Museum

**Lauren Elkin** | Chair: **Hettie Judah**

For decades, feminist artists have confronted the problem of how to tell the truth about their experiences as bodies. Queer bodies, sick bodies, racialised bodies, female bodies, what is their language, what are the materials we need to transcribe it? *Art Monsters: Unruly Bodies in Feminist Art* is a landmark intervention from Lauren Elkin in how we think about art and the body, calling attention to a radical heritage of feminist work that not only reacts against patriarchy, but redefines its own aesthetic aims. The award-winning translator, essayist and *Flâneuse: Women Walk the City* author joins i chief art critic **Hettie Judah** to discuss.

5–6pm Tickets £10



## Itamar Rabinovich: Middle Eastern Maze

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Chair: David Aaronovitch**

A rare event with the former Israeli ambassador to the US and chief negotiator with Syria in the mid-1990s. In conversation with journalist **David Aaronovitch**, **Itamar Rabinovich** provides an insider's analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process. His latest book *Middle Eastern Maze* covers the Abraham Accords, the new policies pursued by the Trump and Biden administrations, the full-fledged Syrian civil war, the heyday of the Islamic State, Russia's Syrian military intervention, the Iranian nuclear drive, and the lengthy domestic political crisis in Israel. Rabinovich will also speak about the devastating events of October 7th and their aftermath.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £20

## Bats & Mitzvahs: Jews and Cricket

**Matthew Engel | Daniel Lightman KC**

**Lara Molins Caplin | Chair: Zaki Cooper**

As players, MCC Presidents, umpires, statisticians and patrons, Jews have contributed at all levels of cricket. From the UK to Australia, South Africa and the West Indies, they've captained their countries and counties, helped to develop the commercial side of the game and even baked cakes for Test Match Special. **Daniel Lightman** and **Zaki Cooper**, curators of the *Cricket and the Jewish Community* exhibition at Lord's and authors of *Cricket Grounds from the Air* are joined here by retired cricketer **Lara Molins Caplin**, who represented Ireland in the 2000 World Cup, and author and journalist **Matthew Engel**, who edited 12 editions of cricket bible *Wisden* between 1993 and 2007.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £16.50



## Women in Intelligence

**Helen Fry | Chair: Clare Mulley**

The first half of the last century saw women take on an extraordinary range of roles in British intelligence, defying convention and playing a pivotal role in two World Wars. **Helen Fry's** ground-breaking, panoramic *Women in Intelligence: The Hidden History of Two World Wars* is full of hitherto unknown stories, taking us from Bletchley and Whitehall to behind enemy lines. She will be in conversation with fellow award-winning historian, biographer and *The Spy Who Loved* author **Clare Mulley**.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10



## Leonard Bernstein: Some Other Time

Sponsored by the Rosefield Family

**Christina Bianco | Julian Ovenden**

**Edward Seckerson | Chair: Petroc Trelawny**

80 years after *On The Town* hit Broadway, the classic New York musical provides our title as we celebrate Leonard Bernstein in conversation and song. Working with fellow theatrical legends like Jerome Robbins, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, he created iconic works including *West Side Story*, *Candide* and *Dybbuk*, winning numerous Grammys. With reference to some very special recordings, writer and broadcaster **Edward Seckerson** talks to Radio 3's **Petroc Trelawny**, alongside live performances from West End stars **Julian Ovenden** (*Annie Get Your Gun*) and **Christina Bianco** (*Wizard of Oz*).

8–9.15pm Tickets £22.50

## Susan Rubin Suleiman: An Immigrant Girlhood

**Chair: Ariana Neumann**

A photograph with faint writing on the back. A traveling chess set. A silver pin. In *Daughter of History: Traces of an Immigrant Girlhood*, Harvard professor **Susan Rubin Suleiman** uses such everyday objects and the memories they evoke to tell the story of her early life as a Holocaust refugee, aged five when the Nazis marched into Budapest, and then, after the Communist Party took over Hungary as an American immigrant, via Austria, France and Haiti. Probing the intergenerational complexities of immigrant families and the inevitability of loss, she shows how historical events shape our private lives. In conversation with *When Time Stopped* author **Ariana Neumann**.

8–9pm Tickets £16.50



## The Art of the Thriller

**Alex Gerlis | Adam LeBor | Chair: Jenni Frazer**

At their best thrillers can pull off the impressive feat of providing escape, while at the same time giving us food for thought on the world around us. That's the case with the books here: former BBC journalist **Alex Gerlis's** *Agent in the Shadows* ventures to wartime France as the Wolf Pack spies go undercover to find a traitor; and in *Dohany Street* author **Adam LeBor**, also the FT's thriller reviewer, takes us to Budapest as Detective Balthazar Kovacs investigates the disappearance of a young Israeli historian. They join award-winning journalist **Jenni Frazer**.

8–9pm Tickets £10







# JLF PLAYER

Over 1,000 hours of searchable content on our website, all for free. Spanning 16 festivals, discover or revisit events covering the arts, faith, fiction, history, poetry, politics, science, society, sport and so much more. We welcome you to search, explore and experience the new JLF player.

**JEWISH  
LITERARY  
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# Genesis Emerging Writers Programme

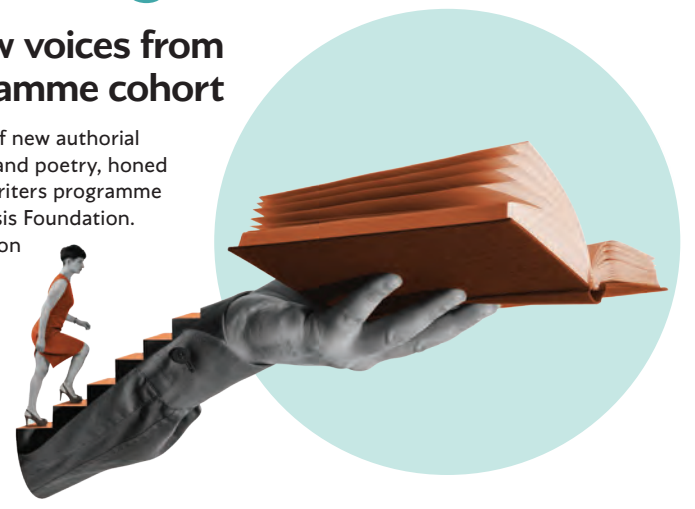
Discover 10 new voices from our 2024 programme cohort

Presenting a diverse range of new authorial talent in fiction, non-fiction and poetry, honed during our third emerging writers programme and supported by the Genesis Foundation. Hear the authors in discussion and providing readings.

**SUN 3 MARCH, 11am**

Find out more about the programme and how to apply for the upcoming year

[jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/programmes/genesis-emerging-writers-programme](http://jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/programmes/genesis-emerging-writers-programme)



# Authors in Schools Programme

Hear from great writers how to tell great stories

Discover our Authors in Schools Programme at your school. The programme allows young people access to a range of authors whose books explore, reflect and help to shape the cultural current of our times. Get in touch with our team to take part in the programme.

[info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk)





Book your free Fringe ticket at [kingsplace.co.uk/bookweek](https://kingsplace.co.uk/bookweek)



### Adi Toch: Place to Place

Commissioned by the V&A to respond to the restitution of an Anatolian ewer, **Adi Toch** created a golden vessel. Edmund de Waal in his foreword calls the artist, whose work is also in New York's Jewish Museum, the Museum of London and Scotland and Wales' National Museums: "a mapper of the space left behind by this return of an object to its place of origin".

12.30–1.30pm



### Good for a Single Journey

**Helen Joyce**

Based on a true story of love, loss, despair and hope, *Good for a Single Journey* spans four generations, weaving one family's experiences into the fabric of recent Jewish history. From her great-grandparents in WWI to her own present as an educator, **Helen Joyce** draws on reality for this turbulent and mesmerising saga, described by the *Wall Street Journal's* Gregory Zuckerman as "an evocative, character-rich, historically accurate snapshot of a period of dramatic upheaval".

2–3pm



### Jewish Flavours of Italy

**Silvia Nacamulli** | Chair: **Pen Vogler**

Growing up in Rome **Silvia Nacamulli** had the privilege of observing three generations of fine Italian Jewish cooks within her own family. Now the La Cucina di Silvia cook takes us on a culinary journey through her homeland, combining over 100 kosher recipes for Italian-Jewish dishes with family stories and practical tips. Yotam Ottolenghi calls *Jewish Flavours of Italy* "a brilliant book to cook from", while Claudia Roden describes it as "fascinating, moving and delicious."

3.30–4.30pm



### Horror Movies in Israel

**Olga Gershenson** | Chair: **Nir Cohen**

Over the last decade, distinctly Israeli zombies and ghosts invaded screens, as young local filmmakers blossomed in one of the most popular genres, previously not a feature in Israeli cinema. UMass professor **Olga Gershenson** joins UK Jewish Film's **Nir Cohen** to discuss how these films challenge traditional representations of Israel and appeal to global audiences.

5–6pm



### Tsitsit The Jewish Fringe Festival: Shiva at Wit's End

**Estee Stimler**

Two brothers argue over whether to bury or cremate their late father, while their sister despairs, their aunt interferes and the Rabbi practises his standup routine. Following a full-house event in 2023, the Jewish Fringe Festival returns to Book Week with this exciting staged reading of a new comedy by

**Estee Stimler** (*Change of Heart, The Attic*)

6.30–7.30pm



### The Last Consolation Vanished

In association with Lockdown University & the BFHU

**Arnold I. Davidson** | Chair: **Toby Perl Freilich**

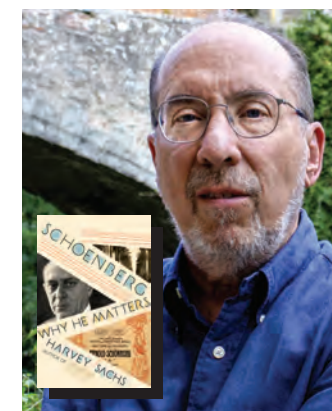
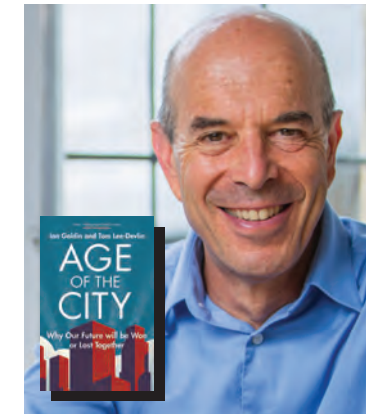
On October 7 1944 a group of Jewish prisoners in Auschwitz rebelled, bombing Crematorium IV. The desperate uprising was defeated by the end of the day, with over 400 prisoners killed, including Zalmen Gradowski. *The Last Consolation Vanished: The Testimony of a Sonderkommando in Auschwitz* is the first full English translation of his extraordinary, powerful account of life and death there, written in Yiddish and buried in the ashes near Crematorium III. His is a voice speaking to us from the past on behalf of millions who were silenced. Professor **Arnold Davidson**, the book's co-editor, discusses this extraordinary work with documentary film-maker **Toby Perl Freilich**.

10.30–11.30am Tickets free

### Ian Goldin: Age of the City

From centres of antiquity like Athens or Rome to modern metropolises like New York or Shanghai, cities throughout history have been the epicentres of our greatest achievements. Now, for the first time, more than half of humanity lives in cities, which are growing at a rate never seen before. The visionary Oxford professor **Ian Goldin** follows *Rescue: From Global Crisis to a Better World* with *Age of the City: Why our Future will be Won or Lost Together*.

12noon–1pm Tickets £5



### Why Schoenberg Matters

**Harvey Sachs** | Chair: **Dennis Davis**

Austrian American composer Arnold Schoenberg was an international icon in his own time, with his 12-tone system considered the future of music itself. Today, leading orchestras rarely play his works and his name is met with apathy, if not antipathy. A *New Yorker* Book of the Year, **Harvey Sachs'** lyrical *Schoenberg: Why He Matters* rescues him from notoriety and restores his rightful place in the pantheon of 20th-century composers. In this online event the Beethoven and Toscanini biographer reveals his legacy, his battles with antisemitism that eventually precipitated his flight from Europe to Los Angeles, and his defiance of critics, including the Nazis labelling his music degenerate.

1.30–2.30pm Tickets £5





## How the Talmud Can Change Your Life

Sponsored by Dangoor Education and in association with LSJS  
**Liel Leibovitz | Chair: Raphael Zarum**

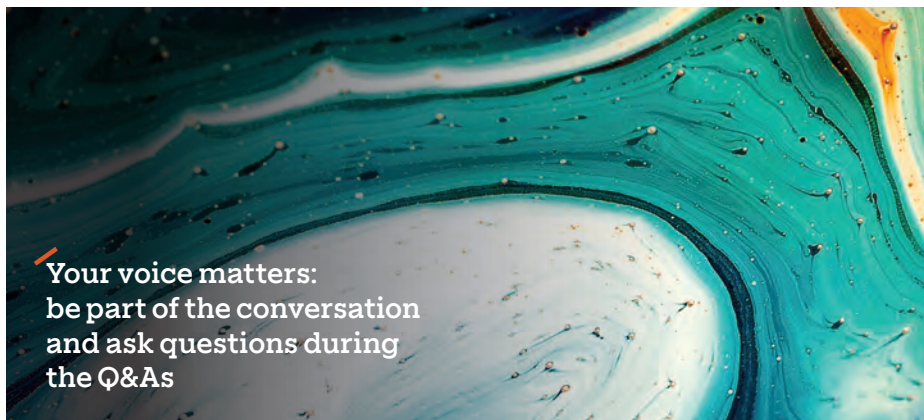
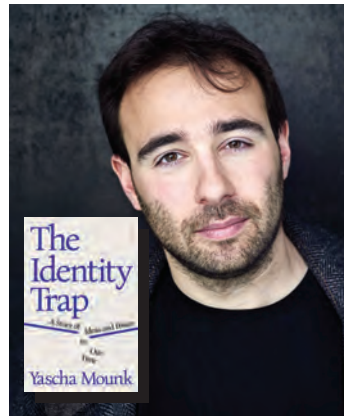
It's an extraordinary work of Jewish ethics, law and tradition, full of folk legends, bawdy tales and rabbinical back-and-forth over centuries. It's inspiring, demanding, confounding – and thousands of pages long. But the Talmud is also, **Liel Leibovitz** argues, humanity's first self-help book, with sage advice on an unparalleled scope of topics. Weaving together psychology, philosophy and history with examples including Aristotle, Billie Holiday and Weight Watchers, he makes the Talmud's insights reverberate for our modern age. The Israeli author and journalist joins Rabbi **Raphael Zarum** to discuss.

**6.30–7.30pm** Tickets £5

## Yascha Mounk – The Identity Trap

The man said to be Barack Obama's 'favourite political thinker' joins us to discuss the origins, consequences and limitations of what he terms 'identity synthesis'. In *The Identity Trap*, **Yascha Mounk** argues that what started as an appreciation of the culture and heritage of minorities marginalised by society, has transformed into an obsession with group identity in all its forms, putting it at the heart of social, cultural and political life. Tracing the intellectual origin of these ideas, the John Hopkins professor and *The Great Experiment* author seeks to understand the impact of the ideas that rightly or wrongly constitute 'identity politics'.

**8–9pm** Tickets £5



## Louis Jacobs' Quest

In association with Lockdown University  
**Miri Freud-Kandel | Chair: Jeremy Rosen**

For Rabbi Louis Jacobs the process of engaging with and thinking about Jewish faith was a lifelong pursuit – and one that remains relevant almost two decades after his death. In the 1960s, amid general religious crisis, he offered a model of an observant but intellectually curious Judaism that empowered individual seekers to address challenges to faith, sparking the widespread controversy in British Jewry known as the 'Jacobs Affair' and the founding of the New London Synagogue. **Miri Freud-Kandel**, Modern Judaism lecturer at Oxford, joins us online to unpack the building blocks of his thought with the first book-length analysis of his model, *Louis Jacobs and the Quest for a Contemporary Jewish Theology*.

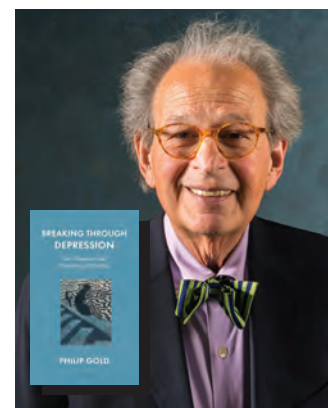
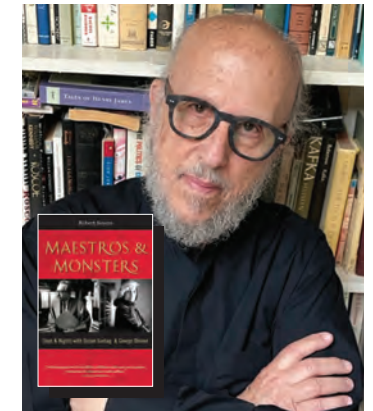
**10.30–11.30pm** Tickets free

## Maestros & Monsters: Sontag & Steiner

**Robert Boyers | Chair: David Herman**

Susan Sontag and George Steiner were two of the most notable secular Jewish intellectuals of the last century; the former an influential writer, activist and filmmaker, the latter an essayist, novelist, polymath and cultural critic. They disliked and mistrusted one another, meeting only on the few occasions where their mutual friend **Robert Boyers** brought them together, producing several wrenching and hilarious exchanges. The *Salmagundi* editor joins **David Herman** with his insider account of the controversies they generated, an effort to explain their extraordinary fame and influence, and their role in shaping culture.

**12noon–1pm** Tickets £5



## Breaking Through Depression

**Philip W. Gold**

We are often told that depression is 'all in the mind'. So why are so many of its symptoms felt in our bodies? One of the world's leading researchers on depressive illness shares his expertise. As he marks 50 years at the US National Institute of Health, **Philip Gold** shows how this devastating disease can have a profound impact on physical as well as mental health, from coronary disease to strokes. *Breaking Through Depression: New Treatments and Discoveries for Healing* gives us the fullest picture yet of depression, transforming our understanding of its different forms with startling insights as well as shining a light on the latest innovations offering hope for healing.

**1.30–2.30pm** Tickets £5





## Jewish Priorities

**David Hazony | Yossi Klein Halevi | Ruth Wisse**

With the unprecedented *Jewish Priorities: Sixty-five proposals for the future of our people*, writer and author **David Hazony** brings together voices from across the Jewish world for a no-holds-barred debate on the future. With essays from thought leaders including Natan Sharansky, Dara Horn and Fania Oz–Salzberger and featuring rabbis, scholars, activists and novelists, the collection explores everything from philanthropy and Torah study to Zionism and Jewish intimacy. David is joined by two of the book's most illustrious contributors: leading scholar of Yiddish literature and Jewish history **Ruth Wisse** and Israeli author and journalist **Yossi Klein Halevi**.

**6.30–7.30pm** Tickets £5

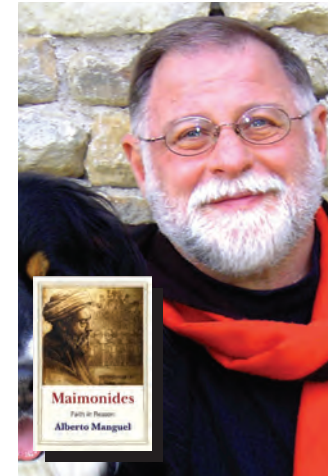
## Robert Alter on Amos Oz

In association with Classi Lectures

**Chair: Nicholas de Lange**

Critic, translator and biblical scholar **Robert Alter** brings the first published biography of Amos Oz to Book Week. Oz was one of Israel's most prominent writers, a regular contender for the Nobel Prize for Literature, author of dozens of novels, essays and novellas in a career spanning over half a century. This seminal work explores Oz's mother's suicide; his time in Kibbutz Hulda following his separation from his father aged 14; his family's right-wing Zionism; and his activism in support of a pluralistic Israel. **Alter** brings together testimony from Oz and his circle, as well as close readings of his central works, to present his inner world and public persona.

**8–9pm** Tickets £5



## Maimonides: Faith in Reason

In partnership with the National Library of Israel and in association with Lockdown University

**Alberto Manguel | Chair: Raquel Ukeles**

One of the world's foremost bibliophiles joins us to discuss the medieval philosopher and *The Guide for the Perplexed* author. Forced from Córdoba by Almohad persecution, Maimonides settled in Egypt, becoming Saladin's personal physician. His work in extracting, interpreting and translating the commanding precepts of Jewish law from the Hebrew Bible and the Talmud became the model for translating God's word into a language comprehensible by all. As part of Yale's *Jewish Lives* series **Alberto Manguel**, former director of the National Library of Argentina, discusses Maimonides' universal appeal with **Raquel Ukeles**.

**10.30–11.30am** Tickets free

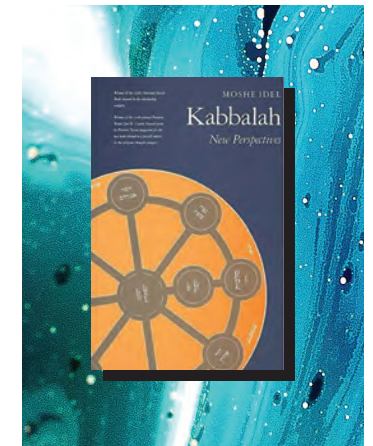
## Kabbalah in Modern Literature

In association with the BFHU

**Moshe Idel | Introduced by Eduard Shyfrin**

Kabbalah began modestly as an esoteric lore among a Jewish elite in 12th century Provence. By the end of the 15th century, with the emergence of the Christian Kabbalah in Italy, it had acquired an audience in European intellectual circles. Gershom Scholem, widely regarded as the founder of modern academic study of the Kabbalah, influenced the likes of Harold Bloom, Umberto Eco, Jacques Derrida and George Steiner, fascinated by its linguistic operations. Professor **Moshe Idel**, who has been called "the most important scholar of Jewish mysticism since Gershom Scholem", discusses the importance of Kabbalah in modern literature.

**12noon–1pm** Tickets £5



## Sheila Heti in Conversation with Mia Levitin

A thrilling non-fiction confessional from the multi-award-winning, *Motherhood* and *Pure Colour* novelist, playwright, short story writer and children's author **Sheila Heti**. She kept a record of her thoughts over a ten-year period, then arranged the sentences from A to Z. Passionate and reflective, joyful and despairing, her *Alphabetical Diaries* is one of 2024's most-anticipated books. She joins us online from Toronto, in conversation with literary critic and *The Future of Seduction* author **Mia Levitin**.

**1.30–2.30pm** Tickets £5

Enjoy free events online on weekday mornings, and in person at Kings Place all day on Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 March





## Hadley Freeman: Good Girls

Sponsored by the Jewish Quarterly

**Chair: Tanya Gold**

Writing for *The Guardian* and now *The Sunday Times*, **Hadley Freeman** has won global acclaim for her engaging combination of personal experience and journalistic skills. Praised by the *Wall Street Journal* for “sharp storytelling, solid research and gentle humour”, *Good Girls: A Story & Study of Anorexia* is her honest and hopeful story of how she overcame one of the most widely discussed but least understood mental illnesses, from teenage years in psychiatric wards to grappling with self-destructive behaviour over the next two decades. In conversation with journalist **Tanya Gold**.

7–8pm Tickets £20

## Israeli Fiction Today

**Ayelet Gundar-Goshen | Lavie Tidhar**

**Chair: Josh Glancy**

In the last decade Israel’s literary landscape lost luminaries Amos Oz and AB Yehoshua, but also gained some exciting new voices. *Sunday Times* News Review editor **Josh Glancy** is joined here by two leading lights. **Ayelet Gundar-Goshen** won a National Book Award for her translation of Oz’s *Between Friends*, a Sapir Prize for her debut novel and the Wingate Prize for *Liar*, a *NY Times* book of the year; her latest is the powerfully compelling *The Wolf Hunt*. Described by the Daily Mail as “the leader of a new wave of Israeli literature” **Lavie Tidhar** follows his award-winning novels *Osama* and *Man Lies Dreaming* with *Adama*, a sweeping historical epic called “an unstoppable masterpiece” by Junot Díaz.

7–8pm Tickets £16.50



## Laugh Lines: Helen Lederer & Sara Gibbs

Two hilarious writers for the page, stage and screen join us to discuss their careers and the importance of funny books. *Absolutely Fabulous* star **Helen Lederer** follows her novel *Losing It* with a memoir *Not That I’m Bitter*, tracing her journey from child of a Jewish-Czech wartime refugee to, in the words of Dawn French, “the third funniest woman in the world”. It’s the reverse path for *Have I Got News For You* writer **Sara Gibbs**; in the wake of her acclaimed memoir *Drama Queen* comes her debut novel *Eight Bright Lights*, a Hanukkah-focused romcom. And as founders of the Comedy Women in Print Prize and The First Laugh Comedy Writing Competition respectively, we know they both take humour seriously!

7–8pm Tickets £10



## Daniel Finkelstein: A Memoir

The George Webber Memorial Event

**Chair: Caroline Moorehead**

The instant *Sunday Times* bestseller *Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad* is **Daniel Finkelstein**’s deeply moving and at times horrifying family memoir. His mother Mirjam, the youngest daughter of Alfred Wiener, was sent to Bergen-Belsen. His father Ludwik was deported to Siberia as a slave labourer. In conversation with biographer **Caroline Moorehead**, *The Times* columnist reflects on the consequences of totalitarianism and the almost unimaginable bravery of two ordinary families.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £20

## Etgar Keret in conversation with Zadie Smith

In association with Jewish Renaissance

**Etgar Keret | Zadie Smith | Chair: Rebecca Taylor**

Tolstoy’s famous opening line begins ‘All happy families are alike’; here two of today’s greatest writers ask, do you actually know any happy families? Both award-winning, internationally bestselling authors, leading short fiction writers and longstanding mutual admirers, **Etgar Keret** joins **Zadie Smith** in conversation, introduced and moderated by *Jewish Renaissance* editor, **Rebecca Taylor**. Building on the Israeli author’s recent pieces for *This American Life*, which tells the story of his mother’s life, they will discuss how heritage stories are passed on, from the perspective of both children and parents.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £16.50



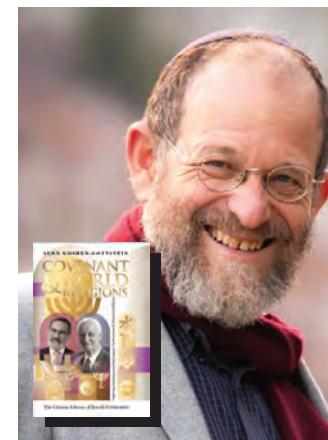
## Sacks, Greenberg & the Quest for Orthodox Pluralism

Sponsored by Dangoor Education in association with LSJS

**Alon Goshen-Gottstein | Chair: Raphael Zarum**

A new model for acceptance between religions requires not only a willingness to move beyond hostility or competition but also significant theological rethinking. The reigning paradigm is one of practical collaboration rather than reflection. Two of the most important Orthodox Jewish voices advocating change have been Rabbis Dr Irving Yitz Greenberg and Dr Jonathan Sacks. **Alon Goshen-Gottstein**, founder of the Elijah Interfaith Institute and director of Jerusalem’s Center for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, joins **Raphael Zarum**, the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought, to discuss *Covenant & World Religions*, and his exploration of their views.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £10







## The Best Minds

In association with Lockdown University

**Jonathan Rosen | Chair: Frank Tallis**

Both children of professors, they were best friends and fierce rivals who followed each other to Yale, which Michael Laudor blazed through in three years. Then **Jonathan Rosen** received a devastating call: Michael was in the locked ward of a psychiatric hospital. Diagnosed with schizophrenia, his law school graduation made the *New York Times*, with film rights snapped up by Ron Howard. But then in the grip of psychosis he committed a horrific act that made him a front-page story of an entirely different sort. The novelist and *The Talmud* and *the Internet* author discusses *The Best Minds*, in conversation with author and clinical psychologist **Frank Tallis**.

10.30 – 11.30am Tickets free

## Jewish Women: Literacy & Liberty

In association with LSJS & BFHU

**Rachel Elior | Chair: Joanne Greenaway**

Through much of history, the Jewish Hebrew library of the 'People of the Book' excluded half of humanity; across all traditional Jewish communities compulsory communal education was only for boys until the turn of the last century. In her comprehensive study *The Unknown History of Jewish Women Through The Ages* **Rachel Elior** examines the social, cultural and legal implications of female illiteracy, from antiquity and the Middle Ages to 20th-century immigration to Israel and beyond. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem professor speaks to London School of Jewish Studies chief executive **Joanne Greenaway**.

12noon – 1pm Tickets £5

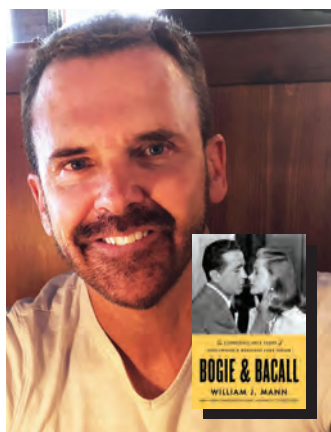


## Bogie & Bacall

**William J. Mann | Chair: Harry Mount**

She was the 19-year-old daughter of Jewish immigrants, making her film debut. He was 45, a Mayflower descendent, about to become America's highest-paid actor – and married. Yet the meeting of Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart on *To Have and Have Not* sparked an iconic, enduring romance, still discussed 80 years on. *New York Times* bestseller **William J. Mann** follows his celebrated biographies of Marlon Brando and Barbra Streisand with *Bogie & Bacall: The Surprising True Story of Hollywood's Greatest Love Affair*. In conversation with *Oldie* editor and author **Harry Mount**, he discusses his vivid portrait of their courtship and 12-year marriage: the fights, reconciliations, children, affairs, Bogie's illness and Bacall's steadfastness until his death.

1.30 – 2.30pm Tickets £5



## David Baddiel: The God Desire

**Chair: Joseph Dweck**

After his record-breaking *Jews Don't Count* event in 2021, **David Baddiel** returns to the festival with his latest bestseller *The God Desire*, described as "breathtaking" by Stephen Fry and "hugely heartfelt, funny, kind, fascinating, human and clever" by Alain de Botton. This thought-provoking and philosophical essay is written from his perspective as a reluctant atheist who fantasises about how much better life would be if there actually was such a thing as a Superhero Dad. The writer, broadcaster and comedian will be in conversation with Rabbi **Joseph Dweck**, Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the United Kingdom.

7–8pm Tickets £20

## Pinchas Goldschmidt: Moscow Memoirs

From the bleak Soviet Union to the historic renaissance of Judaism to the current collapse of Russian society; Moscow's Chief Rabbi for almost 30 years joins us in London, to share his story. Now exiled in Israel, Rabbi **Pinchas Goldschmidt's** tenure ended abruptly in 2022 when he spoke out against Putin's war against Ukraine, resigned, and recommended that all Jews leave the country. His memoir tells of a Jewish community flourishing at the heart of a land that for centuries was committed to its destruction. He sheds light on run-ins with secret service agents; the influence of oligarchs on the capital's Jewish community; and local antisemitism always simmering beneath the surface.

7–8pm Tickets £16.50



## Mine is the Golden Tongue: The Hebrew Sonnets of Immanuel of Rome

**Yehudah Cohn | Chair: Leya Landau**

Poet, biblical commentator and satirist Immanuel ben Shelomo, known as Immanuel of Rome, was the greatest Hebrew poet of medieval Italy. A contemporary of Dante's, the beauty of his writing has fascinated scholars for over six centuries. Yet unlike Dante, he has not become a household name. Scholar and translator **Yehudah Cohn** makes all of Immanuel's Hebrew sonnets available in English for the first time. In conversation with academic **Leya Landau**.

7–8pm Tickets £10



## Michael Ignatieff on Isaiah Berlin

In association with The London Library

**Michael Ignatieff** | Chair: **David Herman**

A beacon of liberal philosophy and vigorous defender of individuality, Isaiah Berlin was one of the great public intellectuals. Present at some of the pivotal events of the 20th century, crossing paths with luminaries from Virginia Woolf to Sigmund Freud, he declined to write an autobiography. Instead, in his final decade he chose to give extensive interviews to **Michael Ignatieff**. The result was a magisterial biography first published 25 years ago and now updated in a wonderful reissue from Pushkin Press. The author, academic and former politician returns to the festival in conversation with journalist and critic **David Herman**.

**8.30 – 9.30pm** Tickets £20

## Music of Exile

**Michael Haas** | Chair: **Jessica Duchon**

How did composers and musicians persecuted by Hitler go on to shape the soundscape of the last century? Some fled Germany, navigating xenophobia and entirely different creative terrain. Others were forced to create under a ruthless dictatorship or in concentration camps and ghettos. In *Music of Exile* **Michael Haas** sensitively records the story of this musical diaspora, torn between old and new worlds, from the musicians interned as enemy aliens in the UK to the Hollywood compositions of Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Kurt Weill's stage work. The Exilarte Centre co-founder, previously music curator at Vienna's Jewish Museum, talks with classical music writer **Jessica Duchon**.

**8.30 – 9.30pm** Tickets £16.50

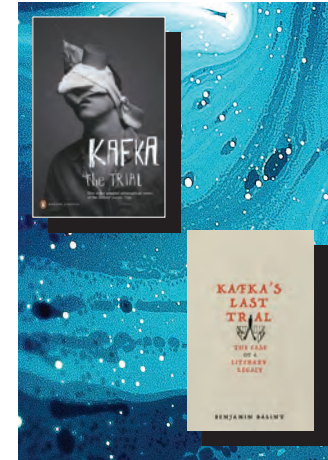


## A Night of Comedy

**Bennett Arron** | **Sol Bernstein**  
**Rachel Creeger** | **Josh Howie**

Something a bit different for this year's festival: live stand-up! Edinburgh sell-out **Bennett Arron**, dubbed "Welsh Seinfeld" by *The Guardian* is joined by: "the world's oldest living Jewish comedian" **Sol Bernstein** ("Simply my favourite comic" Harry Hill); **Rachel Creeger** co-host of hit podcast *Jew Talkin' To Me* ("Very, very funny" *The Jewish Chronicle*) and **Josh Howie** who has performed across Asia, America and Europe, as well as on his own Radio 4 series.

**8.30 – 9.45pm** Tickets £5



## Kafka's Trial : A Play Reading and Panel Discussion

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

**Benjamin Balint** | **Carolyn Duttlinger** | **Stefan Litt**

A unique performance to mark the centenary of Franz Kafka's death. After 100 years of slumber, he awakens into nightmare; people have been complaining about his writing and he is accused of giving his name to an expression, Kafkaesque. As Kings Place transforms into court for his trial the case is presented through excerpts from Kafka's *Diaries*, *Letters to Felice*, *Letter to his Father*, *Metamorphosis*, *The Parables* and, of course, *The Trial*, read by actors to be announced. Following the performance, produced by Honor Borwick and written by Roger Gartland, there will be a panel discussion with **Benjamin Balint**, author of *Kafka's Last Trial*, Carolyn Duttlinger of the Oxford Kafka Research Centre and historian **Stefan Litt**.

**7.15 – 9.15pm** Tickets £22.50

## Linda Grant & Rachel Lichtenstein

In association with The TLS

Chair: **Toby Lichtig**

"Jews live in time, not space... we have, and are, a story, not a plot of territory". So says **Linda Grant's** character Jossel in *The Story of the Forest*. From Latvia to Liverpool and post-war Soho, she tells the story, based in part on her own family's experiences, of one Jewish family through the tumultuous 20th century. The tale she weaves is about myths, memory and how we adapt in order to survive. Place, memory and Jewish identity are also at the heart of **Rachel Lichtenstein's** art; the curator and *Estuary* author joins the multi-award-winning novelist in conversation with *TLS* fiction and politics editor **Toby Lichtig**.

**7.15 – 8.15pm** Tickets £10



## Dickens' Jews

In association with The London Library

**Helena Kelly** | Chair: **Claire Berliner**

In 1854, long before *Jews Don't Count*, *The Jewish Chronicle* asked of Dickens, why "Jews alone should be excluded from the sympathising heart of this powerful friend of the oppressed." Author **Helena Kelly** focuses on Dickens' relationship with the Jewish community: the relatives whose faith he strived to conceal; the antisemitism on show with Fagin, to positive portrayals in *Our Mutual Friend*, via examples of both in *The Old Curiosity Shop*; and the amends he made later in life following his correspondence with Jewish charity campaigner Eliza Davis.

**8.45 – 9.45pm** Tickets £10







## Israelophobia

**Jake Wallis Simons | Chair: Harry Mount**

In the Middle Ages, Jews were hated for their religion. In the 20th century, they were hated because of their race. Today, **Jake Wallis Simons** argues in his new book of the same name, antisemitism has morphed into something both ancient and modern: *Israelophobia*. But how did this transformation occur? And why? Called “excellent and fearless” by Howard Jacobson and an “important and necessary book” by Simon Sebag Montefiore, *The Jewish Chronicle* editor clarifies the line between criticism and bigotry, charting the history from Nazi Germany via the Kremlin to present day. He joins us in conversation with journalist **Harry Mount** to discuss the newest version of the oldest hatred.

**11am–12noon** Tickets £20

## Einstein: A Life in 99 Particles

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Samuel Graydon | Chair: Daniel Glaser**

His name today is shorthand for genius. But Albert Einstein was also a refugee, a rebel, a Casanova, a pacifist and a high school dropout. In his unique biography *Einstein In Time And Space*, *TLS* science editor **Samuel Graydon** brings one of the last century’s most iconic and influential figures back to life, from escaping the Nazis and his lost daughter to declining the presidency of Israel and attempting to cheer up his parrot by telling jokes. In conversation with neuroscientist and writer **Daniel Glaser**, founding director of Science Gallery London.

**11am–12noon** Tickets £16.50



## Family Stories, Jewish History

**Peter Bradley | David Joseph KC  
Chair: Julia Neuberger**

Two astonishing books, at once intimate family stories and epic explorations of European Jewry, asking how the Shoah happened and why, nine decades on, antisemitism is resurgent. In *Burgenland*, **David Joseph** covers the full arc of the Jewish experience in central Europe over the last 300 years, with particular reference to an Austrian farming village from where his family originated. *The Last Train* is **Peter Bradley**’s profoundly moving account of his family’s fate, trying to understand why his grandparents’ fellow citizens allowed their murder, while his father gained a UK visa, only to be shipped to a Canadian internment camp.

**11am–12noon** Tickets £10



## Miflegat Hamachshavot Live

In partnership with Beit Avi Chai

**Micah Goodman | Efrat Shapira Rosenberg**

Where better to have the first-ever English-language edition of international hit politics podcast *Miflegat Hamachshavot: The Great Ideas Behind Israeli Politics* than at Kings Place, home to the London Podcast Festival, and during Book Week? With 3.5 million downloads, philosopher and bestselling author **Micah Goodman** and lawyer and broadcaster **Efrat Shapira Rosenberg** bring one of Israel’s most popular podcasts to the UK for the first time in this special live edition, analysing the impact of the war on Israeli society.

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £20

## Baruch Spinoza: A Life

**Jonathan I. Israel | Ian Buruma**

One of Judaism’s most controversial figures, Baruch Spinoza was a radical free thinker led by strong moral principles despite his disbelief in an all-seeing God. Seen by many as Satan’s disciple during his life, he has been regarded as a secular saint in death. Many contradictory beliefs have been attached to him: liberalism, despotism, atheism, pantheism. But his defence of universal freedom is as important for our own time as it was in his. Award-winning historian **Jonathan Israel** is joined by Bard College professor **Ian Buruma** to discuss the boldest and most unsettling of the early modern philosophers, one who had a much greater impact on the Enlightenment than has previously been recognised.

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £16.50



## The Box with the Sunflower Clasp

**Rachel Meller | Chair: Keiron Pim**

**Rachel Meller** was never close to her aunt Lisbeth, a cool, unemotional woman with a drawling Viennese-Californian accent and a cigarette in her hand. But in her will she left her niece an intricately carved Chinese box. Inside the box were photographs, letters and documents that led Rachel to uncover a story she had never known: that of a passionate Jewish teenager caught up by war, and forced to flee elegant Vienna for Shanghai. Set against a backdrop of the war in the Far East, *The Box with the Sunflower Clasp* is a sweeping family memoir that tells the hidden history of the Jews of Shanghai. In conversation with *Endless Flight* author **Keiron Pim**.

**12.30–1.30pm** Tickets £10





## The Jewish Revolt

In association with The Jewish Brand

**Simon Bentley** | **Tracy-Ann Oberman**  
**Antony Polonsky** | **Chair: Mark Burman**

From 1940 historian Emanuel Ringelblum led a team of dedicated writers secretly recording Jewish life in the Warsaw ghetto, for what became known as the Oyneg Shabes archive. Among them, Rachel Auerbach was an eyewitness of 1943's ghetto uprising. Her account has now been translated into English for the first time alongside her renowned essay *Yizker, 1943*. Professor of Holocaust Studies **Antony Polonsky** joins actor **Tracy-Ann Oberman**, who played Auerbach in the recent BBC series *The Warsaw Ghetto: History as Survival*, and **Simon Bentley**, Chair of Yad Vashem UK in conversation with the series' writer, award-winning BBC documentarian **Mark Burman**.

2–3pm Tickets £20

## Bruno Schulz: Art, Murder & the Hijacking of History

In association with The TLS

**Benjamin Balint** | **Chair: Toby Lichtig**

Bruno Schulz was born an Austrian, lived as a Pole and died a Jew. Without moving he was a subject of the Habsburgs, the West Ukrainian People's Republic, the Second Polish Republic, the USSR and, finally, the Third Reich. But the artist and man described by Isaac Bashevis Singer as "one of the most remarkable writers who ever lived" remained throughout a citizen of the Republic of Dreams. Prize-winning author **Benjamin Balint** joins us with a fresh portrait and a gripping account of the secret operation to rescue his last artworks.

2–3pm Tickets £16.50



## A Jewish Promised Land in Texas

**Rachel Cockerell** | **Chair: Trudy Gold**

'A race of some 12 million people has no square inch of land that it can call its own...If we cannot get the Holy Land, we can make another land holy' – Israel Zangwill, 1906. **Rachel Cockerell** joins historian **Trudy Gold** to reveal the astonishing attempt by 10,000 Eastern European Jews in the early 1900s to search for an alternative Jewish homeland in Texas, including her great-grandfather David Jochelmann. *Melting Point* follows David and the scattered lives of his three children – to New York, London and Jerusalem – as each is faced with the choice of whether to cling to the place they came from or melt into their new surroundings.

2–3pm Tickets £10



## The Rebirth of Antisemitism in the 21st Century

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Sarah Brown** | **David Hirsh** | **Anthony Julius**  
**Chair: Nicole Lampert**

'Far from being a fringe phenomenon, antisemitism is today an increasingly troubling presence in mainstream British society, especially in its often strident, anti-Zionist manifestations' – Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld. Edited by **David Hirsch**, this multi-authored collection looks at the rise of antisemitism and antizionism since the millennium, principally in Britain. The director of the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism is joined by two of the book's contributors: lawyer, academic and author **Anthony Julius**, and **Sarah Brown**, professor of English Literature at Anglia Ruskin University. Chaired by journalist **Nicole Lampert**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £20

## Thomas Harding on George Weidenfeld

**Thomas Harding** | **Chair: Anne de Courcy**

Arriving in London in 1938 as a penniless, teenage Austrian-Jewish refugee, George Weidenfeld went on to transform publishing, championing Nabokov, Simone de Beauvoir, Saul Bellow, Edna O'Brien, Isaiah Berlin, Golda Meir and many more. **Thomas Harding**, the internationally bestselling author of *Legacy* and *Hans & Rudolf*, returns to the festival to discuss his book *The Maverick*, the first biography of this complex and fascinating figure, in conversation with social historian **Anne de Courcy**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £16.50

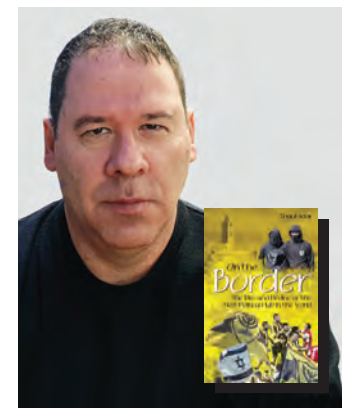


## Political Football: Beitar Jerusalem FC

**Shaul Adar** | **Chair: Mark Glanville**

The Israeli Premier League rarely makes global headlines in the way its counterparts do. That changed in 2020 with the news that a UAE royal was to take a 50% stake in Beitar Jerusalem FC, the only team in a league where all ethnicities co-exist, never to have signed an Arab player, proclaimed by its own fans as 'the most racist club in the country'. In *On the Border: The Rise and Decline of the Most Political Club in the World* football journalist **Shaul Adar** tells the fascinating journey from sports movement of a liberal national Zionism party to an overt symbol of right-wing views, Mizrahi identity and hardcore nationalism. In conversation with *The Goldberg Variations* author **Mark Glanville**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10







## What's next for Jews on the Left?

In Memory of Robin Hyman

**Rafael Behr | Hadley Freeman | Dave Rich**  
**Chair: Jonathan Freedland**

In the wake of the attacks of October 7th, many progressive Jews, particularly in Britain and the US, were deeply disappointed that so many who they had thought of as their ideological allies did not express sympathy for the Jewish victims, instead casting Israel as solely responsible for the ensuing conflict. Is there a future for Jews and the Left?

**Jonathan Freedland** is joined by fellow *Guardian* columnist and *Politics: A Survivor's Guide* author **Rafael Behr**, CST head of policy **Dave Rich**, and *Sunday Times* journalist and author **Hadley Freeman** to discuss.

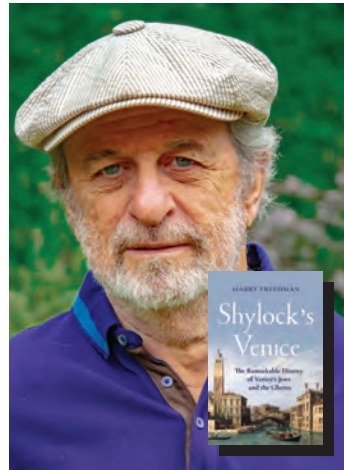
5–6pm Tickets £20

## Shylock's Venice

**Harry Freedman | Chair: David Abulafia**

There is nowhere in the world like Venice. With a history as remarkable as its beauty, millions explore the canals, palazzi - and its greatest shame. From the city corner where its Jews were exiled, Venice gave the world the word ghetto. But when it came to culture the ghetto walls were porous, as European Jews and Christians entered modernity together. Festival favourite **Harry Freedman** returns with the remarkable story from the ghetto's creation in 1516 to the city's capture by Napoleon in 1798. And no history of Venice and its Jews can avoid Shylock. Would real-life contemporaries have recognised him, devoid of the interfaith revival they experienced? And what did Shakespeare really think of him? In conversation with acclaimed historian Professor **David Abulafia**.

5–6pm Tickets £16.50



## Three Graces, Three Muses

Novels, short stories, literary criticism, essays...two writers from either side of the Atlantic skilled in all those disciplines join us to discuss their careers and latest books. *The Three Graces*, **Amanda Craig's** 10th novel ('a brilliant piece of storytelling' Andrew O'Hagan), follows a trio of old friends whose Tuscany retirement proves far from quiet as they grapple with both past and present dangers. **Martha Anne Toll's** Petrarch Prize winning debut *Three Muses*, ('Exquisite' Washington Post) is a love story, a tale of Holocaust survival and an insight into the unforgiving world of ballet.

5–6pm Tickets £10



## Collaboration & Complicity

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Mary Fulbrook | Jon Silverman**  
**Chair: Joshua Rozenberg**

The Nazis were assisted both by active collaborators and ordinary citizens failing to act, as these powerful books show. In *Bystander Society*, historian **Mary Fulbrook**, drawing on an extraordinary archive of personal accounts, argues that rather than what and when Germans knew, how they reacted was key. In *Safe Haven: The United Kingdom's Investigations into Nazi Collaborators and the Failure of Justice*, former BBC journalist **Jon Silverman** asks why, despite considerable expense and effort, the controversial 1991 War Crimes Act yielded just one conviction.

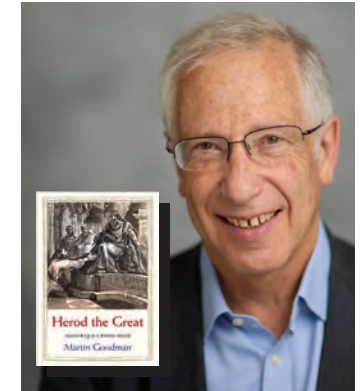
6.30–7.30pm Tickets £20

## Herod: A Jewish King in a Roman World

**Martin Goodman | Chair: Armand D'Angour**

*A History of Judaism* author **Martin Goodman** returns with a vivid account of the political triumphs and domestic tragedies of Herod, the phenomenally energetic ruler who took advantage of the chaos of the Roman revolution. Both Jews and Christians developed myths about his cruelty; cast as the tyrant who ordered the Massacre of the Innocents and, despite fond memories of his glorious Temple in Jerusalem, recalled in the Talmud as a persecutor of rabbis. Oxford's emeritus professor of Jewish Studies talks to **Armand D'Angour** about Herod's Idumean origins, his installation by Rome as king of Judaea, and his presentation of himself as a Jew.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £16.50



## Jewish Intimacies: Marriage, Love, Psychoanalysis

**Devorah Baum | Stephen Frosh**  
**Chair: Lisa Appignanesi**

How do we understand complex relationships such as love, hate, coexistence and conflict? How do 'domestic' relationships like marriage endure, and how do we come to terms with deeply felt social antagonisms such as antisemitism and racism? On *Marriage* sees *Feeling Jewish* author **Devorah Baum** explore why we marry and how this ancient, highly contested practice has remained relevant to so many. In *Antisemitism and Racism: Ethical Challenges for Psychoanalysis* professor **Stephen Frosh** delves into the discipline's uncomfortable relationship with race, despite its Jewish origins. They join writer **Lisa Appignanesi** for a wide-ranging conversation.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10



## Israel Now and Next

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

**Dahlia Scheindlin | Daniel Gordis**

**Chair: Anshel Pfeffer**

Three quarters of a century on, has Israel lived up to expectations? Journalist and Netanyahu biographer **Anshel Pfeffer** asks two experts about its past, present and future. In *The Crooked Timber of Democracy in Israel*, political scientist and election veteran **Dahlia Scheindlin** exposes endemic flaws while arguing it still has considerable capacity to fulfil the promise of democracy. In the nuanced *Impossible Takes Longer*, National Jewish Book Award winner **Daniel Gordis** asks how Israel has measured up to its founders' dreams, examining its transformative tech sector, distinct Judaism, and complex relationship with the Diaspora.

8–9.15pm Tickets £20

## Yiddish Winterreise: A Song Cycle

**Mark Glanville | Marc Verter**

Vocalist **Mark Glanville** and pianist **Marc Verter** present Yiddish Winterreise. First performed in 2007, it is a cycle of mostly traditional Yiddish songs inspired by Schubert's *Winterreise*. Described by the former German Ambassador to the Court of St James's as 'both a celebration and a cry of anguish', this extraordinary song cycle reflects the mental journey of a man who has just witnessed his family's murder by the Nazis, and grew out of a need to heal the anger and pain of the Shoah through music. The terrible October pogrom in Israel and its consequences have made the cycle's journey and message feel particularly relevant and contemporary.

8–9pm Tickets £16.50



## Jewish Unity through Diversity

**Isaac Amon | Lyn Julius | Hen Mazzig**

**Hen Mazzig**, globally recognised advocate behind Mizrahi Heritage Month and *The Wrong Kind of Jew* author returns with Jewish Priorities essay *An End to Ashkenormativity: Let's put Bagels and Lox Jewishness Behind Us*, arguing that the story of the Jews cannot be properly told without every Jewish community, not least the often neglected Mizrahi Jews. He is joined by journalist and *Harif* co-founder **Lyn Julius** and Dr **Isaac Amon**, director of academic research at the Jewish Heritage Alliance.

8–9pm Tickets £10



Book your free Fringe ticket at [kingsplace.co.uk/bookweek](https://kingsplace.co.uk/bookweek)

## Being Rina: The Collected Writings of Rina Wolfson

**Paul Harris | BZ Gilinsky | Chair: Keren David**

Rina Wolfson z"l was a gifted writer, whose writing made us laugh, learn, and cry. Writing on topics ranging from the parsha to parenting, from Talmud to chemotherapy, Rina's work is a reminder of her inimitable voice. Rina's husband **Paul Harris** and son **BZ Gilinsky**, in conversation with journalist, author and *Jewish Chronicle* managing editor **Keren David**, discuss their edited collection of Rina's writing, from her blog entitled *Nobody needs another cancer diary*, to her hugely popular *Jewish Chronicle* column, *Secret Shulgoer*.

12.30–1.30pm



## A Different Kind of Romance: Ruth, Naomi & Boaz

**Deborah Kahn-Harris | Chair: Lisa Grushcow**

Is the Book of Ruth a romance? What role does Chesed play? And who exactly is romancing who? Rabbi **Deborah Kahn-Harris'** new book *Polyamory and Reading the Book of Ruth* is based on a simple premise: what if this ancient Hebrew religious text is not in the vein of modern romcoms, but a different sort of love story? Drawing on developments in both feminist and queer biblical studies, the principal of Leo Baeck College offers a close textual reading that focuses in on a triadic basis for examining the relationships.

2–3pm



## Pinchas Rutenberg: An Unreasonable Man

**Leslie Turnberg | Chair: Richard Bolchover**

Pinchas Rutenberg electrified Palestine in more ways than one. A Russian revolutionary who plotted the murder of Lenin and Trotsky, he set up a hydro-electric plant on the Jordan River, blustering past determined opposition, before founding Palestine Airways. As leader of the Jewish population of Palestine he was heavily involved in negotiations with the British Government and its Mandate administration, endeavouring to forge a peace deal with Arab leaders. Requests in his own will resulted in a paucity of literature about him in English but now medical luminary and life peer **Leslie Turnberg**, author of *Mandate: Britain's Palestinian Burden*, rectifies this with this biography of a remarkable man.

3.30–4.30pm



## Cinema King

**Jennifer King**

From playing the violin alongside silent movies to owning a chain of cinemas as part of his entertainment empire, Sam King went on a remarkable journey. His life of wealth and glamour as partner in Shipman and King cinemas was a far cry from his beginnings in an impoverished Jewish family escaping Russian pogroms to the East End of London. 50 years after his death, granddaughter **Jennifer King** tells his extraordinary story in a book which David Puttnam said, "allowed me an understanding of the enormous debt every avid cinema-goer owes her family".

5–6pm





## Genesis Emerging Writers

Caroline Gardiner, Tilly Rubens, Aaron Taylor, Oakley Flanagan, Rachel Lewis, Amelia Loulli, Natalie Perman, Amy Abrahams, Helen Bain, Leeor Ohayon, Bidisha Mamata, Anne Sebba, Dominic Selwood, Wayne Holloway-Smith, Ruth Padel, Clare Pollard, Jack Underwood, Charlotte Mendelson, Ashley Hickson-Lovence, Philip Hensher



## Help keep the Jewish literary tradition alive

In any single year, ticket sales from the festival covers just a third of our running costs. This means that we are reliant on the generosity of individuals and charitable foundations to ensure our future. We welcome all forms of support, from event and programme sponsorship, to donations and legacies.

For over 70 years, as the UK's leading Jewish literary platform, we have celebrated the power of the word. Find out how you can support this tradition and be part of our community.

Read more on our website or contact Claudia Rubenstein at [info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk)

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# We are evolving

The written word continues to play a critical role in our culture. To support our rich literary tradition and looking to the future of ideas, we have become the Jewish Literary Foundation. Our aim is to actively engage with wider audiences across the UK and internationally by presenting the best in contemporary writing and ideas, to inspire readership, connect with Jewish culture, and entertain audiences.

We want to build a life-long passion for literature by providing events and cultural experiences, nurturing emerging writers, and bringing authors to audiences of all ages. We look forward to you being part of our community, and seeing you in person or online throughout the year.

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