



INDUSTRY ARENA

SATURDAY

Editor to Edited

Lessons learnt from working as a theatre dramaturg editing other's writing for the stage before having my debut novel edited, and how that's improved my own work as both an editor and a writer.

Tom Ramsay

The Author CEO: Building Your Career Your Way

Publishing has changed - and that's a good thing in many ways. Today's authors have more options, greater creative freedom and plenty of ways to connect with readers. Join Helen Lewis, founder of Literally PR and a publishing entrepreneur who has worked on more than 1000 campaigns, for an inspiring and practical session exploring the exciting opportunities available to creatives outside traditional publishing. From building your author brand and growing a loyal readership, to understanding marketing, creating multiple income streams and thinking like an entrepreneur, this workshop will show why and how being an indie author is no longer a backup plan but a powerful route to long-term success. Whether you're already self-published, considering the indie route, or simply curious about the future of publishing, you'll leave with fresh ideas, practical tips and the confidence to build a career that works for you.

Helen Lewis - Director, Lit PR

My YALC Journey - From attendee to author

Join Amy McCaw for this interactive session about her publication journey and how being part of the book community can make your publishing dreams come true.

Amy McCaw - YALC Ambassador

Crafting a query letter

Explore the Dos and Don'ts of writing a successful query letter with award-winning author Aleema Omotoni. Together you will analyse the key components of a query letter and craft one too!

Aleema Omotoni

Careers in publishing

Join Bath Spa University lecturers Megan Farr and Samantha Stewart for an hour-long workshop looking at the variety of jobs in publishing, how to develop the skills you need, and top tips on how to get started on a career in publishing.

Megan Farr and Samantha Stewart - Bath Spa University

Writing & marketing queer stories

Join M/M romance author and writing coach Jack Strange for an interactive writing and marketing queer stories workshop, where you will be encouraged to think of your queer characters, start writing a scene of your story, and then look at your marketing options: from author brand to social media presence. Come with an idea or nothing at all! The workshop is for anyone who wants to write queer stories.

JS Strange

Finding an Agent and What to Expect

Safae El-Ouahabi - RCW Literary Agency literary agency

SUNDAY

The role of an agent

In this workshop, we'll explore what a literary agent brings to the table, the different types of agents and agent-author relationships, the green and red flags to look for when researching an agency, and what the day-to-day relationship between author and agent really looks like. An agent is your business partner, someone who is committed to supporting your career and long-term professional success. Choosing the right agent for you is one of the key decisions you'll make as an author.

Isabel Lineberry - Junior Agent & Rights Administrator Pérez Literary & Entertainment Ltd.

What is a Publishing Director?

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at a publishing house? Do you know what editors think about when they receive a manuscript on submission? Are you interested to know the journey a manuscript goes on before it ends up as a book on your shelf? Maybe you're even keen to know what roles there are in a publishing house? Get a peek behind the curtain, step into the shoes of an in-house book editor and ask the questions you've always wanted answered about publishing in this workshop with Tig Wallace, Publishing Director at Little, Brown Book Group.

Tig Wallace - Publishing Director at Little, Brown Book Group

The power of being a creative human in a growing AI world

In this writing workshop, lecturers from Bath Spa University's MA Writing for Young People Lucy Cuthew and Annalie Grainger will talk about what AI is, what it can and can't do, and consider how it is changing, or might change, the publishing landscape. They will then explore what it means to be a creative human, what our power as creative writers is in a world with AI, and help you generate some writing of your own. AI will not be used in this workshop. Please bring something to write with and your imagination.

Lucy Cuthew & Annalie Grainger - Bath Spa University

Beyond the Bookshelf: How to Be a Better Ally to Underrepresented Authors

We all say we want a more diverse and inclusive book world, but what does meaningful allyship actually look like in practice? Join award-winning publishing entrepreneurs Abiola Bello (author, publisher and co-founder of The Diverse Book Awards) and Helen Lewis (Literally PR, Hashtag Press, The Diverse Book Awards) for an honest and empowering workshop exploring how readers, reviewers, creators and the publishing industry can better support underrepresented voices.

From avoiding tokenism and championing debut authors, to writing reviews, recommending books, supporting campaigns and understanding the impact of book bans and visibility challenges, this session will offer simple but powerful ways everyone can make a difference. Whether you're a passionate reader, aspiring publishing professional, book creator or simply someone who wants to help build a fairer industry, you'll leave with actionable ideas and a better understanding of how allyship can create lasting change.

Abiola Bello & Helen Lewis - Founders, The Diverse Book Awards

Bookselling - Behind the scenes

Join Rhiannon Tripp who brings to life the Waterstones pop-up book shop each year at YALC as she discusses what it's like being a bookseller. She has been at Waterstones since 2018 and is the manager of the High Street Kensington branch, as well as assisting London stores as Children's Bookselling Area Support. In her time at Waterstones, she has been involved in many large-scale events, such as the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and has also chaired several panels. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have on Bookselling as a career.

Rhiannon Tripp - Waterstones

TBC

TBC