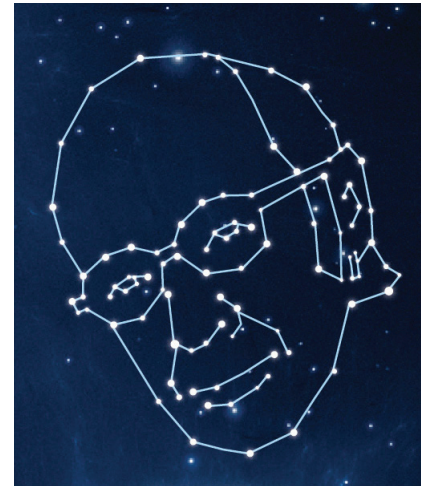


The Poetry Society presents: National Poetry Day Live! Free events hosted by Roger McGough

Thursday 4 October 2012, 1pm – 6pm
Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1



Star performer: Roger McGough, Poetry Society President, will compere National Poetry Day Live!

An afternoon of **free** events and readings on National Poetry Day's theme of 'Stars'. Join Poetry Society President and host of this year's National Poetry Day Live!, **Roger McGough**, at London's Southbank Centre, where he will be reading alongside **Grace Nichols, John Cooper Clarke, Rachel Rooney, Christopher Reid, Dannie Abse** and many, many more.

1pm – 2.15pm

Ira Lightman and school students involved in Artichoke's *Peace Camp* project take to the stage. They are followed by well-loved poets Roger McGough, Grace Nichols and Rachel Rooney.

2.30pm – 4.15pm

Breaking the sound barrier, we showcase some of best up-and-coming spoken word artists to have been discovered by the Poetry Society over the past ten years: former winners of the SLAMBassadors UK championship Jamal Msebele and Megan Beech, who perform alongside slam superstar Joelle Taylor. Judges of the Poetry Society's Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2012, Christopher Reid and Helen Mort, read alongside former winners Charlotte Higgins and Sarah Howe.

4.30pm – 6pm

The UK's leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*, is launched with readings from the autumn issue by Karen McCarthy Woolf and Dannie Abse, one of the century's most important Welsh writers. Simon Barraclough shares his love of the solar system alongside Mario Petrucci, writer of the script for the world's largest 3D soundscape. Joining them is punk poet John Cooper Clarke.

Throughout the afternoon, wonder at InTents: inspired by Deborah Warner's *Peace Camp*, commissioned for London 2012 Festival, the poems and artworks of more than 400 secondary school students are embroidered, cross-stitched and etched onto a dozen tents which will pop up along the South Bank. You can join Inua Ellams's intergalactic Twitter poem, try on the cosmic cures for broken hearts being offered by the Poetry Library doctors, and stop by at the Poetry Society table to meet staff, enter quizzes and pick up star-shaped freebies.

Continues over

For further information

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Page 1 of 2

National Poetry Day Live! has been organised by the Poetry Society and Southbank Centre annually since 2009.

– ENDS –

**For more information contact Alan Ward,
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Notes to Editors:

• **The Poetry Society** was founded in 1909 to promote a “more general recognition and appreciation of poetry”. Since then, it has grown into one of Britain’s most dynamic arts organisations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4,000 members worldwide and publishes the leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages.

• **Poetry Review**, published quarterly by the Poetry Society since 1912, is Britain’s longest-running poetry magazine. A subscription to *Poetry Review* is included in Poetry Society membership, and can also be bought separately.

• **Roger McGough** was awarded his OBE for services to poetry in 1997 and a CBE in 2010. He is the author of over 50 books, and presents *Poetry Please* on BBC Radio 4. His latest poetry books are *That Awkward Age* (Penguin) and, for children, *The Imaginary Menagerie* (Frances Lincoln), which he also illustrated. He has been President of the Poetry Society since winter 2011.

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