



PENCILFEST  
WARWICK NATIONAL STUDENT WRITERS' FESTIVAL  
PROGRAMME



WELCOME to the first ever PENCIL Fest! We're very happy to have you with us.

As you'll see, the programme is packed with discussions, workshops and performances across all forms, genres and tastes – thanks to the wonderful array of writers joining us, and our sponsors who made it possible to bring them all together. We are immensely grateful to all of them for contributing their support, talent and time. And it wouldn't be happening without you, the audience and, we hope, participants. So thank you for coming and being a part of the festival.

Our founding principles at PENCIL Fest are all about Promoting and Establishing New Creativity in Literature. To us, this means encouraging new writing and new creativity in all its literary forms, and giving it a platform to be taken seriously. It's also about democracy, passion and collaboration – a festival made by new writers for new writers. That's exactly what you'll see here this weekend. So join in whenever you can, because every event has been designed with you, the writer, in mind. A writer's festival is a rarity in itself, but this Student Writing Festival is a unique and powerful happening – an opportunity for us all to learn from one another, published or not, acclaimed author or amateur.

You'll be able to attend events that cover all aspects of the writing process, from the birth of ideas, to master-classes and on the spot writing of prose, drama, poetry, dialogue and life-writing. There are also open discussions on writing for the stage, creating professional student publications, and a massive array of showcases for student writing - from podcasts to magazines and journals, drama and comedy to new stories for audio.

This is the first of what we hope to be an annual event, hosted by universities across the UK. It's a festival with massive potential: a national platform for student writing. Let's celebrate its beginnings here. Also, help us build a network of new writers by joining PENCIL Fest through our website or Facebook – details below. This is your chance to get your writing seen, heard and read at a national event, and to stay in touch with a network of tomorrow's big names in writing and publishing. The talent, passion and determination are all there – and now there's a community of us. Let's see what we can do together. Have a great weekend – relax, enjoy, and get writing!

PENCIL Fest Team

Sign up to the mailing list at [www.pencilfest.com](http://www.pencilfest.com)

Become a member of the festival: log on to [www.pencilfest.com](http://www.pencilfest.com) & go to the forum. Join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5989493860>

*The thing always happens that you really believe in;  
and the belief in a thing makes it happen.*  
– Frank Lloyd Wright

## ORGANISERS



SHOLEH JOHNSTON — *Coordinator*

'Pencilfest was born out of a one-day pilot writing festival that David Morley, Director of the Warwick Writing Programme, and I threw together in May 2007. It was a modest success and we decided that student writing was in need of a national platform, a festival that brought student writing to the forefront as new, progressive, and reputable. I was astounded that such a thing had not existed on a national scale before. Pencilfest is the fruition of a shared vision and the dedication of the festival team to provide new writers with a platform that interacts with established writers, and all other aspects of the writing industry, showcasing everything from poems to experimental new media. It's unique. It's been a turbulent year, but seeing how it's all come together has made it more than worth-while. I hope that Pencilfest will live on and develop, not only as an annual festival, but through the relationships created over this weekend. This festival is for you - enjoy and make the most of it!'



KATY WHITEHEAD — *Deputy Coordinator*

'Pencilfest 2008 started with a core group of people dedicated to the aims of Promoting and Establishing New Creativity in Literature. This meant not only encouraging new writing, but new creativity in all its literary forms; not only seeing it produced, but giving it a platform to be taken seriously. We wanted to give new writers a break, the way that music festivals help to establish unsigned bands. It's easy to sell books once you've been on Richard and Judy, but how do you get noticed before that? This is your chance to build a solid base of friends amongst the writing community, network with people who could see your work published, and above all help to make student writing taken seriously... So use it!'



ANNA LEA — *Deputy Coordinator (Finance)*

'It feels great to say that Pencil Fest is finally here! We've given this festival our all, and thanks to the generous responses of writers and supporters, we've made something really wonderful. It's been a joy creating an event with such a positive and inclusive philosophy, and one with such potential for the future. I hope you have a great weekend.'



JON WARE — *Media Manager*

'It's been a hell of a lot of fun helping to organise this festival: when you have a real interest in writing, developing an event where you can meet your heroes and maybe even showcase your work alongside theirs is something of a surreal experience. PENCIL is a great idea and a chance to create a real nationwide community among young writers: it's just been brilliant to be involved in that.'



SAM KINCHIN-SMITH — *Event's Coordinator*

'And so it begins. PENCILFest 2008 isn't just a national festival of student writing – it's the first ever national festival of student writing. The FIRST EVER. Now I don't know about you, but I think that's incredibly exciting – and so to have been responsible for coordinating the myriad events we have in store for the weekend has been an amazing experience. All I want to say is get involved. Seriously. As much as possible. I'll be watching you...'



CLAIRE TREVIEEN — *Student Liaison Officer*

'The best part of organizing Pencilfest was getting in lost in hundreds of student union's webpages. I had no idea what other universities got up to and there are definitely some exciting things going on ranging from science and poetry experiments to stunning and professional looking magazines. Pencilfest is a one in a million opportunity of merging our individual and collective weirdness into one big pot with the idea of returning home with fragments from other universities. Let's make this a contagion!'



CARI THOMAS — *Publicity Team*

'It is an ambitious but exhilarating challenge to organise a festival that not only brings together successful and interesting writers but students from around the UK too. It is a great opportunity for everyone to share from each other as well as take part in some really exciting and different events. We've all had so much fun organising it and I think that will show through when the weekend begins!'



SLAVASH POURNOURI, *Publicity Co-ordinator / Art Director*

'The buzzing atmosphere created by people coming together to share and express a common passion is always something else. It is with awe for my fellow organisers that I have watched this festival come together, and it is with excitement I look forward to seeing the venture be completed by you the attendants and speakers. May I also take this moment to thank Teresa Talbot and Neeral Bhatt for their help with poster art.'



# SCHEDULE

TIME	Writer's Room	Studio 1	Studio 2	Rehearsal Room	Other
19-20H	<b>FRIDAY</b>				<b>WELCOME PARTY</b> Storytelling Workshop with Tanya Pengelly (In B2.13/4)
20-23H					<b>WELCOME PARTY</b> (Campus)
10-11H	<b>SATURDAY</b>			<b>Novella Over Breakfast</b>	Storyboard & Stalls (Foyer)
11-11.30H				<b>OFFICIAL WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL</b> (Foyer)	
11.30H					(3hr)
12H					<b>Editing a Student Magazine: Panel and Discussion</b>
12.30H 13H	(1.5hr)			<b>Satire Writing Workshop</b> with the 'Warwick Sanctuary' (1hr)	
13.30H	<b>Writers and Responsibilities</b> with Will Eaves and Jeremy Treglown (1.5hr)			<b>Slam Workshop: Writing for Performance</b> (2hr)	
14H					<b>Don't Mention the War: Competition readings, discussion and Prize-Giving</b> (1hr)
14.30H					
15H	<b>'The Sound Crew'</b> An Arvon Poetry Showcase (1.5hr)				<b>Don't Mention the War: The Duty of the Author</b> with Maureen Freely and Nicholas Lawrence (1hr)
15.30H 16H					<b>Shakespeare's Bones</b> (1hr)
16.30H	<b>On Dialogue' Fiction Workshop</b> with Will Eaves (1.5hr)	<b>Polluto Magazine Showcase</b> (1hr)	<b>Student Script Showcase</b> featuring the <i>Freshblood Theatre Sketch Show</i>	<b>On Lifewriting</b> with Jeremy Treglown and Paula Byrne (2hr)	
17H			(2.5hr)		
17.30H 18H		<b>Comedy for Writers</b> with A.L. Kennedy (1.5hr)			
18.30H					
19H					
20H 21H-Late				<b>International Poetry SLAM</b> (Grad. Club, SU)	

TIME	Writer's Room	Studio 1	Studio 2	Rehearsal Room	Foyer
11H	<b>SUNDAY</b>			<b>Into the Woods</b> <i>with David Morley</i> <b>STARTING POINT (then outside, 3hr)</b>	Storyboard & Stalls
11.30H					
12H	<b>Riptide Magazine Showcase</b>	<b>The Apprentice for Artists</b> <i>with Peter Blegvad and Adriano Shaplin</i>	<b>Slam Workshop: Performing</b>		<b>The Endless Road</b> <i>with Horatio Clare</i>  (1hr)
12.30H	(1hr)	(2hr)	(2hr)		
13H	<b>Luke Kennard</b> <i>headlining a young poet showcase</i>				<b>Into the Woods</b> read-back session
13.30H	(1.5hr)			(1hr)	
14H	<b>On Playwriting</b> <i>with Nina Raine and Adriano Shaplin</i>  (1.5hr)	<b>Trespass Magazine Showcase</b>	<b>BBC Drama: Radio Short Drama script workshop and recording session</b> <i>with Fiona Kelcher</i>	<b>Fluxus Performance</b> <i>with the students of Royal Holloway</i>	
14.30H		(1.5hr)	(3hr)	(2hr)	
15H	<b>Peter Blegvad Performance</b> (1hr)	<b>Public Poetry Competition Prize-giving and Presentation</b>			<b>OPEN MIC</b>  (3hr)
15.30H		(1hr)			
16H					
16.30H					
17H					
17.30H					
18H					

# PENCILFest 2008 Events Plan

## Friday

- **Welcome Party**  
*Location: B2.13/4, followed by the rest of campus.*  
*Time: 7pm till late.*

Drop off your bags and spread out your sleeping bags, as you join experienced raconteur, Tanya Pengelly, for an informal workshop on the lost art of dramatic aural storytelling. And then create your own stories in the drinking establishments that the Warwick campus has to offer the discerning writer. Just don't expect to remember them the next morning.

## Saturday

- **The Durham Challenge: Novella over Breakfast**  
*10am-1pm — Rehearsal Room*

Maxine Gee, an undergraduate at the University of Durham, attempts to organise the seemingly impossible – the writing of an entire novella in three hours. With a team of student writers drawn from all over the UK, each with the responsibility for one particular section of a narrative, can she possibly do it? Pre-order a bound copy of the finished text from the PENCILFest Marketplace over the weekend to find out.

- **The Writer In The World**  
**Sponsored by the Warwick Graduates' Association**  
*A debate with Catherine O'Flynn and Mick Jackson*  
*12-1.30pm — Studio 1*

How do we see the world as writers? What feeds the imaginative life, and how can you mine the real world to create a rich fictional world? Join the Booker-nominated author and filmmaker Mick Jackson, and the Costa First Novel Award-winner Catherine O'Flynn for stimulating and practical insights into the creative process.

- **BBC Audio: New Writing Showcase**  
*12-1pm — Studio 2*

BBC Audio showcases its New Writing project with a live reading from Simon Shepherd, renowned actor and BBC reader, and BBC Audio's Studio Manager, Kate Thomas. The world of audio downloads is a dynamic and democratic space for new writers, and BBC are showing just what can be done with it. The showcase is a preview of new short stories by creative writing students, soon to be available online. Don't miss your chance to hear the work that's being published by the BBC. The reading will be followed by a Q & A on what makes a story good listening.

- **Editing a Student Magazine**

*A Panel Discussion with the editors of Polluto, Riptide, The Scribe and Kaleidoscope*

**12-1.30 — Writer's Room**

'The editors of four of the UK's most exciting Student Literary Magazines - both up and coming and established - 'Kaleidoscope' from Royal Holloway, 'Polluto' and 'The Scribe' from the University of Leeds and 'Riptide' from Exeter University, discuss what anybody even thinking about founding and editing a student literary publication NEEDS to know. And don't forget to pick up a copy of any one of the magazines from the PENCILFest Marketplace, really, they're that good.'

- **Satire Writing Workshop with the 'Warwick Sanctuary'**

**1-2pm — Rehearsal Room**

A fast-paced introduction to writing satire, the noble art of ridicule and parody. Satire is a skill that everybody possesses, but few know how to unlock it and let it loose on the world. Come along to learn more, pick up some tips, ask questions, showcase or submit work for constructive feedback and find out how to get more involved in satire writing. We will, however, also be discussing comedy scripts, sitcoms and other manifestations of writerly humour, so if you've got any sense of fun, come and pop-in! Lollipops will be handed out to anybody who can make us laugh.

- **Writers and Responsibilities**

*with Will Eaves & Jeremy Treglown*

**1.30-3pm — Writers Room**

Will Eaves, author of *The Oversight* (2001) which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Best First Novel Award, and *Nothing To Be Afraid Of* (Picador, 2005), shortlisted for the Society of Authors' Encore Prize in 2007, founder of the Brockwell Press, and arts editor of the Times Literary Supplement, is joined by Jeremy Treglown biographer extraordinaire, Chair of the Warwick Writing Programme and ex-editor of the TLS - to discuss new writing and the writer's relationship to the publishing industry. He offers his informed opinion on everything from trends and developments in publishing, the relationship between author and critic, and the perspective of an editor and published author on publishing in the 21st century. He will also be available for advice in the Q&A on where new writers can position themselves within this vast industry.

- **‘Don’t Mention The War’**  
*Competition Readings & Prize-giving*  
**2-3pm — Studio 1**

PENCILfest challenged students nationwide with the task to write on war without mentioning it once. An impossible feat? Decide for yourself as our top five student authors take to the stage to read their fictional responses to this ancient and ever-present issue.

- **Slam Workshop: Writing For Performance**  
**2-4pm — Rehearsal Room**

How can you improve your performance poetry? What are the most important things to remember when writing poetry specifically for vocal performance? This workshop, run by internationally renowned slam poets, will give you invaluable hints and tips on how to write poems that will enrapture audiences.

- **‘Don’t Mention the War’: The Duty of the Author**  
*A debate with Maureen Freely and Nicholas Lawrence*  
**3-4pm — Studio 1**

What duties do we have as writers in a free society? How do writers denied a free voice respond to their world? Maureen Freely, internationally acclaimed novelist and journalist, discusses this hot topic with Nicholas Lawrence – author, editor and academic specialising in contemporary and post 9/11 culture. They will incorporate students’ responses to the Don’t Mention the War competition entries in what promises to be a dynamic and challenging debate.

- **‘The Sound Crew’ An Arvon Poetry Showcase**  
**3-4.30pm — Writers’ Room**

Once upon a time at The Arvon Foundation, a group of poets came together and stayed together. They have gone on to enormous success as individuals and as a collective. ‘Sound Crew’ is a group of extraordinary and diverse poets who work together to celebrate individual writing, a shared ambition and growing recognition. They are: Gill Andrews, Judy Brown, Robbie Burton, Josh Ekroy, Valerie Fry, Victoria Heath, Alison McVety, David Foster Morgan, Philip Ruthen, Norman Staines, and Maggie Sullivan.

- **‘Shakespeare’s Bones’** **4-5pm — Studio 1**

Anyone who disturbs Shakespeare’s bones will be cursed, or so his grave in Stratford promises, so the team who took on this University of Warwick Project may have something in store for them. The idea is simplicity itself. First, the team chose one of Shakespeare’s plays (we’re not saying which one) and gutted it, removing every one of Shakespeare’s words and leaving only the bare bones of the rhythmic underpinning: scansion signs for the metrical lines, word counts for prose passages, and numbers for the characters. The next task was to devise a new plot, with new characters, and

to fit the new story to the inherited skeleton, limb by limb, scene by scene, speech by speech. All the words had to be written all over again, on the same Shakespearean grid. Three Warwick students — Angharad Evans, Emily Ruck-Keene and James Keningale — took Michael Hulse's idea and, defiantly ignoring its preposterousness, set about making it work. PENCILFest offers a first taste of their results, in a rehearsed reading of several scenes from 'The Right Woman'. This is still work in progress, so come and see how they've been fleshing out Shakespeare's bones, and give them your views on what's working, what isn't, and whether they'll all be cursed.

- **'On Lifewriting'**

*Discussion and workshop with Jeremy Treglown*

**4-6pm — Rehearsal Room**

Jeremy Treglown, Editor of the TLS for 10 years and author of acclaimed biographies of Henry Green, Roald Dahl, and, most recently, V.S. Pritchett is joined by award-winning biographer Paula Byrne to lead a workshop on the mastering of that most elusive of literary disciplines, life-writing. In conversation with students, they'll examine the role of gossip in our society its vices and virtues, and its potential in creating enrapturing insight into the way we live our lives.

- **'On Dialogue' Fiction Workshop With Will Eaves**

**4.30-6pm — Writers' Room**

Author of two novels and arts editor for the TLS, Will Eaves delivers a masterclass on the pitfalls and techniques to consider when attempting convincing dialogue in fiction. Bring along a short piece of writing containing dialogue that you would like to improve and learn the art from a master in this writing workshop. Places Limited.

- **Philosophy at Elevenses presents... ASEXUAL JEFF**

**4.30-5pm — Studio 2**

Synth pop pioneer Asexual Jeff is ready to lay (it) on you. Direct from music's most challenging and inventive decade - the 1980s - Jeff fuses music with state-of-the-art "computer technology" - and combines that with gritty social commentary. Get synthesised.

- **'Polluto' A Showcase 5-6pm — Rehearsal Room**

*Polutto: The Anti-Pop Culture Journal* is 'a magazine that thinks it's a book' which, just three weeks after the publication of its first issue, was awarded the Spectrum Silver Editorial Award. Founded and edited by students at Leeds University and containing a razor-sharp blend of disturbing art and surreal science-fiction, with contributors ranging from a sleaze-punk singer to a former heroin addict, it represents the cutting edge of contemporary student publication.

- **Student Scriptwriting *A Showcase***  
**5-7.30pm – Studio 2**

Students from a number of universities across the UK present readings of scripts-in-progress that they've written for the stage. Each performance will be followed by a Q & A session between writers, performers and the audience, discussing the process of writing for stage right from conceiving an idea, to the moment the lights come up on the actors.

- **'Comedy For Writers'**  
**Stand-up comedy from A.L. Kennedy**  
**6-7.30pm – Studio 1**

Everybody knows how good an author A.L. Kennedy is: you don't get given the Costa Book of the Year prize for nothing after all. What a lot of people don't realise, however, is that she is also a cracking stand-up comedian, who has performed to universal acclaim for several years. Kennedy brings us a hilarious expose on the relationship between comedy and the practice of writing – this is one not to be missed!

- **PENCILfest INTERNATIONAL Poetry Slam**  
**9pm til late – Graduate Club, Student's Union**

Poetry Slam is a fast-growing and exciting form of competition. PENCILfest brings you a dynamic, emotionally explosive, piercing spoken word performance where 16 student poets from across the country will be competing, and audience members are the judges! The fates of our competitors are in your hands... who will you choose? Headlining this event are 4 internationally renowned slam poets – Wojtek Cichon (Poland), Sebastian Rabsahl (Germany), Daan Doesborgh (The Netherlands) and Sergio Garau (Italy), not to mention that the event is MCed by **Bohdan Piasecki**, another of Europe's finest slam poets. With the best of European slam poetry to inspire your political and emotional passions, and an adrenaline-infused night out, this is an event sure to blow your mind!

## SUNDAY

- **‘Into The Woods’** *An ecopoetry workshop with David Morley*  
— **11am-2pm**

**Rehearsal room (starting point) & into the great outdoors!**

In this innovative ecopoetry workshop, the poet, teacher and Director of the Warwick Writing Programme, will take his fellow writers on a poetic field trip. As David comments, “In this ‘walking workshop’ we shall find poems, plant poems, and make poems”. Please bring pen, paper, survival food, suitable clothes and shoes.

- **‘Riptide’** *A Magazine Showcase*  
**12-1pm — Writers’ Room**

The second issue of ‘Riptide’, a publication venture conceived by two students from Exeter University, focussing on the short story, managed to attract contributions from the likes of Michael Morpurgo, Joanne Harris and Luke Kennard. Not much more needs to be said really. Sally Flint and Ginny Bailey talk about the art of short fiction and achieving astonishing success with a student journal, as well as introducing readings from the fledgling two issues of ‘Riptide’.

- **‘The Endless Road’** *with Horatio Clare*  
**12-1pm — Foyer**

Horatio Clare, a journalist, radio show producer and award winning published writer, has just returned from travelling all the way from Cape Town to Cwmdu, South Wales for his next book, “The Swallow Road”. He will be detailing this incredible journey from what he saw, to who he met, to what dangers he encountered along the way and the difficulties of tracking these experiences in his talk, “The Endless Road - writing without pen, paper, pencil or keyboard...”

- **‘The Apprentice For Artists’**  
*A workshop with Peter Blegvad and Adriano Shaplin*  
**12-2pm — Studio 1**

Acclaimed political playwright, Adriano Shaplin, and modern Renaissance Man, Peter Blegvad (musician, writer, and cartoonist) lead a workshop on the more obscure creative outlets. Previous masterclasses have been on mobile phone film-making, and the art of Pataphysics, so it’s fair to say you should expect the unexpected.

- **Slam Workshop: Performing your Text**  
*12-2pm – Studio 2*

Poetry slams have revolutionised the way that poems are performed on stage. Come along to this workshop to learn from internationally renowned slam poets the secrets of a great spoken word performance. Techniques covered will include: stage behaviour, using a microphone, interpreting a text and using one's voice effectively. This workshop will help you to master the delivery of that spine-chilling line and leave audiences spellbound.

Remember to bring a piece of writing with you! You can take advantage of the PENCILfest Open Mic to put into practice the skills you have learnt.

- **'The New Poets'**  
*A showcase of new poetry talent with Luke Kennard*  
*1-2.30pm – Writers' Room*

Luke Kennard, the youngest ever Forward Prize nominee and a poet who makes his more venerable rivals look, well, venerable, headlines a showcase of spectacular new poetry by a new generation of literary superstars-in-waiting. Sign up on the day to read your work.

- **Trespass Magazine A Showcase**  
*2-3.30pm – Studio 1*

*Trespass Magazine*, sister to the prestigious *London Magazine*, is fast becoming one of London's hottest new magazines, with work from the likes of George Szirtes (T.S. Eliot prize-winner) gracing its' pages in recent months. Here, *Trespass* present a spectrum of their authors and poets, with readings from Tim Wells, Martyn Crucefix, George Szirtes, Anthony Howcroft, Agnes Meadows, Annie Freud, A.F. Harold, and David Gaffney.

- **BBC Drama: Recording Radio Drama**  
*A Script Workshop and Recording Session with Fiona Kelcher*  
*2-5pm Studio 2*

**2-3.30pm - Workshop**

Your chance to write and record a short-form drama in an afternoon, working with an experienced BBC producer. These will be edited and available online at [www.pencilfest.com](http://www.pencilfest.com) and at [www.audiotheque.co.uk](http://www.audiotheque.co.uk). You can bring ideas or a short script with you, or just turn up on the day and we'll devise short pieces around material provided. We'll work on scripts for the first hour, and rehearse / record for the rest of the session.

You can listen to short dramas at [www.audiotheque.co.uk](http://www.audiotheque.co.uk) for inspiration. Please bear in mind that we can't use any in copyright music or texts. We'll have the chance to include some sound effects during the recording, and edit some in afterwards, so think creatively! Sign-up required for this event.

### **3.30-5pm Drop-in Script Workshop**

Drop in with script that you'd like to discuss and/or workshop, with the opportunity to record your work with Fiona's help. Open to all.

- **'Fluxus' Performance** *with the students of Royal Holloway*  
**2-4pm — Rehearsal Room**

MA Poetic Practice students from Royal Holloway invite you to enter into a world of poetry you never knew existed. Drop in and have a look at what could well be the most mind-expanding performance of PENCILFest 2008.

- **On Playwriting** *a discussion with Nina Raine and Adriano Shaplin*  
**2.30-4pm — Writer's Room**

In 2006, Nina Raine won both the Evening Standard's Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright and the Most Promising Playwright Award at the Critics' Circle Theatre Awards. Adriano Shaplin is the first ever Warwick/RSC International Playwright in Residence, and his play, *Pugilist Specialist* received The Scotsman's 'First of the Firsts' award at the Edinburgh Fringe 2003. As if that weren't enough, both writers have also directed their own work. PENCILFest brings you BOTH to discuss the challenges and pitfalls of writing and directing for the stage.

- **'Public Poetry'** *A Showcase and Competition Prize-Giving*  
**3.30-4.30pm — Studio 1**

Public Poetry is, at best, a guerrilla act installing poetry displays in the most unlikely, exposed and challenging of public spaces. Students have competed to win the title of Guerrilla Poetry Champion, so join the PENCILfest team and *Trespass Magazine* to congratulate the winners, see images of their poetry and hear the stories behind how they managed to create public works of literary art, often against all odds.

- **Peter Blegvad Performs**  
**4.30-5.30pm — Writer's Room**

Peter Blegvad is a musician, cartoonist, spoken word performer and writer. His masterful cartoon strip *Leviathan* ran in *The Independent* for many years. He continues to illustrate for various publications, as well as writing and producing a series of cartoons for Radio 3's *The Verb*, and teaching the lucky students of Warwick University. In fact, there's not much that he doesn't do. Although his performances are notoriously unpredictable, expect a combination of music, verse, humour, word-games and surrealism that could prove to be the highlight of the festival.

- **The Open-Mic Finale**  
**4-7pm — Foyer**

A three hour long opportunity for anybody inspired by what they've seen at PENCILFest 2008 to get up on a stage and show the world what they can do. The more original, spectacular or bizarre the performance, the better. Old material is, of course, welcome, but why not perform something you've written over the festival? There'll never be a better chance to win yourself over some pretty impressive fans...

## CONTINUOUS

- **All Day Audio Room with Chai Tea**  
**Saturday 12-4pm — Studio 2**

For one day only, a theatre studio is transformed into a space to drink tea and listen. Just listen. Featuring readings and drama from students, BBC Radio and Audio, and Peter Blegvad's Ear-toons (cartoons for the ear) as broadcast on Radio 3's The Verb.

- **Storyboard and Marketplace**  
**Sat 11-6pm & Sun 11-5pm — Foyer**

The CAPITAL centre foyer plays host, throughout the festival, to a range of stalls selling everything from food, to books, to student magazines, as well as a mural to unleash the full force of your imagination alongside that of students from across the UK. Be a part of something huge!

## Author Biographies

### ***Peter Blegvad***

Peter Blegvad has been, at one time or another, a highly successful musician, singer-songwriter, spoken word performer and writer, and has two of the greatest claims to fame imaginable: 1, he is Matt Groening's favourite cartoonist; 2, he can claim credit for one of the world's longest grammatically-correct palindromes (*'Peel's foe not a set animal laminates a tone of sleep'* in case you're interested)

### ***Paula Byrne***

Author of the top ten bestseller *Perdita: The Life of Mary Robinson*, which was selected for the 2005 Richard and Judy Book Club, a British Book Awards Best Read nomination, and long-listed for the prestigious Samuel Johnson Prize. *Jane Austen and the Theatre (2002)* was chosen Paul Johnson of *The Spectator* chose it as his best-ever book on Jane Austen and the *Times Literary Supplement* described as a 'definitive and pioneering study of a wholly neglected aspect of Austen's art'. She has also edited a *Routledge Literary Sourcebook on Jane Austen's Emma*. Paula has published essays on a wide range of women authors, reviews for the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *TLS*, and is now writing the real-life story of the aristocratic family who inspired Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, to be published worldwide by HarperCollins in 2008.

### ***Horatio Clare***

Horatio Clare grew up on a farm in the wet and wild black mountains of South Wales. It was this upbringing combined with his parent's divorce that inspired his first book, "Running For the Hills" which won a Somerset Maugham Award in 2007. His second book "Truant: Notes from the Slippery Slope" details his later, darker years fuelled by drink and drugs and follows his demise leaving him penniless on the streets of London. The book, however, charts his eventual redemption as he secures a production job on BBC radio and begins work as a successful freelance journalist. He has just returned after a three month journey from Cape Town to Cwmdu, South Wales for his next book "The Swallow Road" which is the basis for, what should be a intriguing talk, at Warwick Writing Festival, "The Endless Road - writing without pen, paper, pencil or keyboard..."

### ***Will Eaves***

Will Eaves is one of the UK's most talented younger writers, with two acclaimed, award-nominated novels published in the last ten years. He teaches at the University of Warwick, and has been Arts Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement* since 1995.

### ***Maureen Freely***

Author of two works of non-fiction and five novels, Maureen Freely is a regular contributor to *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent*, and *The Observer*, as well as a senior lecturer at The University of Warwick. Her name has become well-known internationally for translating into English the recent work of Orhan Pamuk, the 2006 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

### **Michael Hulse**

The translator of over sixty books from the German, as well as the former editor of *Leviathan Quarterly* (he also ran the Leviathan poetry press for a time) and a poet who has toured internationally and won numerous prizes, Michael Hulse is one of the UK's most distinguished writers and critics. He now teaches creative writing at the University of Warwick, as well as editing *The Warwick Review*, and is a permanent judge of the Günter Grass Foundation's *Albatross Prize*, a literary award similar to Britain's Man Booker International.

### **Mick Jackson**

Mick Jackson's 1997 novel, *The Underground Man*, was nominated both for that year's Man Booker Prize, and its Whitbread Best First Novel Award. He enjoyed some success as a musician for several years, but since becoming a full-time writer in 1995, has had published, alongside his debut, another novel, a collection of short stories, and in 2004 wrote the screenplay for the television film, *Roman Road*.

### **Luke Kennard**

Poet, playwright and academic, Luke Kennard is one of the UK's most promising young writers, his first collection of poetry, *The Solex Brothers*, winning him an Eric Gregory Award in 2005, and his second, *The Harbour Beyond the Movie*, gaining him a Forward Poetry Prize nomination for best collection in 2007. At 26, he was the youngest nominee in the history of Forward Prizes. He also writes and performs for the comedy theatre collective, *Pegabovine*.

### **A.L. Kennedy**

An Associate Professor in Creative Writing at the University of Warwick, A.L. Kennedy is an immensely successful novelist with 10 works of fiction to her name, whose 2007 work, *Day*, was named *Costa Book of the Year* in the Costa Book Awards. In the same year, she also won a Lannan Literary Award, and was awarded an honorary DLitt degree by the University of Glasgow. She tours extensively as a stand-up comedian, and has received great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe for many years.

### **Nicholas Lawrence**

An academic at the University of Warwick whose research interests include American literary and cultural studies, Marxism and critical theory, and contemporary writing, particularly post-9/11 literary and graphic culture, Nicholas Lawrence is a regular and distinguished contributor to a whole host of journals, as well as co-editor of *Ordinary Mysteries: The Common Journal of Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne* (American Philosophical Society).

### ***David Morley***

A former environmental scientist, David Morley has published 18 books (including 9 volumes of poetry), won 13 literary awards and gained two awards for his teaching including a National Teaching Fellowship. Director of the Warwick Writing Programme, the University of Warwick awarded him a personal Chair in Creative Writing in 2007 and a D.Litt. in 2008. Les Murray described his most recent collection of poetry, *The Invisible Kings*, as “dizzying”.

### ***Catherine O’Flynn***

Catherine O’Flynn is one of the most promising up-and-coming novelists writing in the UK today. Her first work, *What Was Lost*, was longlisted for 2007’s Orange Prize for Fiction and Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, and won the prestigious First Novel Prize at the Costa Book Awards in January 2008.

### ***Nina Raine***

In 2006, Nina Raine won both the Evening Standard’s Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright and the Most Promising Playwright Award at the Critics’ Circle Theatre Awards. Daughter of the immensely successful critic and ‘Martian Poet’ Craig Raine, but well and truly now out of his shadow, she is widely regarded as one of the most exciting new dramatists to emerge out of the UK in years.

### ***Adriano Shaplin***

Adriano Shaplin is the first ever University of Warwick/RSC International Playwright in Residence and few would argue that he doesn’t deserve the honour. His most high-profile work, *Pugilist Specialist*, received The Scotsman’s ‘First of the Firsts’ award at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2003, and the *San Francisco Chronicle* has even suggested that ‘he has already garnered enough critical hosannas for his work to launch 10 careers... Shaplin is darn close to being anointed the Next Big Thing in theatre’.

### ***Simon Shepherd***

Simon Shepherd has had numerous TV roles over the past 25 years but probably best known as Dr Will Preston in 6 Series of Peak Practice. Enjoys theatre very much and has been in the West End in Yasmina Resa’s ‘Art’ and David Hare’s ‘Secret Rapture.’

### ***Jeremy Treglown***

Editor of the TLS for 10 years and author of acclaimed biographies of Henry Green, Roald Dahl, and, most recently, V.S. Pritchett (nominated for the Whitbread Award for Biography), Jeremy Treglown is one of the University of Warwick’s most distinguished professors, and certainly the only one who can claim to have chaired the panels of judges for both the Booker Prize, and the Whitbread Award for Literature.

## *Slam Poets*

**Sebastian Rabsahl (Germany)** is a likeable poetry slammer from Germany. He won the German National Slam 2007 with his team SMAAT and the finale of the first German TV-Slam in 2008. His short stories and poems are published in many anthologies and on his debut CD “Gefühlsmoped”, which means “Emotional Motorcycle”. He also likes repetition and wearing hats.

**Wojtek Cichon’s** adventure with slam poetry started back in 2003 when he entered the stage during the first ever poetry slam held in Poland. Since then he actively participates in creating and animating Polish poetry slam scene. Besides winning and MCing a bunch of regular poetry slams in Poland he has performed outside his country: in Germany, Holland and Great Britain. Wojtek is also the host and co-organiser of the biggest performance poetry festival in Poland – the SPOKE’n’WORD Festival held annually since 2005. He has experience in delivering performance poetry workshops individually and in cooperation with the current Warsaw slam master, Grzegorz ‘Estragon’ Bruszewski. See more at [www.myspace.com/kiddskwer](http://www.myspace.com/kiddskwer).

**Sergio Garau (Italy)** has lived in Berlin, Turin and Sardinia as a student and a writer and performer of poetry. Since 2001 he has been part of the group Laboratorio Sparajurij, who organise literature festivals, spoken word events and poetry slams. The group has won a video poetry competition at the DoctorClip Festival and formed the first Italian slam team, RomaPoesi. Sergio has taken part in international slams in Bolzano and Bozen, in the Poetry Slam World Cup in Paris in 2007 and at the Euro multi performance project, Connect 2007. He has featured in many books, magazines and CDs. More info: [myspace.com/garaus](http://myspace.com/garaus), [www.sparajurij.com](http://www.sparajurij.com).

**Daan Doesborgh (The Netherlands)** has been a stage poet since 2005. He started out at a local open mic in what was his hometown back then, Venlo in the southern Netherlands. By 2008 he did not only become city-poet for the city of Venlo, he has also moved to Amsterdam and has developed into an energetic and chaotic yet equally subtle and sensitive performer. He is currently a Dutch language student. Among his influences one would find Dutch poets like Paul van Oostaijen or Jules Deelder, as well as English poets W.B. Yeats and Allen Ginsberg, and musicians such as Tom Waits and Bob Dylan.

## ***'The Sound Crew'***

**Gill Andrews** A clever story teller, devising work with a wide range and scope, refreshingly experimental. Gill received a commendation in the Poetry Business Book and Pamphlet Competition in 2006.

**Judy Brown** Winner of the inaugural Templar Poetry Pamphlet Competition in 2006, the resulting publication, 'Pillars of Salt', explores microscopic and macroscopic themes with an acutely observant eye and imagination.

**Robbie Burton** Since gaining an MA in Writing and Reading Poetry in 2003, Robbie has had poems published in several magazines and anthologies including Mxlexia, Smith's Knoll and The North.

**Josh Ekroy** Josh is gaining a growing reputation, and invitations to read, with poems which cast a wry, sometimes caustically humorous eye on systems and bureaucracies.

**Valerie Fry** Poet and playwright with an irrepressible passion for Tottenham Hotspur. Her work has been broadcast on BBC Radio Five Live.

**Victoria Heath** Victoria's writing is rich with sounds, smells and textures. A collage of images and themes combine to form poems you want to reach out and touch.

**Allison McVety** Allison McVety's first collection, 'The Night Trotsky Came to Stay' (Smith Doorstop), introduces the reader to aspects of her own family history and, by so doing, gives us a generous doorway through which we can all remember and move forward. She was the outright winner of The Poetry Business Competition 2007.

**David Foster Morgan** David lives and works in Cardiff. His poems are increasingly seen in a range of poetry magazines and journals. A widely read poet whose work blends myth and contemporary themes.

**Philip Ruthen** A London-based poet, editor, short fiction writer and poetry mentor for Survivor's Poetry. His first collection 'Jetty View Holding' is due from Waterloo Press (Hove) in the summer 2008.

**Norman Staines** Poems which are deeply empathic with the human condition, capturing the critical moments in lives and relationships that shape the whole person.

**Maggie Sullivan** A first collection Near Death (Domestic), published by Tall Lighthouse in October 2006 – she uses domestic spaces as a jumping off place to explore wider social and political themes.

## ***Trespass Readers:***

**Tim Wells** has been editing the *Rising* series of poetry magazines since he founded them in 1995. John Cooper Clarke described them as, “the reader’s wives of poetry mags.” His latest book is called *A Man Can Be A Drunk Sometimes But A Drunk Can’t Be A Man*.

**Martyn Crucefix** works as a poet, teacher, reviewer, critic, translator and competition judge. He is a tutor with the Poetry School in London. His most recent collection is *An English Nazareth* (Enitharmon, 2004) and his new translation of Rilke’s *Duino Elegies* was published by Enitharmon in 2006.

**George Szirtes**’s work is included in many national and international anthologies and in anthologies for children. His poetry has been translated into most European languages.

**Anthony Howcroft** runs the European operation of a major technology organization. He has a diploma in creative writing from Oxford University and over 20 of his short stories have been published in various forms since 2005.

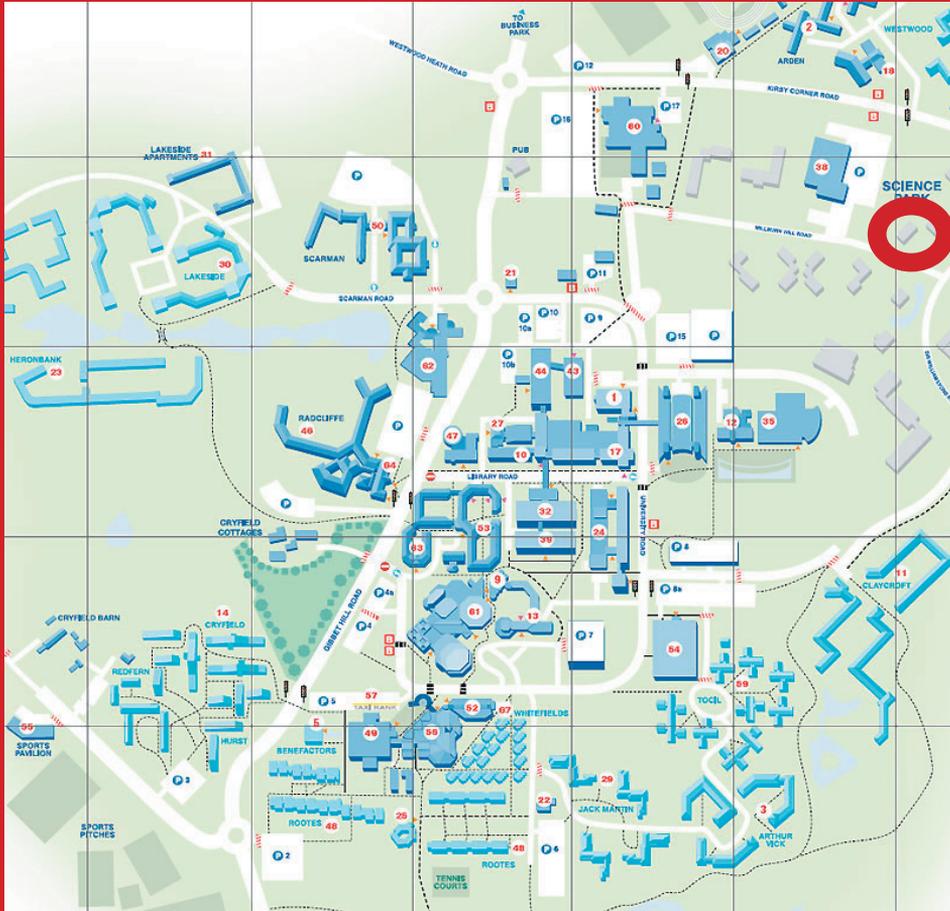
**Agnes Meadows** held the Farrago Slam Club’s Best Performer Award in 1998 and 1999. She currently runs two popular poetry events in London. Agnes has written four books of poetry, entitled *You and Me*, *Quantum Love*, *Woman*, and *At Damascus Gate on Good Friday*, the latter published by Flipped Eye Publishing in July 2005. A fifth book *This One’s For You* is due for publication in 2007. Agnes has also been an adviser on *Poetry* for Channel 4 TV.

**Annie Freud**, poet and writer. Her poems have appeared in a number of magazines and web-sites and in 2005, a small collection of her poems was published by Donut Press, under the title: *A Void Officer Achieves the Tree Pose* and she has also published a book called *The Best Man That Ever Was*.

**G. J. Buckell** was born in Redhill, Surrey in 1981. His book on English experimental writer Rayner Heppenstall was published by the Dalkey Archive Press in 2007. He is currently writing a volume of short stories.

**A. F. Harrold** is a superb poet who varies with the wind. He has won slams across the country and can be seen every Wednesday in the 3Bs running Bohemian Night, an open mic music and poetry event. He keeps himself busy.

# CAPITAL CENTRE LOCATION



## ***With thanks....***

The PENCILFest team would like to extend their sincerest thanks to the following people and organizations, without whom PENCILFest would not have been possible: Pete Kirwan, Susan Brock, Ian O'Donahugh and the technical staff at the Capital Centre; the Warwick Writing Programme, in particular Maureen Freely and Jeremy Treglown, our sponsors The Capital Centre, BBC Audio, The Warwick Graduates Association, The Warwick University Book Shop, and our patrons David Morley and Vice Chancellor Nigel Thrift.

## **PENCILFEST 2008 Anthology**

If people would like to submit work they have read at the festival for the anthology, please email it to [pencilfest@gmail.com](mailto:pencilfest@gmail.com)



Full list of sponsors:

*David Morley (Poet, and Director of Warwick Writing Programme), BBC Audio, The Capital Centre, Nigel Thrift (Vice Chancellor of Warwick University), Warwick Graduated Association, and Warwick University Book Shop.*