**A Creative Writing Subject Guide to the Cheltenham Literature Festival**

**Want to go to the Festival, but don’t know what events to choose?**

**Here are the top picks of your lecturers!**

**Find the Event and Book Online at** [**http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/whats-on/grid**](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/whats-on/grid)

**Friday 3rd October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| David Mitchell | 8:30pm | Because you loved *Cloud Atlas* and he has a new book to promote |
| Will Self | 8:30pm | You might not have liked Cloud Atlas and Self was mates with JG Ballard. |

**Saturday 4th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Margaret Atwood | 12:30pm | A chance to see one of North America’s most celebrated living writers. |

**Monday 6th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Some Desperate Glory: The First World War the Poets Knew | 12pm | Background for your Poetry Modules |
| Poetry Café: Robert Crawford and David Harsent  | 4-5pm | To understand contemporary poetry and see how poets perform their own work. |
| The Tribunal Plays at the Tricycle  | 6:15pm-7:45pm | Background for Dramaturgy in Practice HM6111; Lucy’s festival pick |

**Tuesday 7th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| King Lear Live! | 2-3pm | Because everyone’s got to see King Lear once ;) especially if you’re doing Dramatic Writing. |
| Poetry Café: Ruth Padel and Pascale Petit  | 4-5pm | These two poets are pretty awesome. Have you read Ruth Padel’s book The Poem and The Journey? – Great if you’re studying poetry and want to get serious.  |
| Michael Frayn Matchbox Theatre: 30 short Entertainments | 8:15-9:15 | Not to be missed if you’re into Dramatic Writing. Google Michael Frayn before you go… |

**Wednesday 8th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Henry IV Parts I and II: Unwrapped, Rehearsal Techniques | 12pm | Every Wondered how a play is rehearsed before production? Now’s your chance to find out…great for the DW RCU… |
| Stagecraft Live! | 2-3pm | Find out how fights are staged. This sounds fun… |
| Poetry Café: Julia Corpus, Linda France and Carolyn Jess Cooke  | 4-5pm | Another reading of contemporary poetry you shouldn’t miss. |
| Colm Toibin | 6:15pm | Toibin is a man of letters – an important figure in contemporary fiction. He also has quite a nice voice. |

**Thursday 9th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| OUP’s Very Short Introductions: Contemporary Fiction | 11am | Because you write contemporary fiction and want to know the ins and outs. |
| Poetry café: Lorna Goodison, Karen McCarthy Woolf | 4-5pm | To understand contemporary poetry and see how poets perform their own work |

**Friday 10th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Salmon Rushdie | 8:45-9:45 | If you write contemporary fiction and enjoy magic realism you might want to check this guy out… |
| Sci-fi and Fantasy: A Celebration | 8:30 pm | For all the closet fans, who secretly want to write that old-fashioned space opera… |

**Saturday 11th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Michael Morpurgo &Helen Stephens | 10.00 am | We don’t teach children’s writing, or young adult fiction, but if that’s your thing then Michael ‘Warhorse’ Morpurgo is a highlight of the festival. |
| Radio Needs Younger Listeners? Whatever | 3:15pm-4:15pm | Because you’re studying radio drama… |
| Twenty Years of Slam! Qualifier | 3:30pm-5pm | Because you love a good slam, or you’re looking to get into performance poetry. |
| Martin Amis | 5:15-6:15pm | If you write contemporary fiction you might want to check this guy out. Dr Randall’s festival pick. |
| Richard Ford | 7-8pm | You’ve heard Mike talk (at length) about this guy. Richard \*\*\*ing Ford! |
| Ben Okri | 7:45-8:45pm | If you write contemporary fiction you might want to check this one out too. |
| Poetry: Twenty Years of Slam | 7:45-10:15pm | Listen to performance poets and enjoy.  |

**Sunday 12th October**

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| **Event** | **Time** | **Why Go?** |
| Mark Haddon | 3:15-4:15pm | Because you love his work and you write contemporary fiction. |
| Hilary Mantel | 5:30pm | Since Mantel’s fiction wins every literary prize going, you must be able to learn a thing or two from her, right? |
| Russell Kane: Fakespeare | 7-8pm | Russell Kane has written a play. Need we say more?  |

**Creative Writing Activities to do at the Festival**

* Find a location. Observe. Write a site-specific five minute play for the location.
* Listen. Write down dialogue. Put it in your writer’s notebook.
* Write some poems in response to an event, or an observation.
* Write a piece of Flash Fiction about an experience, or observation.
* Write a review of an Event