

Welcome to the seventh annual Asia House Festival of Asian Literature – still the only Festival in the UK celebrating the writing of Asia and Asians, from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Pacific.

Our theme this year is Freedom: freedom of expression, education, travel, justice, freedom to read the truth and to live in our chosen ways. We take a close look at Burma this year with Festival events at the Frontline Club and on a special Burma Day at Asia House.

Not all of our events will focus on freedom. Some will be just for fun, with samurai swords, martial arts, Punch and Judy-Bollywood style, food, film, Manga, yoga for families and traveling China on two wheels.

We will introduce debut authors at a special Literary Salon, debate British Asian “coolness” and learn how to become rich in the new Asia.

With writing spanning over 15 countries, we hope you will find something to enjoy at the Festival.

WELCOME

Asia House

Asia House, the leading pan-Asian organisation in the UK, exists to build dynamic links with Asia. By providing unique insights into culture, policy, business and education, Asia House promotes informed understanding and the mutual exchange of ideas, building stronger relationships between the diverse communities of Europe and Asia. Asia House is a non-profit, non-political organisation.

Reaching Out

The Asia House Festival of Asian Literature has partnered with Southbank Centre to bring some of our best events to The Alchemy Festival in April. We will also be at the Sunday Times Oxford Literature Festival in March in partnership with Oxford Brookes University. Our successful libraries programme is back with family activities in selected London libraries during the summer.

Schools

The Festival will visit London area schools in a pilot project that brings writers and journalists into classrooms, helping develop writing skills and giving aspiring young writers opportunities to publish their work online and to engage with the literary world through work experience.

For more information:

www.asiahouse.org/arts-and-culture

Follow us on:

Facebook: Asia House Festival of Asian Literature

Twitter: @festofasianlit
#FAL13

Pre-Festival Events



at Asia House

Wednesday 3 April 18.45

How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia – Mohsin Hamid

in conversation with Razia Iqbal

The author of the Man Booker Prize short-listed novel, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, joins us to celebrate the launch of his new novel, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, labeled one of the hottest books of the year by The Guardian.

Thursday 18 April 18.45

Women, Freedom and the Islamic World

Elif Shafak – *Honour*
Haifa Zangana – *Dreaming of Baghdad*
Kamin Mohammadi – *The Cypress Tree*
With Samira Ahmed

Our panel of women writers from Turkey, Iraq and Iran look at issues of concern to women in Islamic societies, freedom and autonomy, how women's freedom differs between countries, the changes in Islam and world perceptions that have influenced Muslim women's lives, and how their writing can affect change.

This event is in partnership with the British Council as part of the Cultural Programme for Turkey Market Focus at The London Book Fair 2013

Sponsored by Alliance of Religions and Conservation & The Club of Rome

Pre-festival event tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7



at The Alchemy Festival

Sunday 21 April

12.30

A Personal Journey from Helmand to England– with Najib Afghan

Eighteen year old Najib, wounded in a bombing in Helmand, and now a student in the UK will update his story after a recent visit to his home and family.

16.45

Poetry of the Taliban with Felix Kuehn

In conversation with Kenan Malik

The editor of this collection of poems offers unfettered insight into the Afghan Taliban's wider world view, giving us an in depth of understanding of them and of this complex country.

Tickets for Alchemy events can be booked through Southbank Centre:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk or
phone: +44 (0)844 875 0073



The Festival

Tuesday 7 May 18.45

Opening Night with Michael Palin

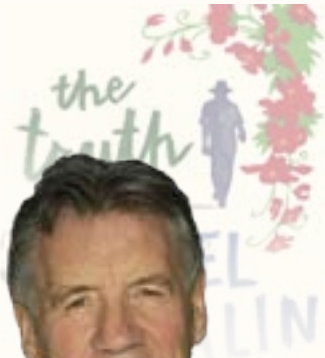
In conversation with Erica Wagner at the Commonwealth Club

The Festival presents a very special opening evening with the UK's most engaging globetrotter, Michael Palin. He talks about his novel, *The Truth* set in the environmental hotspots of India, his latest adventures in Brazil and about his life of travel throughout Asia and beyond, with The Times Literary Editor, Erica Wagner.

In partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Society
Sponsored by One Fine Stay

Tickets £15

Concessions £12 | Friends £10



Wednesday 8 May 18.45
Nadeem Aslam – *The Blind Man's Garden*

In conversation with Homa Khaleeli

From one of the most important young Pakistanis writing today, comes an exquisitely written novel set in Pakistan and Afghanistan in the months following 9/11 – a story of war, love, of one family's losses and of the simplest, most enduring human impulses.



Tickets £10
Concessions £8
Friends £7



Thursday 9 May 18.45
The Middle Kingdom Ride

Colin Pyle in conversation with Simon Myers

Two brothers, two motorcycles and an 18,000km trip around China – one of the most exciting Asian travel adventures of the year – a trip that resulted in a Guinness World Record, a book and a TV series on the UK Travel Channel. Colin will be speaking with Simon Myers, who wrote about his own motorcycle adventure across the country in *Adrift in China*.

Tickets £10
Concessions £8 | Friends £7

Friday 10 May 18.45
**British Asian Culture:
Doomed to be
'Uncool'?**

DJ Nihal
Bobbie Friction
Siddhartha Bose – *Kalgora*
Ravinder Bhogal – *Cook in Boots*
Moderator Sathnam Sanghera

Our panel of 'cool' British Asians looks at the development of British Asian culture, food, literature and music and asks the burning question: Can we ever be perceived as cool?

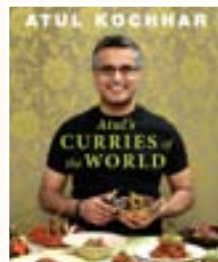
Tickets £10
Concessions £8 | Friends £7



Saturday 11 May 13.30 – 15.30
Atul Kochhar – *Curries of the World*

With a demonstration and talk, award-winning Michelin star chef Kochhar explores one of the world's favourite dishes from India, Africa and beyond.

Tickets £15
Concessions £12 | Friends £10



Saturday 11 May 14.00 – 16.00
**How to Get Published
in Asia and the UK**
Workshop with Alysoun Owen

Alysoun Owen, editor of the Writers' & Artists' Yearbook, the essential book on how to prepare your work for publication, will guide aspiring writers through the world of publishing. She will consider how writers might find an audience for their work in traditional and self-published form and will explore some of the new developments in publishing in expanding Asian markets.

Tickets £10
Concessions £8 | Friends £7



Monday 13 May 18.45

Cricket and the Rise of Modern India

James Astill – *The Great Tamasha*
– *Cricket, Corruption and the Turbulent Rise of Modern India*
Ed Hawkins – *Bookie Gambler Fixer Spy*

Two important new books examine the explosive rise of cricket and its relationship to the emerging Indian middle class – looking at politicians, bookmakers, rampant consumerism, governing bodies, players, match fixing and even murder – and how they all contribute to the story of modern India.

Tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7

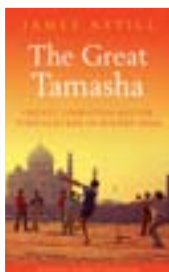


Image from *Tiger Head, Snake Tails*

Tuesday 14 May 18.45 Re-Imagining the Chinese Dream

Will Hutton – *The Writing on the Wall*
Jonathan Fenby – *Tiger Head, Snake Tails*
Gerard Lemos – *The End of the Chinese Dream: Why Chinese People Fear the Future*
with Isabel Hilton

The popular view of China is of an economic powerhouse set to dominate the 21st century. But what will recent political, economic and social changes mean to the ordinary Chinese citizen and to the rest of the world? Three highly respected experts offer a revealing picture of all facets of China, from its military might, education, health care, politics and wealth, to its own ability to cope with a changing world.

Tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7



Wednesday 15 May 18.45 Changing Places: A Global Literary Salon

Krys Lee – *Drifting House*
Prajwal Parajuly – *The Gurkha's Daughter*
Selma Dabbagh – *Out of It*
In conversation with Paul Bleazard

The Festival introduces three of the finest new voices in a salon that looks at tales of migration, exile and staying behind. Krys Lee writes about Koreans at home and abroad, Prajwal Parajuly, called "the next big thing in Asian writing", looks at Nepalese speaking people around the world and Selma Dabbagh takes us inside Palestine to experience the frustrations and energies of the modern Arab world.

Tickets £8

Concessions £7 | Friends £6

Wednesday 15 May 19.00 at The Frontline Club In the Picture: *Brave New Burma* with Nic Dunlop

Photojournalist and writer Nic Dunlop will present images from his book *Brave New Burma*, and speak about the changes he has witnessed in the two decades he has spent covering the transformations taking place in Myanmar.

Tickets £12.50

Tickets for this event can be booked through the Frontline Club – www.frontlineclub.com

Thursday 16 May 18.45

What We Don't Say – Censorship and Freedom of Expression

Salil Tripathi – *Offence: The Hindu Case*

Frances Harrison – *Still Counting the Dead*

Julia Farrington – Index on Censorship

John Kampfner – *Freedom for Sale* with Mishal Husain

What are we free to read and how do we know it's the truth? Our panel looks at freedom of speech and censorship in India, Sri Lanka, China and across Asia, examining how governments attempt to control what we think.

In partnership with AGI Magazine.

Tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7



Monday 20 May

Burma Day at Asia House

12.30 Lunch / 13.00 Talk

Lunch and Literature Burma in Style - Caroline Courtauld

Caroline Courtauld is a writer-photographer and a film-maker specialising in Burmese history. She takes us on a beautifully illustrated trip through the politics, history and culture of the country, meeting the people and evoking the magic and mystery of what was once the richest nation in Asia.

Tickets £15

Concessions £12 | Friends £10

Ticket price includes a light buffet lunch



18.30 Two Part Event

Burma from all Angles

Bones Will Crow – Burmese Poetry with James Byrne

The editor of this new anthology will treat us to a reading of poetry by some of Burma's best poets.

What Next for Burma? The View From Inside

Benedict Rogers – *Burma – A Nation at the Crossroads*

Wendy Law-Yone – *The Golden Parasol*

Rory MacLean – *Under the Dragon* With Sue Lloyd-Roberts

The great political changes in Burma have been a world focus for the past two years. But what of the continuing issues that plague the country – human rights, ethnic tensions, economic development, relations with China and N. Korea. What does the future hold for Burma?

Tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7

Tuesday 21 May 18.45

Superstars of Chinese Fiction

Ma Jian – *The Dark Road*

Yan Lianke – *Lenin's Kisses*

With Flora Drew & Boyd Tonkin

A unique opportunity to hear two of the most courageous voices in Chinese literature in conversation about their new books, the one child policy and the all-consuming desire for power and wealth that permeates Chinese society in the 21st century.

Tickets £10

Concessions £8 | Friends £7

Wednesday 22 May 18.45

Closing Night with Tan Twan Eng – *The Garden of Evening Mists*

A final evening with food, drink and discussion from Malaysia with Man Booker Prize short-listed and Man Asian Prize short-listed Tan Twan Eng and Maya Jaggi, award-winning cultural journalist and chair of judges of the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize.

Sponsored by British Malaysian Society & Paul Bloomfield Catering

Tickets £12

Concessions £10

Friends £8



Saturday Family Events

**FREE to children accompanied
by a responsible adult
BOOKING REQUIRED**

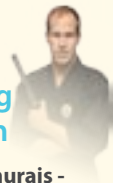


Saturday 11 May **Kids' Connecting Cultures – South Asia**

11.00 My Daddy is a Pretzel
Yoga for families with Yogi Emma

**12.00 Bollywood Punjeet and
Judy-gee Show & Workshop**
Professor Patel's characters take a
Bollywood style look at
contemporary Punch and Judy
show with Hindi film music,
dancing and lots of fun. Followed
by puppet making workshop.

For children ages 5-12



Saturday 18 May **Kids' Connecting Cultures – Japan**

**11.00 School for Samurai -
Chris Bradford with Martial
Arts and Samurai Sword
demonstration**

The author of the Young Samurai
series will do a high energy
performance, dressed in full
Samurai costume. He will talk
about his inspirations, Japanese
culture and the themes of
respect and discipline through
Martial arts.

12.00 Manga Workshop
Discover the top secrets of how
to make your own amazing
manga characters and stories
from Chie Kutsuwada, an
acclaimed professional manga
author published in Japan,
America and Britain. All materials
will be provided.

For children age 9+



Saturday 18 May **Comica MangAsia**

Talks

**12.30 – 14.00 Manga, Anime
and More**

Join us for a fascinating historical
overview of manga, anime
and other Asian graphic forms,
in China before the Cultural
Revolution, Malaysia and Korea,
looking at colonisation and
migration as influences on comic
art.

**14.30 – 15.30 Kamishibai Paper
Theatre with Sarah Rundle**

Originally performed by
bicycling Kamishibai men,
touring Japanese villages selling
sweets, these picture-based
stories are today used not only
to entertain, but for education
and as management tools. Sarah
will introduce us to the magic of
Kamishibai, with her entertaining
re-telling of a variety of traditional
stories.

**15.30 – 16.30 Asian Comics:
Manga and Beyond**

There's so much more to comics
in Asia than manga! Join Comica
Co-Director Paul Gravett for a
lively discussion between creators
of comics from across Asia,
exploring the connections and
differences between the region's
varied rich traditions.

Afternoon pass for all talks £12
Concessions £10 | Friends £8



Image Credit: Adam Robertson and Ben Robinson

Workshops
**13.45-15.15 Cosplay Workshop
and Demonstration with Emily
Batisan of the Grand Cosplay Ball**

Emily has been cosplaying for 11
years and is the UK organiser for
the World Cosplay Summit. She'll
be taking us through the basics of
putting your own cosplay costume
together - including prop making,
wig styling, traditional Japanese
clothing and how to make cosplay
accessories.

**14.30 – 16.30 Manga Masterclass
for 16+**

Learn how to improve your drawing
and storytelling from **Inko**, the
popular, widely published Japanese
manga artist. Inko has created 19
manga posters for the Embankment
tube station, and has collaborated
with David Blandy on comics, film
and animation projects. Numbers
are limited. You are welcome to
bring your own manga projects. Art
materials supplied.

Each workshop £20

Concessions £15 | Friends £10

Market

**11.00 – 16.00 MangAsia Comiket
Fair**

Meet and buy from comics creators
and other exhibitors offering their
books, posters, original art, personal
commissions, cosplay accessories
and more.

Admission to the Fair is free

MangAsia produced in partnership with the
Comica Festival and Paul Gravett

How to book

Asia House

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7307 5454
 Email: enquiries@asiahouse.co.uk
 Online: www.asiahouse.org/arts-and-culture

The Frontline Club

www.frotlineclub.com

Venues

Asia House

63 New Cavendish Street
 London, W1G 7LP

Nearest stations:
 Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Bond Street

Commonwealth Club

25 Northumberland Avenue
 London, WC2N 5AP

Nearest stations:
 Embankment, Charing Cross

Alchemy Festival Tickets

Book through Southbank Centre:
 www.southbankcentre.co.uk
 Telephone: +44 (0) 20 844 875 0073

Southbank Centre

Belvedere Road
 London, SE1 8XX

Nearest stations:
 Waterloo, Embankment

The Frontline Club

13 Norfolk Place
 London, W2 1QJ

Nearest station: Paddington

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