

# Edinburgh International Book Festival 2020 – what's on today

The Edinburgh International Book Festival 2020 is Keeping the Conversation Going, and doing it powerfully well with some great authors.

Although you can watch the events live (all for free remember) you can also watch again.

Yesterday at the Edinburgh International Book Festival online:

Linn Ullmann, daughter of Ingmar Bergman and Liv Ullman, discussed her semi-autobiographical novel with Lee Randall.

To watch this event – click [here](#)

Ian Rankin revealed in a conversation with Journalist Ruth Wishart that he was currently without a book contract.

To watch this event – click [here](#)

**Programme for today: Tuesday 18 August**

10:00am Formidable Females with Lari Don & Eilidh Muldoon

To watch this event – click [here](#)

1:00pm Ekow Eshun: Africa is a State of Mind

To watch this event – click [here](#)

2:30pm Hallie Rubenhold: The Problem with Great Men

To watch the event – click [here](#)

4:00pm Get Adventurous with Lily Dyu & Helen Skelton

To watch this event – click [here](#)

5:30pm Colum McCann: An Infinity of Stories

To watch this event – click [here](#)

7:00pm Philippe Sands with Ian Rankin: On the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive

To watch this event – click [here](#)

8:30pm Women in Politics: A Year of Reckoning

To watch this event – click [here](#)

**Programme for tomorrow: Wednesday 19 August**

**11:30am Shokoofeh Azar: After the Iranian Revolution**

When Shokoofeh Azar received the news that she was the first ever Iranian writer to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, she was transported back to when she was 15 years old, ‘in the village, surrounded by rainforest and rice fields, and dreamed of someday I would win this award as an Iranian writer.’

This event is supported by the 2020 International Booker Prize

To watch this event – click [here](#)

**1:00pm Eliza Anyangwe & Emmanuel Iduma: Outriders Africa – Deconstructing the Travelogue**

As part of the Book Festival’s Outriders Programme exploring the shifting landscapes of contemporary Africa, writers born in two neighbouring countries interrogate what means to be the

'other' in pan-African society. The two writers set off on an island-hopping journey from Madagascar to Comoros, finally ending up in Uganda before their trip was cut short as a result of COVID-19. Today, they share some of their stories from the journey.

This is an audio event – to listen click [here](#)

### **2:30pm Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi: Uganda's First Woman of Fiction**

Ugandan short story writer and novelist Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi burst onto the scene when she won The Kwani? Manuscript Project in 2013 with her first novel *Kintu*. Since then, she's garnered legions of readers and accolades including a Commonwealth Short Story Prize and, in 2018, a Windham Campbell Prize. Her work is celebrated for its links to oral traditions as well as its incisive critiques of contemporary Ugandan politics. For this event, she discusses her latest novel, *The First Woman*, with editor and culture columnist of The Economist Fiammetta Rocco.

This event is supported by British Council

To watch this event – click [here](#)

### **4:00pm Voices from the Past with Patrice Lawrence & Bali Rai**

Patrice Lawrence, winner of the Waterstones Book Prize for *Orangeboy*, transports you to the slums of Elizabethan London in *Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story*, where East African girl Eve and her family become involved in a perilous shipwreck salvaging mission. Bestseller Bali Rai's *Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story* follows Fazal Khan from his Indian home to the battlefields of the Second World War, where bombs from above and discrimination from other soldiers threaten his life.

This event is part of the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme

To watch this event – click [here](#)

### **5:30pm Maaza Mengiste: When Italy Invaded Ethiopia**

Against the backdrop of Italy's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, this is a story of Africa and Europe, of resistance and exile, of tradition and modernity, that is sweeping in vision and intimate in affect. Longlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize *The Shadow King* is powerful, stirring historical fiction that centres women within stories of war and battle that have traditionally excluded them. Mengiste talks to Jess Brough about giving life to the stories of her parents and grandparents, and unpicking 'faded documents' to better understand the heroism and loss of the past.

To watch this event – click [here](#)

### **7:00pm Marian Keyes: Family Matters**

With more than 35 million copies sold of her 13 novels to date, Keyes's own brand of irrepressible, generous, hilarious storytelling goes from strength to strength. Join Keyes and writer Jenny Colgan for an evening of unforgettable grown-up fun.

To watch this event – click [here](#)

### **8:30pm Val McDermid & Jo Sharp: Shaping a Better Future**

Edited by McDermid and Sharp, *Imagine A Country* is the fascinating, eclectic and often inspiring collection. In this event, Val McDermid and Jo Sharp host acclaimed writers Ali Smith, Cameron McNeish, Jo Clifford and Leila Aboulela, who read their contributions and discuss how we might create a better future for the greatest number of people.

This event is sponsored by the Open University

To watch this event – click [here](#)



Director of EIBF Nick Barley – the only one allowed in the garden this year... PHOTO John Preece