

## **Leeds Virtual LGBT+ Lit Fest**

**5-11 July 2021**

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### **Thank You**

A huge thank you to Leeds Inspired for helping us fund this event, and to all the amazing contributors who made this event possible.

We'd also like to thank the volunteers who joined us this year to support our Committee.

### **Welcome to Leeds Virtual LGBT+ Lit Fest**

The Leeds LGBT+ Literature Festival was established in 2018 and organises various LGBTQIA+ events. Most notably, we run a full literature festival every two years, together with smaller, standalone events.

This is run by volunteers and events are funded through grants and donations. If you would like (and are able) to support us, please consider donating at: [paypal.me/lgbtbooks](https://paypal.me/lgbtbooks)

## **Lit Fest Format**

This event will take place virtually 5-11 July 2021. Our event will include:

- Live, ticketed events via Zoom;
- Pre-recorded videos streamed live on YouTube or Facebook;
- Blogs on our website; and
- Pre-recorded videos on YouTube.

Most of our blogs and pre-recorded videos will remain available after the event.

Most of our content for this event is free. Some of our live, ticketed events will have a small cost per ticket, however we have free tickets available for those on no-low income. Please email us on [leedslgbtbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:leedslgbtbookclub@gmail.com) for more info.

## **Meet our Lit Fest Committee**

**Emily** (She/Her) – Emily is our Chair and founder. She can often be found at bi+ events, queer bookshops and local LGBT+ inclusive cafes with a book and a hot chocolate.

**Kirsty** (She/Her) – Kirsty is one of our organisers and our Secretary. When she isn't out walking with her wife and pooches, you'll usually find her baking or reading queer lit.

**Ed** (He/Him) – Ed is our Treasurer. In addition to his love for cake, Ed has a keen interest in gender expression and inclusivity.

**Eli** (He/Him) – Eli is our Equality and Inclusion Officer. He is our expert voice on poetry and types of tea.

**Find out more** about Leeds LGBT+ Literature Festival on:

[www.leedslgbtbooks.com/lgbtlitfest](http://www.leedslgbtbooks.com/lgbtlitfest)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCL17puqINuzKC1yGA8Td6xA?view\\_as=subscriber](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL17puqINuzKC1yGA8Td6xA?view_as=subscriber)

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @LGBTLitFest

## Monday 5 July

### Blogs (Website)

- The Rise - and Rise - of the Community Bookshop  
By Becca from QueerLit
- Ovid's Metamorphoses: Asexuality in Classical Myths  
By Elizabeth Hopkinson

### Videos (YouTube)

- Trudy Howson, LGBT+ Poet Laureate - Poetry as a catalyst for social & political change  
An interview by James Nash
- Lily Luty from Queer Fiction - Creatively Exploring Gender & Sexuality with Queer Fiction  
(workshop)
- Ding Frisby - Some Queer Songs!
- Andy Horwood - Moving Mountains
- Crow Rudd - Anxious Anarchist Poetry

### Live (YouTube)

#### 8pm **ENBY**

An excerpt of a play by Hope Shooter.

Pre-recorded video shown on YouTube Live.

Link to be shared nearer the time on our website and social media.

## Tuesday 6 July

### Blogs (Website)

- Understanding Demisexuality  
By Lianne Herbert
- AIDS Archives: Black, Gay Writers and Reagan's America  
By Emily Roach

### Videos (YouTube)

- Yvy DeLuca - Yvy's Top Writing Tips
- Justin Myers - The Magnificent Sons  
An interview by Ed Ireland
- Baroness Ruth Hunt, Jay Hulme and Keith Jarrett - The Book of Queer Prophets
- Louis Glazzard - Not Your GBF
- Ian Holdsworth - An Introduction to Polari!
- Leeds LGBTQ+ Book Club - Book Recommendations

### Live (Zoom)

#### 7.30-9.30pm **Yorkshire LGBTQ+ People of Faith: Books and Belief**

This is a literature focused, LGBTQ+ multi-faith event where we will hear from some LGBTQ+ speakers with different religions. This will be followed by a chance for questions then an open discussion for attendees.

Tickets are free but essential: [lgbtqmultifaith.eventbrite.co.uk](https://lgbtqmultifaith.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Wednesday 7 July

### Blogs (Website)

- Trans Masc Problems  
By Maxwell Hunter (comic strip)
- I Blame The Internet  
By Kat Denvir

### Videos (YouTube)

- Yenn Purkis & Wenn Lawson - The Autistic Trans Guide to Life
- Laura Kate Dale - Gender Euphoria
- Paul Mendez - Queer Self-discovery and Sex Worker Representation in Rainbow Milk
- Jenny Frame - Sweet Romance
- F R Kesby - Shul

### Live (Zoom)

#### 6.30-7.30pm **Leeds LGBT+ Book Club**

This is a live book club meet up to discuss *Life as a Unicorn* by Amrou Al-Kadhi.  
Tickets are free but essential: [leedslgbtbookclub.eventbrite.co.uk](https://leedslgbtbookclub.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Thursday 8 July

### Blogs (Website)

- How Literature Helps Bridge the Gap Between the Deaf and LGBTQIA+ Communities  
By Melanie Ashford

### Videos (YouTube)

- James Bates - Gender Community Lending Library  
An interview by Jake Furby
- Yvy DeLuca - Yvolved
- John Anstiss - My Now & Then
- Aditya Tiwari - Queer Poetry from South Asia
- Ellora Sutton - A Postcard on the Restorative Effects of Sea Air After a Nervous Breakdown
- Katherine-Alice Grasham - Queerness and Faith

### Live (Zoom)

#### 3-5pm **Leeds LGBT+ Older Persons' Book Group**

This is a live book group event for older and isolated LGBTQIA+ people. Joe will lead a discussion about queer literature and the group will consider some diverse and representative queer poems together.

Tickets are free but essential: <https://bit.ly/3zBCjEj>

#### 7-8.30pm **Louis Glazzard's Poetry Workshop: Exploring Identity**

Join Louis Glazzard for this interactive workshop exploring identity through poetry.

Tickets are £5: [exploringidentityinpoetry.eventbrite.co.uk](https://exploringidentityinpoetry.eventbrite.co.uk)

We are holding a few free tickets for people on low-no income. If this applies to you, please email us on [leeds-lgbt-bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:leeds-lgbt-bookclub@gmail.com).

## Friday 9 July

### Blogs (Website)

- The Importance of LGBTQ+ characters in YA literature  
By Becca and Ranait from QueerLit

### Videos (YouTube)

- Benjamin Dean - From Here to the End of the Rainbow (Family Friendly)
- Jay Hulme - Here Be Monsters (Family Friendly)
- Sarah Hagger-Holt - Proud of Me (Family Friendly)
  
- Carlie Martece - Compilation
- Gabrielle Johnson - The Allotment

### Live (Facebook Live)

- 2pm **Aida H Dee – The Three Goats United** (Family Friendly)

Join Drag Queen Story Hour UK's Aida H Dee for a reading of her children's book The Three Goats United.

Showing on our Leeds LGBT+ Literature Festival Facebook page.

### Live (YouTube)

#### 7.30pm **Subjective Silhouettes**

Subjective Silhouettes will be bringing us a pre-recorded performance event showcasing disabled queer artists.

Pre-recorded video shown on YouTube Live.

Link to be shared nearer the time on our website and social media.

## **Saturday 10 July**

### **Blogs (Website)**

- Trans Erotica  
By Harry-Anne Bentley

### **Videos (YouTube)**

- Owl & Fox Fisher - Trans Teen Survival Guide  
An interview by Lali from Portal Bookshop
- Emily Roach - Queering Media
- Rowan Frewin - A Potted Trans History
- Rosie Wilby - The Breakup Monologues
- Niki Smith - Crossplay
- Frogb0i - Hiding in my Room

### **Live (Zoom)**

#### **1-2.30pm A Queer Zine Making Workshop with Holly Casio**

Presented by Thought Bubble, we will be joined by Holly Casio for a queer zine making workshop, including a talk about zines, and in particular the "power of queer zines", followed by an interactive workshop. Open to all ages.

Tickets are £2: [queerzineworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk](https://queerzineworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk)

We are holding a few free tickets for people on low-no income. If this applies to you, please email us on [leeds-lgbt-bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:leeds-lgbt-bookclub@gmail.com).

#### **7-10pm Cocktails & Fxxx Tales**

Strictly over 18s only

Cocktails & Fxxx Tales is an inclusive performance night celebrating the underrated artform of dirty storytelling.

Tickets are free but essential: [cftlitfest.eventbrite.com](https://cftlitfest.eventbrite.com)

## Sunday 11 July

### Blogs (Website)

- Representations Of Celebratory Queerness In Cinema  
By Oliver Bagshaw
- Why we made a Queer Library  
By Book 28 Library

### Videos (YouTube)

- Valentino Vecchietti  
An interview by Kirsty Smith
- Kellie Doherty - Brick by Magical Brick: How to Build a Fantasy World (workshop/writing tips)
- Alice Nicholls - Kind Quiet Riots (music)
- Susie Williamson - This is no Fairytale
- Dan Webber - 15st 9lbs at Time of Writing

### Live (Zoom)

#### 11am **Bold Strokes Books: Queering the Fantasy**

Thom Seddon will lead this live panel event with several Bold Strokes Books sci-fi and fantasy authors discussing LGBTQ+ writing in the fantasy genre.  
Link to be shared nearer the time on our website and social media.

### Live (YouTube)

#### 7.30pm **Speak Out: A QTIPOC Spoken Word Event**

Speak Out will be showcasing spoken word performances by LGBT+ Black people and People of Colour.  
Pre-recorded video shown on YouTube Live. Link to be shared nearer the time on our website and social media.

## **Contributors' Biographies (alphabetical)**

### **Aditya Tiwari**

Aditya Tiwari is an Indian poet, writer, and queer activist. He published his first book of poems, *April is Lush*, in 2019, which received international-acclaim and was featured on Lambda Literary in the spirit of uplifting the work of queer Indian artists.

Instagram and Twitter: @aprilislush

### **Aida H Dee**

Drag Queen Story Hour UK's Aida H Dee is the first drag queen in Europe to read stories to children in a nursery. Aida H Dee has performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Brighton Festival, Glastonbury Festival and many, many libraries.

[www.dragqueenstoryhour.co.uk](http://www.dragqueenstoryhour.co.uk)

### **Alice Nicholls**

Alice Nicholls is a genderflux, queer protest musician with too many instruments and even more sarcasm. Political, poetical, personal and profound, their songs tell of a life defiant and joyously lived.

[www.alicenichollsmusic.bandcamp.com](http://www.alicenichollsmusic.bandcamp.com) | Facebook: @alicenichollsmusic

### **Andy Horwood**

Self proclaimed poet with a deep set unending yearn to write something that could move mountains instead of feeling under them.

Facebook: @poppunkpoet

### **Baroness Ruth Hunt**

Baroness Hunt of Bethnal Green is one of three directors of Deeds and Words, along with her partner Caroline Ellis and arts leader Delia Barker, working with individuals, organisations, businesses, social movements and communities to help create a shared sense of purpose. Prior to joining Deeds and Words, Ruth was the Chief Executive of Stonewall; the UK's largest charity campaigning for equality for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people and led high profile, impactful campaigns.

### **Benjamin Dean**

Benjamin Dean is a London-based, Middle Grade author and celebrity journalist. His debut novel, *Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow*, was published by Simon & Schuster UK in February 2021.

Twitter and Instagram: @NotAgainBen

### **Book 28 Library**

Book 28 is a small queer library, currently housed at the Outside Project in Clerkenwell, London. We also advocate for the rights of LGBTIQ+ public library users across the UK.  
book28.weebly.com | Twitter: @book28library | Instagram: @book28.library | Facebook: @book28queerlibrary

### **Brey Willows**

Brey Willows is a longtime editor and writer. When she's not running a social enterprise working with marginalized communities on writing projects, she's editing other people's writing or doing her own. She lives in the middle of England with her writer-wife and spends entirely too much time exploring castles and ancient ruins while bemoaning the rain.  
www.boldstrokesbooks.com/books/searchresults?q=brey+willows | breywillows.com | Twitter: @brey\_willows

### **Carlie Martece**

The Carlie Nooka Martece collective is a gender-fluid, dissociative system working as a visual artist, model and independently published writer. Their books explore social issues and mental illness using rapid-paced storytelling and brutally dark comedy.  
Martece wrote their first book, Toxic Nursery, to provide insight into the often-misunderstood diagnosis of dissociative identity disorder. They now write semi-autobiographical science fiction and have received the dual diagnosis of autism.  
www.carliemartece.com | Instagram: @martece\_movies | Facebook: @carliemartece

### **Cocktails & Fxxx Tales/Quenby**

Quenby is an enby writer, performer, and host of Cocktails and Fxxx Tales. Their work reflects on themes of identity and queer sexuality, and CFT is a space for other performers to explore it with them.  
Twitter: @quenbycreatives and @CocktailsFTales | Instagram: @quenbycreatives | Facebook: @quenbycreatives and @CocktailsFTales

### **Crow Rudd**

Crow Rudd (Anxious Anarchist Poetry) is a disabled queer punk poet based in York. Their work focuses on the ideas of mental health, identity, grief and the importance of cuddles.  
They are the creator and host of Sad Poets Doorstep Club: a mental health poetry night that seeks to promote marginalised poets and fight the stigma around mental illness; headlined by some of the UK's most exciting emerging talent as well as established performers.  
Twitter and Instagram: @stuffpunxdo | Facebook: @anxiousanarchistpoetry | whiskyandbeards.co.uk/product/pre-order-i-am-a-thing-of-rough-edges-by-tom-rudd

### **Dan Webber**

Dan Webber is an award-winning LGBTQ+ poet and producer based in Derby. Previous commissions include work for Coventry Pride, SHOUT Festival, Birmingham and Derby Feste. His first collection 'Genre Fluid' is published by Big White Shed.

<https://linktr.ee/DanWebber>

### **Ding Frisby**

Ding Frisby is a soft, northern drag thing asking the big queer questions through comedy song. From the main stage at Cambridge Pride to a sell out run at the Edinburgh Fringe with their troupe Dragtime!, Ding has gigged across the UK, bagging a spot in the (postponed) final of Europe's biggest drag king contest, ManUp!

Instagram: @Ding\_TheKing\_Frisby | Facebook @DingFrisby | Youtube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCXLaB6t0SP9R\\_qMcCxGzcgw/playlists](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXLaB6t0SP9R_qMcCxGzcgw/playlists)

### **Elizabeth Hopkinson**

Elizabeth Hopkinson is the author of Asexual Fairy Tales, which featured in the BBC's We Are Bradford project, and earned her a place in Wikipedia's Timeline of Asexual History.

Elizabeth is a romantic asexual and is committed to asexual representation in fiction.

Website: [elizabethhopkinson.uk](http://elizabethhopkinson.uk) | Twitter: @hidden\_grove

### **Ellora Sutton**

Ellora Sutton, 24, is a queer poet and MA student from Hampshire. She has won the Mslexia Poetry Competition, Artlyst Art to Poetry Award, and the Pre-Raphaelite Society Poetry Competition. Her work has been published by Poetry News, Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal and fourteen poems, amongst others. Her debut chapbook, All the Shades of Grief, was published in 2020 by Nightingale & Sparrow.

Twitter: @ellora\_sutton | [ellorasutton.com](http://ellorasutton.com)

### **Emily Roach**

Emily Roach is a PhD candidate and teaches Law and English Literature at university. Their research focuses on twentieth and twenty-first century American fiction, LGBT poetry, fiction and memoir, slam and spoken word poetry and queer aspects of popular culture.

Instagram: @librarywithoutdust | [www.librarywithoutdust.com](http://www.librarywithoutdust.com)

### **F R Kesby**

F R Kesby is a writer and creator from Leeds and one half of the dynamic duo Subjective Silhouettes. Their debut pamphlet "Shul" came out in April from Maytree Press. They would describe themselves as a queer disability activist who wants to make the world better. Others describe them as "a difficult b\*tch with a big mouth". We'll let you decide which is true.

(Spoiler alert; it's both.)

### **Felix Mufti**

Felix Mufti-Wright is an activist, performer and writer. He co-founded 'Transcend Theatre' where he writes plays about authentic stories within the transgender community. He is also signed with The Queerhouse London and is an organiser for Trans Pride Liverpool and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Twitter and Instagram: @felixmufti | [www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk/whats-on/how-to-kill-a-rose](http://www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk/whats-on/how-to-kill-a-rose)

### **Fox and Owl (Ugla)**

Fox and Ugla are non-binary trans film makers, authors and advocates. From taking on Piers Morgan on Good Morning Britain, to writing survival guides for trans teens, Fox and Ugla have a lot of personal insight into what it's like to be non-binary in modern UK. Their newest book, The Trans Survival Workbook, a sequel to the best-selling Trans Teen Survival Guide, has just been released, and is full of creative and artistic ways to explore your own gender.

Fox on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @thefoxfisher

Ugla on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @uglastefania

### **Frogb0i**

Frogb0i aka Kai Frog (he/they) is a Black trans non-binary artist, poet, drag creature and activist based in Manchester. He is the founder of POC Queer Magic and works within various queer trans intersections.

Instagram: @frogb0i | [www.frogb0i.com](http://www.frogb0i.com) | Youtube: @zluxxx | Ko-fi: @frogb0i

### **Gabrielle Johnson**

Gabrielle Johnson is a London-based writer and creative educator. They have facilitated creative writing workshops with Magnum Photos, The Outside Project and Haringey Circle and are the Co-founder and Editor of *clavmag*, a digital literary magazine for LGBTQIA+ writers. A 2021 London Writers Award recipient, Gabrielle is currently working on their debut novel and a collection of queer love stories. You can read their work with Cipher Press and Fourteen Poems.

Twitter and Instagram: @gabrielleMCJ | [gabriellejohnson.co.uk](http://gabriellejohnson.co.uk)

### **Harry-Anne Bentley**

Co-Curator of indie comics publisher and collective Dragonhide Studios, and co-host of the My Neighbour TransToro podcast. Harry-Anne believes strongly in the power of representation in fiction; they explore this through promo, discussion, and their own comic GenderQuest on Instagram.

[nectar.discordcomics.com](http://nectar.discordcomics.com) | [shop.dragonhide.co.uk](http://shop.dragonhide.co.uk) | Instagram: @genderquest

### **Hidayah LGBT+/Osman**

Osman is the outreach volunteer for Hidayah, a charity which provides support and welfare for LGBTQI+ Muslims and education around the queer Muslim community to counter discrimination, prejudice and injustice.

@HidayahLGBTQI | [www.linkedin.com/company/hidayah](http://www.linkedin.com/company/hidayah)

### **Holly Casio**

Holly Casio makes queer zines and diy comics about pop culture, fat bodies, class, mental health, and Bruce Springsteen. She is also a zine librarian and co-founder of the Queer Zine Library - a roaming diy zine collection celebrating radical LGBTQIA+ self-publishing

@hollycasio | [www.coolschmool.com](http://www.coolschmool.com)

### **Hope Shooter**

Hope Shooter is a playwright and performer currently based in Yorkshire. After graduating from the University of York in 2020 Hope's goal is to bring lesser heard voices and letting them tell their stories.

### **Ian Holdsworth**

Ian is an LGBT activist and Co-Chairs both the University of Leeds LGBT+ Staff Network and York LGBT Forum.

### **Ileandra Young**

Ileandra dabbles in fantasy, horror and comedy. Mostly fantasy. Though anything with blood, guts, general gore and vampires keeps her happy. Throw in a couple of elves and some lunatic launching spells and she's extremely happy.

When not writing, Ileandra is gaming, crocheting or playing Minecraft (badly!) on Twitch.

[www.ileandrayoung.co.uk](http://www.ileandrayoung.co.uk)

### **Jake Furby**

I have helped set up 3 equality charities in York: York LGBT Forum, York Pride and York LGBT History Month. When I'm not working, I like to paint, write poetry and visit historical buildings.

[diversityenterprises.co.uk](http://diversityenterprises.co.uk)

### **James Nash**

James Nash is a writer and poet and a long-term resident of Leeds. His published work includes: Coma Songs (2003), A Bit of An Ice Breaker (2012), Some Things Matter (2012), A Bench for Billie Holiday (2018) and coming soon, Heart Stones (2021).

[www.jamesnash.co.uk](http://www.jamesnash.co.uk)

### **James Bates – Gender Community Lending Library**

Launched in January 2021, Gender Community Lending Library is an online non-profit dedicated to lending transgender and queer books to people across the UK. In addition to book lending, GCLL's other projects include a penpal scheme for transgender adults, and the Historical Crossdressing Project, a research project uncovering evidence of gender variance in historical newspaper archives. James is GCLL's founder, organiser and lead researcher.  
[www.genderlibrary.co.uk](http://www.genderlibrary.co.uk) | Twitter: @gender\_library | Instagram: @genderlendinglibrary

### **Jay Hulme**

Jay Hulme is an award winning transgender performance poet, speaker and educator. Alongside his writing and regular performances he teaches in schools, performs sensitivity reads, and consults and speaks at events and conferences on the importance of diversity in the media, and more specifically transgender inclusion and rights.  
Twitter and Instagram: @jayhulmepoet

### **Jenny Frame**

Jenny Frame is from the small town of Motherwell in Scotland, where she lives with her partner, Lou, and their well-loved and very spoiled dog. She has a diverse range of qualifications, including a BA in public management and a diploma in acting and performance. Nowadays she likes to put her creative energies into writing rather than treading the boards. When not writing or reading, Jenny loves cheering on her local football team, cooking, and spending time with her family.  
[www.jennyframe.com](http://www.jennyframe.com) | @jennyframe91 | Facebook: @jennyframeauthor

### **Jenny Wilson**

Jenny Wilson is Founder and Director of Irregular Arts, where she creates, produces and performs socially engaged arts projects; founder of the International Day of Consent; relationship blogger at [loveoffscript.co.uk](http://loveoffscript.co.uk). Queer, polyamorous relationship anarchist, single parent, other roles include Freelance Activist in Residence at Leeds Beckett University, with the SSSH! Stigmatised Sexualities and Sexual Harm Research Group; and Chair of Happy Valley Pride.  
[www.irregulararts.com](http://www.irregulararts.com) | [consentculture.co.uk](http://consentculture.co.uk) | [loveoffscript.co.uk](http://loveoffscript.co.uk)

### **John Anstiss**

I became active on the London poetry scene after working on Pride '87. This led to performances at the legendary Hard Edge Club and Big Word (straight but supportive venues). After publication of *Butch Boy* (Gecko Press, 1995) and performing at Edinburgh book festival; in 1996 and 1997 appeared with Big Word at Edinburgh Fringe followed by touring nationally. My latest book, *'My Now & Then'* was published in 2020 by New North Press. I am 82 years old.

### **Joseph Thompson/Leeds LGBT+ Older Persons' Book Group**

Joe is a queer activist and writer from Leeds, and part of The Bookish Type team - Leeds' LGBTIQA+ bookshop.

### **Justin Myers**

Justin Myers grew up in Shipley, Yorkshire, and now lives in London. After years spent quietly working in journalism, and being largely ignored (which he was more or less fine with), he found unexpected success with his popular blog The Guyliner in 2010. Justin then spent five years on dating and relationship advice for Gay Times, before joining British GQ as a weekly columnist in 2016. His debut novel, *The Last Romeo*, was published in 2018, a second, *The Magnificent Sons*, came out May 2020, and a third, *The Fake-Up*, is due in 2022.

[theguyliner.com](http://theguyliner.com) | [@theguyliner](https://www.instagram.com/theguyliner)

### **Kat Denvir**

Kat is a bi Irish femme woman - a super nerd, a book collector and cat mama.

Instagram: [@thenirishkat](https://www.instagram.com/thenirishkat) | [www.katdenvir.com](http://www.katdenvir.com)

### **Katherine-Alice Grasham**

Katherine-Alice is a disabled LGBTQ+ activist from Keighley who works for the Church of England. She is passionate about making the world a kinder place, especially for young LGBTQ+ Christians. She is a beginner drag queen and ballroom dancer, loves Eurovision, and is trying to write her first book.

[www.discusslgbtq.com](http://www.discusslgbtq.com)

### **Keith Jarrett**

Keith Jarrett is a writer, performer and educator. A UK and international Poetry Slam Winner (Rio), his poem, 'From the Log Book', was projected onto the façade of St. Paul's Cathedral and broadcast as a commemorative art installation. His play, *Safest Spot in Town*, was performed at the Old Vic and filmed for BBC Four. Keith was selected for the International Literary Showcase as one of 10 most outstanding LGBT writers in the UK. Having recently finished his PhD, he teaches Creative Writing at Birkbeck University. His poetry collection, *Selah*, was published by Burning Eye books.

### **Kellie Doherty**

Kellie Doherty is a queer science fiction and fantasy author who lives in Eagle River, Alaska. When she noticed that there wasn't much positive queer representation in the science fiction and fantasy realms, she decided to create her own! Her adult sci-fi duology—*Finding Hekate* and *Losing Hold*—came out in April 2016 and April 2017 from Desert Palm Press. She's currently working on a five-book fantasy series.

[www.kelliedoherty.com](http://www.kelliedoherty.com)

Twitter: [@Kellie\\_Doherty](https://twitter.com/Kellie_Doherty) | Facebook: [@KellieDoherty89](https://www.facebook.com/KellieDoherty89)

### **Kitty Messalina**

Kitty Messalina is a comedic triple threat - a queer woman of colour. She brings unique perspectives on prejudice, promiscuity and polyamory. Expect "honesty and vivacity" (Notts Comedy review) as she explores political foreplay, accidental threesomes and lesbian sheep. In addition to co-hosting Late Stage Comedy, a platform for new acts and new material, Kitty is working on her debut show, "Is This Thing Turned On?" as she ponders identity politics, problematic crushes and Alexander Hamilton.

Facebook: @kitty.messalina and @LateStageComedyClub | Twitter: @latestagecomedy | Instagram: @latestagecom

### **Krystian Wolny**

I'm Krystian, an actor/writer, currently based in York. I must say performing in ENBY has been a particularly challenging experience as I had never performed on a Zoom medium before. However, it was also a great learning experience in a way that it taught me how to adjust my skills to an online performance and the rehearsal process has opened my eyes to many interesting opportunities such performance creates.

krystianinthearts@gmail.com

### **Lali/Portal Bookshop**

Lali opened The Portal Bookshop in York in 2019, hoping to provide a safe community space and access to queer stories. They were met with incredible love and enthusiasm, and do their best to live up to that reception. They're committed to prioritising people over profits, even as the shop grows beyond a one-person operation, and love nothing better than helping someone find the book, information, or reassurance that they need.

the-portal-bookshop.square.site

### **Laura Kate Dale**

Laura Kate Dale is a full time writer and publisher author. Her first book, Uncomfortable Labels, is a memoir exploring the common but rarely discussed intersection of being trans and autistic. She then took a break to write a silly illustrated coffee table book called Things I Learned From Mario's Butt. Her next planned release is Gender Euphoria, an anthology of non cis writers positive gender affirming stories. She's also working on a children's picture book aiming to release at the end of 2021.

Twitter, Twitch and YouTube: @LauraKBuzz | LauraKBuzz.com

### **Lauren-Michelle**

I am a poet, writer, mental health activist and creative producer. My poetry takes its audience on a raw rhythmic journey of emotion, empowerment and self-discovery. I believe there is power in vulnerability and I use poetry as a way to express my own experiences as well as encourage others to use their pain as strength. In my recent work, I have begun to reflect more on my intersectionality and how I can create a narrative which empowers and reminds

others that we are more than our past. We can change how we see ourselves for the better.  
@iamlaurenmichelle

### **Leeds LGBT+ Book Club**

Leeds LGBT+ Book Club was founded in May 2017 and meets once a month via zoom to discuss a set reading list of LGBT+ themed books.  
www.leedslgbtbooks.com

### **Lianne Herbert**

Lianne Herbert is a writer and playwright. Lianne has poems published by Peepal Tree Press 'Weighted Words' anthology edited by Jacob Ross and Magma 69 'The Deaf Issue' edited by Raymond Antrobus and Lisa Kelly.

Lianne has an article published in gal-dem about how her relationship with deafness led to a psychotic episode. She has also written numerous articles for the Deaf online magazine 'The Limping Chicken' edited by Charlie Swinbourne.

www.LianneHerbert.com | Twitter: @lianne\_herbert

### **Liggera Edmonds-Allen**

Liggera Edmonds-Allen (They/Them) is an actor and producer studying dramaturgy at Carnegie Mellon University. The love making audiobooks, playing video games, and telling stories.

ledsmonds@andrew.cmu.edu

### **Lily Luty from Queer Fiction**

Lily Luty is the artistic director of Queer Fiction, a small not-for-profit with a focus on bringing accessible creative opportunities to the LGBTQIA+ community. Mainly known for their poetry and spoken word, Lily has been published in a variety of anthologies and journals. Lily has a wealth of experience facilitating creative writing sessions with various communities. Their work has been described as vivid and vulnerable spoken word which 'both punched me in the gut and gave me a cuddle.'

Facebook and Instagram: @queerfictionuk

### **Louis Glazzard**

Louis Glazzard (He/Him) was born and raised in Yorkshire, England and is now based in Manchester, working as a writer and poet. Louis' work has been commissioned by Waterside Arts and he has performed on the BBC and as a Verbose headliner. His poetry has been published in New Critique, Brag Writers, Untitled Voices, Queerlings and Polari Press. Louis is currently working on an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant and as a BBC New Creative.

Instagram: @lourowpoet | Twitter: @lourowpoet

**Ludwig Juhrich**

I currently studying for an MFA in directing at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. My directing credits include *Crave*, *Frankenstein*, and assistant director for *Push the Sky Away* and *Fremde.Heimat* in Germany.

I am a trans artist who is especially passionate about new writing, contemporary and political theatre. Other interests include multi-media theatre making and non-hierarchical ways of devising performance.

[ljuhrich@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:ljuhrich@rcs.ac.uk)

**Maxwell Hunter**

Maxwell is a Trans Artist/illustrator creating work on LGBT and mental health related topics. Instagram: [@maxwell.hunter.92](https://www.instagram.com/maxwell.hunter.92)

**Melanie Ashford**

Mel is a hard-of-hearing writer from Wales, UK. She lives with a French Bulldog and a tortoiseshell cat. Mel is a demisexual lesbian.

Twitter: [@ashford\\_mel](https://twitter.com/ashford_mel) | Instagram: [@fantasywriterinpyjamas](https://www.instagram.com/fantasywriterinpyjamas)

**Nathan Burgoine**

Nathan Burgoine is a tall queer guy who writes mostly shorter queer fictions, including his first collection of interconnected short fiction, 'Of Echoes Born.' Sometimes novels happen, like 'Exit Plans for Teenage Freaks' his YA novel about a gay student who develops a teleportation problem two weeks before graduation. You can find out about his three other novels, half-dozen novellas, and dozens of short stories at [ApostropheN.wordpress.com](http://ApostropheN.wordpress.com).

[ApostropheN.wordpress.com](http://ApostropheN.wordpress.com) | Twitter: [@NathanBurgoine](https://twitter.com/NathanBurgoine) | Facebook: [@apostrophenn](https://www.facebook.com/apostrophenn)

**Niki Smith**

Niki Smith is an artist, writer, lover of fine comics (and some pretty trashy ones too). She's dedicated to filling the world with queer and diverse stories. She is the author of the Lambda Literary Award-nominated graphic novels *The Deep & Dark Blue* and *Crossplay*. Her next book, *The Golden Hour*, will be out this October. Originally from the US, she now lives in Germany with her wife.

Twitter: [@niki\\_smith](https://twitter.com/niki_smith) | Instagram: [@nikismithcomics](https://www.instagram.com/nikismithcomics) | [niki-smith.com](http://niki-smith.com)

**Oliver Bagshaw**

Oliver Bagshaw is a writer, musician and YouTuber, often writing about a variety of films, including those promoting LGBTQ+ representation. They are currently studying at Leeds Beckett University for a Masters in Screenwriting.

[www.youtube.com/youhavebeenwatchingfilms](http://www.youtube.com/youhavebeenwatchingfilms)

**Owl (Ugla)**

See Fox & Owl

### **Paul Mendez**

Paul Mendez is a novelist and screenwriter, and the author of Rainbow Milk.

Insta: @pxxlmxndxz

### **Queer Theology**

Brian G. Murphy and Fr. Shannon TL Kearns started QueerTheology.com in 2013, to make the work of queer theology academics accessible and useful to everyday Christians, both queer and not. They started something new, with the conversation at the intersections of LGBTQ+ lives and Christianity — focusing on the inherent goodness and the unique gifts and blessings of queerness, rather than reacting against what we are not.

Together, they are leading voices in conversations around purity culture, sex-positivity, queer bodies, transgender theology, the interplay between Queer activism and Christian activism, Christianity & polyamory, and more.

[www.queertheology.com](http://www.queertheology.com)

### **Queer Lit**

Manchester's Independent Gay Bookshop. Immerse into our extensive range of over 1500 Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans & Queer books.

[www.QueerLit.co.uk](http://www.QueerLit.co.uk) | @QueerLitUK

### **Rosie Day**

I am a non-binary theatre maker coming to the end of my time as a student of theatre at York. I am very grateful to be involved in this production. Not only has it been a lot of fun and a chance to meet new people, but it is an ambition of mine in my future to work in the theatre industry and produce more queer theatre made by queer individuals, so naturally this has been a wonderful opportunity!

Instagram: @Rosie.day.theatre

### **Rosie Wilby**

Rosie Wilby is an award-winning comedian who has appeared many times on BBC Radio 4 programmes including Woman's Hour and Four Thought. Her first book *Is Monogamy Dead?* was longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize and followed a trilogy of internationally-acclaimed solo shows investigating the psychology of love and relationships. She has occasionally been described as a 'lesbian Louis Theroux', due to her chatty, immersive style of research.

Rosie also presents *The Breakup Monologues* podcast, which provides the inspiration for her brand new book and was nominated for a British Podcast Award in 2020.

[www.rosiewilby.com](http://www.rosiewilby.com) | Twitter: @rosiewilby | Instagram: @breakupmonologues

### **Rowan Frewin**

I am a non-binary illustrator based in London whose work often focuses on celebrating LGBTQ history. My recently released illustrated zine 'A Potted Trans History' rethinks how we look at

trans history and traces figures who relate to our modern idea of transness from classical antiquity to the Stonewall Riots.

Twitter: @rowanasaur | Instagram: @rowanfrewin |  
[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/RowanFrewinArt](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/RowanFrewinArt)

### **Sarah Hagger-Holt**

Sarah Hagger-Holt is the co-author of 'Pride and Joy: A guide for LGBT parents' and the author of middle-grade books about family and friendship which centre LGBT+ families. Her first novel, 'Nothing Ever Happens Here', was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and her most recent novel is 'Proud of Me', published in February 2021.

Twitter and Instagram: @sarahhaggerholt | [www.sarahhaggerholt.com](http://www.sarahhaggerholt.com)

### **Sarbat LGBT Sikhs/Fabrizio Singh**

English literature teacher at High School in Italy, Fabrizio works with Sarbat LGBT Sikhs where he leads a monthly book club.

@sarbatlgbtsikh | @fabvenice

### **Subjective Silhouettes**

Subjective Silhouettes is an arts collective that provide online and in person performance nights, play readings, exhibitions and more. Founded by slam winner and published poet F R Kesby and comedian and digital artist The Hungry Enby. We are passionate about creating accessible events and centering the voices and art of marginalised communities.

[subjectivesilhouettes.com](http://subjectivesilhouettes.com)

### **Susie Williamson**

Susie Williamson, she/her, is the author of Blood Gift Chronicles, a character-driven YA fantasy adventure series featuring queer women protagonists. Set in distant but familiar lands, the series encompasses themes of wildlife & the environment, animism, social injustice and exploitation, magic, dragons and being true to one's self.

Originally from Yorkshire, Susie now lives in Exeter, UK, with her wife, Kate, close to the river Exe and a bike ride away from the sea. To accompany writing, she paints with acrylics on canvas, steadily filling the white-washed walls of home.

[susiewilliamson.blog](http://susiewilliamson.blog) | Twitter: @SJW\_writer | Facebook: @SusieWilliamsonAuthor |  
Instagram: @sjw\_creatives

### **Thom Seddon**

Thom Seddon is an all round creative type based in Nottingham, where he lives with his husband, their two cats, and watches far too much Judge Judy.

By day he is mostly a writer working in fiction, script and poetry, and by night also works as a drag artist (the infamous Nana Arthole).

He has published two collections to date, The Smart Mouthed Victim and Death is Awful for the Living, each featuring poetic content that is both social commentary and personal

confession. His third collection, Choose Your Own Mediocre was released on November 19th through Big White Shed.

[artholethom.com](http://artholethom.com)

### **Thought Bubble**

Thought Bubble is the Yorkshire Comic Art Festival! A week long celebration of comics, illustration and more spread across the whole of Yorkshire, finishing in a *huge* two day comic convention in Harrogate. We use our festival week to promote the power of comics!

[www.thoughtbubblefestival.com](http://www.thoughtbubblefestival.com)

### **Trudy Howson**

Current LGBT+ Poet Laureate. Writing poetry that Illuminates & Celebrates our Community, encouraging open hearted debate. Working with support groups using poetry as a catalyst for social & political change.

[www.lgbtpoetlaureate.org.uk](http://www.lgbtpoetlaureate.org.uk) | Twitter: @lgbtpoetlaureat | Instagram: lgbtpoetlaureate

### **Valentino Vecchietti**

Valentino (she/they) is the Intersex Columnist for DIVA Magazine, the largest lesbian and bi women's magazine in Europe. In 2020 & 2021 their work as an intersex community campaigner was recognised on the Lesbian 100 List. And they are on the Pride Power List 2020 for their intersex focussed work in journalism, media and culture. They are part of Kadak Collective, a women's art collective. Their comic, In-Out Gender Through the Brexit Lens, has an intersectional focus on their own: intersex, lesbian, immigrant, mixed POC, working class, background. In 2020 Kadak Anthology, Bystander, published their new online comic, 'Being the Good Girl'. They also founded Intersex Equality Rights UK.

@ValentinoInter | Twitter: @WeAreIERUK | Instagram: Intersex Equality Rights UK

### **Victoria Blisse**

Victoria Blisse is known as the Queen of Smut, Reverend to the kinky and is the Writer in Residence at Cocktails and Fxxx Tales. She's also an angel. Ask anyone. Mancunian Odd Duck, her northern English quirkiness shows through in all of her stories along with her own particular brand of humour and romance that bring laughs and warm fuzzies in equal measure. Passion, love and laughter fill her works, just as they fill her busy life.

Twitter: @victoriablisse

### **Wenn Lawson**

Dr. Wenn, (Phd) AFBPsS MAPS AASW, autistic, a family man with autistic offspring and autistic grandchildren, a lecturer, psychologist, researcher, advocate, writer and poet, has shared his experiences, writings and resources for over 3 decades. Wenn has published and contributed to more than 25 books and many papers. Wenn is an Associate Researcher with Curtin University (WA: AU), & Macquarie University (NSW: AU) & Tutor Practitioner with the University of Birmingham's (UK) Masters Autism course, a member of the autism Co-

operative Research Centre (ACRC), Co-Chair of the Autism Research Council, Australia, Ambassador for 'I CAN', Australia, on the Editorial Board for 'Autism in Adulthood' and joining the US Autism association advisory Board in September 21. Dr. Wenn is a member of The ND Co. Australia, who put out monthly resources re: autism.  
[www.wennlawson.com](http://www.wennlawson.com)

### **Yas Necati**

Yas Necati (they/them) is a writer and performance poet who explores queer and trans identity, migrant identity, mental health, recovery, community and resistance. When they are not immersed in poetry, they campaign for queer rights, run workshops on self care, and perform as their drag act alter-ego, Turkish pop star Tarkan.  
[www.yasnecati.co.uk](http://www.yasnecati.co.uk) | Twitter: @yasnecati | Instagram: @yas\_necati

### **Yenn Purkis**

Yenn Purkis is an autistic and non-binary advocate, presenter and author. They have written nine published books and presented at TEDx Canberra in 2013.  
[www.yennpurkis.com](http://www.yennpurkis.com)

### **Yorkshire LGBTQ+ People of Faith/CJ**

Yorkshire LGBTQ+ People of Faith group was established in 2019 by York LGBT Forum as a response to several members expressing that they struggled to find a safe and welcoming place to share their faith as LGBTQ+ people. They have held online events during the past 18 months and have a growing social media following on Facebook where people are able to connect together regardless of where their faith lies or how they identify within the LGBTQ+ community.

CJ Allison is a gay Christian who found his true sexuality later in life. He works freelance for York LGBT Forum to support the faith community and will be sharing some of his experience as he leads this event for Leeds LGBT+ Lit Fest.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/312773553380910](http://www.facebook.com/groups/312773553380910)

### **Yvy DeLuca**

Yvy is a trans writer, performer and activist. She is the author of Tainted Beauty - The Memoir of an Authentic Creation, which tells her story of being a trans woman from a Muslim community and her journey to becoming who she is. Yvy also performs as The BollyWitch, blending Bollywood culture and Witchcraft to create spellbinding art.  
@yvyworld