

# NEW WRITING NORTH

## **Write, learn, connect: Natalie Haynes announced as keynote speaker as Newcastle Writing Conference returns**

Taking place for the first time since 2019, Newcastle Writing Conference returns on Saturday 13 May with a day-long event for writers at all stages of their careers.

Newcastle Writing Conference is produced by New Writing North, the award-winning team behind the Northern Writers' Awards, Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival, and is renowned for demystifying the publishing industry while providing a space for writers that is rich with ideas, creativity and connection.

Attendees can build their own schedule for the day from a choice of activities offering writing inspiration, publishing industry insight and practical advice. These include one-to-one sessions with literary agents; insight into current trends in publishing; creative writing workshops with leading authors; and small group breakouts on a wide range of subjects.

In-person conference attendees will spend the day at the handsome Common Room, near Newcastle Central Station, where there is plenty of space to connect and the opportunity to chat over a cup of coffee. Can't make it to Newcastle? A virtual pass gives attendees a selection of live-streamed events and Zoom workshops. Either way, a warm welcome and the opportunity to meet fellow writers and industry professionals is guaranteed.

Highlights for the day include:

- Keynote speaker Natalie Haynes, broadcaster, classicist and author of books including *Stone Blind* and *Pandora's Jar*, will talk about her own journey to becoming a writer.
- Annie Garthwaite, author of *Cecily*, on how she embarked on a new writing career aged 55.
- Learn to edit your work with author of *Good Intentions* and publishing professional Kasim Ali.
- Meet literary agents, Rachel Conway (Georgina Capel Associates), Jenny Hewson (Lutyens and Rubinstein), Louise Lamont (LBA) and Amy St Johnston (Aitken Alexander).
- Learn how to write your synopsis with experts from The Literary Consultancy.
- Discover how the publishing industry really works with insight from Yassine Belkacimi of John Murray Press, Josh Smith of Faber & Faber, and Gyamfia Osei of The Good Literary Agency.
- Ready to dip your toe into Tiktok? It changed the career trajectory of *The*

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*Society for Soulless Girls* author Laura Steven, and she shows you how.

**Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North said.** 'We're delighted to announce the return of Newcastle Writing Conference after four years. For the first time, writers can join us both in person and virtually, and we are offering free bursary places to those who need them most. The conference offers aspiring and emerging writers access to a wealth of knowledge from authors, agents and publishers and we're proud to be bringing writers together to inspire the next generation of Northern talent.'

*Tickets are on sale now priced £30 for a virtual ticket, £59 in-person Early Bird (limited), £69 full price. [Book here](#)*

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