
How The Light Gets In Festival

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MH4 – HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 Hay Print Programme

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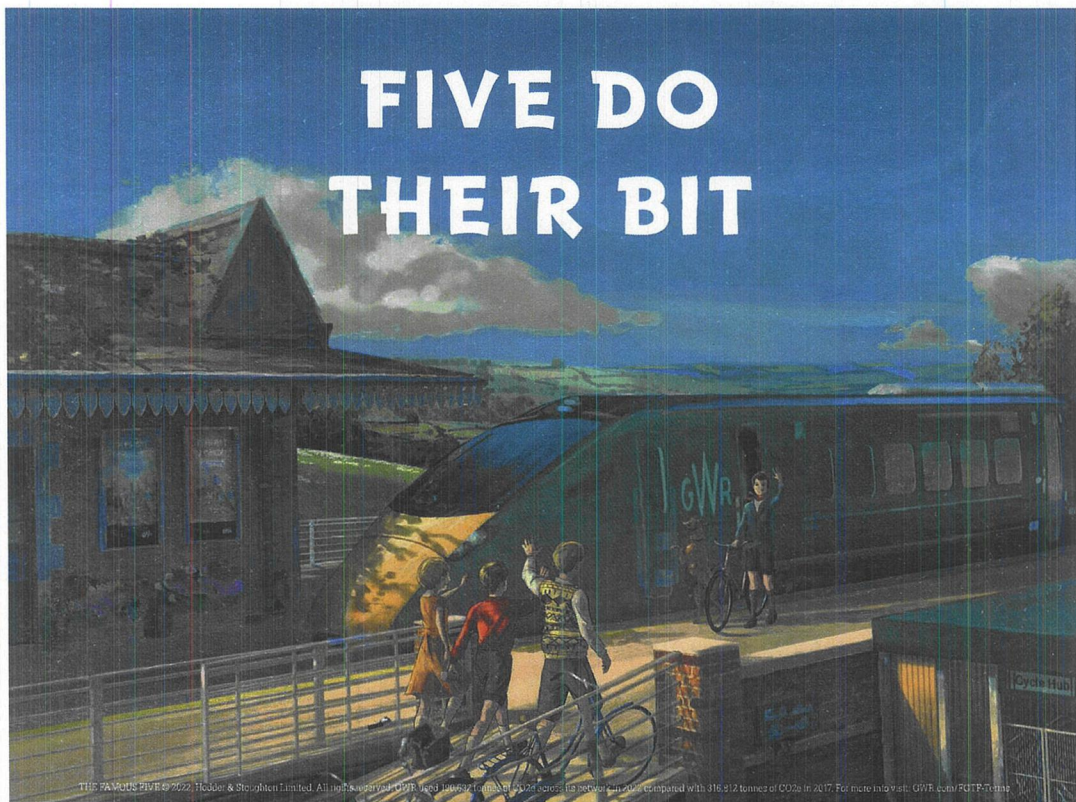
HowTheLightGetsIn

HAY 2024



24TH - 27TH MAY 2024

FIVE DO THEIR BIT



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HowTheLightGetsIn

HAY 2024

HowTheLightGetsIn is unique in combining a great music and comedy lineup that runs throughout the day and evening on eight stages, with world leading thinkers in debate and conversation on the hottest topics of the moment. This year is no exception. The programme includes the world's most renowned philosophers, Nobel prize winning scientists, top politicians, Mercury Prize nominees, legendary bands, headline comedians and every evening our celebrated parties.

Each year we choose a theme as a focus for the debates and talks. The future is always uncertain and the world and our lives unpredictable. But it is surely the case that the current outlook economically, geopolitically, environmentally and technologically is more precarious, and carrying greater risk than we have faced for a generation if not a lifetime. So it is that this year's festival theme 'Danger, Desire and Destiny' seeks to identify the dangers we face, and looks for ways forward that might deliver our desires.

In the years since the first HowTheLightGetsIn festival, not much more than a decade ago, the world has become a very different place. At the time we highlighted fault lines that were appearing in the Enlightenment dream. The assumption that the Western approach to knowledge would carry all before it and lead us to a better society was starting to look increasingly precarious in the light of relativistic and postmodern concerns. Now, just a little more than a decade on, those doubts have been made concrete by a divisive culture, and a deeply unstable world.

HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024 shines a spotlight on the decade to come and asks: what are the dangers we have overlooked, what are the ways to overcome the threats that trouble us? Do we need to think differently and change our goals so that we can evolve desirable destinies, or must we act now to confront the many divergent risks facing us? Speakers from around the world put forward their ideas and strategies to overcome the dangers we face on a hugely wide range of issues, from AI technology to geopolitics, cosmology to romantic love.

Thanks to the support of festivalgoers, artists, performers and thousands of volunteer staff and traders, the festival is growing every year, and each promises to be more spectacular than the last. We are excited to welcome you back to our favourite tents – including the unique Inner Circle tent where you can meet and talk to renowned speakers over a meal and a glass of wine. Also returning this year is the Long Table Banquet – a fabulous multi-course meal, hosted in the Waterfront. Elsewhere the Hat Sessions during the day offer a range of new events with one-on-one debates, headline talks, and 'Life and Philosophy' biographies. We are also growing our programme for children which is free for those up to 12 accompanied by an adult, and a special range of lectures for pre-university pupils with some tips for their university applications at the IAI School. See the relevant sections in this programme and bring the family to the festival with something for everyone.

Our partners are vital to the success of the festival. So a big welcome to our partners including Scientific American, The Conversation, The Guardian, Foreign Policy, and a huge thank you to our philosophy partners like the Royal Institute of Philosophy, the Essentia Foundation, Theos and Audio Note. And thank you also to Waterstones for joining us once again as our bookshop partner – do make sure to check out their tent for signings, performances and to meet all of your favourite speakers.

HowTheLightGetsIn is a festival unlike any other. Discover original ideas from those at the very top of their field and fresh ground-breaking perspectives from new voices. Be transported by exciting bands, remarkable soloists, award-winning comedians and sensational cabaret acts. Above all, share your thoughts, your dance moves, your company, and magic is sure to come your way.

Welcome to HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2024.

howthelightgetsin.org

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME



FESTIVAL SITE

Opening onto a glorious stretch of the river Wye, the festival site is set amid some of the finest scenery in the country and boasts 12 stages and exciting new venues.

The Arena and the International host headline music acts at night and key debates during the day. The Hat, our main music venue, has a range of inspiring sessions during the day and hosts a late night party. The Stage stretches along the river with the Festival Bookshop, café and gentle music events during the day with cabaret and comedy in the evening. At Riverside Disco you can dance all evening, or enjoy a drink at Pooka's Garden during the day and watch the river go by.

Grab a bite at the Waterfront Kitchen, head to the Cinema tent for Dokbox Films and video art, or browse the market stalls in the Foye. If you want to unwind away from the mayhem, make your way to Bohemia and the Aurum Spa. Don't leave without trying the ferris wheel for a wondrous view of Hay and the Black Mountains.

For a detailed venue guide see p.84.



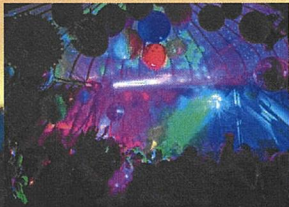
DEBATES AND TALKS

"Danger, Desire and Destiny" is this year's theme. Each of our debates seeks a new way forward as we explore how best to deal with an uncertain future. The biggest debates run in the Arena and the International.

HowTheLightGetsIn's debate programme spans philosophy, politics, science, culture and the arts, and features the brightest minds from every field of endeavour. Topics include everything from the mystery of dark energy to the value of elections, from the speed of light to the role of consciousness.

As well as the debates, you can hear our speakers in The Ring as they put forward their views on the issues they think most important.

The Hat Session programme features speakers discussing their Life and Philosophy, their ideas and their dreams for the future, delivering masterful 'How To' sessions in a programme of intimate and experiential talks.



MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Our Music and Performance programme takes place across eight stages showcasing the best the UK has to offer, from enchanting solo singers to exhilarating dance beats. Our headline bands, performers, DJs and nightly themed parties have become the stuff of legend.

Throughout the day, alongside the debate and talk programme, music and performance events run in the Blue Moon, Front Rooms and the Stage. In the Cinema, the documentary platform Dokbox is screening its top programming. Laugh until your sides ache with the UK's funniest comic talent. Put on your glad rags for the nightly parties and get ready to dance until your feet hurt.

Festival Tickets provide access to all music and performance events.



EXPERIENCES

Inner Circle events are a unique opportunity to discuss the day's ideas with the world leading thinkers in our programme. Set in its own beautiful tent, this is a remarkable chance to meet speakers informally over a meal and a glass of wine. Book your tickets early – our tables fit a maximum of 20 people and are often the first to sell out.

If you are looking for something properly special, don't miss our Long Table Bonquets: a fabulous multi-course meal in the Waterfront Kitchen, which also hosts a range of street-food inspired gourmet outlets. And for a gentle thrill, try out our vintage rides, or unwind and relax and revitalise with a massage or yoga session in Bohemia. Or try the all-ages pottery workshops in the Mindcraft tent. These are ticketed events so book early to avoid disappointment.

Extra Experiences can be booked online or at the Box Office. They are not included in Festival Tickets.



IAI ACADEMY

IAI Academy gives you the chance to take courses led by a world-leading faculty putting forward their unique takes on the ideas that matter in short, two-part courses. There is also plenty of opportunity to meet others attending the course and your lecturer over tea and coffee both before and during the course.

Those who wish to can take an end of course assessment and receive a certificate of attendance. But we welcome those who come for the ideas alone.

Topics range from the mystery of black holes, to the politics of the body, to what will follow postmodernism.

See p. 58 for details. Academy courses are included in Festival Tickets.

THANKS TO

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Great ideas, great debates, insights across every critical issue. Fantastic.

Fiona Hill,
presidential advisor



Our Philosophy

While there is little of the future that we can be certain about, we can nevertheless be confident that a time will come when our current beliefs and assumptions are seen as mistaken, our heroes – like the imperial adventurers of the past – are regarded as villains, and our current morality viewed as bigoted prejudice. In this light, the IAI was founded to challenge the notion that our present accepted wisdom is the truth. Its mission to uncover flaws and limitations in current thinking in search of new ways of seeing that provide alternative and better ways of understanding.

The IAI's primary vehicle for change is the ideas and educational platform IAI.tv, with daily updates adding to thousands of debates, talks, interviews, articles, courses and podcasts. In addition to members of the public, universities, colleges and schools subscribe on behalf of their students. IAI content is first realised at HowTheLightGetsIn or at monthly online events and later released on the platform. IAI's content is currently watched by more than three million unique viewers a month.

When the IAI was founded, some fifteen years ago, philosophy seemed to many on the brink of irrelevance. Locked in an ivory tower arguing over the meaning of words, it resembled to some the technical disputes of the medieval church with a similar level of relevance to lives and culture. IAI's goal then and now is to return philosophy to big ideas and put them at the centre of our culture. Not in the belief that there is a single definitive truth to be found but in the belief that there are new frames to be uncovered, new lands to explore that might help to address the troubles and potential of our time.

We must all make sense of the strange experience of being alive whether we choose to focus on it or not. To give some account of the world we find ourselves in, to decide how to intervene and what to pursue. Some fall back on authority, be it a scientific expert, guru or sacred book to give direction. Some follow the views and behaviour of their tribe, be it family, social group, political party or religion. Yet philosophy is most truly itself when there are no authorities that are accepted without challenge,

no beliefs that are endorsed without question. Philosophy is not a technical exercise. It is instead an urgent call to examine where we are, in order to determine what can and should be done.

A radical rethinking is necessary because the traditional modernist notion that we are gradually uncovering the one true account of reality has been undermined by an awareness that ideas are limited by culture, history and language. In an internet age in which alternative and competing perspectives are vividly apparent, the divisiveness of this postmodern culture has left many lost and confused, not knowing what to believe or how to find the answers.

IAI research and editorial teams face up to this predicament by identifying the key challenges in any given field and searching out fresh responses and ways of thinking that might take us forward. We look not only to philosophers, but to scientists, novelists, politicians and artists. For the big questions are present in every field, and new philosophical ideas are at least as likely to appear in literature, history or science as they are in philosophy.

IAI is driven by ideas, not by status or celebrity. We are pleased to host Nobel Prize winners, leading politicians, award winning authors and cutting edge commentators. But we do not invite our speakers because of their fame. Instead we develop and construct debates that we assess are at the edge of contemporary thought, and seek out those who have the most interesting and challenging things to say.

It has been encouraging to see that since we began, we hope aided by our efforts, philosophy has undergone something of a resurgence in public life. For philosophy and big ideas are not an optional add-on to our everyday lives, but an essential determinant of who and where we are, and of what is possible.

Hilary Lawson
Editorial Director, IAI

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the world thinks

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Change how the world thinks

By joining our Patron Circle, you enable ideas to flourish and increase access to ground-breaking theories and educational resources.

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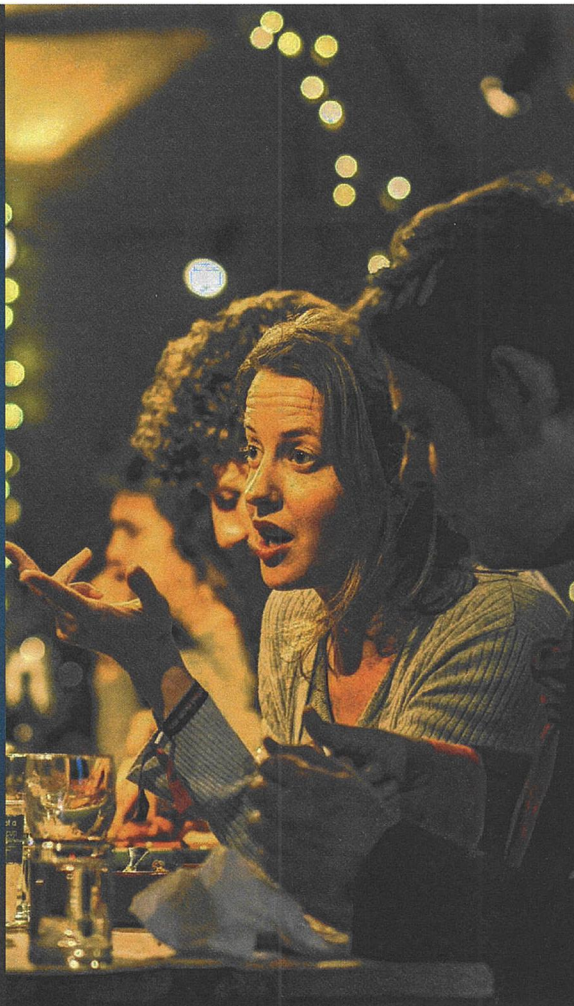
- Complimentary tickets to HowTheLightGetsIn festivals
- Exclusive access to Festival Artists & Speakers evening reception
- Priority booking: for Hay accommodation as well as Inner Circle events
- Fast track tickets: no queues and reserved seating
- Daily pass for official Festival car park in Hay
- Full 'Premium Live' subscription to IAI.tv: access to 3000+ debates and talks online

Our Patrons are changing how the world thinks.
Step inside our circle to join us.

Full details on the website:
www.iai.tv/support-the-iai/patrons

Sign up today:
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iai Changing how
the world thinks



HowTheLightGetsIn Festival Bookshop

In association with Waterstone's



www.waterstones.co.uk

Book Signings

Find us in the Stage tent. Continue the debate at our author signings. See selected signings below. More book signings will also be taking place after speakers' debates and talks. These will be listed on the board outside the bookshop at the festival.

FRIDAY 24 TH	SATURDAY 25 TH	SUNDAY 26 TH	MONDAY 27 TH
6.20 pm Amy Chua	11.35 am Paul Bloom	11.35 am Abby Innes	11.35 am Denis Noble
8.05 pm John Ralston Saul	12.35 pm Frank Tallis	2.20 pm Ian Pappé	12.20 pm Rowan Williams & Lyndsey Stonebridge
8.20 pm John Lennox	1.05 pm Harry Cliff	2.50 pm David Petraeus	1.35 pm Peter Singer
	2.50 pm Jenny Kleeman	3.35 pm Peter Singer	3.50 pm Christina Lamb
	5.05 pm Lynne Segal	3.50 pm Paterson Joseph	
	6.35 pm Bernard-Henri Lévy		

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

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FESTIVAL TICKETS

Festival Tickets provide access to events including Debates, Talks, Music, DJs, Parties, Performances, Comedy, Dokbox Films, and IAI Academy Courses throughout the weekend.

A limited number of Festival Day Tickets are also available. Festival tickets are available on the website or during the festival at the Box Office.

FAST PASSES

Festival ticket holders can purchase Fast Passes for any debate or talk. Fast Pass holders do not have to queue and have a prime seat reserved for them in the venue.

Purchase Fast Passes on the Programme page of the website.

EXTRA EXPERIENCES

Inner Circle events are your chance to discuss ideas with our speakers. Taking place over breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, or a glass of wine and nibbles in the evening you'll have your chance to have your say on the day's ideas.

You can also join a spectacular four course Long Table Banquet in the Waterfront, relax with a Spa Session in Bohemia courtesy of Aurum, enjoy pottery sessions in Mindcraft, or join a free-wheeling round table discussion with nibbles and a glass of wine in our Philosophy Salon.

Please note: Extra Experiences are not included in Festival Tickets.

FESTIVAL FLEXI TICKET

Drop into the festival to see a few events on different days. The Flexi Ticket provides access to 4 headline events listed on our website Programme page. Add a Flexi Day Pass for the day/s you want to attend the festival.

You do not need to specify your four headline events in advance, just turn up and decide what event you want to attend. If you want to guarantee priority entry purchase a Fast Pass.

See website for details. Please note Flexi Day Passes are only available to Flexi Ticket holders.

TICKET PRICING

We have variable pricing on all our tickets. The earlier you book, the cheaper the ticket.

For the latest ticket information and prices, check our website.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Friday 24th May

4:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[2] 4:15 pm **Benedict Mulcare** BLUE MOON

LIVE MUSIC

[3] 4:30 pm **Ella Clayton** THE HAT

Chosen by George Ezra to play on his stage at Latitude last year, and coming off the back of three sell-out headline shows, singer-songwriter Ella Clayton has evoked comparisons to Bon Iver and Adienne Lenker.

"Speaks right into your heart." – *Leftion*

5:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[4] 5:00 pm **Fran Minney** STAGE

INNER CIRCLE

Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.

[5] 5:00 pm *From £18* **INNER CIRCLE**

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Priya Natarajan

How did the universe begin? What is Dark Matter? And what was the universe like in the period just after its origin? Join renowned mapper of dark matter, Priya Natarajan, as she explores the mysteries of the cosmos.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[6] 5:15 pm **Jupiter Guitar Duo** BLUE MOON

5:30 PM

TALK

[7] 5:30 pm **Ode to Outsiders** THE RING

Amy Chua

Yale Law Professor and author of the internationally best selling 'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother', Amy Chua is renowned for her controversial views on parenting, global affairs, and political tribalism. Join Professor Chua to discover how her challenging views shaped the development of her debut novel, *The Golden Gate*, and how the rejections outsiders receive are often a blessing in disguise.

"Chua's work strives to traverse the no-go areas around which others usually tip-toe." – *The New York Times*

5:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[8] 5:30 pm **Toni Sancho** THE HAT

Toni Sancho

Named 'One to Watch' by *The Guardian*, Trinidad-born London-based Toni Sancho is a potent songwriter and capturing attention with her riveting honesty, incorporating the R&B emotion of D'Angelo, the theatre of Florence + The Machine, and the ambition of Frank Ocean.

"Genius." – *The Guardian*

INNER CIRCLE

[9] 5:30 pm *From £18* **INNER CIRCLE**

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Rana Mitter

China sees itself as the future of the global order. But is this confidence deserved? Join Harvard historian, Rana Mitter, to explore China's rise and whether it really will be the leaders of the New World Order.

6:00 PM

DEBATE

[10] 6:00 pm **The Riddle of the Beginning** ARENA

Scott Aaronson, Marika Taylor, John Lennox, Joscha Bach, Shini Somara hosts.

The mystery of how the universe began, and why there is something rather than nothing, is a puzzle that has perplexed scientists, philosophers, and theologians from the outset of thought. Even Hawking declared science "cannot answer why there should be a universe". But is there a risk that we have failed to recognise the wider significance of this deep puzzle? The hugely influential philosopher Immanuel Kant argued that the ideas that the universe has a beginning or has no beginning, are equally incoherent. He concluded that human thought is not capable of describing what he called 'transcendent reality'.

Should we see our failure to provide an answer to the beginning of the universe as evidence of a fundamental limitation of thought? As a result, are our accounts of the world and science itself mere versions of reality that in the end lies beyond our comprehension? Or was Kant wrong, and a solution to the mystery conceivable even if it has not yet been framed?

MIT complexity theorist Scott Aaronson, theoretical physicist Marika Taylor, mathematician John Lennox, and AI researcher Joscha Bach debate the puzzling mystery of the origin of the universe.

6:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[11] 6:00 pm **Danielle Lewis** STAGE

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[12] 6:15 pm **Mr H** BLUE MOON

6:30 PM

TALK

[13] 6:30 pm **The Laws of Physics are Not Fixed** THE RING

João Maguêijo

We think that the laws of physics are unchanging and cannot be violated. Join pioneering physicist, João Maguêijo, as he argues that everything we thought we knew about the laws of physics is wrong. They do change. And they can be violated. What's more, a new understanding of these laws could help solve the mystery of dark matter.

"Familiarising his readers with the hippest ideas in modern science." – *The Observer*



João Maguêijo

LIVE MUSIC

[14] 6:30 pm **Eve Appleton Band** THE HAT

Eve Appleton Band

Green Man Rising 2023's crowned champions come with Bible-black parables, nursery rhymes and ballads. Expect to hear echoes of 60s Folk Revival, Americana, and Alternative Folk.

"Compelling progressive folk songs." – *NME*

howthelightgetsin.org

IDEAS & CULTURE

7:00 PM

DEBATE

[15] 7:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Tyranny of the Pen
John Ralston Saul, Joanna Kavenna, Ruth Padell, Rana Mitter hosts.

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write" declared Martin Luther King. For writing is central to our culture and seen as the vehicle of precision and accuracy. Theories, contracts, treaties all need to be written to be taken seriously. But there is a hidden danger in our reliance on writing, for it can give the illusion of precision and truth. From Wittgenstein to Derrida, philosophers have argued that precise meaning is elusive, as legal disputes over contracts testify. In an internet age, we increasingly use text to communicate, but as many discover it can frequently derail rather than enhance understanding.

Have we mistaken written text for the truth when it is often a reach for control, an attempt to impose your story on others? Are we undermining meaning and diminishing our reality by spending time framing emails and texts when we should be using the fluid potential of speech instead? Or are we right to be dazzled by the timeless quality of writing and its capacity to change the world?

Best selling author John Ralston Saul, poet and novelist Ruth Padell, and award-winning author Joanna Kavenna, debate whether the written word has been mistaken for truth.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[16] 7:00 pm STAGE
The Hedgesong Collective

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[17] 7:15 pm BLUE MOON
MaJam

7:30 PM

TALK

[18] 7:30 pm THE RING

The Promise and Peril of AI
John Lennox

There has been an explosion in the development of artificial intelligence, a technology thought to bring both promise and peril. Join mathematician and bioethicist John Lennox as he reveals the mechanistic worldview of the creators of this dangerous technology, and argues for a clear separation between man and machine.

"Considers the best, most recent science and demonstrates the picture looks far different from what we've been told." - Michael Behe

8:00 PM



Claudia de Rham

DEBATE

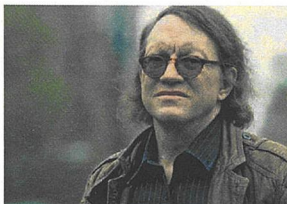
[19] 8:00 pm ARENA

Faster Than Light
João Magueijo, Claudia de Rham, Tim Maudlin, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

Ever since Einstein's special theory in 1905, it has been a central pillar of science that the speed of light is an absolute fixed limit and the same in all circumstances. But critics argue this is a mistaken assumption that prevents physics from making progress. They maintain the period of cosmic inflation that in the standard picture of cosmology followed the Big Bang has to take place at many orders of magnitude faster than the speed of light. Moreover, researchers argue that Einstein's general theory never prohibited faster-than-light travel in the first place.

Should we abandon the sacrosanct idea nothing can exceed the speed of light as a flawed assumption that derails physics? Should we be less attached to Einstein and more open to new and alternative theories? Or are these dangerous proposals that threaten to undermine the remarkable successes of science over the last century?

Portuguese cosmologist João Magueijo, philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin, and award-winning physicist Claudia de Rham, debate the speed of light.



Tim Maudlin

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[20] 8:00 pm THE HAT

Pushpin
Green Man Rising finalists Pushpin are one of the most exciting bands on London's new music scene. The charismatic showmen have been described as having the vocals of Mika, the sublime harmonies of Fleet Foxes, and the amphibious, compelling sound of Animal Collective.

"Brimming with energy and rhythmic momentum."
- Apocalypse Music

BANQUET

[21] 8:00 pm From £42 WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Friday

Our exclusive Long Table Banquets offer you the unmissable opportunity to tuck into a lavish four-course meal with like-minded festival goers. Expect delicious food, award-winning wine and stimulating conversation in the Waterfront, overlooking the River Wye. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are strictly limited.

INNER CIRCLE

Join a free-wheeling roundtable discussion kicked off by the world's leading thinkers on the biggest ideas. Enjoy a glass of wine and tasty nibbles in an intimate candlelit space.

[22] 8:15 pm From £28 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: Can literature change the world?
Frank Tallis, Janne Teller and Justine Kolata

Can literature save your life? Join critically-acclaimed author Frank Tallis, revolutionary novelist Janne Teller, and philosophical salon host Justine Kolata, as they debate the power of literature's influence on the self, class and politics.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[23] 8:15 pm BLUE MOON
Hawk Howard



HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN OPENING PARTY

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[24] 8:30 pm STAGE

Katie Green

Come watch Katie, seen on Comedy Central and tour support for Jonathan Van Ness, figure out her life, and next show, out on stage. Topics include: being awkward, dating, her Quinceañera, adapting to life in the UK, and probably being stressed out about a guy not texting her back.

"Her razor-sharp wit and subversive humour led us to unexpected places." - Funny Women

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[25] 9:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Ayanna Witter-Johnson

After impressing at the MOBO awards and wowing with a soaring performance at the Royal Albert Hall, soulful singer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson makes her triumphant return to HowTheLightGetsIn. She is musical proof that classical and alternative R&B music can and should coexist. It's no wonder that Gilles Peterson calls himself her biggest fan.

"The artist of our time... she is fire." - The Guardian

COMEDY

[26] 9:00 pm THE RING

Alex Kealy

The 'almost sassy cerebral' (Daily Telegraph), Alex Kealy, presents a show about fear, after 2022's 'breakneck pace... wonderful new hour' (The List). As heard on BBC Radio 4's The Now Show, and writer for Mock The Week and Have I Got News For You.

"Excellent... dynamite, interstellar routine which I wish I had written!" - Mark Kermode

9:00 PM



Ayanna Witter-Johnson

POKBOX

[27] 9:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Your 100 Year Life

All around the world people are living longer than ever before. But can we afford it? In our wealthiest nations, old age homelessness is on the rise and so is the number of pensioners using food banks. This documentary uncovers the root of the problem and what we can do to solve it.

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[28] 9:00 pm to late RIVERSIDE DISCO

Max Galactic presents Hay Pride
Max Galactic, Boo La Croux and Cwm Rag

Hay Pride take over the night's proceedings alongside Welsh party starters Cwm Rag, who'll be adding a large dash of queer anarchy and Valley's dazzle. Expect high jinx and hedonism all hosted and overseen by the delectable BooLaCroux. DJ Max Galactic will be on hand to provide the party bangers!

9:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[29] 9:15 pm BLUE MOON
Ceri Ridge Hillbillies

9:30 PM

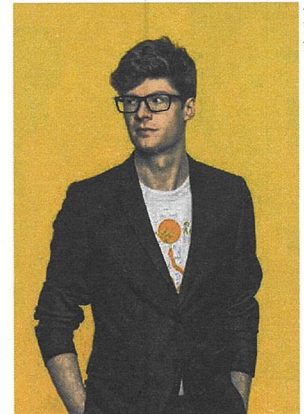
LIVE MUSIC

[30] 9:30 pm ARENA

Richard Dawson

His album, *Peasant*, was chosen as 2017 Album of the Year by the Quietus and he has recently sold out shows at the Barbican and played Berghain. Northumbrian contemporary songwriter and storyteller, Richard Dawson, has risen to international acclaim with his combination of exquisite lyricism and virtuosic performance style drawing on a wide range of influences from folk to prog rock.

"Thrilling." - The Guardian



Alex Kealy



9:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[31] 9:30 pm

THE HAT

Mr Tea & The Minions

Established favourites Mr Tea and The Minions have played well over a hundred UK festivals, including Glastonbury, Boomtown, WOMAD, Beautiful Days, Secret Garden Party and Belladrum. Led by Ella's powerful vocals and Lucy's vibrant folk fiddle, the band have built a reputation for extravagantly colourful, theatrical live performances.

"The Minions seamlessly weave Balkan Beats with ska, dub and swing to create a bouncing set. It's impossible not to get involved." – The Independent

10:00 PM

COMEDY

[32] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Burt Williamson

With multiple critically acclaimed runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and a comedy hour special available online, you might be thinking what's next for the comedian, and Bristol favourite, Burt Williamson? The answer is simple, more comedy.

"Unexpectedly hilarious at every turn and a great joy." – The Scotsman

DOKBOX

[33] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

In Search of Frida Kahlo

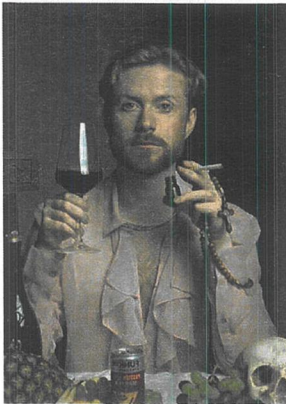
Frida Kahlo is one of the most iconic artists of all time. This film follows one of her biggest fans, international acclaimed musician Emeli Sandé, as she retraces the life behind the legend. With rare archive footage and exclusive access, this personal film is a unique look at the life of the artist.

10:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[34] 10:15 pm
Ian James

BLUE MOON



11:00 PM



LIVE MUSIC

[36] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

Mad Professor and Sister Audrey

Legendary dub icon Mad Professor is one of the biggest names in the genre. His innovative music has been instrumental in dub's transition to the digital age, and anyone who hears it can't help but dance. A longstanding collaborator of the likes of Massive Attack, Grace Jones, and Lee "Scratch" Perry, at HowTheLightGetsIn May 2024 he's joined by established roots reggae favourite, Sister Audrey.

"Mind-melting." – The Independent

10:30 PM

COMEDY

[35] 10:30 pm

THE RING

John Tothill

Coming fresh from a sold-out run at Soho Theatre, John Tothill is equal parts bon vivant, social commentator and gossip spreader all rolled into comedy. Winner of the 2Northdown new act award, John is described as one of the most "personable and truly funny talents" on the comedy scene by The List Magazine, and as "the first comedian ever to reference Hobbesian economics on stage" by Charlie.

"What a treat." – The Guardian



iaj The Institute of Art and Ideas

11:00 PM

DOKBOX

[37] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Burnout: The Truth About Work

We are busier than ever, working longer hours, with 24/7 communication access and striving to meet increasing targets. This raises the fundamental question: Why do we even work? This film delves into how excessive working is harming us and destroying the planet, and reveals what we can do about it.

11:15 PM



LIVE MUSIC

[38] 11:15 pm

ARENA

Hercules and Love Affair (DJ)

Awarded 2022 Album of the Year by The Arts Desk, Hercules and Love Affair are dance music legends. Pitchfork ranked their chart-hitting anthem 'Blind' (with frequent collaborator ANOHNI) among their top twenty songs of the decade. Project mastermind Andy Butler brings his unique sound to HowTheLightGetsIn.

"Phenomenal." – Pitchfork

11:15 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[39] 11:15 pm
Charlie James

BLUE MOON

11:30 PM

CABARET

[40] 11:30 pm

STAGE

Amber Topaz

A fierce, femme, fabulous, musical comedy show from the multi-award-winning, international cabaret sensation Amber Topaz. This enthralling linguist hilariously morphs her way through a medley of musical milestones, highlighting the absurdity of human behaviour under the influence of hormones. Celebrating and advocating the lusty libido. Prepare for a standing ovulation. Not for the prudish or easily offended.

"An explosion of charisma and stage presence." – GQ

12:00 AM



DOKBOX

[41] 12:00 am

ART & CINEMA TENT

Indigiqueer

Sarain Fox examines the past, present and future of queerness for the indigenous LGBTQ+ community. Dive into the history of Canada's queer indigenous population and explore the nature of Two-Spirit identities with the help of knowledge-keepers, community leaders, and even Drag Race's Illona Verley.

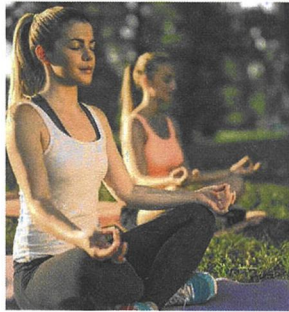
Music & Acoustic Sessions

[42] 12:15 am
Delphis

BLUE MOON

howthelightgetsin.org

 EXPERIENCES



SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Atrium Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

3:00 pm

BOHEMIA

Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

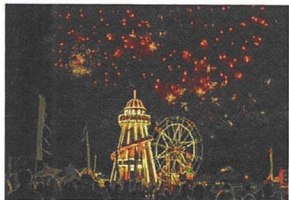
FAYRE

3:00pm

FAYRE

FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

3:00pm

RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.



INNER CIRCLE

[5] 5:00 pm From £18 INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
 with Priya Natarajan

[9] 5:30 pm From £18 INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
 with Rona Miller

Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.



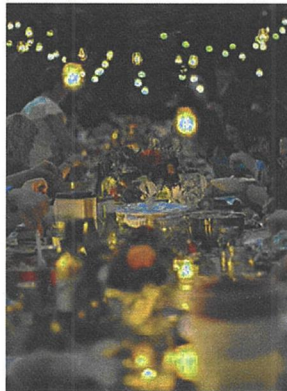
FRONT ROOM & RIVERSIDE DISCO

3:00 pm to late

FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.



9:00pm to late

RIVERSIDE DISCO

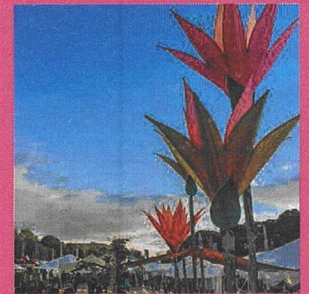
Riverside Disco

Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.

A wonderful experience for speakers and listeners alike.



Jared Diamond,
 Pulitzer Prize-winner



IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh pastries and coffee.

[45] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE
Philosophy Breakfast with Dominic Walliman

The public gains profound insights from science. But few consider the wisdom scientists themselves gain when they share their work with the public. Award-winning science communicator, Dominic Walliman explains how communication changes the way scientists think.

[46] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE
Philosophy Breakfast with Myriam François

We tend to think of documentaries as a representation of the facts. But not so argues award-winning filmmaker Myriam François. Key perspectives are often left out and we need a proposal for how we get them back into the discussion.

10:00 AM

TALK

[47] 10:00 am THE RING

The Dark Energy Delusion
Claudia de Rham

Physicists have spent decades looking for evidence of the force known as 'dark energy'. It makes up two thirds of the universe and is put forward to explain the accelerating expansion of the universe. But might this be mistaken? Join groundbreaking physicist, Claudia de Rham, as she argues we have a better candidate to explain the accelerating expansion: quantum vacuum energy.

"de Rham has pioneered a radical theory." - Hannah Devlin

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[48] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

The Politics of the Body
Matthew Beaumont

We normally think of our bodies aesthetically or biologically. But there is much to be learnt about the phenomenology and philosophy of our physique, and how it interacts with, reflects, and is part of our experience of the world. Join Professor of English at UCL, Matthew Beaumont, as he guides us through the philosophy of Franz Fanon and William Reich, and argues that our bodies impact the way we see the world, our social and political experience, and our self-perception.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

10:30 AM

DEBATE

[49] 10:30 am ARENA

The Democracy Show
S.Y. Quraishi, Amy Chua, Sophie Scott-Brown.

There can be little doubt, judging from wall-to-wall media coverage, that we assume elections profoundly affect our lives. But there's a risk they have far less impact than we imagine. A recent wide-ranging study of Western governments over the last thirty years remarkably showed no relation between the ideological outlook of citizens and actual social policy. Moreover critics from right and left argue that it is unelected officials and corporations that primarily determine policy. Meanwhile, longstanding political challenges like social care and wealth inequality remain unaddressed for decades despite changing governments.

Should we conclude that leaders and governments rarely make a significant difference to core policy? Are elections largely about a show of democracy rather than the actuality? Could and should we change this state of affairs and if so how? Or is the belief that elections are important essential to democratic nation-states?

Yale law professor and 'Tiger mom' Amy Chua, anarchist philosopher Sophie Scott-Brown, and former Indian election commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, lock horns over the effectiveness of elections.

DEBATE

[50] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

Belief, Value and Superstition
Paul Bloom, Felipe de Vale, Catherine Rowett, Winston Marshall. Rana Mitter hosts.

Religion has been on a decline in the West for the last fifty years, with recent numbers falling rapidly in the US. For decades the youngest generation was the least likely to believe in God. But in a 2020 YouGov survey Generation Z was shown to be 25% more likely to believe in God than millennials. Meanwhile the so-called New Theists argue for the adoption of Christian beliefs not on the grounds that they are true but they are the means to create a stable and successful culture. While secular critics argue the return of belief risks a new age of superstition, bigotry and intolerance.

Is the rise in new age and traditional religious belief in the young a dangerous return of unsupported fantasy? Should we double down on the need for rationalism and a careful scientific assessment of evidence? Or is it a welcome sign of a desire for an agreed moral framework in response to the chaos of a post-truth world?

Trail-blazing psychologist Paul Bloom, Mumford & Sons guitarist and Spectator columnist Winston Marshall, professor of ethics and theology Felipe de Vale, and philosopher and former Green MEP Catherine Rowett, debate the new era of belief.



10:30 AM

HAT SESSIONS

[51] 10:30 am THE HAT

Philosophy of the Senses: Touch
Barry C. Smith

Touch is one of our universal human experiences. It's how we interact with the world, show affection, and nourish the soul, but what ideas lie behind the magic of touch? In this informative and entertaining workshop, The Centre for the Study of the Senses will offer a range of sensory experiences to explore how our senses work and put us in deeper touch with our surroundings and ourselves. Expect to see the world differently when you leave. With philosopher of the senses Barry C. Smith.

"Well up to the task in questions about taste and perception, subjectivity and objectivity." - The TLS



Amy Chua

11:00 AM

TALK

[52] 11:00 am THE RING

The Theory of Quantum Politics
Armen Sarkissian

As the multi-polar world of global politics becomes ever more complex, who better to cast light on its workings than a physicist turned President? Join Armen Sarkissian, former President of Armenia, as he argues for his new theory of quantum politics, in which individuals are necessarily connected across space and our world is dominated by randomness, uncertainty and possibility.

"Sarkissian clarifies the important role small states play in upholding world order." - Henry Kissinger

11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[53] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT
Discover your superpower! (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[54] 11:00 am BLUE MOON
Trai

11:30 AM

DEBATE

[55] 11:30 am THE HAT

The Real Me
Steve Taylor, Frank Tallis, Susan Schneider, Jack Symes, Joanna Kavenna hosts.

Many identify themselves with their inner voice - the silent voice in our heads we can use to think, plan and ponder. But from Lacan to Nietzsche many have warned this inner voice is not ourselves, nor is it innocent or harmless. Studies from Durham University and Trinity College Dublin link the inner voice with increased anxiety. While others show those that take their own lives are often tortured by a subliminal message. Furthermore, research at Imperial, and the University of Michigan found evidence that when our inner voice is reduced mental health improves.

Should we conclude the inner voice is not the "real me", and its voice should be treated with caution? Should we seek to quieten the inner voice using techniques like psychotherapy, and meditation, and would doing so help combat the mental health crisis? Or did we evolve an inner voice for a reason, and should we see it as our conscience, a problem solving tool and as a guide in our lives?

Psychologist and author Steve Taylor, American philosopher Susan Schneider, award-winning author and psychologist Frank Tallis, and Durham philosopher Jack Symes, debate whether the inner voice is the self.



Susan Schneider

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[56] 11:30 am STAGE
Gareth Rees

IDEAS & CULTURE

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[57] 12:00 pm ARENA

The Creativity Crisis
Judith Donath, Martha Fiennes, John Ralston Saul, Niki Seth-Smith hosts.

Creativity is often seen as a uniquely human quality. But with generative AI competing with and rivaling human skills, is this core facet of humanity under threat? As machines demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated ability to generate art, music, and literature, the once-sacred notion of human exclusivity in creativity is being questioned. 75% incorrectly identify AI artworks as man-made, while creatives globally are fearful of cuts to earnings and jobs as they face off with the new technology.

Do we have to accept that there is nothing special about the originality of humans, and creativity once so prized is a skill machines can also master? Do we need to reassess what it means to be human and with it the future of innovation, and invention? Or are the skills and qualities of generative AI overhyped and in fact no more than the dumb and repetitive combination of insights initiated by humans?

Film director Martha Fiennes, computer scientist Judith Donath, and award-winning essayist John Ralston Saul, explore how AI affects what it means to be human.

In Partnership with New Humanist

DEBATE

[58] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Mystery in the Making
Björn Ekeberg, Claudia de Rham, Harry Cliff, Shini Somara hosts.

We have the impression that science unravels the mysteries of the universe. But with every mystery solved, a new mystery emerges. The Big Bang gave us an explanation for the expanding universe but left the mystery of how it came about. Quantum mechanics accounted for the strange behaviour of subatomic particles, but led to the puzzle of its conflict with relativity. Dark energy made sense of an accelerating universe but led to the mystery of why we have no evidence for it. Is there a danger that we are making a fundamental mistake in imagining science can eradicate mystery, and do we need to think of science differently as a consequence?

Do we need to abandon the idea that science has the potential to provide a complete explanation? Should we not expect science to eradicate mystery and instead simply require that its theories work well enough for our current aims and purposes? Or is the ability to overcome mystery essential to the effective operation of science and a core idea responsible for its success?

Philosopher of science and writer Björn Ekeberg, theoretical physicist Claudia de Rham, and CERN physicist Harry Cliff, debate the mysteries of the universe.

howthelighgetsin.org

12:00 PM

TALK

[59] 12:00 pm THE RING

Stoicism Reimagined
Nancy Sherman

We think that stoicism is defined by a rugged self-reliance and indifference to events. Join distinguished philosopher, Nancy Sherman, as she argues this is radically mistaken, and that building deep emotional connections with the world, and the people in it, is as important for the stoics as it is for everyone else. Prepare for stoicism to be reimagined.

"A sure-footed and appealing guide." - Martha Nussbaum

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[60] 12:00 pm BLUE MOON
Hay Climate Choir

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[61] 12:30 pm STAGE
Fran Lusby

Children's Programme

[62] 12:30 pm MINDCRAFT
Pottery Extravaganza (See p.60)

1:00 PM

TALK

[63] 1:00 pm THE RING

The Politics of Time
Guy Standing

Time is political. Throughout history, how we use our time has been controlled by the rich and powerful, and today is no exception. Even outside of work, we're almost always 'on the clock'. Join pioneering economist, Guy Standing, as he shows us how to reclaim our most valuable asset: time.

"Guy Standing's Politics of Time is a splendid addition to his important work." - Yanis Varoufakis

In Partnership with Audio Note



Guy Standing

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[64] 1:00 pm
The Future of Music
Flo Gallop

THE HAT

Music has been profoundly changed by streaming. Algorithms direct discoveries, track preferences, and shape our desires. Are we controlling the algorithm or is the algorithm controlling us? Will the immediate availability of almost everything gradually remove the desire for the new and will a relative handful of artists dominate our listening for the foreseeable future? Artist Flo Gallop and a special guest, debate the future of music, and the value and threat of the technology.

INNER CIRCLE

Track into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers and a glass of award-winning wine.

[65] 1:00 pm From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Scott Aaronson

Join world-leading computer scientist, Scott Aaronson, as he expounds on how the AI age will be forever changed by the introduction of quantum computing.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[66] 1:00 pm
Ella Clayton

BLUE MOON

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[67] 1:15 pm
The Indian Century
Meghnad Desai, S.Y. Quraishi,
Kate Sullivan de Estrada. Rana Mitter hosts.

ARENA

The world's largest democracy, India, is seen as the West's obvious ally against the growing might of China. But might there be a risk that India is not the stalwart ally the West has assumed? Question marks have been raised about India's attachment to freedom and democracy. In the last 20 years they fell from 27th to 108th in democracy rankings and to 161st out of 180 in press freedom. In foreign policy India is at best ambiguous. Ignoring sanctions on Russia, India is the third largest buyer of Russian oil. And in 2017 joined Russia and China in the economic and defence group, SCO.

Is it time to recognise that Modi's India, with the largest population in the world and the fastest growth, has its own agenda independent of the West? Will India be central to a future world where the West and its values are a sideshow? Or will history and culture bind India to Western values in the long term?

Economist and life peer Meghnad Desai, former Chief Election Commissioner of India S.Y. Quraishi, and Oxford Director of Contemporary South Asian Studies Kate Sullivan de Estrada, debate India's role in the future of the world.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[68] 1:15 pm
Lost in Stories
Matthew Beaumont, Ruth Padel,
Thangam Debonnaire. Myriam François hosts.

INTERNATIONAL

Our narratives enable us to make sense of the world. From setting the scene and providing a means to understand what is happening, to placing ourselves at the centre of our own life's story, narratives help structure our goals and our lives. But there is a risk that rather than helping us understand the world, narratives can hide reality from us providing delusional states of mind in its place. From witch hunts to cults, from war propaganda to religious honour killings, people are prepared to kill and die for stories they believe in, that others see as wildly false illusions.

Should we see ourselves as trapped by our narratives as much as we are dependent on them to make sense of the world? Can we avoid becoming absorbed in narratives that are dangerous to ourselves and others? Or is it possible to escape the limitation of our own narratives to see the world as it is, and if so how?

Key member of the Shadow Cabinet Thangam Debonnaire, award-winning author Matthew Beaumont, and renowned poet Ruth Padel, debate how narratives affect our minds.

INNER CIRCLE

[69] 1:15 pm From £24
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Denis Noble

The idea that genes are central to natural selection has been dominant for decades. Join outspoken critic of Richard Dawkins and his theory of the selfish gene, Denis Noble, to explore the limitations of a neo-Darwinist approach.

1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[70] 1:30 pm
Johanna Warren

STAGE

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[71] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
The Ethics of Human Extinction
Émile P. Torres

ACADEMY TENT

At the time of writing the doomsday clock - a metaphor for how near we are to catastrophe - stands at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. The capacity for humanity to destroy itself is relatively new. For centuries Christianity emphasised survival and eternal salvation, leaving us ill-prepared for a post-apocalyptic world. In its place, philosopher and writer Émile P. Torres charts a history of apocalypse and proposes a radically new theoretical foundation for humanity to face the possibility of 'omnicide', the death of all human life.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.



2:00 PM

TALK

[72] 2:00 pm
The Price of Life
Jenny Kleeman

THE RING

We say that life is priceless. Yet in our data-filled world, it has become possible to calculate the cost of almost anything - arguably, including life itself. Join journalist and broadcaster, Jenny Kleeman, as she argues that putting a price on life might paradoxically help us save more of them.

"Like Louis Theroux channelling Margaret Atwood." - New Statesman

HEAD TO HEAD

[73] 2:00 pm
Trouble with Language
Hilary Lawson and Tim Maudlin.
Hosted by Joanna Kavenna.

THE HAT

For centuries we imagined that language was transparent. The 20th century changed all that. Philosophy, with the so-called linguistic turn, came to see language as central to our understanding of reality and set out to make it precise. But a hundred years on, the project is widely seen to have run aground. Critics argue that the danger now is that, because the problems of language and the world are so intractable, we have imagined they can be ignored. For how can we make sense of widely held metaphysical claims, such as the existence of parallel universes, or that we are all living in a simulation, or everything is consciousness, if we don't understand what our words mean and how, or whether, they describe reality?

Should we return to the positivist notion that all general claims about the nature of reality are empty theorising and should be abandoned? Can we find an alternative account of language that will enable us to make sense of such theories? Or was the linguistic turn an error and is it now time to return to the common sense notion that language is transparent and all can be said?

Philosopher and longstanding critic of realism Hilary Lawson, and leading philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin debate the nature of language and reality.

Children's Programme

[74] 2:00 pm
Freedom Inside Out

MINDCRAFT

[See p.60]

POKBOX

[75] 2:00 pm
Doing it in Public
Challenging the notion that art is only for the elite, with Jeff Koons, Marina Abramovic and Gilbert & George.

ART & CINEMA TENT

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[76] 2:00 pm
Andy Grant

BLUE MOON

FP

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and author

“



IDEAS & CULTURE

Saturday 25th May

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[77] 2:30 pm

ARENA

Journey to Other Dimensions
Roger Penrose, Marika Taylor,
Avshalom Elitzur. Güneş Taylor hosts.

Most of us take it for granted that there are three dimensions, perhaps four if we count time. But for over 200 years, mathematicians and scientists have proposed further dimensions. In some standard versions of contemporary physics eleven dimensions are now proposed. But might the notion of additional dimensions be an empty idea that derails physics? Richard Feynman argued that proponents of extra dimensions "cook up explanations" for what we can't observe. And CERN researchers admit that no empirical evidence for extra dimensions has ever been, and more importantly perhaps could ever be, discovered.

Should we reject talk of higher dimensions as fantasy, good for sci-fi movies but not for theories of the universe? Would we be better to see extra dimensions as a mathematical tool rather than a description of reality? Or might multiple dimensions in fact describe the essential character of the world?

Nobel prize-winner Roger Penrose, philosopher of quantum mechanics Avshalom Elitzur, and theoretical physicist Marika Taylor, debate the possibility of multiple dimensions.

DEBATE

[78] 2:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

The New Overlords
Ali Allawi, Claire Provost. Roger Hearing
hosts.

Defenders of the free market argue that competition drives down prices and benefits all. China is the poster child for this case with nearly a billion lifted out of poverty since 1990. But competition and free markets can also lead to dangerous monopolies, and higher prices. Entrepreneurial genius like Peter Thiel advise 'if you're starting a company, aim for monopoly'. Critics argue that unconstrained capitalism allows companies to cement initial advantage by buying competitors, and using scale to dominate the market. They claim the world's largest companies have gained success not by competition but by acting like feudal overlords.

Should we conclude that free market capitalism inexorably leads to monopoly if it is not constrained? Do we urgently need to break up or rein control from the corporate giants that dominate the markets? Or can we relax, confident that in time capitalism and market forces will replace the current overlords with new ones?

Former Deputy Finance Minister for Iraq Ali Allawi, and openDemocracy's Head of Global Investigations Claire Provost, debate free markets and feudal overlords.

In Partnership with Audio Note

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[79] 2:30 pm

STAGE

Brentlee

3:00 PM

TALK

[80] 3:00 pm

THE RING

Telling the Story of War
Dina Matar, Uriel Abulof

Truth is sometimes said to be the first casualty of war. And the terrible events in Gaza are seemingly no exception. But what should our strategy be when seeking to understand what is happening on the ground? Is there a simple fact of the matter which we can uncover? Jain Director of Palestine studies at SOAS and author of What it Means to be Palestinian, Dina Matar. And Professor of Political Science at Tel Aviv University, author of The Mortality and Morality of Nations, and expert on philosophy and meaning in war, Uriel Abulof, to examine whether and how we can overcome the limitations of truth in times of war.

"Matar offers an absorbing perspective." – John D. H. Dowling

HAT SESSIONS

[81] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

How To Reclaim Our Humanity From Tech
Martha Finnes

We thought technology was going to open up new possibilities for human expression. Giving us access to new information, new inspiration, and tools and techniques for creation. Join film director, writer, and producer, Martha Finnes, as she argues technology has all too often closed, not opened, our minds. Technology has built new mental prisons around education, media, healthcare, and everywhere else. Hear how she uses technology to break free in her work, and why we need to control tech, not let it control us. Interviewed by Richard Davey.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[82] 3:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Jon Sanders

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[83] 3:30 pm

STAGE

Liv Dawn

Children's Programme

[84] 3:30 pm

MINDCRAFT

Atomic Adventures with Professor Astro Cat (See p.60)

INNER CIRCLE

[85] 3:45 pm From £20

INNER CIRCLE

Wine Tasting and Philosophy with Barry C. Smith

Join philosopher and author of Questions of Taste Barry C. Smith for a uniquely philosophical wine-tasting session. Explore the power of the senses and discover the ones you never thought you had.

howthelightgetsin.org

4:00 PM

DEBATE

[86] 4:00 pm

ARENA

Having it All
Lynne Segal, Vicky Pryce, Aaron Bastani.
Niki Seth-Smith hosts.

We think women can have it all: a career and contributing to the economy along with children and the rewards of raising a family. But critics argue there is a danger that this is impossible in the current social framework. Lifetime earnings for graduate women are still only slightly more than half that of men in both the US and UK. While globally women carry out 75% of domestic labour and over a quarter of women are unable to have a career due to family commitments.

To address these issues do we need to make it possible for women to have equivalent lifetime earnings to men while also having and rearing families? Do we need a mechanism to enable payment for all currently unpaid work? Or is this a fanciful pipe dream and 'having it all' an illusion, and we all must make a choice in the way we balance the satisfactions and rewards of career and personal life?

Distinguished feminist academic Lynne Segal, radical journalist Aaron Bastani, and chief economic advisor Vicky Pryce, debate having it all.

DEBATE

[87] 4:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

The Politics of Beauty
Jessica DeFino, Simon May, Justine Kolata,
Janne Teller

'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' is the way Margaret Hungerford reframed an old saying about beauty in the mid-19th century. And most of us endorse her phrase. But critics point to the danger that the idea that beauty is subjective has the potential to validate prejudice and immunise our taste and choices from criticism. Not only does subjectivity mean there is no reason to prefer Tiktok to Tiktok, Picasso to Pornhub, but it also means cultural stereotypes are made acceptable, for example, that certain body types and nationalities are desirable.

Do we need to abandon the idea that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and see it instead as linked to justice and human flourishing? Should we be more self-critical of certain aesthetic judgements? Or is it essential to retain beauty as subjective to avoid the tyranny of an 'objectively' correct aesthetics?

Guardian columnist Jessica DeFino, philosopher Simon May, award-winning novelist Janne Teller, and author of The Beautiful Soul Justine Kolata, ask if beauty is subjective.



Jessica DeFino

IDEAS & CULTURE

4:00 PM

TALK

[88] 4:00 pm THE RING

The Tech Crisis
John Ralston Saul

We are entering into an increasingly difficult period for freedom of expression because the technologies we hoped would support freedom turn out to pose a threat to it. Join the political philosopher Time magazine labelled a 'prophet' of anti-globalisation, John Ralston Saul, as he argues that globalist ideology harms freedom of speech.

"Informative, engaging and biting critical." – The Guardian

In Partnership with Audio Note

IN CONVERSATION

A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

[89] 4:00 pm THE HAT

The Truth of 'True Crime'
Mergie Ratliff and Camilla Hall

The genre of 'true crime' has an implausible title. After all, whose truth are we telling, how do we find this truth and isn't the real 'truth' to create a success for the writer or director? Join family victim of 'The Staircase', Mergie Ratliff, and documentary director, Camilla Hall, as they explore the psychological impact of being the subject of a crime, then later a TV sensation, and how to find a way to enjoy true crime without compromising the humanity, or the dignity of its subjects.

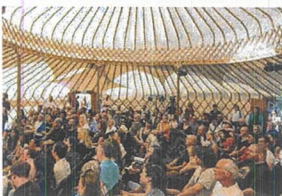
"Sensational, game-changing." – The Guardian

POKBOX

[90] 4:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

AI & You

Artificial intelligence is evolving at a staggering pace, but how much do we actually understand it? This documentary reveals how AI is rapidly transforming the human experience, exploring the positive developments in health, education and climate action, as well as its dangers.



4:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[91] 4:00 pm BLUE MOON
Alex Seel

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[92] 4:30 pm STAGE
Robert Whyte

INNER CIRCLE

Come taste the fruit of Herefordshire's finest ciders and hear the philosophy and science behind its success around the world.

[93] 4:45 pm From £26 INNER CIRCLE

The Philosophy of Cider with Jane Peyton

Join Britain's first Beer Sommelier and author of the Philosophy of Beer, Cocktails, and Gin, Jane Peyton, as she explores the philosophy of the Welsh Marches' favourite festival drink - cider.

5:00 PM

TALK

[94] 5:00 pm THE RING

Consciousness Pre-Dates Life
Stuart Hameroff

Many scientists, operating with a materialist worldview, argue that consciousness emerges out of inanimate molecules. In contrast, Roger Penrose's longtime collaborator, Stuart Hameroff, puts forward the controversial case that consciousness precedes life and that we have evidence for this from a recent NASA experiment.

"Hameroff's theories are getting support from unlikely places." – Discover Magazine

Children's Programme

[95] 5:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Setting Sail with Theseus with Annie Webster [See p.60]

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[96] 5:00 pm BLUE MOON
Nigel Davies

5:00 PM

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

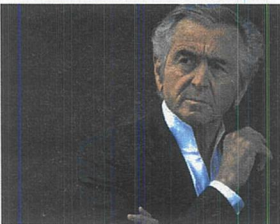
[97] 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

Women vs the Free Market
Vicky Pryce

Gender inequality shouldn't be a part of the free market. After all, surely the best person gets the job and is rewarded for their work. But from the gendered threat of robot labour to the lack of women in economics itself, Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, uncovers the deeper side to this story. Without bold decisive action that radically changes contemporary capitalism, we will not achieve the equality that we desire.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

5:30 PM



Bernard-Henri Lévy

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[98] 5:30 pm ARENA

The Life and Philosophy of Bernard-Henri Lévy
Bernard-Henri Lévy

Bernard-Henri Lévy is one of the most esteemed, prolific and influential writers in Europe and perhaps the most famous living French philosopher. He came to prominence as one of the leaders of the "New Philosophers" movement in the late seventies and was critical of many of the fashionable views in France at the time, including Marxism, existentialism, and post-structuralism. Lévy has been a stalwart defender of human rights his entire life, even when it was inconvenient and dangerous. His recent documentaries filmed on the frontline in Ukraine are no exception. Join Lévy as he unpacks the life and the philosophy behind his activism that has made him into one of the world's most admired and fascinating public intellectuals.

"Accorded the kind of adulation in France that most countries reserve for their rock stars." – The Guardian

5:30 PM

DEBATE

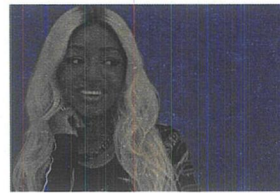
[99] 5:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

Singles, Sex and Society
Yasmin Benoit, Harry Benson, Aline Laurent-Mayard, Güneş Taylor hosts.

We assume that one of the primary aims in life is to find a lifelong partner. A story embedded in our novels, films and culture. But a fundamental and largely unrecognised change is taking place. The number of singles has risen sevenfold in the last fifty years and now accounts for more than 40% of the population with a majority of those choosing to be single. Some argue this is a dangerous trend that is influencing the global fall in birth rate and potentially threatens society as a whole. They argue the ubiquity of sex toys, used in the US and UK by 70% of women, and pornography, used by 90% of men, have made sex with a partner less important.

Should we act to contain the growth in the numbers choosing to be single? Do we need to encourage long-term partnership by making sex less available without a partner? Or is this demographic shift to be wholeheartedly welcomed as a sign of improving personal lives, and a limiting of excessive population growth?

Award-winning activist Yasmin Benoit, Research Director of the Marriage Foundation Harry Benson, and podcaster Aline Laurent-Mayard, debate the rise of singledom.



Yasmin Benoit

LIVE MUSIC

[100] 5:30 pm THE HAT

Milkweed: Myths and Legends of Wales

Their new album, which blends traditional folk with a trip-hop infused sound, was named by the Guardian as folk album of the month. Unsurprisingly that "slacker-trad" folk duo Milkweed have developed a cult following off the back of their rare live performances.

"A mesmerising distant cousin of Anne Briggs and Rodie Peat." – The Guardian

IDEAS & CULTURE

5:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[101] 5:30 pm STAGE
Peiriant

6:00 PM

TALK

[102] 6:00 pm THE RING

Politics, Culture and The Good Life
Thangam Debonaie

We know the magic of creativity and culture, and yet both personal and as a society, they are often a low priority. Join rising star of the Labour Party, and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Thangam Debonaie, as she argues that creativity and culture are essential to who we are and our society.

"Determined to sway minds." – The Guardian



Thangam Debonaie

POKBOX

[103] 6:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

The Pill Revolution

Why is there such limited research into the contraceptive pill? Why are women offered so little choice? What can be done to improve women's healthcare? Davina McCall tackles the troubling truth behind the pill, busting myths, taboos and fake news.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[104] 6:00 pm BLUE MOON
Lilian Grace

howthelightsins.org

6:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[105] 6:30 pm THE HAT

Junior Brother

Chosen as one of RTE's Rising Irish Stars and The Irish Times' breakthrough acts, County Kerry singer-songwriter Junior Brother is redefining Irish folk music. He's been nominated for RTE Radio 1's Best Folk Album and Choice Music Prize's Album of the Year.

"Makes mince-meat out of every other structured Irish songwriter you can think of." – The Irish Times

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[106] 6:30 pm STAGE
Truthpaste

Children's Programme

[107] 6:30 pm MINDCRAFT
Pottery Extravaganza [See p.60]

6:45 PM

DEBATE

[108] 6:45 pm ARENA

Something for Nothing
Paul Bloom, Dan Ariely, Nancy Sherman, Myriam François hosts.

"Rewards are the means of all government" proclaimed US President John Adams. A principle we have adopted in many areas of our lives, from children's gold stars and prizes to incentives at work, and religious tales of paradise to come. But evidence now suggests there are risks to this approach. Studies show rewards can damage wellbeing fostering dependence and undermining our own sense of control. And neuroscientists have shown those more prone to seeking reward now present in almost half of the U.S. population.

Should we seek to wean ourselves off reward and instead learn to experience the present for its own sake? Should we adopt a Stoic framework where action and virtue are seen as their own ends? Or is the current culture of reward in personal and professional life not only hugely beneficial but a much more effective means of social intervention than the punishment regimes of the past?

Best-selling psychologist Paul Bloom, world-leading behavioural economist Dan Ariely, and Stoic expert Nancy Sherman debate the risks of rewards.

7:00 PM

TALK

[109] 7:00 pm THE RING

The Ugly Truth Behind Beauty
Jessica DeFino

The beauty industry is valued at over \$260 Billion globally. But what is this industry's cost to humanity and society? Join journalist and Guardian columnist, Jessica DeFino, as she explores the philosophy of beauty, and argues the industry exploits both women and men alike, and calls for us to abandon beauty products.

"DeFino basically gives the middle finger to the entire beauty industry." - HuffPost

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[110] 7:00 pm BLUE MOON
Smith & Johnson

7:30 PM



Tara Clerkin Trio

LIVE MUSIC

[111] 7:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

Tara Clerkin Trio

One of the most innovative groups currently performing in the UK, the Tara Clerkin Trio have received great acclaim from the likes of The Wire, The Quietus and Pitchfork. After hearing their unique and mesmerising sound, which blends acid jazz, electronics and off-kilter psych-pop, it is easy to see why. They host a regular NTS radio show, are favourites of Gilles Peterson, and have played festivals from ReWire to End of the Road.

"There is a lot of excitement swirling around the Tara Clerkin Trio right now." - Loud and Quiet

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[112] 8:00 pm THE HAT

Mandrake Handshake

Multi-dimensional nine-piece spectaculars Mandrake Handshake perform a music they call 'Flowerkraut': a hedonistic, brain-frying feast of Krautrock, art-pop and psychedelia. Filling stages from Shambala to Wilderness, they're reshaping the UK indie scene one entrancing show at a time!

"Glorious." - Clash Magazine

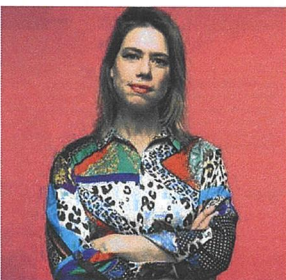
COMEDY

[113] 8:00 pm STAGE

Micky Overman

In 'Hold On' comedian Micky Overman finds her life going the direction she's always wanted. So why is she finding that so hard? Join her for a work-in-progress show about change, coping mechanisms and Ozzy Osbourne. She has written for and acted in sketches for TV2, Channel 4, and BBC3, and her social media content has received over 40 million views online.

"A pin-sharp torrent of precision gags and delightfully silly one-liners." - The Observer



Lou Sanders

8:00 PM

DOX BOX

[114] 8:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Hurdle

This award-winning documentary reveals an inspiring and intimate story of Palestinian youth living in the Occupied Territories. The new generation practices parkour and photography as a means to resist and overcome personal and political obstacles.

BANQUET

[115] 8:00 pm From £54 WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Saturday

Join fellow festival-goers at our Long Table Banquets overlooking the river at the Waterfront. Expect a lavish four-course meal, and excellent company. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are limited.



Music & Acoustic Sessions

[116] 8:00 pm BLUE MOON
The Marcellas

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[117] 8:30 pm ARENA

Lou Sanders

Just like Tom Cruise does all his own stunts, Lou Sanders is going to do all her own jokes. Join Lou to have a bit of a laugh, which is still not illegal last time she checked! As seen on Taskmaster and Live at the Apollo.

"Keeps the laughs coming with such gleeful self-assurance." - The Times

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[118] 9:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Ebi Soda

Slouch anti-traditionalists, Ebi Soda thrive on the idea of contradiction, seeming more inspired by the atmosphere inside a rave than the sounds heard inside a jazz club.

"Scorching a new jazz path." - Clash Music



Ebi Soda

9:00 PM

COMEDY

[119] 9:00 pm THE RING

Sara Barron

Sara Barron - as seen on Live at the Apollo, Would I Lie to You, and Frankie Boyle's New World Order - talks through a passion for eavesdropping, a hatred of the countryside, and one awful thing that she did to her mom.

"A wickedly funny show!" - Scotsman

DOX BOX

[120] 9:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Conflict

This award-winning film takes the audience behind the lens of the world's leading conflict photographers. Across diverse, interwoven stories we follow the photographers' attempts to make the world a better place by bearing witness.

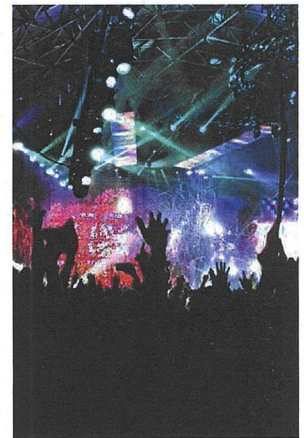
9:00 PM

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[121] 9:00 pm to late RIVERSIDE DISCO

Club MirrorBall
DJ's Stacey and Esyllt

DJ's Stacey and Esyllt have gained legendary status separately starting parties all over South Wales and across the UK, but the time has come for them to combine forces as they bring you Club MirrorBall. Expect Dolly Parton next to Prince, Grace Jones sitting comfortably between Ariana and Bowie, all being observed by Haim and Karen O as Debbie Harry spikes the punch bowl. Combining the intimate vibes of a house party and the euphoria of club dancefloor, their tune selections span decades and genres, with the attitude "anything goes, as long as it's good!" - we can't wait!



Music & Acoustic Sessions

[122] 9:00 pm BLUE MOON
Bowen

THE SATURDAY SHINDIG

THE SATURDAY SHINDIG

9:30 PM



Crazy P

10:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[124] 10:00 pm

ARENA

Sea Power

Mercury nominated Sea Power have been lauded by everyone from Lou Reed and David Bowie. Sea Power have played atop the Great Wall of China and at the CERN atom-research labs, and their penchant for spectacular live locations takes them to the Wye Valley this May. It's no surprise that the intensity and invention of the band's shows have earned them Time Out magazine's Live Band Of The Year award.

"On the cusp of becoming an institution." – Louder Than War

LIVE MUSIC

[123] 9:30 pm

THE HAT

Crazy P Soundsystem

With one of the best live dance music shows on the planet, Crazy P have been leaving their mark on the landscape of British dance music for the last 15 years. They have risen to cult status with their irresistible fusion of house, disco and funk fusion, winning iTunes Best Dance Album of the Year.

"Second to none." – DJ Mag



Sea Power

10:30 PM

DOKBOX

[126] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Oman from Above

Oman is the oldest independent state in the Arab world and has a rich and unique history. Discover the beauty and culture of this fascinating country with this stunning aerial journey that visits over 30 sites.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

Join fellow festival goers in song, around the warmth of the wood fire, and enjoy watching the night fall after a day full of ideas. Hosted by indie folk duo Reeve and friends, with music by performers from the Blue Moon lineup plus some special guests.

[127] 10:00 pm to 1:00 am

BOHEMIA

Fire and Folk

COMEDY

[128] 10:30 pm

THE RING

Lachlan Werner

The horrifying hour from the award-winning prince of puppets. Lachy is apparently a virgin. Brew is a small, squishy witch, and she has decided to sacrifice him. To help with his self-esteem. Together, they'll bring your worst nightmares to life in a ceremony of paranormal tricks and treats. ... Directed by Laurie Luxe.

"Hilarious. Extraordinary. A healthy dose of the unhinged." – The Guardian



Patrick Spicer

COMEDY

[125] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Patrick Spicer

Chuckle Best Newcomer Nominee Patrick Spicer brings perfectly constructed stand-up to HowTheLightGetsIn. Asking the BIG of's e.g. was Jesus a people pleaser? What is a fat? Does the third question in a list have to be the best one or can you sort of just trail off? As seen on BBC2, Channel 4, and BBC iPlayer. 60k+ followers online with over 15 million views.

"An engaging and natural storyteller..." – The Skinny



Lachlan Werner

11:00 PM



The Destroyers

11:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[132] 11:30 pm

ARENA

The Orb

Titans of electronic music The Orb virtually invented ambient house, topping the album charts. Their signature track 'Little Fluffy Clouds' is ranked among NME's Greatest Songs of All Time. With Alex Paterson setting the controls for the perfect dance groove or exploring previously unknown vistas, The Orb have gone from visionary mischief-makers in 1988's acid house revolution to one of the most revered electronic music acts alive.

"The Orb keep alive the spirit of rave." – Financial Times

LIVE MUSIC

[129] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

The Destroyers

Unapologetically complex and joyful, The Destroyers have been colliding world music for nearly 20 years. Their benevolent sound is a chaotic cacophony of klezmer, Balkan and British folk. Their explosive and virtuosic show opened the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and has to be seen to be believed.

"Seductively dangerous and unique." – Clash Magazine



DOKBOX

[130] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Keeping Music Alive

Zahra', Afghanistan's first, award-winning female orchestra, wowed audiences across the world. Now, they face great danger as the Taliban returns. The girls still in the country go into hiding, while those who fled are mounting an international rescue campaign.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[131] 11:00 pm

BLUE MOON

The Microplastics

CABARET

[133] 11:30 pm

STAGE

Posey Mehta

Trained clown Posey Mehta is "endlessly creative and subversive" (Fringe Review). After their rave-reviewed 2022 debut Fringe debut, Posey comes to HowTheLightGetsIn in the guise of Mizzi Fitz, an underground favourite of London's queer cabaret scene. In her 42 years in showbiz, Mizzi Fitz has seen and done it all. Tonight, she'll bare all, in more ways than one... Expect practical tips on breaking into the industry, and uncomfortably explicit descriptions of her ex-husband Larry's genitalia.

"Incomparable." – Broadway World

12:00 AM



MIDNIGHT MAYHEM

Midnight Mayhem sees philosophers and comedians join forces in our late night intellectual showdown with a twist. A carnivalesque procession kicks off the show, before audience members pick a side, and make their voice heard alongside speakers and comedians from our star-studded programme.

[134] 12:00 am

THE RING

Humanity vs The Machines

The Machines are rising up. Do you side with them? Or are you on the side of Humanity? Pick your side and put on your sparring gloves for debate and debate. Anyone can step into the ring! Tonight, which side are you on?... Humanity or The Machines?

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[135] 12:00 am

BLUE MOON

The Hanging Bandits

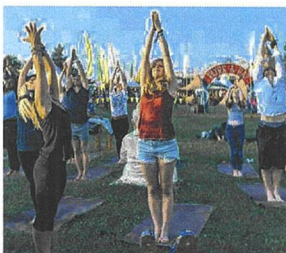


 EXPERIENCES

SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Aurore Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9:00 am BOHEMIA
Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.



FAYRE

10:00am FAYRE
FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

11:00 am RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.



FIRE & FOLK

9:00pm to late BOHEMIA: FIRE

Fire & Folk

With music by some wonderfully talented acoustic performers and friends along with some very special guests. Join fellow festivalgoers round the light and warmth of the wood fire and enjoy watching night fall after a day full of ideas.

INNER CIRCLE

Join our inspiring speakers for a delicious lunch or a cider tasting philosophy session.

[65] 1:00 pm From £22 INNER CIRCLE

How The Light Gets In Lunch

with Scott Aaronson
Join world-leading computer scientist, Scott Aaronson, as he expounds on how the AI age will be forever changed by the introduction of quantum computing.

[93] 4:45 pm From £26 INNER CIRCLE

The Philosophy of Cider

with Jane Peyton
Join Britain's first Beer Sommelier and author of the Philosophy of Beer, Cocktails, and Gin, Jane Peyton, as she explores the philosophy of the Welsh Marches' favourite festival drink - cider.

FRONT ROOM & RIVERSIDE DISCO

1:00 pm to late FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.

9:00 pm to late

Riverside Disco RIVERSIDE DISCO

Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.



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Pop culture through a different lens

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The Guardian Newsletters

IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh pastries and coffee.

[137] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy breakfast with John Ralston Saul

Most say that a belief in unfettered reason improves our lives. But declining democracy and broken institutions have challenged this idea. Join political philosopher and the man Time called a 'prophet', John Ralston Saul as he argues that faith in reason has ruined the West.

[138] 9:00 am From £20 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy breakfast with Chris Lintott

We think of science as methodically building on the agreed and accurate theories of the past. Join renowned astrophysicist Chris Lintott as he argues we should embrace radical thinking in science and makes the case that being open to new approaches changes the science that you can do.

10:00 AM

TALK

[139] 10:00 am THE RING

The Myth of Universal Values
Tommy Curry

We tend to think that morality has nothing to do with our individual circumstances or desires. That universal values apply to everyone equally. Join challenging and controversial philosopher Tommy Curry as he makes the case that universal values are a fantasy, a myth created by those with power.

"Curry has taken a bullet for the brothers." - Ishmael Reed

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[140] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

Quantum Biology
Johnjoe McFadden

More than 60 years ago the father of quantum mechanics, Erwin Schrödinger, insisted that aspects of biology must be based on quantum rather than classical laws. And as the attention of 21st-century biology is probing the dynamics of ever-smaller systems, ignoring quantum mechanics is becoming increasingly untenable. Join Johnjoe McFadden as he explores recent experiments indicating that life's most fundamental processes depend on the quantum undercurrent of reality.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

10:30 AM

DEBATE

[141] 10:30 am ARENA

Navigating the New World Order
Armen Sarkissian, Bronwen Maddox, Christina Lamb, Hilary Lawson hosts.

In the closing decades of the last century, many were critical of American global dominance. But twenty years on America's relative decline has ushered in a new multipolar era that many contend is profoundly more dangerous. We have an unpredictable conflict in Europe larger than anything since World War II and international tension greater than at any point since the height of the Cold War. Meanwhile from the Middle East to the South China Sea, a host of regional conflicts have the potential to spiral out of control, and the new world order looks increasingly precarious.

Can we navigate to safety through international cooperation and treaties? Do we need to align in power blocks to provide overall defence, or is it safer to remain independent providing less of a threat to others? Or is the only solution for one nation or alliance to once again become globally dominant?

Former President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, Chief Executive of Chatham House Bronwen Maddox, and leading war correspondent Christina Lamb, debate whether the global dominance of one geo-political bloc is safer for world order.

DEBATE

[142] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

Truth, Theory and Ultimate Reality
Lisa Randall, Tim Maudlin, Abby Innes, Bernard Carr, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

Human understanding has enabled us to achieve many things once thought impossible, and we assume our theories are successful because they uncover the true character of reality. But critics argue there is a danger this is an illusion. Theories they contend are effective because they provide a framework to make sense of the world but they do not describe reality, nor do we have a credible account of how any theory could in principle describe reality. The theories of science are all open to revision because they are models rather than descriptions of an ultimate reality.

Should we give up the notion that our theories are true descriptions of the world? Should we assume that there are an indefinite number of alternative accounts that might prove more effective? Or is truth a necessary goal of our accounts of the world without which we would be impossibly lost in a welter of competing narratives?

Leading theoretical physicist Lisa Randall, cutting-edge philosopher of physics Tim Maudlin, insightful interdisciplinary thinker Abby Innes, and dark-matter physicist Bernard Carr, lock horns over whether theories are true or just our best guesses.

10:30 AM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[143] 10:30 am THE HAT

The Future of Particle Physics
Harry Cliff

The more we understand the world, the more it seems to unravel into larger and more complex mysteries that may well be unsolvable. Join Cambridge particle physicist and CERN hadron collider researcher, Harry Cliff, to explore the fascinating anomalies and oddities that confound scientists. From energy inexplicably emanating from Antarctica to dilemmas over the expansion of the universe, Cliff takes you through the many mysteries of physics and argues that there is a limit to what science can and will uncover.

"Lays out the gaps and anomalies at the edge of modern science, which may make the best theories of today look as quaint as those of long ago." - New York Times



Paul Bloom

11:00 AM

TALK

[144] 11:00 am THE RING

The Devil In All Of Us
Paul Bloom

Many have had the experience of an urge to do something wrong just for the hell of it. From walking on grass we're told to keep off, to fantasies of violence towards someone we find a minor annoyance. Join Yale psychologist Paul Bloom as he invites us to see the clever, creative and beautiful side of our impulses toward evil.

"Paul Bloom has a gift for spotting paradoxes in human nature." - Steven Pinker

11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[145] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT

Aesop's Animal Adventures with...

(See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[146] 11:00 am BLUE MOON

Dangerous Flamings

11:30 AM

DEBATE

[147] 11:30 am THE HAT

Imagining the Unimaginable
Martha Finnes, Simon Baron-Cohen, Joanna Kavenna, Myriam François hosts.

"The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless" proclaimed Rousseau. We are inclined to agree, but doing so risks making the world appear more understandable and knowable than perhaps it is. Imagination operates within the ideas and concepts available to us. Once we thought it unimaginable that a thing was in two places at once, yet this is just such a reality described by quantum mechanics. While some make the case that imagination is not even sufficient to fully empathise with another, instead we need to have had similar experiences.

Do we need to accept that imagination is limited and so also is our understanding of the world and the lives of others? Are scientists and novelists profoundly constrained in their ability to uncover reality or describe the world of those with radically different experiences? Or is this to severely hobble our capacity to make sense of the world and was Rousseau right that the power of the imagination is unlimited?

Film-maker and Director Martha Finnes, developmental psychopathologist Simon Baron-Cohen, and award-winning novelist Joanna Kavenna, debate whether the imagination is limited.



Myriam François

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[148] 11:30 am STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

IDEAS & CULTURE

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[149] 12:00 pm ARENA

Dark Energy and The Universe
Claudia de Rham, Priya Natarajan, Chris Lintott, Bjørn Ekeberg hosts.

It was a profound shift to our understanding of the cosmos when 25 years ago astronomers identified that the universe is not only expanding but accelerating away from us. A new force was needed to account for this and dark energy was the solution. But critics claim there is a risk that dark energy is nothing more than an empty hypothesis, since two decades on we still have no explanation for it and no independent confirmation of its existence. Yet it supposedly makes up 68% of the universe.

Do we need to get rid of dark energy in favour of an alternative, such as changing Einstein's theory of relativity, or modifying gravity? Is the standard cosmological model of the Big Bang and cosmic inflation at stake and might the universe be very different than we currently suppose? Or is the dark energy hypothesis the best hope we have for making sense of the deep mysteries of cosmology?

Leading physicist Claudia de Rham, award-winning astronomer Priya Natarajan, and renowned Oxford astrophysicist Chris Lintott, lock horns over dark energy.

DEBATE

[150] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

Better Left Unsaid
Theodore Dalrymple, Simon Wessely, Vanessa King, Roger Hearing hosts.

"Unexpressed emotions never die... but are buried alive and come forth later in uglier ways" claimed Sigmund Freud. Today we've gone a step further with the assumption that expressing feelings is important for mental well-being. We praise the sharing of mental health struggles, encourage men to express their emotional troubles, and uphold journaling as a valuable daily routine. But there's a problem. A recent study by Cambridge scientists showed that people trained to suppress negative thoughts, rather than unpack them, felt better and improved their wellbeing. Those with mental health issues benefited the most. Meanwhile with millions seeking therapy, over half say they receive little or no benefit.

Might we all, and therapists in particular, be making a fundamental mistake in thinking the expression of emotions is always beneficial? Can we improve wellbeing and address the mental health crisis with the suppression of negative thoughts and feelings? Or would this re-embed the stigma surrounding mental health and reverse hard-won progress?

Cultural critic Theodore Dalrymple, psychiatrist Simon Wessely, and positive psychology specialist Vanessa King debate whether Freud was dangerously wrong.

12:00 PM

TALK

[151] 12:00 pm THE RING

The New Surveillance Culture
Judith Donath

We invent technology to make life easier. But has new technology led to a surveillance culture? Join Harvard computer scientist and author, Judith Donath, as she argues that while many technologies promote themselves on the basis of trust like Airbnb and Uber, they in fact do the opposite and replace trust with surveillance and control.

"Donath succeeds in painting an unusually deep and personal portrait of the universe of social media." - John Meade

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[152] 12:00 pm BLUE MOON

Bruno Atkinson Solis

12:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[153] 12:30 pm STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

Children's Programme

[154] 12:30 pm MINDCRAFT

Pottery Extravaganza

(See p.60)

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[155] 1:00 pm THE RING

The Future Of Politics
John Bercow

The longest-serving Speaker of the House of Commons since the Second World War, John Bercow was once seen as on the right of the Tory party, later becoming a member of the Tory shadow cabinet. He moved to the left throughout his political career subsequently becoming a thorn in the side of the Conservative Johnson government. Join him as he outlines his vision for the future and why Britain desperately needs change.

"Charming, attractively self-deprecating, and he addresses the head-on charges against him." - Prospect



John Bercow

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

HAT SESSIONS

[156] 1:00 pm THE HAT
What is Meaningful Work?
 Avery Anapol, Isabel Berwick, Caleb Althorpe, Nilular Ahmed, Aaron Bastani

People in the workforce want their jobs to give them purpose and meaning. But in a world of remote working and disillusionment with capitalism, is there even such a thing as 'meaningful work'? And in the world of digital transformation, can there be meaning in life without it? Join Avery Anapol from The Conversation, FT podcaster Isabel Berwick, political philosopher Caleb Althorpe, psychologist and psychotherapist Nilular Ahmed, and commentator Aaron Bastani, as they try to discover what meaningful work is, and debate whether it's worth pursuing.

Event Curated by The Conversation

INNER CIRCLE

[157] 1:00 pm INNER CIRCLE
 From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Avshalom Elitzur

Radical physicist and philosopher, Avshalom Elitzur, argues that physics defies common sense. Join him to discover what new paths can be forged when our best theories of science are shown to be full of holes.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[158] 1:00 pm BLUE MOON
Kate McDouall

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[159] 1:15 pm ARENA
After Postmodernism
 Robin van den Akker, Abby Innes, Hilary Lawson, Sophie Scott-Brown hosts.

Highly influential in the latter decades of the 20th century, postmodernism transformed many academic disciplines and culture at large. Associated with an attack on objective truth and the uniqueness of meaning, it called into question the whole edifice of knowledge which Western culture had previously glorified. But it left many lost, and in the wake of a polarising post-truth world there is widespread recognition that we need to move on. Feminist and post-colonial critics though claim there is a danger that instead we risk retreating to the questionable certainties of the past. Alongside defenders of objective truth like Richard Dawkins and Nassim Taleb, figures like Jordan Peterson argue for a return to moral certainties and belief in the existence of God.

Are there viable alternatives to postmodernism that are not simply a return to belief in universal truth? Are metamodernism or modal theoretic realism possible ways forward? Or is the chaos initiated by postmodernism so profound that the only credible approach is to return to the Enlightenment notion that we can arrive at the objective truth?

Philosopher and author of 'Closure' Hilary Lawson, metamodernist Robin Van den Akker, and ISE political economist Abby Innes, debate what lies beyond postmodernism.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[160] 1:15 pm INTERNATIONAL
Violence, Vengeance, and Virtue
 Peter Singer, Bronwen Maddox, Ilan Pappé, Mary Ann Sieghart hosts.

From Robin Hood to Che Guevara, the oppressed hold the moral high ground. The exploited worker, the dominated minority, the enslaved people, are seen as rightly acting to better their circumstances. Some even maintain the oppressed can never act immorally. But there is a risk this undermines the central moral notion that principles should apply to everyone independent of their circumstances. It also encourages portraying oneself as a victim. Moreover, critics argue that oppressed vs oppressor morality hinders our ability to solve problems that defy simple categorisation into good and bad.

Should we conclude that morality has nothing to do with oppression? Are violence and vengeance no more acceptable on the part of the victim than the aggressor? Or is morality inescapably linked to the circumstances of the actors whether in Gaza, apartheid South Africa, or the Twin Towers attack, or the events of everyday life and relationships?

Influential philosopher of ethics Peter Singer, Chatham House Director Bronwen Maddox, and radical Israeli historian Ilan Pappé debate morality, the oppressors and the oppressed.

INNER CIRCLE

[161] 1:15 pm INNER CIRCLE
 From £22
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Ben Ware

From nuclear armageddon to global pandemics, we face an uncertain future. And many say we should be scared. Join philosopher of extinction, Ben Ware, to explore how we face an apocalyptic future without flinching.

1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[162] 1:30 pm STAGE
BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[163] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm ACADEMY TENT

The Mysteries of Black Holes
 Priya Natarajan

Black holes hold a privileged place within the popular imagination. We all know what they are, but there is still much we don't understand. How do they form? What happens when things fall in? And what's inside a black hole? Join recent winner of the Liberty Science Center 'Genius Award' and Chair of Astronomy at Yale, Priya Natarajan, as she explores her recent discoveries about how black holes grow, form, and evolve, and how we can measure one of the most mysterious phenomena in the universe.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

2:00 PM

TALK

[164] 2:00 pm THE RING
Genes Are Not the Blueprint for Life
 Denis Noble

Popularised by Dawkins, we think genes are the blueprint for life. But might this commonly-held view of biology and evolution be mistaken? Join renowned Oxford biologist, Denis Noble, as he proposes the radical new theory that organisms control their genomes rather than the other way around.

"Unusually among practising scientists, he is an accomplished philosopher." - Sir Anthony Kenny

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[165] 2:00 pm THE HAT
Conflict - and its Future
 General David Petraeus, US Army (Ret.), Michael Clarke hosts.

President Bush's choice to lead the Surge in Iraq and US Central Command, President Obama's choice to lead NATO forces in Afghanistan and later to be Director of the CIA, General Petraeus has been at the forefront of international affairs for many decades and with strong views on recent US foreign policy. In a world more precarious than ever, join him to hear his assessment of how to respond to the challenges of contemporary global affairs and gain insight into how his own life experiences influenced his philosophy on leadership and outlook on the world.

"General Petraeus is among the very best military leaders of his generation." - John Kerry, former US Secretary of State



David Petraeus

Children's Programme

[166] 2:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Keep it Up! Juggling and Diabolo.. (See p. 60)

DOKBOX

[167] 2:00 pm CINEMA
Living for Art
 In this award-winning film, artist Saakoo Ang explores the real lives and struggles of contemporary artists from Paris and Berlin to Japan and New York. Featuring candid conversations and cutting-edge artworks, the film questions the systems that govern artists' careers and livelihoods.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[168] 2:00 pm BLUE MOON
Gareth Rees

A lovely event ...
 deep issues that matter

Steven Pinker,
 psychologist and author



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IDEAS & CULTURE

Sunday 26th May

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[169] 2:30 pm

ARENA

Overcoming Evolution
Daniel Dennett, Subrena E. Smith, Simon Baron-Cohen. Güneş Taylor hosts.

As with the animal kingdom, we see human behaviour as the product of elemental drives to survive and reproduce. Evolutionary psychology has taken this a stage further with claims that 'killing is fundamentally in our nature' and seeing violence, social hierarchy, and sexual promiscuity as a product of evolutionary drives. But might this be a misleading and dangerous approach? Murder rates have fallen seventy-fold since the Middle Ages, while across the globe birth rates are a fraction of what they were a hundred years ago. Fathers are actively involved in child care and we've radically changed our outlook on social issues like gender identity, suggesting ideas and culture drive behaviour rather than evolution.

Should we conclude that evolutionary psychology is a blind alley with no predictive power? Are we capable of overcoming behavioural traits and therefore wholly responsible for our actions? Or is evolution an inescapable force and behavioural change a result of altered circumstances while our core nature remains identical?

Renowned philosopher Daniel Dennett, critic of evolutionary psychology Subrena E. Smith, and clinical psychologist Simon Baron-Cohen, debate the significance of evolutionary psychology.

DEBATE

[170] 2:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Land, Ownership and Hypocrisy
Tommy Curry, Peter Singer, Janne Teller, Dale Turner. Barry C. Smith hosts.

Since Magna Carta, we assume individuals have a right to the property or land that they own. If nations, like Ukraine, are invaded we champion their right to retrieve their land. But there is a risk these principles which we think universal are only applied to the strong. 95% of the native population in North America was wiped out by European invasion. Just two hundred years ago the first removal of Native Americans took place and since then 99% of their land has been taken and is now deemed to be 'owned' by others. The small number of Native Americans remaining suffer severe inequalities in health, wealth and education. Life has been done to redress the situation and almost no one is proposing returning the land.

Should we accept that principles of rights to ownership apply only to the strong? Is the widely held belief in inalienable rights in fact hypocritical and only applied when convenient or desirable? Or is our attachment to universal rights genuine and should we be returning a major part of the land in North America to its original inhabitants?

Renowned philosopher Peter Singer, professor of indigenous political thought Dale Turner, author Janne Teller, and professor of race Tommy Curry, debate land and ownership.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[171] 2:30 pm

STAGE

BBC Music Introducing Hereford & Worcester

3:00 PM

TALK

[172] 3:00 pm

THE RING

The Quantum Computing Hoax
Scott Aaronson

Quantum computing has turned into a phrase that the tech industry will sprinkle on almost anything to help raise funds and generate sales. As a result, there is a tsunami of hype about what quantum computers are going to revolutionise. Join leading quantum computing specialist Scott Aaronson as he challenges the hype and tells us what is really going on.

"A world-class scientist." – Timothy Nguyen

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[173] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

The Life and Philosophy of Paterson Joseph
Paterson Joseph. Jenny Kleeman hosts.

The ability to inhabit a character, especially one underappreciated and consigned to the annals of history, is both fiendishly difficult and personally rewarding. Join Wanka, Peep Show and Shakespearean actor, Paterson Joseph, as he reveals the key experiences that led him to his personal philosophy and outlook on life. Asked what he would like to be remembered for, he replied that he wished to illuminate the lives of black Britons before his parents' Windrush generation. Come and discover what lacking back Paterson Joseph believes he has learnt from life. Jenny Kleeman interviews.

"Joseph is an interesting mix of equanimity and eruptive fury." - The Telegraph

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[174] 3:00 pm

BLUE MOON

Alan Maskell

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[175] 3:30 pm

STAGE

Alex Seel and Jan Sanders

Children's Programme

[176] 3:30 pm

MINDCRAFT

Journey to the World of Alien Hats with... [See p.60]

INNER CIRCLE

[177] 3:45 pm From £22

INNER CIRCLE

Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy with Robin van den Akker

In many disciplines postmodernism is no longer fashionable. Few want to abandon meaning and truth altogether. Yet the challenges postmodernism raised to objective truth remain unanswered. Join leading postmodernist Robin van den Akker to explore a radical new alternative.

howhighlightgetsin.org

4:00 PM

DEBATE

[178] 4:00 pm

ARENA

Turtles All The Way Down
Donald Hoffman, Hilary Lawson, Priya Natarajan. Jack Symes hosts.

Most of us assume reality is made up of physical matter. In line with this scientists have built ever larger machines to identify the ultimate particles. Instead of getting closer to the most elementary bits in the universe, the particle zoo has got ever more complex and seemingly less like material stuff at all. Is there a danger that the very idea of an ultimate foundation to reality is a profound mistake? Some have proposed that instead of material the ultimate foundation is to be found in consciousness, information, or even mathematics. But such proposals are no closer to identifying ultimate elements than particle physicists.

Should we give up the attempt to uncover an ultimate foundation to the universe? Is our inability to find an ultimate foundation a limitation of language, or of our capacity to make sense of the world, or is it to do with the nature of reality itself? Or is it just possible that if we held in there, one day we will crack the ultimate puzzle?

Cognitive psychologist Donald Hoffman, philosopher and critic of realism Hilary Lawson, and leading physicist Priya Natarajan, lock horns over the foundations of reality.

DEBATE

[179] 4:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Optimising Ourselves
James Riley, Nancy Sherman, Jessica DeFino. Jenny Kleeman hosts.

Once a West Coast phenomenon, self-improvement is big. Advocates of self-improvement strategies with journals, ice-baths, cold showers, and meditation have millions of followers. And it's a huge business too: the global personal development industry is estimated at \$44 billion last year. But recent evidence indicates self-improvement can be a risk to our health. Studies show self-criticism contributes to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. This can even turn fatal. 56% of those who committed suicide exhibited a 'perceived external pressure to be perfect'. It is not even clear that self-improvement is really possible, after all who is the self carrying out the improvement?

Should we conclude that the self-optimisation industry is peddling an illusion? Is a focus on pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps not only misguided but a means to squeeze joy out of our lives? Or is self-improvement a way to provide meaning and direction and find a profoundly better way of living?

Guardian columnist Jessica DeFino, Cambridge film and literature critic James Riley, and professor of philosophy Nancy Sherman, ask if self-optimisation is achievable.

IDEAS & CULTURE

4:00 PM

TALK

[180] 4:00 pm THE RING

The Case for Conscious AI
Joscha Bach

Most are sceptical that artificial intelligence will one day become conscious. But might this scepticism be misguided? Join leading AI researcher, Joscha Bach, as he argues that we can create artificial consciousness if we open ourselves up to the possibility of cyber-animalism, the idea that consciousness and spirit is akin to a software agent that naturally emerges in a biological organism.

"One of the most brilliant, and fascinating minds in the world."
- Lex Fridman

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[181] 4:00 pm THE HAT

The Global Climate Future
Tim Palmer, Kerry McCarthy,
Mary Ann Sieghart hosts.

Renewable energy is growing across the world. China is becoming a leader, doubling solar energy in the last year alone. The UK has seen a rise from 10 to 40% over the last ten years. But we are far from being out of the danger zone. Global temperature shows no sign of slowing. 2023 showed a jump in global average temperature making it easily the hottest year in the recent climate record.

What is the future? Are we already too late? How should we handle the climate change that is locked in? Will the radically different impact of climate change across the globe lead to conflict between nations? And is it going to be necessary to make more radical interventions to reduce CO2 emissions or are the changes afloat sufficient to avert catastrophe?

Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Kerry McCarthy, and renowned climate scientist Tim Palmer, debate the global climate future.

DOXBOX

[182] 4:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

The Last Seed

Discover Africa's fight for seed sovereignty and its ramifications for global agriculture and nutrition. From farm to laboratory, this science-driven film uncovers the stunning landscapes of Africa and the hidden history of industrial farming.

INNER CIRCLE

Come make your day a little sweeter with a healthy dose of philosophy and chocolate.

[183] 4:00 pm From £22 INNER CIRCLE

The Philosophy of Chocolate with Sam Bilton
Join Food Historian and author of Philosophy of Chocolate, Sam Bilton, and explore our complex relationship with this versatile confection, which is made from the humble beans of the tropical cacao tree.

4:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[184] 4:00 pm BLUE MOON
Fiddlebop

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[185] 4:30 pm STAGE
Danny Bradley

5:00 PM

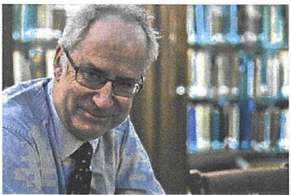
TALK

[186] 5:00 pm THE RING

Mental Health Is Not a Medical Condition
Simon Wessely

We are undoubtedly living through a mental health crisis. But might we be drastically overestimating the amount of people who need medical intervention? Join leading psychologist Simon Wessely as he argues that physicians and psychiatrists are severely inflating the diagnosis of mental health conditions and why this poses a grave risk to society.

"One of the most respected psychiatrists working in Britain today."
- The Times



Simon Wessely

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[187] 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm ACADEMY TENT

The Future is Metamodern
Robin van den Akker

Modernism failed, and critics argue that postmodernism has led us down a path of confusion, nihilism and despair. But metamodernism promises a hopeful synthesis of the two. Join continental philosopher, Robin van den Akker, as he describes the metamodernist movement, and explores one of the newest frontiers in philosophy and culture, salvaging the best of modernism and postmodernism to craft a positive vision for a way forward.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

5:00 PM



Children's Programme

Children's Programme

[188] 5:00 pm MINDCRAFT

Philosophy of the Senses with Barry C. Smith (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[189] 5:00 pm BLUE MOON

Revue

5:30 PM

DEBATE

[190] 5:30 pm ARENA

Darwin vs Consciousness
Stuart Hameroff, Antonella Tramacere,
Denis Noble. Güneş Taylor hosts.

We see Darwin's theory of evolution as central to our understanding of the animate world. At the same time as Descartes identified, we can doubt almost everything but we can't doubt the fact of experience. Yet there is a danger these two central beliefs are irreconcilable. From the point of view of evolution, everything biological has a function in sustaining the species, but researchers claim no function can be found for conscious experience. And if there is no survival benefit to experience why has it evolved?

Should we accept that the theory of evolution and the reality of consciousness are incompatible? Do we need to radically alter our understanding of one, or the other, or both? Or is the core issue that we have no credible theory of consciousness and without it we are not going to be able to make experience compatible with science at all?

Oxford biologist Denis Noble, consciousness theorist Stuart Hameroff, and philosopher of cognition Antonella Tramacere, ask if evolution and consciousness are incompatible.

5:30 PM

DEBATE

[191] 5:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Equality Dream
John Bercow, Lisa Cameron, Vicky Pryce,
Tommy Curry. Isabel Hillon hosts.

Ever since the French revolution, equality has been the battle cry of those who think themselves progressive. Today on matters of gender and income most want a more equal world and think more should be done to deliver it. But there is a risk that no one really knows what kind of equal world they want, and some critics argue focussing on equality is self-defeating. We don't for example want equality with the lives of others we see as undesirable. And since the 1970's while there have been significant advances in women's rights studies show women's happiness to have decreased. While in the workforce despite the widespread introduction of diversity initiatives, 62% of workers said the programs aren't effective and half say the programs failed them personally.

Does the demand for equality risk forcing everyone to adopt the same life goals of those driven by money and power? Instead of equality should we focus on the rights and wellbeing of all individuals? Or is the call for equality a key and essential political goal that we cannot afford to abandon or water down?

Former Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, philosopher of race Tommy Curry, economist Vicky Pryce, and Conservative MP Lisa Cameron, debate what we want from equality.



5:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[192] 5:30 pm THE HAT

Cantorian y Gelli

Ease into the evening with a performance by outstanding local Welsh-language choir Cantorian y Gelli. Led by Gemma Duggan, the powerful choristers secured second place in their category of the National Eisteddfod last year.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[193] 5:30 pm STAGE
Dragonsfly

6:00 PM

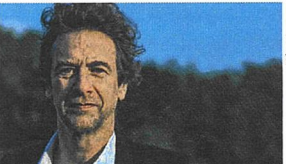
TALK

[194] 6:00 pm THE RING

Beyond the Reality Illusion
Hilary Lawson

We assume our theories describe reality and uncover the truth, far otherwise the success of science appears a miracle. Join leading critic of philosophical realism, philosopher Hilary Lawson, as he argues this is a profound and damaging mistake and puts forward a radical alternative that enables us to make sense of the mystery that is reality.

"Lawson shows himself to be a latter day 'metaphysician' on the grand scale... a quite astonishing achievement." - Alan Montefiore, University of Oxford



Hilary Lawson

DOXBOX

[195] 6:00 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Breaking the Taboo

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, this documentary uncovers the UN sanctioned war on drugs, charting its origins and its devastating impact from the USA to Colombia and Russia. Featuring presidents Clinton and Carter, the film exposes the biggest failure of global policy in the last 50 years.

6:00 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[196] 6:00 pm BLUE MOON
Peiriant

LIVE MUSIC

[197] 6:30 pm THE HAT

The Lovely Good

Formed at Trinity College Dublin, multi-instrumental Irish folk band The Lovely Good have already made a splash on London's new music scene. They combine contemplative moments with cathartic swells of sound.

"Bringing together disparate sonic influences to form something strikingly new." - TrinityFM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[198] 6:30 pm STAGE
The Hanging Bandits

Children's Programme

[199] 6:30 pm MINDCRAFT

Spellbound: The Magic Workshop Experience (See p.60)

6:45 PM

DEBATE

[200] 6:45 pm ARENA

Happily Ever After
Jenny Kleeman, Simon May, Myriam François.
Barry C. Smith hosts.

Most see romantic love as the essential basis for marriage and long-term partnerships. Yet this is a relatively new phenomenon originating in the mid to late 18th century. There is a danger this romantic ideal hides the reality that love is often not enough to sustain long-term commitment and comes with its risks to our own well-being. A 2014 psychiatric study found those in love were more likely to experience depression and anxiety. While a recent BBC study found those who emphasised love were more likely to have shorter relationships and exit them cruelly.

Should we give up the idea that romance is the key to long-term relationships and instead see it, as it was once seen, as a threat to those relationships? Would we be better to focus on compatibility, economics and children? Or should we see romantic love not only as the most vivid and exciting experience in our lives but also the most important?

Philosopher of emotion Simon May, journalist and broadcaster Jenny Kleeman, and filmmaker and activist Myriam François, debate our attachment to romantic love.

IDEAS & CULTURE

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN SUNDAY PARTY

7:00 PM

TALK

[201] 7:00 pm

THE RING

Capitalism and the End of Innovation
Ali Allawi

Global capitalism has defined the past century and has reshaped our lives with the development of influential technological innovations. But is there a danger that the system has now begun to undermine innovation? Join former Finance Minister of Iraq, Ali Allawi, as he argues the global economic framework has begun to prevent development.

"One of Iraq's most respected Shia politicians of the post-Saddam era." - The Independent

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[202] 7:00 pm
Johanna Warren

BLUE MOON



Alia Tully

7:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[203] 7:30 pm

INTERNATIONAL

Ailsa Tully

With support from BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens, BBC Introducing and Amazing Radio, singer-songwriter Ailsa Tully has created an ethereal world rooted in folk, tinged with indie, and grounded by lo-fi field recordings. Her lyrics are unflinchingly honest, raw and poetic as she explores her experiences as a woman.

"A four-track journey brimming with wonder and true beauty." - Gigwise

8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[204] 8:00 pm

THE HAT

Paige Bea

Trained opera singer turned all-pop prodigy Paige Bea has made a huge splash on the UK music scene. Influenced by artists such as FKA Twigs, James Blake and Sampa, Paige has commanded the attention of BBC Radio 1 (Future Artists) and Spotify (Fresh Finds), and put her on the main stage of El Dorado last year.

"Darkly beautiful... nothing short of a marvel." - The Line of Best Fit

COMEDY

[205] 8:00 pm

STAGE

Amy Gledhill

Dave's Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, National Comedy Award nominee and one third of cult double act The Delightful Sausage - Amy Gledhill returns with a brand new show about self-confidence, romance and bin bags. As seen on Would I Lie To You? and Never Mind The Buzzcocks.

"Remember Gledhill's name, because it's about to be everywhere." - The Independent



Amy Gledhill

8:00 PM



DOXBOX

DOXBOX

[206] 8:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

When Titans Clash: De-Risking Decoded

The West is currently striving to de-risk its economies from exposure to China, meaning China's economy is losing billions in foreign investment. This award winning series returns to investigate the shifting tides of this new economic world order, with exclusive access inside the USA, India and China.

INNER CIRCLE

Join a free-wheeling roundtable discussion kicked off by the world's leading thinkers on the biggest ideas. Enjoy a glass of wine and tasty nibbles in an intimate candlelit space.

[207] 8:00 pm

From £30

INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: The Return of War
Christina Lamb, Aaron Bastani, Ali Allawi

The dream of optimists was that progress would gradually phase out war. But with recent developments, should we now see conflict as the new normal? Join journalist Christina Lamb, commentator Aaron Bastani and former Iraq finance minister Ali Allawi, to explore the return of war.

BANQUET

[208] 8:00 pm

From £54

WATERFRONT

Long Table Banquet - Sunday

Our exclusive Long Table Banquets offer you the unmissable opportunity to tuck into a lavish four-course meal with like-minded festival goers. Expect delicious food, award-winning wine and stimulating conversation in the Waterfront, overlooking the River Wye. Book early to avoid disappointment - numbers are strictly limited.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[209] 8:00 pm
Milkweed

BLUE MOON

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN SUNDAY PARTY

8:30 PM

COMEDY

[210] 8:30 pm

ARENA

Shaparak Khorsandi

Shaparak Khorsandi is a regular on popular TV shows including Live at the Apollo and Mock the Week. Her unique blend of cultural insight and uproarious humour has earned her critical acclaim and a devoted fanbase.

"Khorsandi's comedy is as intelligent as it is hilarious." - The Guardian



Shaparak Khorsandi

INNER CIRCLE

[211] 8:30 pm

From £30

INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Salon: The Nature of Consciousness
Stuart Hameroff, Subrena E. Smith, Justine Kolata

Does the mind really reside in the brain? What is the connection between perception and the world? Join consciousness expert Stuart Hameroff, radical philosopher Subrena E. Smith and philosophical salon host Justine Kolata, as they debate the nature of consciousness.

9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[212] 9:00 pm

INTERNATIONAL

AK Patterson

Following a tour with Ali-J, performances at the Royal Albert Hall and collaboration with Mercury-nominated producer Charlie Andrew on her debut EP, AK Patterson brings her hauntingly soulful voice to HowTheLightGetsIn. Her rich storytelling - spanning loneliness and heartbreak to her prison experience - has earned her many fans including Guy Garvey (Elbow).

"The best new music I've heard" - Guy Garvey

COMEDY

[213] 9:00 pm

THE RING

Leila Navabi

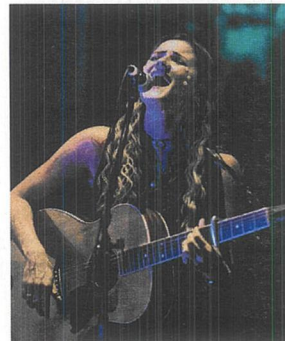
Leila Navabi is a breakthrough comedian, writer and actress from South Wales. Star of BBC's Vandalitz and the BBC New Comedy Awards 2022, Leila has written for Bad Education and Never Mind The Buzzcocks, and can be heard in Channel 4's Don't Hug Me I'm Scared.

"The actual future of comedy." - LMAONoise



Leila Navabi

9:00 PM



AK Patterson

DOXBOX

[214] 9:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Ximei: Fighting China's AIDS Scandal

Discover the story of Ximei, a Chinese woman fighting for fellow AIDS patients who became infected with HIV during China's "Black Blood Economy", when the government encouraged millions of farmers to sell their blood.

RIVERSIDE DISCO

[215] 9:00 pm to late

RIVERSIDE DISCO

Reach Up Disco Wonderland!
Andy Smith, Nick Halkes, Max Galactic

Over recent years their Reach Up Disco Wonderland brand featured for 3 summers on the bounce in Ibiza at the invitation of Carl Cox and saw their party starting mix of disco and house travelling to Berlin, Lisbon and beyond. Whilst Andy has mixed two Reach Up compilations for BBE with a third on the way, Nick has remixed Kylie, Mel C, Degrees of Motion and more. Joined by HowTheLightGetsIn resident Max Galactic - what a finish to this year's festival, good times guaranteed!

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[216] 9:00 pm
Bob Gallie

BLUE MOON

9:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[217] 9:30 pm

THE HAT

Mr Bruce

Former frontman of The Correspondents and one of Britain's most in-demand festival acts, Mr Bruce creates a unique and unparalleled live experience. Lyrically candid yet flamboyant in delivery, the bendy-bodied performer's solo show is nothing short of spectacular.

"Music grooves like a bastard." – Tom Robinson (BBC 6 Music)

10:00 PM



Afriquoi

DOKBOX

[220] 10:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Accidental Anarchist

The remarkable story of how Carne Ross, once a leading UK diplomat, became an anarchist. Rebellious against the establishment, he discovers a new form of politics, so relevant for these turbulent times. Executive produced by Alex Gibney.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[221] 10:00 pm
Slippery Slope Trio

BLUE MOON

10:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[218] 10:00 pm

ARENA

Afriquoi

A festival sensation, Afriquoi are bringing their uplifting fusion of African music and live electronics to our stage for a night of euphoric cross-cultural celebration. Fusing Congolese guitar, Gambian kora virtuosity, and UK electronic sensibility, this live African dance music troupe create an uplifting dancefloor.

"Wildly euphoric, ridiculously danceable." – Uncut

COMEDY

[219] 10:00 pm

STAGE

Priya Hall

Priya Hall's signature style has been described as "hilariously over-the-top." Priya wrote and starred in the BBC 2 Wales sitcom *Beena and Amit* and was a semi-finalist in the BBC New Comedy Awards 2021. She is a series regular on *Sunday Morning With Joanna Page* (BBC Radio Wales) where she reports on the weekly news stories.

"Hall is a masterful storyteller." – *Broadway Baby*



Ania Magliano

10:30 PM

COMEDY

[222] 10:30 pm

THE RING

Ania Magliano

It's that time of year! Ania has some things to say and she would like you to listen please. Ania's previous show was nominated for Best Comedy Show at the Edinburgh Fringe 2023. She has opened for Ed Gamble, Marc Maron and Catherine Cohen, and she also writes with comedian, journalist and viral sensation Amelia Dimoldenberg on *Chicken Shop Date* and *Amelia's Cooking Show*. Her choices on *OH Menu* were widely regarded as one of the worst menus of all time.

"A gift for observational comedy and weaving beautifully crafted routines out of the everyday." – *The Telegraph*

11:00 PM



Raz & Afla

LIVE MUSIC

[223] 11:00 pm

THE HAT

Raz & Afla

Raz & Afla is the child of chart-topping, multi-platinum producer Raz Oliber and Ghanaian master musician Afla Sackey. Between them, they've collaborated with everyone from Gilles Peterson and Lemar to Ayanna Witter-Johnson and Ginger Baker. Together, the duo create a captivating fusion of African rhythms and electronic beats, igniting dance floors across major festivals.

"Electrifying!" – *Wanderland Magazine*

DOKBOX

[224] 11:00 pm

ART & CINEMA TENT

Fk Berlin**

This taboo-busting series throws open the doors of Berlin's famously progressive sex scene where everything is possible and no one is judged; so long as the other person – or people – are into it. Discover the radical power of self-acceptance.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[225] 11:00 pm
Jakey Boy Hughes

BLUE MOON

11:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[226] 11:30 pm

ARENA

James Holden

British techno sorcerer and psychedelic shaman James Holden has grown to be one of the most revered electronic music producers in the UK. His trance-like, upbeat performances, often featuring instrumentalists on stage, sell-out venues and meet rave reviews.

"Astonishing." – *The Guardian*



James Holden

CABARET

[227] 11:30 pm

STAGE

Amrou Al-Kadhi

In this blisteringly funny performance, *Glorious* explores religion, sexuality and identity, with love songs and a main-of-sized wig. Amrou Al-Kadhi was selected as a Screen International star of Tomorrow is the author of *Life As A Unicorn*, and has a TED talk called "What quantum physics taught me about my queer Islamic identity." They're the most intelligent cabaret out there.

"Amrou's story is at times painful, at times hilarious, but always completely resonant." – Emily V. Gordon & Kumail Nanjiani

12:00 AM

MIDNIGHT MAYHEM

Midnight Mayhem sees philosophers and comedians join forces in our late night intellectual showdown with a twist. A carnivalesque procession kicks off the show, before audience members pick a side, and make their voice heard alongside speakers and comedians from our star-studded programme.

[228] 12:00 am

THE RING

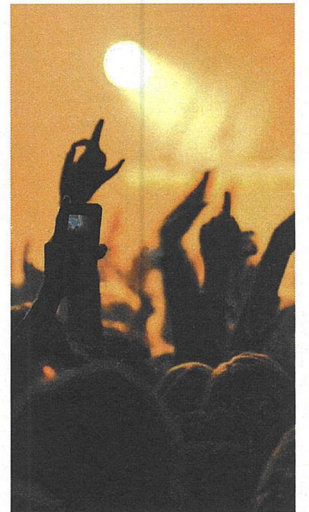
Shakespeare vs Beyoncé

All the world's a stage... and Beyoncé is on it! Pick your side for a night of debauchery and debate. Anyone can step into the ring! Tonight, whose side are you on?... *Shakespeare vs Beyoncé*.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[229] 12:00 am
Silky Disturbance

BLUE MOON



 EXPERIENCES

SPA & WELLNESS



Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Auran Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9:00 am BOHEMIA
Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

FAYRE

10:00 am FAYRE

FAYRE
The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES

11:00 am RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.

1:00 pm - late FRONT ROOM

The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.



9:00 pm to late

Riverside Disco

Opening up onto the river bank, you can dance inside the tent or under the stars to the hottest DJs. Find the secret entrance - there's a café area open all day hidden inside and the big tunes start from 9pm and don't stop until the early hours.

FIRE & FOLK

9:00 pm to late BOHEMIA: FIRE

Fire & Folk

With music by some wonderfully talented acoustic performers and friends along with some very special guests. Join fellow festivalgoers round the light and warmth of the wood fire and enjoy watching night fall after a day full of ideas.

INNER CIRCLE



INNER CIRCLE

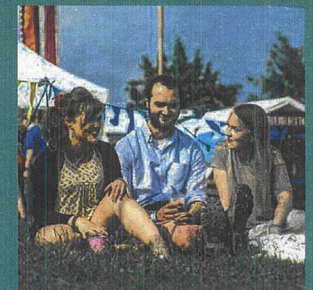
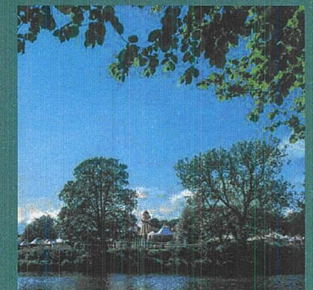
[177] 3:45 pm *From £22* INNER CIRCLE
Prosecco, Cake and Philosophy
with Robin van den Akker
Live up your afternoon with a glass of prosecco, cake and conversation with some of the world's great thinkers.

[183] 4:00 pm *From £22* INNER CIRCLE
The Philosophy of Chocolate
with Sam Bilton
Come make your day a little sweeter with a healthy dose of philosophy and chocolate.



Really important ...
Lots of policy ideas for
government ... These
opportunities are rare
and they're becoming
even rarer.

Jess Phillips,
Labour MP



IDEAS & CULTURE

IDEAS & CULTURE

9:00 AM

INNER CIRCLE

Start your day with a shot of inspiration from your favourite speakers. Expect stimulating ideas along with fresh poshies and coffee.

[231] 9:00 am From £18 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Breakfast with Guy Standing

How we use our time defines our success and who we are. But throughout history, some argue our time has always been controlled by the powerful. Pioneering economist Guy Standing explains how to reclaim our time.

[232] 9:00 am From £18 INNER CIRCLE

Philosophy Breakfast with Shannon Vallor

The future of technology is not set. We could be in for utopia or disaster. One major problem is we have no ethics of tech. Leading philosopher of tech and AI, Shannon Vallor, discusses her work on techno-moral virtue.

10:00 AM

TALK

[233] 10:00 am THE RING

Philosophy at the End of the World Ben Ware

Humanity faces extinction-level threats in the near future, including the prospect of nuclear armageddon, the threat from climate change, and possibly even out-of-control AI. Join leading continental philosopher Ben Ware as he argues that we should deal with our collective demise by treating it as a starting point for a new civilisation.

"One of the sharpest minds in contemporary philosophy." – Dany Nobus

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[234] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm ACADEMY TENT
Philosophy and the Limits of Science
Bernard Carr

Stephen Hawking once proclaimed that 'philosophy is dead'. But critics argue much of modern theoretical physics is inherently philosophical and emphasises theory over evidence. Join Bernard Carr, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, to take a journey into the philosophy behind scientific advances, and discover how science is opening up the role of consciousness in contemporary theories of physics.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

DOKBOX

[235] 10:00 am CINEMA
Ian Hislop's Fake News (film)
Ian Hislop mines 200 years of history to identify what motivates fake news.

10:30 AM

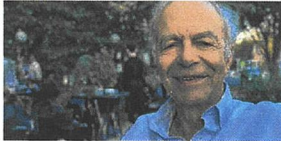


Photo: AnneMarieLaurance, Peter Singer

DEBATE

[236] 10:30 am ARENA

Humanity and the Gods of Nature
Peter Singer, Slavoj Žižek, Nancy Sherman,
Jack Symes hosts.

From the time of Socrates we have seen morality as driven by human desires and goals. But many now argue that this human focus is misguided and leaves the natural world in peril. By prioritising human well-being they contend, we have ransacked the earth, eradicated and mistreated other species, and taken insufficient care of our home, the Earth. We are even planning to do the same to other nearby planets. It is not sufficient for us to protect nature for our benefit, instead they argue nature needs to be preserved for its own sake.

Do we need to re-think morality to find a new framework that no longer places humans at the centre? If so, how are we to assess the well-being of nature independently of our human perspective? Or is the notion that we can escape human goals and desires itself deluded, risking a return to an age where humans are sacrificed to the gods of the natural world?

Friedman philosopher Slavoj Žižek, renowned ethicist Peter Singer, and Georgetown professor of philosophy Nancy Sherman, question human centred morality.

DEBATE

[237] 10:30 am INTERNATIONAL

The Agents of Life
Johnjoe McFadden, Frances Ashcroft,
Denis Noble, Shini Somara hosts.

From cats to caterpillars, hedgehogs to humans, we divide the world of living things into distinct and separate organisms. But while central to our perception of the world and evolution, these distinctions now lack dangerously simplistic. Studies show that the boundaries between one creature and the next are not clear. Forests of 'distinct' trees are often connected by networks of fungi which, like a great nervous system, are essential to their survival. And almost all large creatures co-exist with great swarms of bacteria that are essential to their very life function.

Should we move away from an organism centred biology, and recognise the interconnected character of life? Should we reject the idea that a living thing constitutes a distinct and stable entity? Or are discrete units of life essential to our understanding of the world?

Acclaimed biologist Johnjoe McFadden, pioneering geneticist Frances Ashcroft, and world-renowned biologist Denis Noble, debate life and its environment.

10:30 AM

IN CONVERSATION

A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

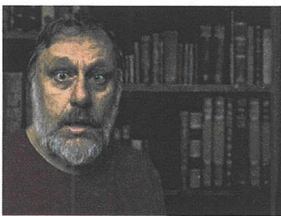
[238] 10:30 am THE HAT

Brave Old World
Aaron Bastani, Oli Dugmore

Demographic change is the hidden crisis of our time. The world's population is ageing. In Japan, nearly 30% are over 65, and it is predicted the number over 60 will globally double by 2050. Join co-founder of Navara Media Aaron Bastani, and head of news for PoliticsJOE Oli Dugmore, to explore the crisis and its profound consequences. The event will be a live PoliticsJOE podcast recording.

"Bastani's genius is to see the future with crisp clarity." – Paul Mason

Event Curated by PoliticsJOE



Slavoj Žižek

11:00 AM

TALK

[239] 11:00 am THE RING

AI is a Mirror on Humanity
Shannon Vallor

Many contemporary physicists argue that spacetime is fundamental and that consciousness is an emergent phenomenon. But might this mainstream picture be mistaken? Join NASA scientist and philosopher Susan Schneider as she argues that consciousness gives rise to spacetime.

"Profound and entertaining." – Martin Rees

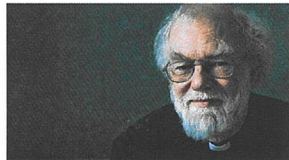
11:00 AM

Children's Programme

[240] 11:00 am MINDCRAFT
Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[241] 11:15 am BLUE MOON
Dragonsfly



Rowan Williams

11:30 AM

THE FUTURE SERIES

A series of events that offer visions of the future.

[242] 11:30 am THE HAT

The Future of Totalitarianism
Rowan Williams, Lyndsey Stonebridge

The international rules-based order is in decline. Power and military might rule the day. Join former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and award-winning author and political rights specialist, Lyndsey Stonebridge as they argue the insights and contradictions of Hannah Arendt's philosophy are now more prescient than ever. Despite the shifting faces of modern evil, the ways philosophers interpreted the horrors of the 20th century are more relevant than ever to our modern world.

"Expertly analysed and beautifully written, Stonebridge on Arendt is a rare gem." – Shami Chakrabarti, House of Lords

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[243] 11:30 am STAGE
Sophia You-Weeks

DOKBOX

[244] 11:45 am ART & CINEMA TENT
Power Scramble

From mobile phones and wind turbines to weaponry and electric cars, 'rare earths' are essential for producing the technologies that shape our lives today. Travel across Asia and Oceania to uncover how the growing demand for them is set to impact our everyday lives.

12:00 PM

DEBATE

[245] 12:00 pm ARENA

Sex, Language and Gender
Felipe de Vile, Günes Taylor, Aline
Laurent-Mayard. Sophie Scott-Brown hosts.

Until a decade or so ago it was widely assumed there were two sexes and two genders. Now it is held by many that the sexes are not two but a spectrum and there are an indefinite number of genders. Hat and sometimes vicious debate has ensued. But there is a danger that we are confusing a debate about language with reality. Language provides the framework through which we make sense of the world rather than how it is in itself. The number of sexes is not therefore going to be definitively identified as a matter of fact in a lab, but is a product of how we define and use the word 'sex'.

Should we recognise that there is no right answer to the number of sexes or genders? Should we see the number of sexes and genders as a political and practical choice about the outcome we desire rather than a factual description of the world? Or is it to obscure the everyday evidence that there is a fact of the matter?

Gender theorist Felipe de Vile, award-winning molecular biologist Günes Taylor, and journalist author and podcaster Aline Laurent-Mayard debate sex and gender.

DEBATE

[246] 12:00 pm INTERNATIONAL

The Values and Prejudices of Science
Ben Ware, Tim Palmer, Marika Taylor,
Hilary Lawson hosts.

From the origins of the universe to the functioning of the brain, we see science as a quest for the underlying truth of things. The worldviews and personal opinions of the scientists are thought to be irrelevant. But might this be a dangerous mistake? Critics argue the personal experience and outlook of the scientist is a key element that cannot be eradicated. Einstein's criticism of quantum mechanics for example was ultimately based on his personal view that 'God does not play dice with the world'. While accounts of the brain reflect the historical time and perspectives of the scientists involved – once the brain was seen as a telephone exchange, now it is commonly described as a computer.

Should we conclude that all scientific theories are influenced by the personal outlook of the scientist, and the particular worldview they hold? As a result, do we need to ensure that scientists hold a wide range of different outlooks and have varied personal backgrounds? Or is such an approach fundamentally misguided, and instead science should always seek to eradicate the personal and focus on the brilliance of the theory alone?

Philosopher of extinction Ben Ware, mathematics and climate physicist Tim Palmer, and professor of theoretical physics Marika Taylor, debate science and objectivity.

12:00 PM

TALK

[247] 12:00 pm THE RING

Consciousness Gives Rise to Spacetime
Susan Schneider

We think that spacetime is fundamental and that consciousness is an emergent phenomenon. But might the mainstream picture be mistaken? Join NASA scientist and philosopher Susan Schneider as she argues that consciousness gives rise to spacetime.

"Will fascinate anyone who enjoys thinking 'outside of the box.'" – Martin Rees

Children's Programme

[248] 12:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins (See p.60)

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[249] 12:15 pm BLUE MOON
Lucy Nadeau

THE LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY SERIES

The world's leading thinkers look back and explore what led them to their philosophy and what they have learnt from life.

[250] 12:30 pm THE HAT

The Life and Philosophy of Peter Singer
Peter Singer

Peter Singer is one of the world's leading philosophers, renowned for his challenging and often controversial views. From animal ethics to effective altruism, Singer has shaped the philosophical landscape. Join this event to uncover the key events in his life that led to his ideas, and hear him answer his critics and defend the convictions that have made him the force that he is today.

"The Dangerous Philosopher." – The New Yorker

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[251] 12:30 pm STAGE
EDDY

TALK

[252] 1:00 pm THE RING

The Art of Getting Lost
Joanna Kavenna

In the age of Google Maps, we hardly ever get lost. But might we be missing out on a key part of what makes life special? Join novelist and philosopher Jo Kavenna as she shows us how to reclaim the art of getting lost, and argues nothing truly special happens along the beaten path.

"Wonderful, impossible, dynamic." – Observe

IDEAS & CULTURE

1:00 PM

Children's Programme

[253] 1:00 pm MINDCRAFT
Dreaming with Butterflies with...
(See p. 60)

INNER CIRCLE

Tuck into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers over a glass of award-winning wine.

[254] 1:00 pm From E22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Martha Fienies

AI is now pushing at new frontiers, changing what we believe about art and creativity. Join celebrated artist Martha Fienies to join the conversation about whether AI can ever truly be creative.

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[255] 1:15 pm ARENA

Controlling the Tech Titans
Susan Schneider, Kenneth Cukier, Joscha Bach, Shannon Vallor. Roger Hearing hosts.

Big Tech was once the envy of the world, transforming the way we live, work and think. But critics claim attempts to monitor Big Tech have failed and point to the serious threat that regulators don't understand what they are regulating. A recent high-profile member of the US Congress argued lawmakers don't even understand what AI is, let alone how to oversee it. As evidence of the failure, 41 US States are suing Meta for deliberately designing features to addict children, while Big Tech's vast financial clout, funding university research and government salaries vitiates oversight.

Do Western governments need to follow the Chinese example and build their own expertise and tech platforms to effectively regulate Big Tech? Should we seek to regain control by breaking up the Big Tech giants? Or is the value of innovation sufficient to overcome fears of the growing political and cultural power of the technology behemoths?

Philosopher Susan Schneider, Economist journalist and editor Kenneth Cukier, AI researcher Joscha Bach, and data ethicist Shannon Vallor, ask if big tech can be controlled.



Shannon Vallor

1:15 PM

DEBATE

[256] 1:15 pm INTERNATIONAL

A World Without Values
Tommy Curry, Eva Illouz, Robin van den Akker. Isabel Hilton hosts.

Once values such as justice and equality were agreed upon by all. Now they are identified by some as vehicles to entrench or overturn power. On the left, 'justice' as a means to sustain and impose privilege, 'truth' as an attempt to claim enduring authority. On the right, 'diversity' and 'equality' as means to undermine the status quo in favour of a new elite. The danger is apparent to many. Without agreed values, society is increasingly divided. Debate is limited by tribal associations that make discussion hard if not impossible.

Do we need to re-engage with those whose values and beliefs we reject, while accepting that our own values are not universal? Should we seek to construct a new enlightenment to provide an agreed basis for progress that could apply to all? Or do we just need to reinforce the liberal democratic values of our past?

Leading philosopher of race Tommy Curry, metamodernist Robin van den Akker, and sociologist Eva Illouz, go in search of values that we can all endorse.

INNER CIRCLE

[257] 1:15 pm From E22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch with Harry Cliff

Scientists are uncovering a catalogue of weird phenomena. Unknown forces are begging on matter and defying our established theories. Join radical physicist Harry Cliff to explore the mysteries of the universe.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[258] 1:15 pm BLUE MOON
Danny Bradley

HAT SESSIONS

[259] 1:30 pm THE HAT

Destiny: Are we really in control?
Nadia Idle, Jeremy Gilbert and Keir Milburn

In the wake of the pandemic and the midst of the cost of living and climate crises, it's easy for individuals to feel helpless. But can we ever have control over our destinies, or do social conditions always control our lives? Join ACFM podcast hosts Nadia Idle, Jeremy Gilbert and Keir Milburn for a lively discussion on the social, historical, structural, and psychological forces that shape us and our fates. The event will be a live ACFM (Novara) podcast recording.

In Partnership with Novara Media and ACFM



1:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[260] 1:30 pm STAGE
Slippery Slope Trio

IAI ACADEMY COURSE

[261] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm ACADEMY TENT
The Philosophy of Dehumanisation
David Livingstone Smith

From the Rwandan genocide to Nazi concentration camps, atrocities often manifest when the oppressors see their victims as less than human. Join philosopher of psychology, David Livingstone Smith, as he explores the psychology at the heart of cruelty, how our minds make us vulnerable to dehumanising rhetoric, and how we can insulate ourselves against hate.

See page 58 for Part One and Two.

DOKBOX

[262] 1:30 pm CINEMA

Breaking Brethren: Escaping a Fundamentalist Sect
Inside story of a secretive religious sect.



Avshalom Elitzur

TALK

[263] 2:00 pm THE RING

What Einstein Got Wrong About Time
Avshalom Elitzur

Conventional wisdom holds that time flows. But contemporary physics casts doubt on this common-sense view. According to Einstein, we live in a 'block universe', where the future is set, the past continues to exist, and there is no passage of time. Join controversial physicist Avshalom Elitzur as he argues that Einstein was wrong and offers a radical new theory of time.

"A household name among physicists." - The EISM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[264] 2:15 pm BLUE MOON
Chris Bradshaw

2:30 PM

DEBATE

[265] 2:30 pm ARENA

Thinking Set Free
Subrena E. Smith, Paul Bloom, Stuart Hameroff, Johnjoe McFadden hosts.

We take it for granted that thinking helps us to understand the world and make good decisions. And to think is to reason. But there is a risk this is not the whole story. Studies into flow states where individuals are single-mindedly focussed on a single task, without self-reflection or reasoning, have identified that less deliberation rather than more leads to better performance. A McKinsey study of top executives found them to be five times more productive and better decision makers when in such states. While researchers have also shown that scientists rely as much on 'tacit skills' and experience as on logical thought.

Should we abandon our focus on reasoning as the best means to determine action? Should we give priority to practical experience over theory, and body over mind? Or at a time when public debate is ever more divisive, is it essential we double down on rational thought to rule out mistaken and dangerous proposals?

Quantum consciousness theorist Stuart Hameroff, evolutionary psychology critic Subrena E. Smith, and best-selling author and psychologist Paul Bloom, explore the nature of thought.

DEBATE

[266] 2:30 pm INTERNATIONAL

Nightmare in Suburbia
Sophie Scott-Brown, Des Fitzgerald, Hannah Rich, Mary Ann Steghart hosts.

The classic picture of success for much of the last century has been a detached suburban house, 2.4 kids, and a shiny car. But is there a danger this dream of domestic bliss is out of touch with the realities of human psychology, economics and our evolutionary roots? For much of human history, we lived in extended groups of 20 or more. In a family of four, if one relationship fails, the whole unit is at risk. Unsurprising perhaps that 1 in 5 adults now say they always or often feel lonely. With challenges in child and elderly care and a global housing crisis projected to affect 1.6 billion people by 2025, critics argue the isolated nuclear household has to go.

Is it time to abandon the 'picket fence dream' as an unnatural, and unsustainable way of living? Should we seek to adopt a radical new model of the home which embraces co-living and shared domestic labour? Or is this an elitist pipe dream that ignores the realities of everyday life and the pleasure individuals and families get from living in their own home?

Best-selling author Des Fitzgerald, anarchist Sophie Scott-Brown, and historian and activist Hannah Rich, ask if it is time to abandon the suburban dream.

In Partnership with Theos

IDEAS & CULTURE

2:30 PM

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[267] 2:30 pm STAGE
Deborah Rose



TALK

[268] 3:00 pm THE RING

Israel's Democracy Crisis
Eva Illouz

The conflict in the Middle East has shaken the world. But there has been little focus on Israel's own internal democratic crisis, and how this is affecting the conflict. Join renowned sociologist Eva Illouz as she reveals the hidden internal drama behind the crisis and offers an unexpected solution to the trauma of the Middle East.

"Illouz could very well be the twenty-first century's next great public intellectual." - Guernica

IN CONVERSATION

A series of events bringing thinkers together to share and explore key topics of the moment.

[269] 3:00 pm

THE HAT

The Reality of Women at War
Christina Lamb, Isabel Hilton

War is often thought to be predominantly male. But in reality, women and conflict are inseparable. Rape is "the cheapest weapon known to man", wrote Christina Lamb in her book *Our Bodies, Their Battlefield*. Amidst a career taking her from warzone to warzone, join journalist, Lamb, as she discusses the role sexual violence plays in modern war. Interviewed by Isabel Hilton.

"Lamb...does society a service by forcing us to look."
- New York Times

howthelighgetsin.org

3:15 PM

DOKBOX

[270] 3:15 pm ART & CINEMA TENT

Will's Book

400 years ago, two actors preserved Shakespeare's legacy by compiling his works into the First Folio, saving plays like *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night* from obscurity. Led by scholars, this documentary explores the greatest rescue in cultural history.

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[271] 3:15 pm BLUE MOON
Fundlewarp

Music & Acoustic Sessions

[272] 3:30 pm STAGE
Lady Nade

4:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC

[273] 4:00 pm ARENA

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir

There's a time for tradition. Each year the wonderfully magical Blaenavon Male Voice Choir have closed the HowTheLightGetsIn festival, and there's never a dry eye - or spare inch - in the house. Founded over a century ago in 1910, the premier Welsh choir is still going strong, and has toured across the world. Prepare to be moved.

"Show stopping." - LA Times



Blaenavon Male Voice Choir

 EXPERIENCES



SPA & WELLNESS

Escape the hustle and relax for a moment at the serene Arium Spa including Meditation, Massage and Yoga for all ages.

9.15 am - 4.45 pm BOHEMIA

Spa events are booked and paid for separately - online or in person.

FAYRE

10.15 am - 4.45 pm FAYRE

FAYRE

The market is full of surprises. Artisan food producers, vintage clothes, cocktails and sequins, as well as some truly original workshops.



RIDES



11.15 am - 4.45 pm RIVERSIDE

Vintage Rides

Our vintage rides aren't only for children. Take in the wonderful views of the Black Mountains from the Ferris Wheel. We're sure Wittgenstein would approve.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP

[240] 11:00 am
Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins

WORKSHOP

[248] 12:00 pm
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN LUNCH

INNER CIRCLE

[254] 1:00 pm From £22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch
with Martha Finneas

[257] 1:15 pm From £22 INNER CIRCLE
HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch
with Harry Cliff

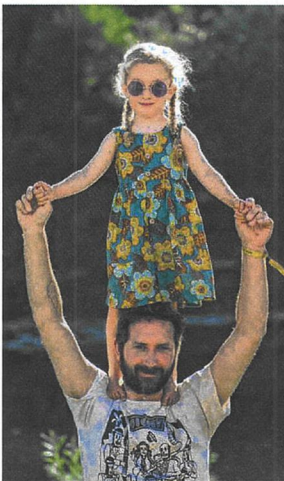
Tuck into a delicious lunch with our inspiring speakers over a glass of award-winning wine.

FRONT ROOM

1.15 pm - 4.45 pm FRONT ROOM

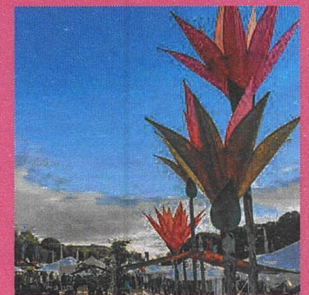
The People's Front Room

A team of wonderfully talented musicians create a truly unique vibe as they extemporise classic tracks of every genre along with their own wicked tunes. Throughout the day and to close of play in the evening.



Asking real questions ...
orchestrated much
more precisely than
is usual in our field

Gerard T'Hooft,
Physicist and
Nobel Prize Winner



EXPAND YOUR MIND

at the IAI Academy

Ideas are evolving. At the edge there is rarely consensus. That's why we've created a new platform for learning.

IAI ACADEMY

The IAI Academy breaks with the convention that lectures should be devoid of opinion. Our courses invite world-leading thinkers to present a case and a point of view rather than package opinion as knowledge.

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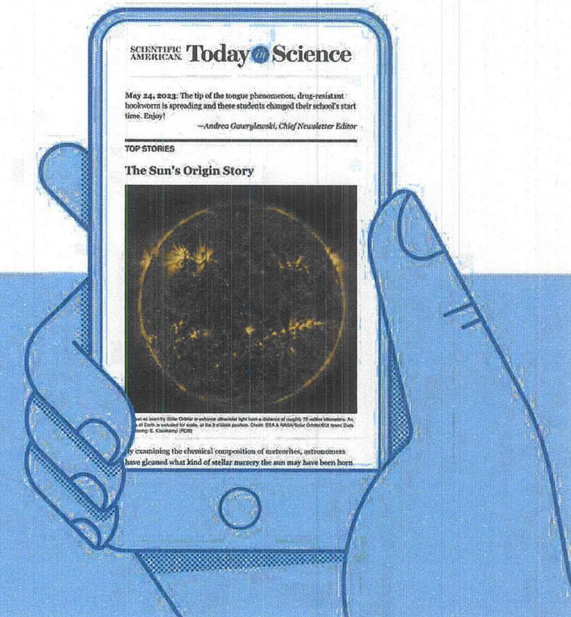


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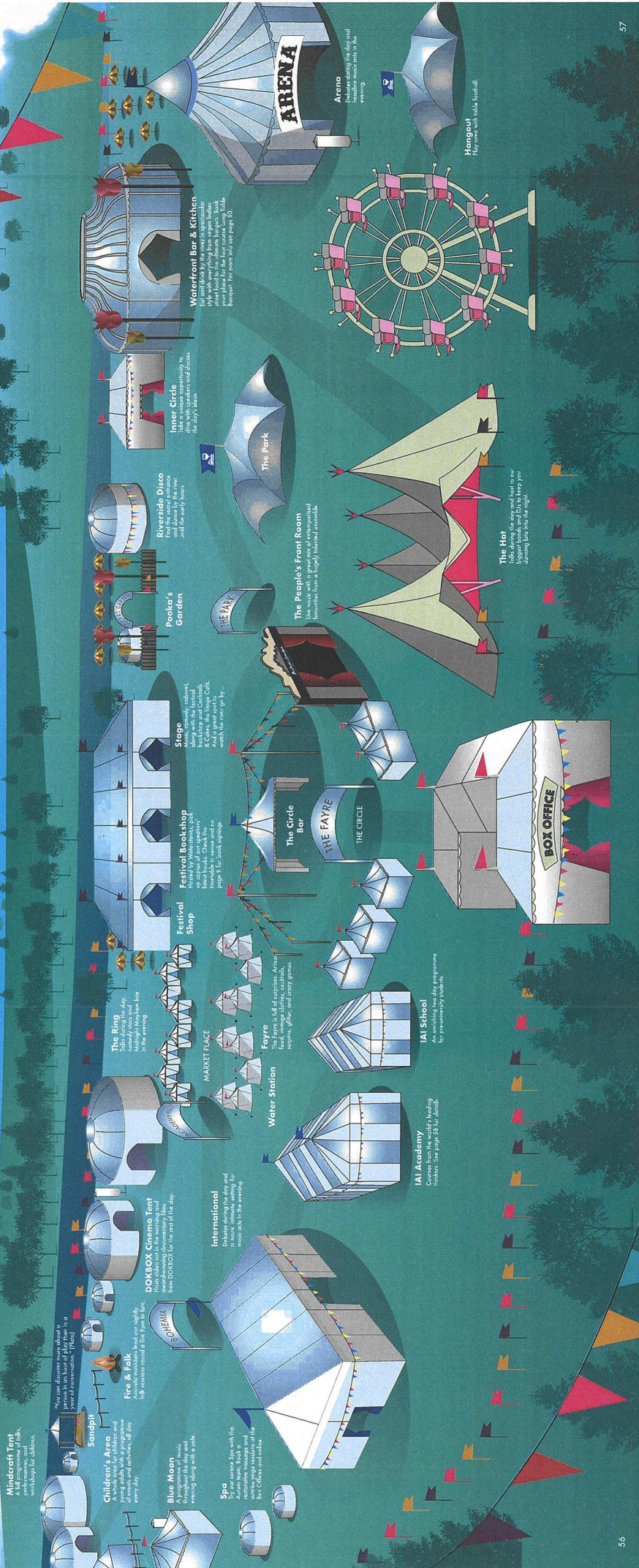
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Festival Site



Microcraft Tent
A full programme of high, workshops for children.

Children's Area
A wide area for children and young people to enjoy their every day.

Fire & Talk
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Blue Moon
The first of the festival's evening events with a talk.

Spot
The first of the festival's evening events with a talk.

International
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Water Station
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Fayre
The fayre is full of surprises. Along with a variety of stalls, there will be games, music, and more.

Market Place
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

The Ring
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Festival Shop
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

Festival Bookshop
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

Stage
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Parker's Garden
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

Riverside Disco
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Inner Circle
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

Waterfront Bar & Kitchen
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

ARENA
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

Hengeout
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

The People's Front Room
A series of talks and workshops for children and young people.

The Hut
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

Box Office
A series of stalls and workshops for children and young people.

HowTheLightGetsIn IAI ACADEMY

The IAI Academy programme offers short, two-part courses by leading thinkers from around the world. Designed to be accessible and opinionated, the courses are your chance to hear world-leading academics put forward their views on problems at the cutting edge of their field. Courses take place in the Academy Field (see map p. 56). There will be welcome drinks, breaks for tea and coffee between classes, and time to meet other students and the lecturer.

Now in its twelfth year, both live and online, the IAI Academy breaks with the convention that lectures can and should be devoid of opinion. In an era where information is everywhere abundant and available, its goal is not to promote one approach as settled 'objective' knowledge but to encourage lecturers to explicitly provide their own take on a field, and to offer new ways of thinking. Additional IAI Academy Courses can be found online.

IAI Academy

Saturday 26th May 2024

Oliver Reisman

Has successfully completed an IAI Academy course of HowTheLightGetsIn

For those who wish to take an assessment we offer verified certificates of attendance and credits towards an IAI Award at the end of your session. Details can be found on the IAI Academy website. But we welcome those who come for the ideas alone.

Courses Timetable

Welcome drinks / Course info	20 minutes
Part One	45 minutes
Tea / Coffee Break	20 minutes
Part Two	30 minutes
Optional Assessment	20 minutes

For those who would like to take the assessment, which includes your results and the certificate, fees are only £12



Matthew Beaumont



SATURDAY

[48] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

The Politics of the Body

Matthew Beaumont
We normally think of our bodies aesthetically or biologically. But there is much to be learnt about the phenomenology and philosophy of our physique, and how it interacts with, reflects, and is part of our experience of the world. Join Professor of English at UCL, Matthew Beaumont, as he guides us through the philosophy of Franz Fanon and William Reich, and argues that our bodies impact the way we see the world, our social and political experience, and our self-perception.

Part 1 - Freedom and the Body

How our humanity is revealed through our body

Part 2 - Our Body as a Guide to Knowledge

What Fanon, Reich and Walking can teach us about understanding the world.

SATURDAY

[71] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Ethics of Human Extinction

Émile P. Torres
At the time of writing the doomsday clock - a metaphor for how near we are to catastrophe - stands at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. The capacity for humanity to destroy itself is relatively new. For centuries Christianity emphasised survival and eternal salvation, leaving us ill-prepared for a post-apocalyptic world. In its place, Émile P. Torres charts a history of apocalypse and proposes a radically new theoretical foundation for humanity to face the possibility of 'omnicide', the death of all human life.

Part 1 - A Genealogy of Apocalypse

How do we understand apocalypse from those who have experienced it?

Part 2 - Ethics during the End of the World

What obligations do we have as the world ends?



SATURDAY

[97] 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Women vs the Free Market

Vicky Pryce
Gender inequality shouldn't be a part of the free market. After all, surely the best person gets the job and is rewarded for their work. But from the gendered threat of robot labour to the lack of women in economics itself, Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, uncovers the deeper side to this story. Without bold decisive action that radically changes contemporary capitalism, we will not achieve the equality that we desire.

Part 1 - Women in the Economy

How are the economy and gender linked?

Part 2 - The Market's #MeToo

What are the fundamental tenets of capitalism that need to change?

SUNDAY

[140] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Quantum Biology

Johnjoe McFadden
More than 60 years ago the father of quantum mechanics, Erwin Schrödinger, insisted that aspects of biology must be based on quantum rather than classical laws. And as the attention of 21st-century biology is probing the dynamics of ever-smaller systems, ignoring quantum mechanics is becoming increasingly untenable. Join Johnjoe McFadden as he explores recent experiments indicating that life's most fundamental processes depend on the quantum undercurrent of reality.

Part 1 - The Worry About The Very Small

How did biology ignore the quantum picture?

Part 2 - The Future is Quantum

How will quantum biology give us more powerful ways to understand and intervene in the world?



SUNDAY

[163] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Mysteries of Black Holes

Priya Natarajan
Black holes hold a privileged place within the popular imagination. We all know what they are, but there is still much we don't understand. How do they form? What happens when things fall in? And what's inside a black hole? Join recent winner of the Liberty Science Center 'Genius Award' and Chair of Astronomy at Yale, Priya Natarajan, as she explores her recent discoveries about how black holes grow, form, and evolve, and how we can measure one of the most mysterious phenomena in the universe.

Part 1 - The Variety of Black Holes

How are black holes distributed around the galaxy? Why do some stay in place while others wander?

Part 2 - New Insights into Black Holes

How does the new space telescope help us understand the formation of the first black holes and the creation of supermassive black holes?



Robin van den Akker

MONDAY

[234] 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Philosophy and the Limits of Science

Bernard Carr
Stephen Hawking once proclaimed that 'philosophy is dead'. But critics argue much of modern theoretical physics is inherently philosophical as it emphasises theory over evidence. Join Bernard Carr, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, to take a journey into the philosophy behind scientific advances, and discover how science is opening up the role of consciousness in contemporary theories of physics.

Part 1 - From Myths to the Mainstream

How can scientific methods once seen as anathema become a useful part of mainstream physics?

Part 2 - Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness

How integrating consciousness into our understanding of physics can pave a pathway to a theory of everything?

SUNDAY

[187] 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

The Future is Metamodern

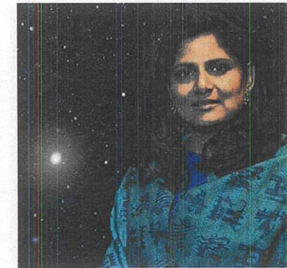
Robin van den Akker
Modernism failed, and critics argue that postmodernism has led us down a path of confusion, nihilism and despair. But metamodernism promises a hopeful synthesis of the two. Join continental philosopher, Robin van den Akker, as he describes the metamodernist movement, and explores one of the newest frontiers in philosophy and culture, salvaging the best of modernism and postmodernism to craft a positive vision for a way forward.

Part 1 - Beyond Postmodernism

How has the state of modernity failed? And where do we go from here?

Part 2 - Yearning for Utopia

How can the spirit of metamodernism enrich our lives?



Priya Natarajan

MONDAY

[261] 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Philosophy of Dehumanisation

David Livingstone Smith
From the Rwandan genocide to Nazi concentration camps, atrocities often manifest when the oppressors see their victims as less than human. Join philosopher of psychology, David Livingstone Smith, as he explores the psychology at the heart of cruelty, how our minds make us vulnerable to dehumanising rhetoric, and how we can insulate ourselves against hate.

Part 1 - Seeing Others As Less Than Human

How tyrants and populations came to see others as less than human.

Part 2 - Defending Ourselves Against Dehumanisation

How can we protect ourselves against the psychological and rhetorical quirks that open the path to dehumanisation?

Bernard Carr

Children & Young Adult Programme

For budding space scientists, bookworms, fun-lovers, and thinkers alike, HowTheLightGetsIn has plenty on offer to keep children and young adults of all ages busy in our Mindcraft area. There's a whole programme of talks and events in the Mindcraft tent with experiences to pique the curiosity of 7-12 year olds. Elsewhere on the festival site, our sandpit will keep smaller ones entertained whilst in-between can get serious with giant games in the Hangout along with our famed vintage rides. All events in the

Mindcraft are free to attend, with the exception of our special pottery workshops; tickets for these sessions can be purchased via our website or at the Box Office.

And for sixth formers and pre-university students, there's a whole programme available at the IAI School. Tickets though must be purchased separately and in advance. (p. 63).

SATURDAY 25TH

WORKSHOP
[53] 11:00 am

Discover your superpower!

What could it mean to discover your purpose? In this interactive event, join philosophical educator Steven Campbell-Harris, delving into intriguing questions like: What is your goal in life? Who gets to decide? And why do we have certain interests and hobbies? Together, we'll learn about how each of us have our own special purpose, and how our talents and passions make us different from others. Unleash your inner superhero as we dive into this amazing philosophical world.

WORKSHOP
[62] 12:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Bare Glazed Pottery Studio is a creative hub for budding artists. Join our portable pottery workshops for a fun and relaxing session of making. You will learn one of three different hand-building techniques: pinch pots, coiling or slab work and create a masterpiece that commemorates your wonderful festival experience. These workshops are structured around different levels of ability, so whether you're a complete beginner or improver, all are welcome!

Session 1: Pinched pots
Session 2: Coiling
Session 3: Slab building

Class duration: 1.5 hours (Please arrive 5 mins before the class starts)

Pricing:
Adults (16+) £12
Under 16s £10 (helpers of young children are free)

Book early to avoid disappointment!

SATURDAY 25TH



WORKSHOP
[74] 2:00 pm

Freedom Inside Out

Calling all young thinkers! Imagine a man who wakes up to find he is in prison. He finds he has a cellmate he likes, plenty of books, a television, and a kitchen. He realises that he is quite happy to be there and doesn't want to leave. However, if he did want to leave, he would be unable to. So, is the man free? Alongside Jo Webster, we'll explore how happiness can be found in the most unexpected places!

WORKSHOP
[84] 3:30 pm

Atomic Adventures with Professor Astro Cat

What are the tiniest parts that make up the world? What do they look like? And how do they behave? Join Professor Astro Cat and the gang on their thrilling adventure into the tiny world of atoms. Get ready to unleash your inner scientist, as the gang learns about energy, forces and the building blocks of you, me and the universe in this mind-blowing atomic escapade.

SATURDAY 25TH

WORKSHOP
[95] 5:00 pm

Setting Sail with Theseus with Annie Webster

Welcome aboard, explorers! Today, we're setting sail on an incredible voyage to explore the mysterious ship of Theseus. He's having some trouble with his ship -- after every adventure, something breaks and he has to replace it! He can't remember where the old ship starts and the new ship ends. Is it even the same ship? Join Annie Webster on this magical adventure.

WORKSHOP
[107] 6:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Suitable for all ages
See 12.30pm Saturday slot for details



SUNDAY 26TH

WORKSHOP
[145] 11:00 am

Aesop's Animal Adventures with Steven Campbell-Harris

Join Steven Campbell-Harris for a wonderful adventure, diving into Aesop's story The Frog and The Scorpion. Together, we'll reflect on blame and responsibility. What does it mean for something to be 'in our nature'? Are we truly free to choose our actions? Come and find out what these questions mean, and how we might answer them.



WORKSHOP
[154] 12:30 pm

Pottery Extravaganza

Suitable for all ages
See 12.30pm Saturday slot for details

WORKSHOP
[166] 2:00 pm

Keep it Up! Juggling and Diabolo with Charlie Barnett

Join the masterful Charlie Barnett and learn how to diabolo - the game derived from the Chinese yo-yo! Come along and learn some of the huge variety of tricks that are possible such as the Whip Catch and the Star Cradle, and watch some advanced ones yourself!



SUNDAY 26TH

WORKSHOP
[176] 3:30 pm

Journey to the World of Alien Hats with Jo Webster

Calling all young adventurers! Prepare to embark on an extraordinary journey beyond the stars and into the realms of imagination. A dizzying journey through space and time awaits, as we explore when a chair is not a chair but ... an alien's hat! Together with Jo Webster, we'll unravel the mysteries of the imagination and discover how ordinary objects transform into extraordinary treasures.

WORKSHOP
[188] 5:00 pm

Philosophy of the Senses with Barry C. Smith

Why do we feel happy when we go outside? How does the blueness of the sky make us feel? In this interactive workshop, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses Barry Smith will offer a range of sensory experiences to explore how our senses and our emotions are intimately intertwined. Expect to see the world differently by the time you leave.



WORKSHOP
[199] 6:30 pm

Spellbound: The Magic Workshop Experience with Tom Barnett

Unleash the mystic within you at our enchanting Magic Workshop, led by the extraordinary Tom Barnett. Conjure spells, learn the secrets of illusions, and immerse yourself in the world of wonder and enchantment. Let your dreams take flight and your spirit ignite, because magic is real and it's waiting for you to discover!

MONDAY 27TH



WORKSHOP
[240] 11:00 am

Follow the Leader with Matilda Atkins

Rules are tedious, but know we have to follow them. Come join this fun session with Matilda Atkins to question why we tell the truth or knock on closed doors before entering and what their purpose is. Together, we'll dream up what the perfect rules might be. Let's find out together how rules and freedom go hand in hand, and if rules can actually make us more free.

WORKSHOP
[248] 12:00 pm

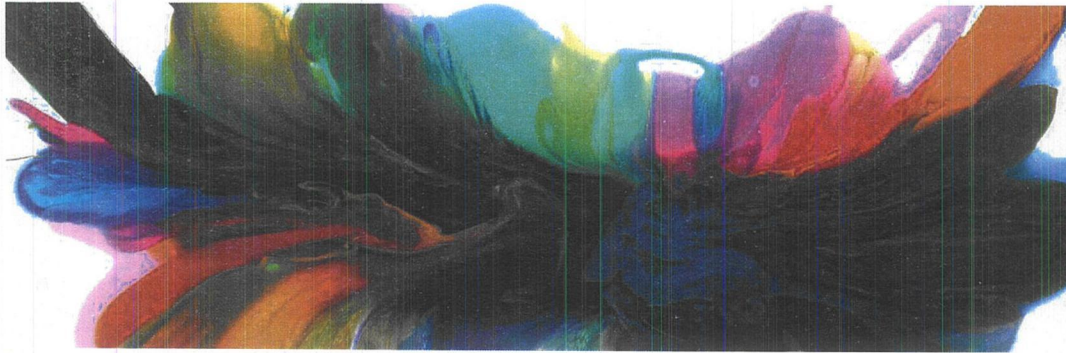
Who Am I with Matilda Atkins

Have you ever wondered if you're still the same person you were before, and if you'll be the same in the future? What makes you uniquely you? Is it your body, your thoughts, or maybe even something like your spirit? Join Matilda Atkins to answer these big questions and explore the puzzles in ourselves.

WORKSHOP
[253] 1:00 pm

Dreaming with Butterflies with Annie Webster

Welcome to a whimsical journey through the enchanting world of the Butterfly Dream! Chuang Tzu, a philosopher from ancient China, once woke from a dream where he was a butterfly. Was it only a dream, or did he transform into a butterfly? Just because it was a dream, does it mean that it wasn't real? Prepare to be swept away by this talk with Annie Webster.



Art & Cinema Tent

OPEN GALLERY

Open Gallery presents 'Danger, Desire and Destiny' a video painting series commissioned exclusively for HowTheLightGetsIn - May 2024. Exhibited in the Art & Cinema tent during the mornings and early afternoons of the festival weekend. Open Gallery has pioneered the medium of video painting since its inception in 2001.

In *Danger, Desire and Destiny* features work by international artists like Gabrielle Le Bayon of France as well as many UK-based artists who use the medium of video painting to create a series of dream-like images. These video paintings allow the viewer to find in the multi-layered texture of the image a myriad of unexpected detail and wonder. They challenge our standard assumption that images must depict some known object or event, and in its place uncover a rich and unknown world that typically remains hidden.

To fully appreciate this, the work is ideally viewed over a period of weeks and months; however, the installation on view made it possible to drop in on the work over the course of the weekend to approximate a fuller experience. Over time the seemingly simplicity of the subject matter is replaced by the uncovering of its unlimited potential.

Open Gallery looks forward to welcoming you to this unique viewing encounter.

Friday, 3pm-7pm
Saturday and Sunday, 9am-1pm

opengallery

DOKBOX at HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN

The hot new documentary streaming provider, DOKBOX, brings the world's best documentaries to HowTheLightGetsIn May 2024. Running in the afternoon and evenings in the Art & Cinema Tent, the DOKBOX programme brings together a host of award-winning films from the world's leading producers and directors.

Highlights from the programme include:

Burnout: The Truth About Work

Technology was supposed to free up our time. But we are busier than ever. Why do we work, and why do we work more than ever? This film explores how overwork is killing us, destroying the planet, and reveals what we can do about it.

Friday, 11pm [27]

Breaking the Taboo

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, this documentary uncovers the UN sanctioned war on drugs, charting its origins and its devastating impact from the USA to Colombia and Russia. The film exposes the biggest failure of global policy in the last 50 years.

Sunday, 6pm [195]

AI & You

Developments in artificial intelligence are accelerating at an astonishing pace. In this documentary, Anne-Marie Tomchak examines how this rapidly evolving technology is transforming the human experience.

Saturday 4pm [90]

Power Scramble

An international race is on. With China dominating the market for many resources, tensions are rising as other nations strive to catch up. Find out why China is so dominant and why the fight for resources is only just getting started.

Monday, 11:45am [244]

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN FESTIVAL GOERS:

Sign up during HowTheLightGetsIn May 2024 Festival and get 3 months FREE subscription to DOKBOX.

Start your 90 free trial today by scanning the QR code, and get access to the world's best documentaries, all in one place.



HowTheLightGetsIn IAI SCHOOL

The IAI School returns to HowTheLightGetsIn 2024 with its most exciting programme yet. Targeted at pre-university students who want to grow their skills of critical thinking, analysis and verbal reasoning as well as strengthen their university applications, the IAI School is a stimulating programme of talks, discussions, and workshops led by world-leading thinkers. Our biggest lineup to date is accompanied by an in-depth Q&A with an admissions tutor from a leading UK university. The course has a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary thinking and

covers specialised areas of philosophy and science, contemporary politics and critical theory. The school programme will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th. Students will also have access to the full HowTheLightGetsIn programme headline talks, debates, music and comedy, as well as breakfast on both days and dinner on the Saturday evening. Students require tickets for the school event, these can be bought at howthelightgetsin.org/festival/may

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

THANGAM DEBBOINAIRE



What's it like to be a member of parliament? What is democracy? And why should we even vote at all? Join key member of the Shadow Cabinet Thangam Debbonaire for a captivating journey, explaining how she became a politician and how society improves through piecemeal steps.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

TOMMY CURRY



Although some might think of philosophy as rooted solely in ancient wisdom, it has always been deeply contemporary. Join radical philosopher professor Tommy J. Curry to find out why asking philosophical questions is more important than ever, and how they can help us tackle the societal issues we see in our world today.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

SHANNON VALLOR



AI is revolutionizing industries, transforming how we work, live, and think. But with these new changes come new questions and challenges. Join leading AI philosophy professor Shannon Vallor as she debunks common myths and misconceptions about AI and how to distinguish between truth and fiction.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

PETER SINGER



Is it ethical to eat meat? Does what we consider right and wrong change over time? If so, what moral principles should guide us now? Join world-leading philosopher Peter Singer, known for his groundbreaking work in applied ethics, animal rights and effective altruism, as he answers your questions on what ethics is, why it's still important and why it should matter to you.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

GÜNEŞ TAYLOR



Whether you dream of decoding DNA or are simply curious about the wonders of the natural world, join award-winning researcher Güneş Taylor to explore the biggest questions in the life sciences today. From the future of sex, the latest in CRISPR technologies, and our increasingly important connection to the natural world, find out how biology can answer your biggest questions.

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

GUY STANDING



The baby boomer generations' wealth often rose with house prices, but this generation is being priced out of the market. If you are curious about a future where everyone has access to financial security, join pioneering professor Guy Standing for an empowering talk on universal basic income, and how it could reshape the ways we think about work, education, and social welfare.

Timetable

DAY 1

9:45 AM	Introduction
10:00 AM	Thangam Debbonaire Talk
10:45 AM	Breakfast/Break
11:30 AM	Tommy Curry Talk
12:30 PM	Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM	Shannon Vallor
14:45 PM	Discussion Break
15:30 PM	University Admissions Tutor
18:00 PM	Welcome Dinner with Quiz and Prizes!

DAY 2

9:45 AM	Introduction
10:00 AM	Peter Singer talk
10:45 AM	Breakfast/Break
11:30 AM	Güneş Taylor Talk
12:30 PM	Headline Debate & Lunch
14:00 PM	Guy Standing Talk
14:45 PM	Discussion Break
15:30 PM	Headline Debates

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SCAN ME



SPEAKERS

Scott Aaronson [10] [65] [172]

Scott Aaronson is a quantum complexity theorist and the Schlumberger Centennial Chair of Computer Science at The University of Texas at Austin. He is currently on leave to work at OpenAI.

Uriel Abulof [80]

Uriel Abulof is an Associate Professor at Tel-Aviv University's School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs.

Nilfar Ahmed [156]

Nilfar Ahmed is a Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of Bristol, as well as a Chartered Psychologist.

Ali Allowi [78] [201] [207]

Ali Allowi is an Iraqi politician and scholar. Over the last twenty years, Allowi has held some of the most important positions in the Iraqi government.

Caleb Althorpe [156]

Caleb Althorpe is a Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at Trinity College Dublin. He researches contemporary political theory and political philosophy.

Avery Anapol [156]

Avery Anapol is Commissioning Editor for the Politics and Society column at *The Conversation*. She has written extensively on language, politics, and power.

Dan Ariely [108]

Dan Ariely is a behavioural economist and author. He is Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics at Duke University.

Frances Ashcroft [237]

Frances Ashcroft is an award-winning British geneticist and researcher. She is known for her pioneering research on ion channels.

Matilda Atkins [240] [248]

Matilda Atkins is a philosophy teacher for the Philosophy Foundation.

Joscha Bach [10] [180] [255]

Joscha Bach is a computer scientist and renowned AI researcher. He currently serves on AI Foundation's Advisory Council.

Charlie Barnett [166]

Charlie Barnett is a senior producer, head of speaker booking, and contributing editor at the Institute of Art and Ideas, as well as a *Diablo* expert.

Tom Barnett [199]

Tom Barnett is a magician who specialises in sleight of hand. He can also solve a Rubik's Cube in under 20 seconds.

Simon Baron-Cohen [147] [169]

Simon Baron-Cohen is a clinical psychologist. He is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at University of Cambridge and Director of the university's Autism Research Centre.

Aaron Bastani [86] [156] [172] [207] [238]

Aaron Bastani is the co-founder of *Novara Media*. He is the author of *Fully Automated Luxury Communism* and has an upcoming book on the ageing crisis.

Matthew Beaumont [48] [68]

Matthew Beaumont is a Professor of English Literature at University College London and Co-Director of UCL's Urban Lab.

Yasmin Benoit [99]

Yasmin Benoit is a British model, award-winning asexual activist, and writer. Yasmin has won an Attitude Pride Award for her activism.

Harry Benson [99]

Harry Benson is Research Director at the Marriage Foundation. He has written several books on the benefits of marriage and family.

John Berrow [155] [191]

John Berrow is the former Speaker of the House of Commons, former Chancellor of the University of Essex and currently a Professor at Royal Holloway.

Isabel Berwick [156]

Isabel Berwick is the host of the FT's *Working It* podcast. She is also the editorial lead for the FT Women in Business Forum.

Sam Bilton [183]

Sam Bilton is a food historian, author, and presenter of the *Comfortably Hungry* podcast. She is also a co-host of the *A is for Apple* podcast.

Paul Bloom [50] [108] [144] [265]

Paul Bloom is a psychologist. He is Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Yale University and Professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto.

Lisa Cameron [191]

Lisa Cameron is a Scottish politician and Conservative MP. She is a former consultant clinical psychologist.

Steven Campbell-Harris [53] [145]

Steven Campbell-Harris is a philosophy specialist and teacher trainer at the *Philosophy Foundation*. He founded the London Academy of Excellence.

Bernard Carr [142] [234]

Bernard Carr is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary, University of London.

Amy Chua [7] [49]

Amy Chua gained global fame as 'Tiger Mom' author. She is a former law associate and award-winning academic, and a renowned commentator on everything from politics, to parenting.

Michael Clarke [165]

Michael Clarke is a visiting professor at King's College London and at the University of Exeter. He is also Sky News Military Analyst.

Harry Cliff [58] [143] [257]

Harry Cliff is a particle physicist at the University of Cambridge and works on CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

Kenneth Cukier [255]

Kenneth Cukier is Senior Editor for Digital Products at the Economist, a *New York Times* best-selling author, and the host of the hugely popular weekly podcast *Babablog*.



Tommy Curry

Tommy Curry [139] [170] [191] [266]

Tommy Curry is a trailblazing philosopher of race at Edinburgh University where he holds a Personal Chair in Africana Philosophy and Black Male studies.

Theodore Dalrymple [150]

Theodore Dalrymple is an author and conservative cultural critic. He has written many notable books, including *Our Culture: What's Left of It*.

Claudia de Rham [19] [47] [58] [149]

Claudia de Rham is a Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London. She is the author *The Beauty of Falling* which will be published later this year.

Thangam Debbonaire [68] [102]

Thangam Debbonaire is a Labour MP for Bristol West and currently Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Jessica DeFino [87] [109] [179]

Jessica DeFino is a prominent reporter and beauty culture critic shedding light on the dark side of the beauty industry. She writes the *Guardian's* beauty advice column, Ask Ugly.

Daniel Dennett [169]

Daniel Dennett is a renowned philosopher and cognitive scientist. A vocal atheist and secularist, Dennett is referred to as one of the "Four Horsemen" of New Atheism.

Meghnad Desai [67]

Meghnad Desai is an award-winning economist and former Labour Party politician. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India in 2008.

Felipe do Vale [50] [245]

Felipe do Vale is a Professor of ethics and theology. He works at the intersection of gender theory and theology.

Judith Donath [57] [151]

Judith Donath works at the intersection of urban design, evolutionary biology and cognitive science. She is currently an advisor at Harvard's Berkman Klein Centre.

Oli Dugmore [238]

Oli Dugmore is Politics/OE's Head of News & Politics. He has reported from the Middle East, America, and Europe.

Bjørn Ekeberg [19] [58] [142] [149]

Bjørn Ekeberg is a philosopher of science and author of *Metaphysical Experiments Physics and the Invention of the Universe*.

Avshalom Elitzur [77] [157] [263]

Avshalom Elitzur is an Israeli physicist and philosopher, best known for his contributions to quantum mechanics. His theory was subsequently endorsed by Roger Penrose.

Martha Fiennes [57] [81] [147] [254]

Martha Fiennes is an award-winning film director, writer and producer. She is best known for her films *Onegin* and *Chromophobia*.

Des Fitzgerald [266]

Des Fitzgerald is a Professor of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at University College Cork. His new book is *The City and Today is a Dying Thing*.

Myriam François [46] [68] [108] [147] [200]

Myriam François is a broadcaster, filmmaker and journalist. She is the founder of production company MPWR productions, and recently released her documentary, *Finding Alaa*, to critical acclaim.

Flo Gallop [64]

Flo Gallop is a pop artist who has been named "one to watch" by BBC Radio 1 & BBC Introducing. Her 2023 single "Window Shopping" turned heads with its taboo topic.

Jeremy Gilbert [259]

Jeremy Gilbert is a professor of Cultural and Political theory at the University of East London. He is the editor of *New Formations* and host of three podcasts including *ACFM*.

Camilla Hall [89]

Camilla Hall is an award-winning documentary film Director and Executive Producer. She focuses on films that explore new ideas and the human experience.

Stuart Hameroff [94] [190] [211] [265]

Stuart Hameroff is a Professor at the University of Arizona known for his controversial claim that consciousness originates from quantum states in neural microtubules

Roger Hearing [78] [150] [255]

Roger Hearing is a journalist and broadcaster. Over a 35-year career with the BBC and Bloomberg, he has covered wars, elections, coups and revolutions across the globe.

Isabel Hilton [191] [256] [269]

Isabel Hilton is a renowned specialist on China. Founder and senior advisor of chinadiologue.net, she is an international reporter for the BBC and *Sunday Times*.

Donald Hoffman [178]

Donald David Hoffman is an American cognitive psychologist and popular science author. He is a professor in the Department of Cognitive Sciences at the University of California, Irvine.

Nadia Idle [259]

Nadia Idle is a life-long activist, intellectual, and dreamer from London and Cairo. She is one-third of the *ACFM* podcast.

Eva Illouz [256] [268]

Eva Illouz is a renowned sociologist and in 2022 was ranked 8th most influential sociologist in the world. She is Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in Paris.

Abby Innes [142] [159]

Abby Innes is an Associate Professor in Political Economy at the LSE focusing on the UK state and empiricism. She is the teaching chair of the European Institute.



Aline Laurent-Mayard

Paterson Joseph [173]

Paterson Joseph is an actor known for roles in *Peep Show* and *Wonka*, and theatre career with Royal Shakespeare Company. He is Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.

Joanna Kavenna [15] [55] [73] [147] [252]

Joanna Kavenna is an author and winner of the Orange First Novel Prize. Kavenna's works include *Zed*, *The Ice Museum* and *Inglorious*.

Vanessa King [150]

Vanessa King is a board member and the lead positive psychology expert for Action for Happiness and author of *Ten Keys to Happier Living*.

Jenny Kleeman [72] [173] [179] [200]

Jenny Kleeman is a Professor at the University of Arizona and Executive Producer. She focuses on films that explore new ideas and the human experience.

Justine Kolata [22] [87] [211]

Justine Kolata is a writer and founder of *The Public Sphere* Salons dedicated to reviving salon culture and intellectual debate.

Christina Lamb [141] [207] [269]

Christina Lamb is the Chief Foreign Correspondent for *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, a bestselling author and honorary fellow of University College Oxford.

Aline Laurent-Mayard [99] [245]

Aline Laurent-Mayard is a journalist, author, and podcaster. They have published two books about gender in pop culture and are the host of the hit podcast *Free From Desire*.

Hilary Lawson [73] [159] [178] [194]

Hilary Lawson is a philosopher known for his theory 'Closure', a post-analytic return to metaphysics, and an outspoken critic of philosophical realism. He is Editorial Director of the *IAI*.

John Lennox [10] [18]

John Lennox is a speaker on the interface of science, philosophy and religion. He is also Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University.

Bernard-Henri Lévy [98]

Bernard-Henri Lévy has for forty years been a major figure in French philosophical and political life. He was one of the leaders of the "Nouveaux Philosophes" and is a prolific and highly influential author.



SPEAKERS

Chris Lintott [138] [149]

Chris Lintott is the Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford and is the Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College. He is also Presenter of the BBC's *Sky at Night*.

David Livingstone Smith [261]

David Livingstone Smith is an American Professor of Philosophy specializing in self-deception and dehumanization.

Bronwen Maddox [141] [160]

Bronwen Maddox is the Director and Chief Executive of Chatham House. She writes frequent op-ed columns for the Financial Times and broadcasts widely.

João Magueijo [13] [119]

João Magueijo is a cosmologist and Professor in Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London.

Winston Marshall [50]

Winston Marshall is the former lead guitarist of the folk rock band Mumford & Sons. He is now a influential substacker and cultural commentator.

Dina Matar [80]

Dina Matar is the Chair of The Centre for Palestine Studies at SOAS. She has written extensively on communication practices in the Middle East.

Tim Maudlin [19] [73] [142]

Tim Maudlin is Professor of Philosophy at New York University and Founder and Director of the John Bull Institute for the Foundations of Physics.



Bronwen Maddox

Simon May [87] [200]

Simon May is a Visiting Professor of Philosophy at King's College London. His interests lie in ethics and the philosophy of emotion and love.

Kerry McCarthy [181]

Kerry McCarthy is a Labour MP for Bristol East and the Shadow Minister for Climate Change.

Johnjoe McFadden [140] [237] [265]

Johnjoe McFadden is a multidisciplinary scientist and professor at the University of Surrey, whose work has spanned molecular genetics and disease.

Keir Milburn [259]

Keir Milburn is a lecturer in Political Economy and Organisation at the University of Leicester and co-host of the ACFM podcast.

Rana Mitter [9] [15] [50] [67]

Rana Mitter is a Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also a broadcaster and presenter of *Free Thinking*, and a member of the IAI Advisory Board.

Priyanvada Natarajan [5] [149] [163] [178]

Priya Natarajan is a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University. She won the 2022 'Genius Award' from the Liberty Science Centre.

Denis Noble [69] [164] [190] [237]

Denis Noble is a physiologist and biologist. He is Professor Emeritus and co-Director of Computational Physiology at Oxford University.

Ruth Padel [15] [68]

Ruth Padel is a multi award-winning poet, novelist and non-fiction writer. She was also Professor of Poetry at King's College London.

Tim Palmer [181] [246]

Tim Palmer is a Research Professor in Climate Physics at the University of Oxford. He works on the complex problems of uncertainty in our climate and weather.

Ilan Pappé [160]

Ilan Pappé is an Israeli historian, political scientist and former politician who is highly critical of Israeli policy towards Palestinians. He is the director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter.

Roger Penrose [77]

Roger Penrose is a world-renowned mathematician, mathematical physicist, philosopher of science and Nobel Laureate in Physics.

David Petraeus [165]

General David Petraeus is the former Director of the CIA and was appointed by Presidents Obama and Bush to senior military posts. Time described him in 2011 as 'King David, the nation's most famous general'.

Jane Peyton [93]

Jane Peyton is an alcoholic drinks expert. She is the founder of the School of Booze and has won several awards for her work on drinks education.

Claire Provost [78]

Claire Provost is an investigative journalist and co-founder and co-director of the non-profit Institute for Journalism and Social Change.

Vicky Pryce [86] [97] [191]

Vicky Pryce is an economist and the Chief Economic Advisor and Board Member at the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

S.Y. Quraishi [49] [67]

S.Y. Quraishi is an Indian civil servant who served as the Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is currently an Honorary Professor at the University of Delhi.

John Ralston Saul [15] [57] [88] [137]

John Ralston Saul is an essayist, novelist and a champion of freedom of expression. He has written extensively on culture, politics and philosophy.

Lisa Randall [142]

Lisa Randall is a world leading expert on particle physics and cosmology. She is the author of *Higgs Discovery: The Power of Empty Space*.

Margie Ratliff [89]

Margie Ratliff is an American film producer. She is currently starting a non-profit organisation, Documentary Participants Empowerment Alliance.

Hannah Rich [266]

Hannah Rich is a Senior Researcher at THEOS, a leading think-tank focused on the role of religion in society.



Rama Miller

James Riley [179]

James Riley is a Fellow in English Literature at Girton College, Cambridge. He writes on modern and contemporary literature and culture.

Catherine Rowett [50]

Catherine Rowett served as the Green Party MEP and is Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia.

Armen Sarkissian [52] [141]

Armen Sarkissian is the former President of Armenia. He is also a physicist, businessman, and computer scientist.

Susan Schneider [55] [247] [255]

Susan Schneider is a Professor of Philosophy. Her work has been widely discussed in media including The New York Times, Science, Big Think, and Discover.

Sophie Scott-Brown [49] [159] [245] [266]

Sophie Scott-Brown is an honorary research fellow in the history faculty at the University of St. Andrews.

Lynne Segal [86]

Lynne Segal is Professor of Psychology and Gender Studies at Birkbeck College. She is an academic and activist, and a champion of communal living.

Niki Seth-Smith [57] [86]

Niki Seth-Smith is an editor at the *New Humanist*, a journalist and a fiction writer. Her work has appeared in *The London Magazine*, *Vice*, and *openDemocracy*.

Nancy Sherman [59] [108] [179] [236]

Nancy Sherman is a Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University who has conducted research in general ethics, moral psychology and Stoicism.

Mary Ann Sieghart [160] [266]

Mary Ann Sieghart is a journalist, broadcaster, visiting professor and author. A former *Times* columnist, her recent book 'The Authority Gap' has become a best seller.

Peter Singer [160] [170] [236] [250]

Peter Singer is a highly influential Australian moral philosopher, and author. He is perhaps best known for his book, *Animal Liberation*.

Subrena E. Smith [169] [211] [265]

Subrena E. Smith is a critic of evolutionary psychology. She is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Hampshire.

Barry C. Smith [51] [85] [170] [188] [200]

Barry C. Smith is Director of the Institute of Philosophy at London University. He also co-directs the Centre for the Study of the Senses, and is a member of the IAI Advisory Board.

Shini Somara [10] [58] [237]

Shini Somara is an award-winning media broadcaster and British mechanical engineer. She has made multiple TV appearances as well as TEDx.

Guy Standing [63] [231]

Guy Standing is an economist and Professorial Research Associate at SOAS University of London and co-founder of Basic Income Earth Network.

Lyndsey Stonebridge [242]

Lyndsey Stonebridge is a Professor of Humanities and Human Rights. Her acclaimed new book, *We Are Free To Change the World*, explores Hannah Arendt's thought.

Kate Sullivan de Estrada [67]

Kate Sullivan de Estrada is Director of Oxford's Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme.

Jack Symes [55] [87] [178] [236]

Jack Symes is writer and researcher at Durham University. He is the producer of *The Pansycast* Philosophy Podcast.

Frank Tallis [22] [55]

Frank Tallis is a multi-award winning clinical psychologist and author. His work has been adapted by the BBC in the hit show, *Vienna Blood*.

Güneş Taylor [77] [99] [169] [190] [245]

Güneş Taylor is a molecular biologist and training fellow at the Francis Crick Institute, a London-based biomedical research centre. In 2018, Güneş won the Crick Public Engagement Prize.

Steve Taylor [55]

Steve Taylor is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Leeds Beckett University. He is a best-selling author and regularly appears on Radio 4, BBC Breakfast and TalkRadio.

Marika Taylor [10] [77] [246]

Marika Taylor is a Professor of Theoretical Physics and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

Janne Teller [22] [87] [170]

Janne Teller is a writer of novels, essays, and short stories. Teller's work explores existential themes and ethical questions of life and civilization.

Émile P. Torres [71]

Émile P. Torres is a philosopher and historian whose research focuses on existential threats to civilization and humanity.

Antonella Tramarcere [190]

Antonella Tramarcere is a researcher at the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution of the Max Planck for the Science of Human History in Jena.

Dale Turner [170]

Dale Turner is a Professor of Political Theory at the University of Toronto. He specialises in indigenous political thought and the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Shannon Vallor [232] [239] [255]

Shannon Vallor is the Boullie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, where she is also a Professor of Philosophy. Her research explores how AI reshapes our lives.

Robin van den Akker [159] [177] [187] [256]

Robin van den Akker is a Senior Lecturer in the Philosophy of Culture of Erasmus University College Rotterdam and a celebrated scholar of metamodernism.

Dominic Walliman [45] [84]

Dominic Walliman is a YouTuber and an award-winning science writer. He writes the Professor Astro Cat science books and runs the YouTube channel Domain of Science.

Ben Ware [161] [233] [246]

Ben Ware is a philosopher and co-Director of the Centre for Philosophy and Visual Arts at Kings College London. He is an expert on Wittgenstein.

Annie Webster [95] [245]

Annie Webster is a teacher for the *Philosophy Foundation*. She is a freelance writer and teacher.

Simon Wessely [150] [186]

Simon Wessely is a renowned psychiatrist and epidemiologist. He is Professor of Psychological Medicine at King's College London.

Rowan Williams [242]

Rowan Williams, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, is also a widely acclaimed theologian and writer. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Cambridge.

Slavoj Žižek [236]

Slavoj Žižek has been described as 'the most dangerous philosopher of our time'. He is a prolific writer and highly influential with more than 50 books to his name. He specialises in continental philosophy, Hegel and Marxism.



Judith Danaher



PERFORMERS

Afriquoi [218]

Fusing Congolese guitar, Gambian kora virtuosity, and UK electronic sensibility, festival sensation Afriquoi are "Wildly euphoric, ridiculously danceable" (Uncut).

Ailsa Tully [203]

Ailsa Tully has created an ethereal world rooted in folk, tinged with indie, with support from BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens and BBC Introducing.

AK Patterson [212]

Following a tour with Ali-J and performances at the Royal Albert Hall singer-songwriter AK Patterson's passes hauntingly soulful voice and powerfully emotive stories.

Alex Kealy [26]

Object of Mark Kermode's envy, Alex Kealy is a writer for *Mock the Week* and *The News Quiz*. A truly unmissable act.

Alex Seel and Jon Sanders [82] [175]

Local folk guitar stalwarts Alex Seel and Jon Sanders team up for a one-off performance in the Stage.

Amber Topaz [40]

Award-winning international cabaret sensation Amber Topaz hilariously morphs her way through musical milestones, to highlight the absurdity of human behavior.

Amrou Al-Kadhi [227]

Amrou Al-Kadhi, also known as Glamour, is a British-Iraqi writer, drag performer, and filmmaker whose work primarily focuses on queer identity.

Amy Gladhill [205]

National Comedy Award nominee Amy Gladhill is known for her unique mix of everyday observations and off-beat tangents. Join her for a show sure to drum up a buzz.

Ania Magliano [222]

Ania Magliano's sharp, witty writing combined with her warm conversational performance style make her a 'glittering new talent' (the *Paper*) of the UK comedy scene.

Ayanna Witter-Johnson [25]

Soulful singer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson is musical proof that classical and alternative R&B music can and should coexist. "The artist of our time." (The *Guardian*)

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir [273]

Founded over a century ago in 1910, the premier Welsh choir, Blaenavon Male Voice Choir, is still going strong, and has toured across the world. Prepare to be moved.

Brenliee [79]

Local singer-songwriter Brenliee blends Americana and blues folk. With one guitar, one pedal and a soulful voice, he casts an entrancing spell.

Burt Williamson [32]

With multiple critically acclaimed runs at Edinburgh Fringe, Burt Williamson will bring joy to your evening. Join Williamson as he presents punchlines with charm and wit.

Cantorian y Gelli [192]

Cantorian y Gelli is an outstanding local Welsh-language choir, led by Gemma Duggan. They secured second place in their category of the National Eisteddfod last year.

Crazy P [123]

Crazy P have been leaving their mark on the landscape of British dance music for the last 15 years, winning iTunes Best Dance Album of the Year.

Dangerous Flamingo [146]

With strong vocal harmonies and foot-tapping rhythms, Dangerous Flamingo have forged a West Wales Americana sound.

Danielle Lewis [11]

Welsh dream-pop artist Danielle Lewis sings in both Welsh and English with a mesmerising, ethereal voice. Her debut album was shortlisted for the 2022 Welsh Music Prize.

Danny Bradley [185] [258]

Award-winning virtuoso guitarist and songwriter Danny Bradley has opened for Martin Carthy.

Deborah Rose [267]

Deborah Rose is a Welsh songwriter whose voice is described by legend Judy Collins as "one of the finest I've heard".

Dragonsfly [193] [241]

Folk-trance festival favourites Dragonsfly draw on musical traditions from Brittany to the Middle East.

Ebi Soda [118]

Brighton's Ebi Soda are one of the most distinctive voices in the burgeoning UK jazz scene. Their playful, funk-leaning sound has seen them rack up radio plays and devoted fans.

EDDY [251]

Hailing from a small town with big dreams, EDDY is an indie pop musician captivating audiences with her ethereal melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

Ella Clayton [3] [66]

Singer-songwriter Ella Clayton has evoked comparisons to Bon Iver and Adeline Lenker and has seen recent success performing at Latitude alongside three sell-out shows.

Eve Appleton Band [14]

Green Man Rising 2023's champions Eve Appleton Band fuse echoes of 60s Folk Revival, Americana, and Alternative Folk.

Fiddlebop [184]

Fiddlebop play "Gypsy jazz re-imagined" on violin, Spanish guitar, keyboard, and fretless bass, and with four voices in harmony.

Fran Lusty [61]

Inspired by Damien Rice and Virginia Woolf, indie-folk singer-songwriter Fran Lusty is rapidly gaining traction, including a debut spin on BBC Introducing.

Fran Minney [4]

Fran Minney's dreamy electronica has produced widespread support with live performances on BBC Yorkshire and over 1 million streams on her single 'Normal'.

Gareth Rees [56] [168]

Gareth Rees hails from a small village in the Brecon Beacons. He channels his connection to the land into his arrangements of Welsh traditional melodies for solo guitar.

Hercules and Love Affair [38]

Hercules and Love Affair are dance music legends and their chart hitting songs saw them awarded 2022 Album of the Year by The Arts Desk.

James Holden [226]

James Holden is one of the most revered electronic music producers in the UK. His trance-like, upbeat performances, sell out venues and meet rave reviews.

Johanna Warren [70] [202]

Johanna Warren has released seven acclaimed solo albums, lent her voice to Nellie's *The Midnight Gospel*, and composed music for *The Bacchae*.

John Tathill [35]

Winner of the 21st annual new act award, John Tathill is equal parts bon vivant, social commentator, and gossip spreader: "What a treat!" (The *Guardian*)

Junior Brother [105]

Chosen as one of RTE's Rising Irish Stars and The Irish Times' breakthrough acts, Coenry Kerry singer-songwriter Junior Brother is redefining Irish folk music.

Katie Green [24]

The 2020 Funny Women Finalist, Katie Green is an exciting new comic and the podcast host of *The Green Card*.

Lachlan Werner [128]

Named "funniest new ventriloquist on the block" by The Telegraph, Lachlan Werner is an award-winning comedian whose debut solo was a sell-out hit.

Lady Nade [249] [272]

Awardee of *Song of the Year* at UK Americana, songstress Lady Nade stands as one of the UK's most distinctive voices.

Leila Navabi [213]

Star of BBC's *Vanduluz* and the BBC New Comedy Awards 2022, South Wales comedian Leila Navabi grew up learning to utilize her 'minority identity' for evil and mischief.

Liv Dawn [83]

A finalist at BBC Radio Scotland Singer-Songwriter of the Year Award, folk-pop storyteller Liv Dawn is one of the brightest talents in the Scottish New Music scene.

Lou Sanders [117]

The Tom Cruise of comedy performs all her own one-liners. Lou Sanders has appeared in Russell Howard's *Good News*, *GI*, and *Taskmaster*, to name but a few!

Mad Professor [36]

Legendary dub icon Mad Professor is a longstanding collaborator of the likes of Massive Attack, Grace Jones and is a key player in dub's digital transition.

Mandrake Handshake [112]

Nine-piece Mandrake Handshake perform 'Flowerkraut': a hedonistic krautrock, art-pop and psychedelia. They have performed across festivals from Shambala to Wilderness.

Micky Overman [113]

Micky Overman is an award-nominated comedian whose show is set to explore change, coping mechanisms, and Ozzy Osborne.

Milkweed [100] [209]

Milkweed have developed a cult following. Their new album, blends traditional folk with a trip-hop infused sound, was named by the *Guardian* as the folk album of the month.

Mr Bruce [217]

Former frontman of The Correspondents, Mr Bruce has become one of Britain's most in demand festival acts with his electronic and energetic performance.

Mr Tea & The Minions [31]

Mr Tea and The Minions have played over a hundred UK festivals, including Glastonbury, Boomtown and WOMAD, with extravagantly colourful, theatrical performances.

Paige Bea [204]

Trained opera singer turned all-pop prodigy Paige Bea has commanded the attention of BBC Radio 1 and Spotify and performed on the main stage of El Dorado last year.

Patrick Spicer [125]

As seen on the BBC and Channel 4, Patrick Spicer is set to ask the big questions in his new show, such as was Jesus a people pleaser? Join him for some truly unholy comedy.

Peiriant [101] [196]

Peiriant are an experimental duo based in Wales, consisting of Rose and Dan Ilin-Paol. They perform with guitar, violin and a selection of 'found' objects.

Possey Mehta [133]

A favourite of London's queer cabaret scene, trained clown Possey Mehta is "incomparable" (Broadway World), and comes to HowTheLightGetsIn in the guise of Mizzi Fitz.

Priya Hall [219]

Priya Hall is a comedian, writer, and «masterful storyteller» (Broadway Baby), whose signature style is "hilariously oversharing." (Bristol 24/7)

Pushpin [20]

Green Man Rising finalists Pushpin are among the most exciting bands on London's music scene. Apocalypse Music describes them as "brimming with energy".

Raz & Aïla [223]

Raz & Aïla is the child of chart topping, multi-platinum producer Raz Olsber and Ghanaian master musician Alfa Sackey to fuse African rhythms and electronic beats.

Richard Dawson [30]

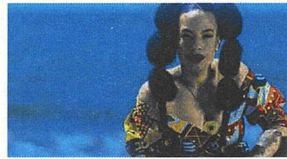
With sell out shows at the Barbican and Berghain Northumbrian contemporary songwriter and storyteller, Richard Dawson, is a key figure in the UK's folk revival.

Robert Whyte [92]

One half of Boandagz, local stalwart Robert Whyte plays unpretentious, emotionally honest renditions of country and folk classics on guitar.

Sara Barron [119]

Critically acclaimed comedian Sara Barron talks through eavesdropping, hatred of the countryside, and one awful thing she said to her mum.



Lady Nade

Sea Power [124]

Rockband Sea Power have been lauded by Leo Red and David Bowie. The band's shows have earned them *Time Out* magazine's Live Band Of The Year award.

Shaparak Khorsandi [10]

Shaparak Khorsandi is a regular on shows including Live at the Apollo and *Mock the Week*. Join her as she effortlessly navigates the personal and the political.

Sister Audrey [36]

Sister Audrey is an established roots reggae favourite with international recognition supporting legendary reggae artists such as Lee Perry, Max Romeo and Wrecka B.

Slippery Slope Trio [221] [260]

Slippery Slope Trio bring together a guitar, fiddle and accordion to play stomping tunes, melancholy melodies and joyful jigs.

Sophia You-Weeks [243]

Singer-songwriter, Sophia You-Weeks, was born and raised in Oakland, CA. Her latest release is three-song EP entitled *Without You*.

Tara Clerkin Trio [111]

One of the most innovative groups currently performing in the UK, the Tara Clerkin Trio have received great acclaim from the likes of *The Wire*, *The Quietus* and *Pitchfork*.

The Destroyers [129]

The Destroyers have been colliding world music for nearly 20 years. Their behemothic sound is a chaotic cacophony of klezmer, Balkan and British folk.

The Hanging Bandits [135] [198]

Herefordshire folk rock four-piece The Hanging Bandits hit YouTube fame last year with their viral ode to Mick Lynch.

The Hedgesong Collective [16]

The Hedgesong Collective perform songs and lore about trees from the British Isles in order to foster deeper relationships with our more-than-human kin.

The Lovely Good [197]

Formed at Trinity College Dublin, multi-instrumental Irish folk band The Lovely Good have already made a splash on London's new music scene.

The Orb [132]

From visionary mixer-makers in the acid house revolution in the 1980s, The Orb are now one of the most revered electronic music acts around.

Toni Sancho [8]

Trinidad-born London-based Toni Sancho is capturing attention with her disarming honesty and «fabulous, unshowy» voice; she is "One to Watch." (The *Guardian*)

Truthpaste [106]

Flamboyant and multi-instrumental, a string of shows in London and Manchester have marked out Truthpaste as ones to watch.



Festival Information

Food & Drink
Venues
Festival Tickets
Maps



Festival Team

IAI TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

Charlotte Church *Press & PR Manager*; Georgina Felham-White *Marketing Executive*; Ioana Pancea *Senior Marketing Executive*; Millie Prince-Hodges *Marketing & Press Executive*; Adam Tai *Marketing Lead*; Jessa Thompson *Performance Marketing Executive*; Daniel Walker *Content Executive*

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Sara Bell *Education Executive*; Alessia Calarese *Development Trainee*; Elizabeth Oates *Education and Development Manager*; Lily Porter *Management Trainee*; Rachel Williams *Senior Development Executive*

MEDIA PRODUCTION

Mickey Dimitrova *Media Production Lead*; Alyssa Ersamer *Film Team*; Lavinia Kadar *Senior Film Crew*; Louis Norris *Senior Film Team*; Mia Patrucchi *Designer*; Taylor Purcell *Senior Film Team*; Olivia Robinson *Designer*

PRODUCTION

Charlie Barnett *Senior Producer*; Harry Carlisle *Politics Desk Lead*; Simon Custer *Philosophy Desk Lead*; Omari Edwards *Production Team*; Nour Khairi *Production Team and International Development Executive*; Hilary Lawson *Editorial Director*; Saffron Marter-Laing *Production Trainee*; Kristina Nazariyan *Talent*; Max Rogers *Production Trainee*; Beth Sullivan *Green Room*; Margherita Volpato *Arts Desk Lead*; Claudia Vulliamy *Production Trainee*; Ricky Williamson *Festival Manager & Events Production Lead*

HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN TEAM

FESTIVAL SITE

Jamie Atherton *Site Design and Management*; Rob Barnby, Max Cheyney, Colin Cameron, Darren Elliot, Jezz Bailey, Monica Diaz, Joe Doyle, Ethan Little-Col, Sean Sampson, Connor Williams *Site Team*

FOOD & DRINK

Kirsten Aiken *Inner Circle*; Charlotte-Lucy Bottrill *Stacked*; Colin Cameron *Circle Bar & Site Team*; Monica Diaz *F&B Manager & Site Team*; Dan Keen *F&B Manager*; Lauren Mulhearn *Design & Poaka's Garden*; Bob Stirling *Circle Bar & Site Team*; Paul Cameron *Little Hat*; Hannah Zaman *Mindcraft*; Evie Andrews *Hendricks Bar*; Pascale Loftus *Poaka's Bar*; Henry Yeomans *Waterfront Bar*; Amber Reeves *Marble & Green*; Laura Baker *Merch Shop*

GLOBE TEAM

Josy Dray *Box Office Manager*; Charlotte Herbert *Box Office Team*; Mandy Houghton *Globe and Festival Manager*; Linda Kelly *Hospitality Manager*; Eloise Jefferson *Loveday Box Office Team*; John Morgan *Publicity*; Bill Parkes *Sound Engineer*; Mary Pardoe *Box Office Team*; Mally Vera *Publicity*

KITCHEN

Wieslaw Janik *Head Chef*; Piotr Michalski *Executive Chef*; Sylwia Michalska *Kitchen Assistant*; Ashley Street *Chef de Partie*; James Street *Chef de Partie*; Kia Cross *Chef de Partie*; Danny Street *Sous Chef*; Dan Whillock *Head Chef Banquets*

STEWARDS

Anna Campbell *Accreditation*; Jed Hartley *Steward Captain*; Jasmine Payne *Steward Captain*; Nayarou Penrose *Steward Captain*; Sophie Phillips *Head of Stewards*; Yicki Stone *Steward Captain & Traders Coordinator*; Sophie Yardley *Publicity Team Leader*

TECHNICAL & ACCOUNTS

Oliver Bevan *Financial Control Lead*; Jazz Bhakar *Finance Director*; Alroy De Araujo *Finance Executive*; Lisa Duong *Ticket Control Lead*; Albina Erganokova *Stock Control Manager*; Beth Fitzpatrick *Office and Talent Manager*; Wooju Han *Ticket Control Executive*; Vijay Lalwani *IT Executive*; Ajay Patel *Ticket Control Executive*; Maria-Alexandra Ralar *Finance Executive*; Will Sowerbutts *IT Guru*

ADVISORY BOARD:

Simon Blackburn, Nancy Cartwright, Philip Collins, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Hannah Dawson, Stanley Fish, Joanna Kavenna, Laura Mersini Houghton, Rana Miller, Carlo Rovelli, Robert Rowland Smith, Barry C. Smith

ART AND IDEAS TRUST

Kathryn Bennett *IAI Trust Lead*; Anatole Kaletsky *Trustee*; Joanna Kavenna *Trustee*; David Lebor *Trustee*

We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us with setting up the festival site; loaned us technical or catering equipment; helped us with publicity, stewarding and PR; helped with guest hospitality and transport; donated advertising space and practical assistance; and the many whose contribution and support, in work or in kind, have enabled HowTheLightGetsIn to happen but print deadlines have prevented us from naming.

howthelightgetsin.org

WINE TASTING & PHILOSOPHY

at HowTheLightGetsIn

iai.tv
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SCAN ME

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subscriber discount coming soon...

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Get 3 months free with your festival ticket.

FRANCE  1743

MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

Inner Circle

HowTheLightGetsIn

*"If you could have a dinner party with anyone (dead or alive)
who would you choose?"*

Have breakfast, lunch, dinner, or an evening salon,
with the world's leading thinkers.

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Book your place at the box office
or book online



SCAN ME

21ST - 22ND September

Pookas Garden

at HowTheLightGetsIn

*Cocktails • Pizza • Dancing
by the River Wye*

Find us by the Waterfront

HowTheLightGetsIn LONDON 2024



SUPER EARLYBIRD TICKETS

ON SALE FOR 24 HOURS ONLY

AT HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN HAY 24 BOX OFFICE **ONLY**
4PM SUNDAY 26TH MAY

Food & Drinks

Whether you're after exotic world foods or a quick snack between sessions, a glass of Champagne or a slice of homemade cake, you'll find a whole range of exceptional venues across the festival site.

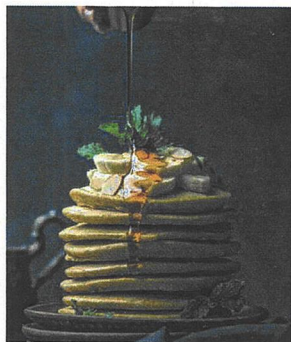
THE PARK

The Waterfront

With stunning views of the River Wye, The Waterfront offers a delicious array of artisan food including gourmet burgers, fresh summer salads, fresh seafood, Persian street food, organic steaks and fresh ramen, curry and poke bowls. Alongside this you'll find local beers and ciders, perfectly chilled prosecco and a soundtrack of vintage soul. We're open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 8am till 1am.

Inner Circle

As the finest minds of our time gather for a drink and a meal, take your seat alongside them for a truly unique experience. Converse with leading politicians, challenge top columnists and explore the universe with particle physicists. Be part of the company, not merely an observer. You might not get another chance. Experiences include Philosophy breakfasts, lunch and dinner as well as Champagne Afternoon Teas and the Philosophy Salon.



Stacked

You haven't tried a burger until you've tried Stacked! There are burgers to suit all tastes whether it's been made with 100% organic beef, free range chicken or Wye Valley lamb. Whatever your pleasure, enjoy with a cold beer. Find Stacked at The Waterfront from 12 till midnight.

Pookas Garden

Come on down to Pookas Garden to enjoy a truly magical experience whilst soaking in the Welsh mythology of Hay on Wye. Located next to the beautiful River Wye... By day, relax, unwind and take in the riverside views with Greek street food. As night falls, expect incredible hand crafted cocktails, chilled beers and dancing with the Pookas - mischievous creatures reaping havoc on The Wye Valley.

Marble & Green

From fresh Summer salads to barbequed meals and artisan baked breads, Marble & Green boasts a delicious array of freshly prepared and sustainably sourced food. We use ingredients from the Brecon Beacons. Find us in The Waterfront - open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 8am - 12am

Blue Moon Café

Once In A Blue Moon Café is a nomadic festival venue, chill-out and wellbeing space, with comfortable seating, low tables, cosy carpets and candle-lit lanterns to make you feel right at home. They serve a diverse menu all day and late into the night, using delicious organic and locally grown ingredients. Step inside to discover plant-based adaptations of cuisine from around the world, indulgent cheese toasts, exquisite cakes and last but not least the famous choco-coconut chail

The Circle Bar

A HowTheLightGetsIn favourite, The Circle Bar is where everybody goes to wind down. You'll find some great local beers and ciders from Westons in Muchmarcle including the much acclaimed Rhubarb Cider and Butty Bach from Wye Valley. If that's not your thing, enjoy a perfectly chilled glass of Champagne.



THE FAYRE



Hendrick's Bar

Straight from their Cabinet of Curiosities, freshen up and bloom like a flower for a taste of Hendrick's Flora Adora, the floral new limited release gin. If you prefer to stay classical, the Hendrick's ultimate G&T with cucumber is the perfect pick me up on a hot Summer day.

Yushoku

The name YUSHOKU means pleasure, happy, rejoice in Japanese and also used to invite people for dinner. For the menu, expect delicious, fresh ramen, curry and poke bowls, gyoza and dipping sauce plus fresh, organic Asian style salad. There are vegan options throughout.

Open Sesame

A new kind of kebab, fusing flavours from the Mid-East and beyond with the best local ingredients and fire cooking. Bringing super fresh flavours to the festival foodie.

Thyme & Tide

Also located in the Waterfront, Thyme & Tide celebrate the abundance of fresh seafood that is available off the coast of Cornwall. You can expect delicious crab, crayfish, kedgeree, whitebait and a great Sri Lankan fish curry.

Origin Pizza

We looove pizza, we eat, sleep and dream it! We spent a lot of time tasting to make sure we cook only the best pizzas using fresh ingredients. So, whether you're vegan, veggie, gluten free, lactose intolerant or a meal lover, we got you.

Big Malakas

Big Malakas offer fresh Greek Gyros and Souvlaki amongst other tasty sides such as Halloumi fries, Greek Salad and Crispy Calamari. You can find them in Pooka's garden.

Adrianos Gelatos

Delicious artisan gelato & sorbet.

Chill Bill Frozen Yoghurt

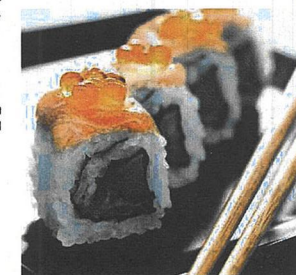
We sell homemade frozen yoghurt. All our yoghurt is served with a selection of fresh fruit, nuts, seeds, treats and sauce.

Meats

All of our meats are farm assured and free range. Our beef is from the native Ruby Red breed, sourced in Hereford. Pork is from West End Farm, Bishop Cannings. Our lamb is reared by Lizzy Withers of Cloverham.

Bread

All of our breads, cakes and pastries are baked on site by our kitchen team each day.



MARBLE & GREEN

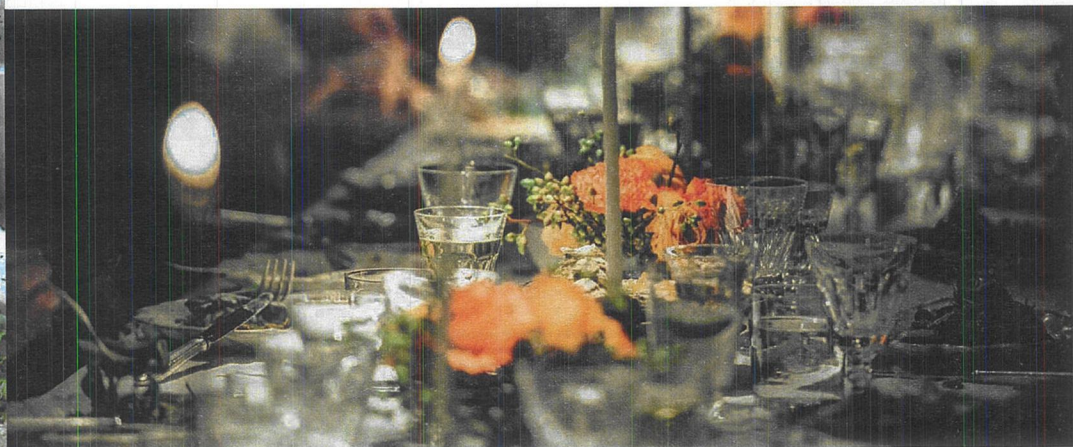
ORGANIC MEATS & SALADS



Find us at:
**THE
WATERFRONT
FOOD HALL**

FRANCE 1743
MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

LONG TABLE BANQUETS



FRANCE 1743
MOËT & CHANDON
CHAMPAGNE

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- *Perfectly chilled glass of Rhubarb Spritz*
- *Four course banquet*
- *Wine & water with dinner*

Book your place at the Box Office or Online at HOWTHELIGHTGETSIN.ORG

Festival Tickets / Info & Travel

For latest prices and to book tickets visit the HowTheLightGetsIn website or visit the Festival Box Office

TICKETS

Festival Tickets

From £178
Festival tickets provide access to all events aside from 'Extra Experiences' and the IAI School. Valid from 1pm on Friday 24th May to close of play on Monday 27th May.

The site opens at 1pm on Friday and at 8.30am on other days.

See website for latest prices and availability.

Under 25s and Students: Up to 30% off Festival Tickets.

Children under 12: Free.
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and must register in advance via the website.

Festival Day Tickets

Friday from £42
Saturday from £84
Sunday from £84
Monday from £42

Valid for each day of the festival from first thing to site close.

Festival Flexi Tickets

Drop into the festival and see a few events on different days. The Festival Flexi Ticket gives you access to 4 of our headline events (debates, talks, music, comedy, Ho!Docs, and IAI Academy sessions). Combine with a Flexi Day Pass for the day/s you want to attend the festival.

You do not need to specify your four headline events in advance - decide on the day if you like.

In addition to the headline events, the Flexi Day Pass gives you access to the festival site and a host of unticketed events that run throughout the day and evening.
See our website ticket page for details and prices

Fast Passes

Fast Passes provide fast entry to an event and reserve a prime seat in the venue skipping all queues. Fast Passes for each event are strictly limited. Fast Passes are only valid with a Festival Ticket, Day Ticket, or Flexi Ticket.
To purchase Fast Passes visit the Programme Page of our website.

BOOKING INFO

Book online: www.HowTheLightGetsIn.org

Book in person:
Throughout the festival the Box Office has the latest information on events, prices and any updates or special additions to the programme. You can get passes or tickets for any event at the Box Office. The Box Office is open until midnight each day and until 4pm on Monday.

Extra Experiences

Events involving food & drink, Inner Circle events, Pottery workshops and Wellbeing sessions are booked and paid for separately. Inner Circle events are a unique opportunity to dine and discuss ideas with the world leading thinkers you'll find in our programme. Sample menus will be available on our website. Tickets are available online or at the Box Office during the festival.

See programme pages for details of each event which can be booked in advance.

Seating

Seating is on a first come first served basis. We cannot guarantee entry to an event if it is already full. If there's something you are really keen to see, make sure you get there in good time or get a Fast Pass.

We reserve the right to refuse entry to latecomers or restrict this to standing room only.

Terms and Conditions

All events and speaker performer details are correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to change the programme and artists if circumstances dictate. In the event of cancellations of Extra Experiences, tickets will be refunded. Fast pass tickets will be refunded if associated events are cancelled. Otherwise tickets cannot be accepted for refund or resale.

Access

To book wheelchair access or our designated parking area for those who disabilities please get in touch via enquiries@howthelightgetsin.org. The Festival Site has disabled access via the vehicle and service entrance and not via the main pedestrian entrance since this involves a long flight of steps. The festival site has some gentle slopes and there is matted pathway across some of the site only. In the case of adverse weather we cannot guarantee the condition of the ground.



iai The Institute of Art and Ideas

ACCOMMODATION & TRAVEL

With the majestic Black Mountains as a backdrop, our accommodation options provide a cosy haven and comfortable beds to retreat into, rest up and relax between the jam-packed days and nights. With access to plenty of luxury showers, toilets and a pamper parlour, glamping never felt so glamorous.

To book visit:
<https://howthelightgetsin.org/festivals/hay/accommodation/boutique-yurts>

Thinking of staying longer? Our yurts are bookable for stays from 28th May - 1st June.

Getting to Hay

The nearest railway station is Hereford, about twenty miles away. Our Travel Partner GWR runs trains to Hereford. Book your train travel now at GWR.com.

Train times from key UK cities include:
Birmingham New Street (1 hr 30min)
Bristol Temple Meads (1hr 30 min)
Cardiff Central (1hr)
London Paddington (3 hrs)
Manchester Piccadilly (2hrs)
Oxford (3hrs)
Swansea (2hrs)
Sheffield (3hrs)

The bus service from Hereford to Hay-on-Wye (T14) is frequent with additional services for the period of the festival. Or share a taxi with another festival visitor!

By Car

Hay-on-Wye is situated between Brecon and Hereford, off the A345. Cross the bridge into Hay and turn left. Follow signs to the Festival Site. See map opposite.

Camping & Parking

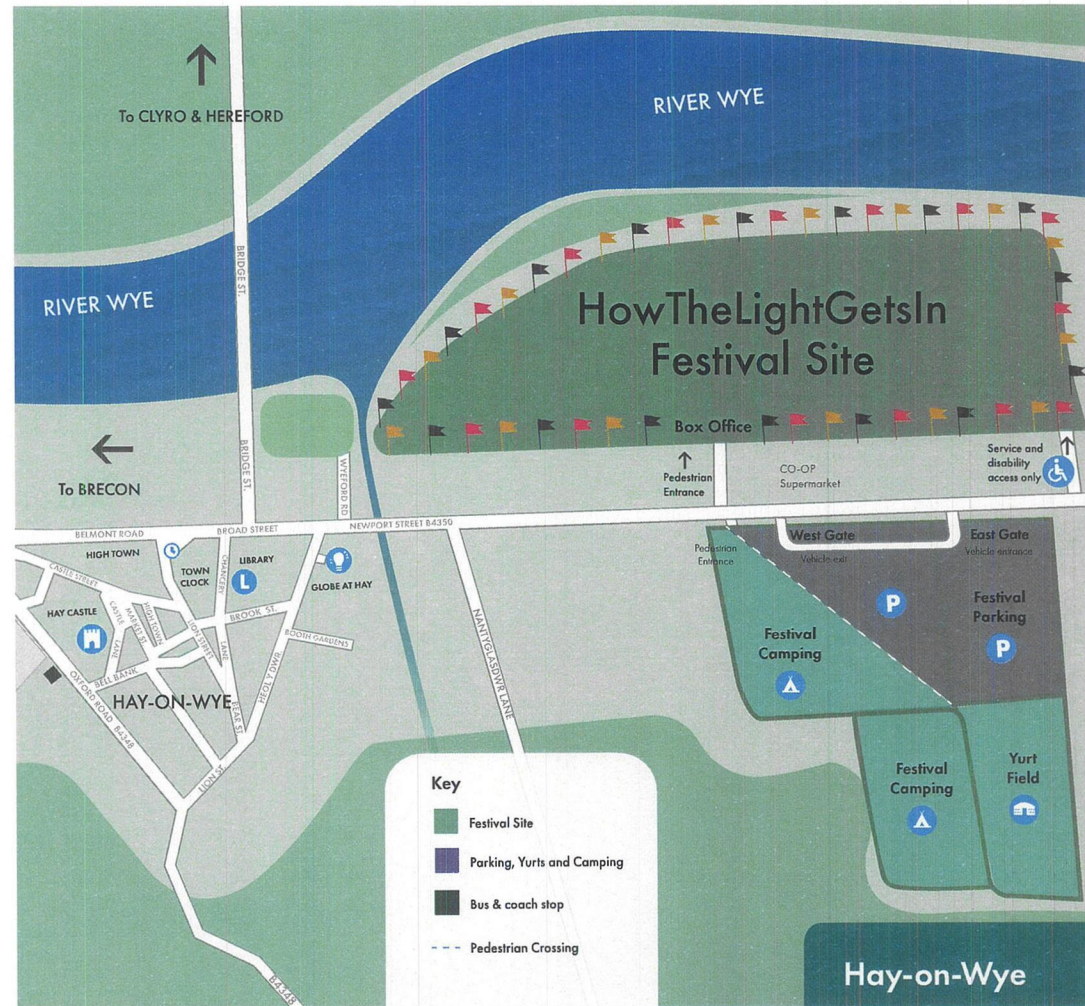
Parking and the Yurt and Camping Fields are immediately opposite the Festival Site. Enter by the East Gate when arriving by car.

Taxis

A1 Cabs 07910 931 099
A2B Taxis 01874 458 899
Julie's Taxis 07899 846 592

WiFi Access

There are WiFi hotspots throughout the site (see map previous page).
Network name: HowTheLightGetsIn Free WiFi
Password: philosophy



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THE INDEPENDENT

"A storming success"
THE NEW SCIENTIST

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Changing how
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