

Cityread London 2018

One City. One Month. One Book.

30 April – 31 May

- *The Muse* by Jessie Burton, critically-acclaimed author of *The Miniaturist*, is the book of choice for 2018's Cityread
- Events include a month-long interactive audio-digital installation at Idea Store, Whitechapel
- Live music event at Westminster Reference Library with Jazzie B and author Lloyd Bradley
- In Conversation With... Jessie Burton at The London Library
- Events exploring art history, cultural theory, real-life stories of the streets of Soho, art and women in 1960s London
- Plus, life-drawing classes, family history workshops, and guided walks
- Read or listen to *The Muse*, join your library's book group to meet other readers, and let everybody know what you think on Facebook, Twitter or at an event near you
- Cityread is sponsored by Audible (principal sponsor) and OverDrive, on behalf of London area libraries, in partnership with Pan Macmillan

Cityread returns for its seventh annual festival, turning the capital – and some spots further afield! – into one massive, interactive book group with Jessie Burton's critically-acclaimed *The Muse* as the city's collective page-turner from 30 April 'til 31 May.

The Muse opens in London 1967, where we meet Odelle Bastien, recently arrived from Trinidad and trying to make her way in a new country. A new job at the Skelton Gallery brings a mysterious painting and an enigmatic colleague into her life. We are then transported to Spain, 1936, we meet Olive Schloss, and discover how the painting came into being, against the turbulent backdrop of Spain on the eve of war.

Across 27 boroughs - plus Slough, Reading and Luton - a programme of events taking 1960s London and 1930s Spain as a starting point will explore the book's themes of arrival, the creative process, art history and family secrets. The month-long celebration of reading will help Londoners discover and celebrate their city through its stories.

Jessie Burton says: "I'm truly delighted that *The Muse* will be London's Cityread for 2018. It's a novel that celebrates the diversity, humour and spirit of Londoners - both those who were born here and those welcomed in to make it their home. It's an honour to support our city's libraries and to be reminded of their incomparable value, and I can't wait for new readers to find my story of Odelle and Olive, and make it their own."

Cityread 2018 will also work with homeless charities to gift 500 signed copies of *The Muse* to homeless readers across the capital.

For Cityread London enquiries contact stephen@break-comms.com and louise@break-comms.com

For enquiries about Jessie Burton contact Maura Wilding maura@mauracomunications.com

Headline Events

01/05 – 31/05 - FREE

Rufina & The Lion

The Idea Store, Whitechapel, 9am – 9pm daily

Meet Odelle Bastien, recently arrived from Trinidad. It's London 1967 and a lost masterpiece arrives at Odelle's workplace, the Skelton Gallery. The secret history of Rufina and the Lion lies with Olive Schloss in 1936, in Spain on the eve of civil war. This May we invite you to step into the world of Odelle and Olive and discover the secrets of the mysterious painting that connects them. Get ready to explore Odelle's London flat and Olive's Andalusian studio in this interactive digital installation. The installation will include audio provided by Audible.

24/05 - FREE

Cynth & Sam's Wedding with author Lloyd Bradley & very special guest Jazzie B

Westminster Reference Library, 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Music journalist and author of *Sounds Like London* Lloyd Bradley will be playing the big records of the day, and talking to very special guest Jazzie B about the impact of Caribbean migration on the music we're still listening to in the capital. Don't forget your dancing shoes, we'll be rounding off the night with live music from the Cityread '67 house band.

29/05 – SOLD OUT

Cityread London: A conversation with Jessie Burton

Richmond Information & Reference Library

Bestselling novelist Jessie Burton will be talking about *The Muse* and its role as the focus for Cityread London 2018. Jessie's debut novel, *The Miniaturist*, was also a bestseller and was recently televised. Jessie will be in conversation with journalist Anna James.

31/05 - £18/£12 (members)

Jessie Burton In Conversation with Cathy Tyson

The London Library, 6:30 pm

Join us for this Cityread 2018 highlight as Jessie Burton chats all things *The Muse* in the historic surrounds of The London Library, the building that inspired Jessie's depiction of The Skelton Gallery in the novel. Sam Baker, co-founder and CEO of The Pool, will chair the event.

Other Key Dates

02/05 - FREE

Spanish Civil War: A Portrait of Turmoil

Barbican Library, 12:30 pm

Cityread stalwart Nick Dobson unravels the history of the origins and course of the Spanish Civil War illustrated by the amazing art works and posters of the conflict.

08/05 - FREE

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BFI Screening: The Stuart Hall Project**Kensington Central Library, 6:00 pm**

Cited by Jessie Burton as a vital part of her research for *The Muse*, *The Stuart Hall Project* (dir. John Akomfrah, 2013) is a fascinating portrait of cultural theorist Stuart Hall and how he influenced black British constructions of identity. David Somerset, Education Programmer at the BFI, will introduce the screening.

12/05 - FREE**Look Up London Walking Tour****Tottenham Court Road Station, 11:00 am**

Meet at Tottenham Court Road Station and travel back to 1960s London, walking in the footsteps of Odelle Bastien. Join our walking tour and explore the themes of *The Muse*, as we uncover the surprising history and real life stories of Soho.

17/05 - £10 per team**The Ridiculously Tenuous Cityread Quiz****Holborn Library, 7:30 pm**

Quizmaster Mark Mason (theimportanceofbeingtrivial.com) will be digging deep for the most trivial and tenuous links to our Cityread book in this fun quiz. Prior knowledge of *The Muse* isn't going to help you here! Teams of up to six invited to pit their wits.

There will be a pop-up bar or bring your own tippable of choice

21/05 - FREE**Traces of Women's Spaces: Artists and Muses at Home****The Golden Lion, 6:30 pm**

Taking *The Muse* as a starting point, Gill Perry, Professor of History of Art at The Open University, will look at aspects of the book's narrative around art, women and practice at this time, in the studio, gallery and particularly in the home. This is an Art History in the Pub event in partnership with the Association for Art History.

About Cityread London:

Cityread London is a registered charity that promotes the key ideas of reading for pleasure, engaging new library users, enhancing the experience of existing readers, and encouraging people to explore and celebrate London's culture, landscape and history through its stories. Cityread works in partnership with library services in 27 London boroughs plus Slough, Reading and Luton. Founded in 2012 it has featured: *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens (Penguin), 2012; *A Week in December* by Sebastian Faulks (Vintage), 2013; *My Dear I Wanted to Tell You* by Louisa Young (Borough Press), 2014; *Rivers of London* by Ben Aaronovitch (Gollancz) 2015; *Ten Days* by Gillian Slovo (Canongate) 2016; *Prophecy* by S.J. Parris (HarperCollins) 2017.

For full listings, quotes, & more information about *The Muse*, Jessie Burton, Cityread 2018 sponsors Audible and OverDrive, or publisher Pan Macmillan, please see: www.cityread.london or Facebook/CityreadLondon

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Cityread London 2018 is sponsored by

