

SATURDAY

Wereworld to Wolf King - from the page to the screen

Hear firsthand how the million selling series of Wereworld novels were adapted into Wolf King, a major new animated series for Netflix. Curtis will discuss the origination of the novel series and how they came to be commissioned and written, then subsequently the interest shown by broadcasters and studios as the books were optioned for development. Curtis is uniquely placed to reveal this process, being that rarest of beasts: an author who actually worked on the adaptation of his own books as producer, creator and lead writer on Wolf King. Culminates in a comparison reading from one of the novels and an exclusive viewing of the same scene from the Netflix show, followed by Q & A.

Curtis Jobling

D&D: My first form of storytelling

Using his love of Dungeons and Dragons and stand-up comedy, author and librarian Lucas Maxwell will deliver a hands-on D&D character creation session that promises to be both engaging and hilarious.

Lucas Maxwell

Sad ghost Club Minifold zine workshop

Join bestselling graphic novelist Lize Meddings, creator of *The Sad Ghost Club*, for a welcoming mini zine-making workshop celebrating creativity, self-expression and community. Learn how to make your own folded mini zine, create original comic characters, and fill its pages with stories, drawings and thoughts. Whether you're an aspiring comic creator or simply looking for a fun creative session to meet like-minded ghosts, everyone is welcome.

Lize Meddings

Writing what you know

Find the story waiting in your memories with Helen's Write What You Know workshop. Participants will discover ways to integrate their knowledge with even the most fantastical plots and take a closer look at how the places that they know and love can help create a rich setting for their stories.

Helen Comerford

The romance remix

Meet-cutes, mixed signals and making readers want more... What's the secret ingredient behind a YA romance readers can't stop thinking about? Join award-winning YA author Abiola Bello (*The Love Dare*, *Only For The Holidays*, *Love In Winter Wonderland*) for a fun session exploring the ingredients of unforgettable love stories—from sizzling chemistry and iconic tropes to inclusive characters, authentic relationships and giving every reader the chance to see themselves in the story. Whether your characters fall in love at first sight or after 400 pages of delicious slow burn, this workshop is packed with inspiration to help your romance stand out for a YA crowd.

Abiola Bello

How a novel-in-verse can be grown

In this workshop led by Gayathiri Kamalakanthan, author of *Bad Queer*, we'll be exploring how a novel-in-verse can be grown from a single poem or character. We'll read excerpts from verse-novels, looking at how the form and shape of a poem can heighten feelings like heartbreak, freedom, shame and euphoria. We'll be talking about the magic of conjuring up characters for the first time and writing bits and pieces of our own. There'll be time to ask Kamalakanthan questions about *Bad Queer* and their publishing journey too.

Gayathiri Kamalakanthan

YALC Quiz of 2026

Test your YA book knowledge in this audience participation quiz hosted by the possibly the ultimate YALC superfan Amy McCaw. Who will be the YALC quiz champion for 2026?

Amy McCaw

SUNDAY

Make your own keychain

Join Anna Penn, author-illustrator of debut graphic novel *Apocalypse Baby*, to make your own book-inspired keychain! Anna will show you how to use polymer clay to make your own book-inspired keychain to take home and bake in your own oven. *Apocalypse Baby* is a queer horromance graphic novel about two boys who rescue a baby during the zombie apocalypse - and fall in love along the way.

Anna Penn

Mentorship

TBC

L.A. Weatherly

Boys Will Be Boys, But What About Girls? The Rise of Feminine Rage in Publishing

Join debut author of *The One*, Isabella Galbraith, for a discussion and workshop exploring the allure of feminine rage in fiction, and why 'unlikeable' female characters are often simply misunderstood. In this workshop, writers will learn how to let their female characters be as messy and angry as they want, while also crafting them in a way that's still relatable to readers.

Isabella Galbraith

Developing complex characters

Join *Beastwoven* author A.B. Hamilton in an interactive workshop as he explains the challenges, triumphs and processes behind creating and developing complicated characters. You'll learn about what it takes creatively to make fictional characters as real as possible, to blur fantasy and reality and how to give them the depth they need to really come alive...

A.B. Hamilton

From idea to novel – and beyond

With interactive writing exercises and insights from the experience of publishing three YA novels, H F Askwith, author of *Half A Dark Heart*, will lead a workshop exploring the journey from taking an initial idea to a finished novel. Begin to find your own novel idea and learn more about the world of writing as a profession.

H. F. Askwith

Make your own fantasy jewellery

Join E.S Drake, author of *Acts of Cupidity* and *Fortune Favours the Grave*, to make your very own piece of fantasy jewellery. You'll have a chance to create a unique piece which you can customise yourself as either a necklace or a circlet for your hair using a range of charms including wings, arrows, swords and more.

ES Drake

Create your very own tarot card

Meet Sam, the brilliant author-illustrator behind the new series, as he shares his creative journey, insider tips, and advice for aspiring authors and artists. Explore gorgeous artwork, discover the secrets of building epic worlds, and get inspired to create your own stories. Whether you're a fan of fantasy, queer romance, or incredible art, this event is your chance to connect, learn, and celebrate something truly magical. In an interactive workshop Sam will guide you through a hands on collaging session where you'll create your very own tarot card! N.B. Collage materials and inspiration will be provided but we encourage you to bring your own additional supplies!

Sam Prentice-Jones