

# SHETLAND NOIR



11-15 JUNE 2026

Programme



SHETLAND  
ARTS



Shetland  
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**i** Shetland Noir events may be very busy, so pre-booking is recommended. Tickets are available in person at **Mareel** or over the phone **01595 745500** (10am – 9pm Tuesday – Sunday) or online at **www.shetlandarts.org**

**NOIR CARDS** Priority booking and exclusive entry to all Shetland Noir events (please note: Tunes & Stories requires a separate ticket at an additional cost)

**DAILY NOIR CARDS** Entry into all Shetland Noir events on individual days  
 Friday £55 | Saturday £55 | Sunday £55

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS** Individual balcony tickets for headliner events will be available for purchase at £15 each



“I’m Marsali Taylor, author of 14 Shetland-set crime novels, and it’s been an honour to work with Ann and the Shetland Arts team. Between us, we’ve enjoyed creating a programme which will combine some of the biggest names in crime with a taste of life here in the isles. Shetland Noir is taking over Mareel for the weekend and events include an opening session where the visiting panel of authors introduce themselves, six headliners, nine panels on a variety of topics, and three workshops. There’ll be short films, storytelling and a beach bonfire at St Ninian’s Isle, a chance to be the jury for a classic ‘not proven’ case, and a Noir quiz. We have authors from all over the world here for the weekend, and so the panel topics include international themes: policing in other cultures, authors’ lives in different countries and, on our Shaetlan panel, a discussion of our distinctive local language as translation.

It’s going to be a lot of fun! For those of you already signed up, I’m looking forward to welcoming you in person. If you’ve only just picked this brochure up or found it online, well, just look at the crime treats on offer. How can you resist joining us at Shetland Noir?”

**Marsali Taylor** - Curator

“2026 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Raven Black*, my first Shetland novel and the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the first BBC broadcast of the TV series. It feels very special to be back in the islands to celebrate with you all. I first came here more than fifty years ago; immediately, I fell for its bleak beauty and for the warmth of the welcome. It’s my place of sanctuary and escape.

Shetland Noir will give you the opportunity to meet islanders, and to experience some of its traditions, its music and its culture. Marsali Taylor, my partner in crime, is a Shetlander and an expert guide and I know she’ll be delighted to answer any of your questions.

I look forward to meeting you all over the course of the weekend. I know many of you already and by the time you head south, I’m sure we’ll all be friends. I hope that by then, Shetland will mean as much to you as it does to me.”

**Ann Cleeves** - Patron

# MAREEL CAFÉ BAR



Our café is the perfect spot to just unwind with a coffee, watching the seabirds and seals bob by.



Our menu serves up locally made sandwiches, wraps and salads, plus cakes and snacks.



We have an extensive mix of hot & cold drinks.



## SHETLAND NOIR MERCH & BOOKSHOP

Take a piece of the mystery with you!

We have a range of merchandise available to buy. T-shirts, tote bags, notebooks, maybe even a sweet little treat...

You can also pre-order your merchandise online - buy now, collect when you arrive.

We'll have a range of books available from our featured Shetland Noir authors.

Buying a book as a memento of the festival? Don't miss out on having the author sign your copy. Signings will take place after events, in Mareel's foyer.

Bookplates will also be available.

### SHOP

• Mareel



## EXHIBITION: EERIE ISLES

Eerie Isles is a local photography exhibition.

For the exhibition, we invited local photographers to capture the haunting, mysterious, and atmospheric side of Shetland. In line with Shetland Noir, we wanted images that evoke intrigue, drama, and the island's unique character.

We selected ten photographs to exhibit in Mareel's Lower Café Bar, between May – September 2026. Entrants varied across a range of ages and abilities, from hobbyists to professional photographers.

Shetland Noir welcomes many visitors from further afield, so we saw this is a fantastic opportunity for local work to be showcased to visitors.

↑ *Da Stoor Moori (The Big Storm)*, Holly Paget-Brown

*"It's such a pleasure to have the Shetland community exhibited in Mareel Café Bar."* – Kathryn Gordon, Creative Project Manager

↓ *Gone Shopping*, John Carolan



### EXHIBITION

• Mareel Lower Café Bar



**WELCOME RECEPTION**

**MEET THE PANELLISTS**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE PENNY**

The beginning of a very busy festival!

Shetland Noir's patron Ann Cleeves will declare the festival officially open, in true Shetland style - warm and welcoming - with a delicious buffet.

As the night unfolds, "Noir at the Bar" provides an opportunity to meet fellow writers, readers, and enthusiasts, share stories, and make new connections. Whether you're a returning festivalgoer or joining us for the first time, this is the perfect moment to immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the weekend.

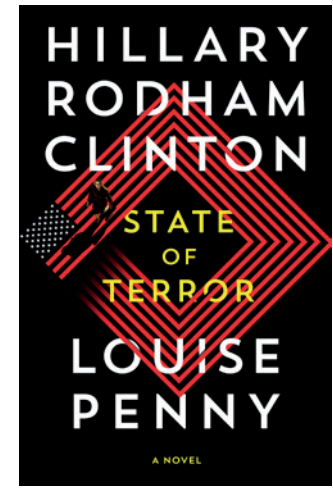
Get a taste of what's to come over the weekend.

This event offers an opportunity to get to know the authors who will be shaping the conversations, panels, and workshops throughout the festival. From established authors to emerging writers, each brings their own distinctive take on crime writing.

Each of the 30 participating authors has exactly 1 minute and 45 seconds to tell us about their style of crime before being firmly - yet playfully - cut off.

Join international bestselling author Louise Penny for a special evening of conversation. Penny will be joined by acclaimed Scottish crime writer Alex Gray, Sunday Times bestselling author and co-founder of the Bloody Scotland Crime Writing Festival.

**Louise Penny's** Chief Inspector Gamache novels have been translated into 31 languages and have sold over 18 million copies worldwide. She has received the Ordre National du Quebec and the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture. In 2021, she co-authored the standalone thriller *State of Terror* with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Louise Penny lives in a village south of Montreal.



- EVENT**
- Mareel Auditorium and Café Bar
  - Thursday 11 June, 19.00
  - For Noir Card holders

- EVENT**
- Mareel Auditorium
  - Friday 12 June, 10.00 – 11.00
  - For Noir or Friday Card holders

- HEADLINER**
- Mareel, Auditorium
  - Friday 12 June, 11.30 - 12.30
  - For Noir and Friday Card holders or £15



**FILM SCREENING: HOMEMADE HIGHLIGHTS - SCREENING ONE**

A celebration of Shetland's filmmaking talent, Homemade is our annual showcase of short films created by local filmmakers of all ages and abilities. Every genre and style is welcome, from documentary and drama to animation and experimental. There is just one rule: each film must be four minutes or less.

We are delighted to be bringing you Homemade Highlights from last year, showcasing just some of our local film making talent, with each screening featuring a different selection of short films.

We hope you enjoy these highlights!



**FILM SCREENING**

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Friday 12 June, 12.50 - 13.20
- For Noir and Friday Card holders



**PANEL SESSION: TOUGH GUYS & GALS**

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Meet four writers with very different crime styles to find out about their approach to dangerous people.

**MODERATED BY**

**Stewart Bain** spent 14 years working at Orkney Library & Archive, where he launched the award winning @OrkneyLibrary Twitter feed and ran the Saturday Slaughters crime fiction reading group. He has judged the Dagger in the Library Award, The McIlvanney Prize and is a regular contributor to The Graham Norton Book Club Podcast.

**Daniel Aubrey** is the bestselling author of the "Orkney Mysteries" series starring neurodivergent reporter, Freya Sinclair. Daniel was picked for the Critics' New Blood panel at the Theakston's Old Peculiar Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate last year, and his first two books, *Dark Island* and *The Dying Light*, have been nominated for multiple awards.

**Morgan Cry (Gordon Brown)** has 13 crime and thriller books published to date, along with a novella and a number of short stories. His latest book is out now. *The Fracture* is the second book in a new crime series starring Blake Glover and is set in and around Blake's childhood home town of Fraserburgh. Gordon is also a founding director of Bloody Scotland.

**Olga Wojtas** writes comic crime featuring a 50-something librarian from Edinburgh's Morningside, who is sent on time-travelling crime-fighting missions but rarely has a clue about what's going on. Olga has never knowingly time-travelled or fought crime, but may be drawing on personal experience for the rest. A former journalist, she uses comedy as an escape from the news.

**PANEL**

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Friday 12 June, 13:30 - 14.30
- For Noir and Friday Card holders



## AUTHOR READINGS:

## AUTHORS ACROSS BORDERS

Learn more about international crime-writer collaboration with Fenna Williams, who introduces her cross-countries anthologies: *Slainte Mhath* in English and German, including stories by Alex Gray and Lin Anderson and *Read Me* in a number of languages, including a story by Marsali Taylor. The anthologies arose from a desire to stay in touch with authors across borders and to prevent them from becoming barriers.

**Alex Gray** is the author of 23 novels, including the popular DSI William Lorimer series. Her latest book, *Blood on Old Stones*, is set on the Isle of Mull.

**Fenna Williams** lives in Germany and works as a freelance author and creative writing coach as well as an international tour guide and whisky expert.

**Lin Anderson** is a Scottish novelist and screenwriter best known for her bestselling series featuring forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod. Co-founder of the international crime writing festival Bloody Scotland, she set up Pitch Perfect which has now seen 25 books published in its 14 years.

**Marsali Taylor** is best known for her Shetland-set crime novels starring live-aboard sailor Cass Lynch and Inverness DI Gavin Macrae. She's an STGA tourist-guide who is fascinated by history, and has published plays in Shetland's distinctive dialect, as well as a history of women's suffrage in Shetland.

## AUTHOR READINGS

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Friday 12 June, 14:40 – 15.20
- For Noir and Friday Card holders



## WORKSHOP:

## RESEARCHING A HISTORICAL STORY

Lexie Conyngham explores researching for a historical story, along with Mark Ryan Smith from the Shetland Archives to talk about local resources.

**Lexie Conyngham** lives in North East Scotland. Her historical crime novels, set in Georgian Scotland, 1940s Aberdeen, and Viking Orkney, are born of a life amidst Scotland's old cities, ancient universities and hidden-away aristocratic estates, but she has written since the day she found out that that was how stories got into books. She also knits and grows veg!

**Mark Ryan Smith** is a writer and archivist from Shetland. He is the author of two poetry pamphlets and a book-length study of local writing, *The Literature of Shetland*.



## WORKSHOP

- Mareel, Screen 2
- Friday 12 June, 15.00 – 16.30
- For Noir (priority booking) & Friday Card holders – Limited availability, please book early



## PANEL SESSION:

### DEALING WITH REAL LIFE CRIME

Three authors whose day job is dealing with crime, talk about their work: counter terrorist finance professional Adam Oyebanji, pathologist Allan Gaw and former prison officer Claire Wilson.

#### MODERATED BY

**Dr Jacky Collins** is Programme Director for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland. Jacky's research, publications and teaching spans Spanish cultures, queer popular culture and international crime fictions. Jacky is also founder and director for the Newcastle Noir international crime fiction festival. She has moderated at festivals around the world.

**Claire Wilson** is a debut author. Her book, *Five by Five*, is based on her career as an Intelligence Analyst in a Scottish prison. *Five by Five* was shortlisted for several awards including the Bloody Scotland debut.

**Adam Oyebanji** is a sci-fi/crime novelist whose work blends thrilling plots with thought-provoking ideas, often exploring themes of identity, belonging, and whodunnit. His work has been praised for its originality, rich world-building, and sharp storytelling. A well-travelled Scot, Adam draws on a global perspective shaped by a career in law and a lifelong passion for speculative fiction and murder mysteries.

**Allan Gaw** is a former pathologist. He now writes short stories, poetry and historical crime fiction. His first Dr Jack Cuthbert novel, *The Silent House of Sleep*, won the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize in 2024 and his second *The Moon's More Feeble Fire* was long listed for the McIlvanney Prize. There are now four books in the series with a fifth coming this autumn.

#### PANEL

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Friday 12 June, 15.30 - 16.30
- For Noir and Friday Card holders



## IN CONVERSATION WITH

### PROFESSOR LORNA DAWSON

Leading forensic soil scientist Lorna Dawson joins us for a fascinating discussion about the real science behind crime investigation. She will be in conversation with bestselling Scottish crime writer Lin Anderson, creator of the Dr Rhona MacLeod series and co-founder of the Bloody Scotland Crime Writing Festival.

**Professor Lorna Dawson** is Head of the Centre for Forensic Soil Science at the James Hutton Institute, an Honorary Professor at Robert Gordon University, and Professor at CESPU. A registered expert with the National Crime Agency and a trained Expert Witness, she has worked on more than 200 cases with police forces, lawyers and forensic science service across the UK and overseas. She has published over 150 scientific papers and was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2018 for services to soil and forensic science.

**Lin Anderson** is a Scottish novelist and screenwriter best known for her bestselling series featuring forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod. This year Lin published number 19 in the series, *The Dead and the Dying*. Co-founder of the international crime writing festival Bloody Scotland which takes place annually in Stirling, she set up Pitch Perfect which has now seen 25 books published in its 14 years of existence. She is also a judge in The Sunday Post short story competition along with Alex Gray and Alexander McCall Smith.

#### HEADLINER

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Friday 12 June, 17.00 - 18.00
- For Noir and Friday Card holders or £15

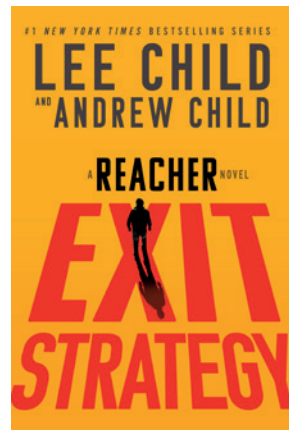


IN CONVERSATION WITH LEE CHILD

Join internationally bestselling author Lee Child, creator of the legendary Jack Reacher series, for a rare live conversation with Stewart Bain. This is a unique opportunity to hear from one of the world's most popular thriller writers in person.

**Lee Child** was born in Coventry, raised in Birmingham, and now lives in New York. It is said one of his novels featuring his hero Jack Reacher is sold somewhere in the world every nine seconds. His books consistently achieve the number-one slot on bestseller lists around the world and have sold over one hundred million copies. Lee is the recipient of many awards including Author of the Year at the 2019 British Book Awards. He was appointed CBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.

**Stewart Bain** spent 14 years working at Orkney Library & Archive, where he launched the award winning @OrkneyLibrary Twitter feed and ran the Saturday Slaughters crime fiction reading group. He has judged the Dagger in the Library Award, The McIlvanney Prize and is a regular contributor to The Graham Norton Book Club Podcast.



HEADLINER

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Friday 12 June, 20.00 - 21.00
- For Noir and Friday Card holders or £15



PANEL SESSION: THE SHAETLAN PANEL

Immerse yourself in the newly-official Shaetlan language. Broadcaster, Claire White, facilitates engaging conversation between three esteemed Shetland writers - Mark Ryan Smith, Christie Williamson and Lauren Johnson - spanning topics including identity, expression and translation.

MODERATED BY

**Claire White** is a broadcaster who produces and presents BBC Radio Shetland language and conversation programmes. As a traditional fiddler, singer-songwriter and film-maker, Claire also uses Shaetlan language to communicate compelling stories of the islands' past. Much in demand as an event host and workshop leader, Claire loves sharing and celebrating "wir Midder Tongue" as widely as possible.

**Mark Ryan Smith** is a writer and archivist from Shetland. He is the author of two poetry pamphlets and a book-length study of local writing, *The Literature of Shetland*.

**Christie Williamson** is a Shaetlan poet, essayist and translator based in Glasgow where he helps run Tell it Slant Books. His debut pamphlet *Arc o Mõns* won the Calum MacDonald Memorial Award. Two full length collections of his work have been published by Luath Press - *Oo an Feddirs*, 2015 and *Doors tae Naewye*, 2020.

**Lauren Johnson** belongs to Voe, Shetland. She has written plays, poems, short stories, two local history books, and a short novel. Her work has appeared in local and national publications. She has written a great deal in Shaetlan, including translations of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

EVENT

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Saturday 13 June, 10.00 - 11.00
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders

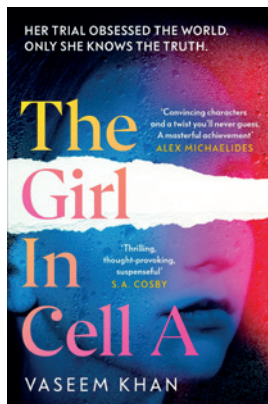


IN CONVERSATION WITH  
VASEEM KHAN

Shetland Noir Patron Ann Cleeves talks to Vaseem Khan, author of two award-winning crime series set in India and the upcoming *Quantum of Menace*, the first in a series featuring Q from the James Bond franchise.

**Vaseem Khan's** debut, *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra*, was selected by the Sunday Times as one of the 40 best crime novels published 2015-2020. In 2021, *Midnight at Malabar House*, the first in the Malabar House novels set in 1950s Bombay, won the CWA Historical Dagger. Vaseem was born in England, but spent a decade working in India. His latest release is *The Girl in Cell A*.

**Ann Cleeves'** books have been translated into 20 languages. She's a bestseller in Scandinavia and Germany, and her novels sell widely and to critical acclaim in the United States. There have also been 10 TV series of Shetland, based on the characters and settings of her Shetland novels.



HEADLINER

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Saturday 13 June, 11.30 - 12.30
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders or £15

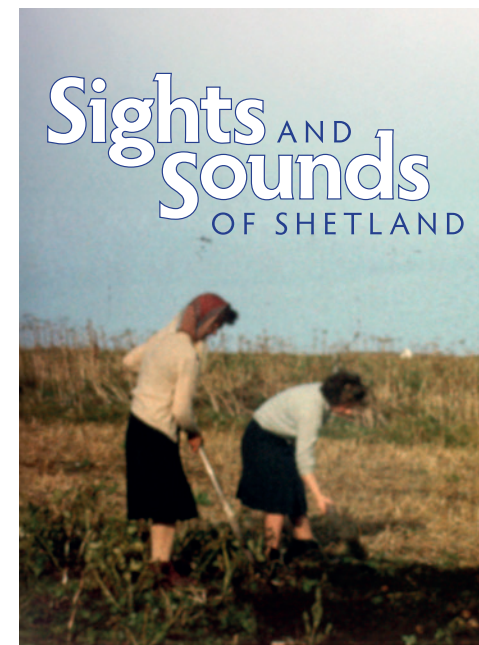


SIGHTS & SOUNDS  
OF SHETLAND

Step back in time and take a journey through Shetland's past with exclusive archived film footage on the big screen. *Sights & Sounds of Shetland* is a 30-minute double feature of two short films highlighting Shetland's rich culture.

*The Sounds of Shetland* are brought to life with Hjaltibonhoga, Shetland's fiddlers of the Royal Military Tattoo. Along with archive film footage and photography, this screening will give you a taste of Shetland's cultural identity; from different musical influences, wedding celebrations and reels in the kitchen, to the steps taken to keep traditions alive.

Our specially commissioned film, *Shetland Through The Years*, is edited from the Shetland Film Archives and includes a glimpse into everyday life in Shetland from the 1950s - 1970s. Immerse yourself in Shetland's years gone by with footage on traditional crofting, knitting, fishing, schooling, transport, festivities and leisure activities.



FILM SCREENING

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Saturday 13 June, 12.50 - 13.20
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders



## PANEL SESSION:

### AUTHORS AROUND THE WORLD

How does the publishing world compare for authors in the UK, the EU and the USA?

#### MODERATED BY

**Carola Christiansen** lives and writes in Hamburg Germany, where she is also born. She does a lot of research for every book project and travels around the world. For some time she lived in Denmark, Hong Kong, Luxembourg and Italy. Since April 2025 she is chairman of the board of the largest German speaking Crime Writers Association - Das SYNDIKAT.

**A K Nairn** writes historical murder mysteries, set 500 years ago, in the world of the Border Reivers. When he's not doing this, he's plain old Andy Nairn and works in advertising. His ad agency Lucky Generals has been named one of the top 10 in the world and Andy has captured his learnings in an award-winning non-fiction book, *Go Luck Yourself*.

**Eva Jensen (Yvonne Wustel)** was once a physician and started to write novels in the late 90s. She writes in different genres under different pen names, especially murder mystery. Eva Jensen lives with her family in Hamburg and Schleswig, Northern Germany. She is member of the Mörderische Schwestern.

**Louise Mangos** writes novels, short stories and flash fiction, which have won prizes, been placed on shortlists, and narrated on BBC Radio. She has published three psychological suspense novels, the latest of which is, *The Beaten Track*, and her short fiction has appeared in more than 20 print anthologies and magazines. She lives at the foot of the Swiss Alps with her Kiwi husband and two sons, leading an active life in the mountains.

**Paula Munier** is Senior Agent at Talcott Notch Literary and the USA TODAY bestselling author of the award-winning Mercy Carr mysteries from Minotaur. The latest, *The Snow Lies Deep*, was hailed as "captivating" by PW and named The Poisoned Pen's Cozy Club Pick for December 2025. She's also published three popular writing books and the memoir, *Fixing Freddie*.

**Sybille Baecker** is a German author of crime novels, travel guides and short stories. In 2020, she won a work grant for a book project. She has published around 20 books, including two successful crime series. Numerous trips to the Highlands inspired Baecker to write a series about private detective Alison Dexter, who solves crimes between Inverness and Caithness.

#### PANEL

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Saturday 13 June, 13.30 - 14.30
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders



## AUTHOR READINGS

A chance to hear five authors reading from their own novels.

**Adam Oyebanji** is a sci-fi/crime novelist whose work blends thrilling plots with thought-provoking ideas, often exploring themes of identity, belonging, and whodunnit. Adam will be reading from *Esperance*. They cried out for justice. Something heard.

**A K Nairn** writes historical murder mysteries, set 500 years ago, in the world of the Border Reivers. A K will be reading from *The Trail of Blood*. It's 1516 and when a body appears right on the border between Scotland and England, it threatens to create a bloodbath.

**Allan Gaw** is a former pathologist. He now writes short stories, poetry and historical crime fiction. Allan will be reading from *The Shadows and the Dust*. Sins never stay buried.

**Claire Wilson** is a debut author. Her book, *Five by Five*, is based on her career as an Intelligence Analyst in a Scottish prison. Claire will be reading from *The Devil You Don't*. A disillusioned analyst, a manipulative murderess. In a prison governed by an old foe, will integrity prevail over corruption at the top?

**William Burton McCormick** is an Edgar and Dagger award nominated author of mystery and thriller fiction set mainly in Eastern Europe. William is reading from the novella *Demon in the Depths*, in his collection *Deeds of Darkness*. Who or what destroyed that spy plane off the Svalbard archipelago sixty years ago? And what prowls the icy depths around the wreck to this day?

## AUTHOR READINGS

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Saturday 12 June, 14:40 – 15.20
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders



## WORKSHOP : UNRELIABLE NARRATORS

Every narrator lies. The question is whether they know it.

In crime fiction, the voice telling the story can be the most dangerous element of all - more treacherous than any villain, more misleading than any clue. In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore two of the most powerful tools in the crime writer's arsenal: the narrator who deceives the reader deliberately, and the narrator who deceives themselves without knowing it.

Through a series of short, sharp writing exercises, you'll learn how to engineer the gap between what your narrator claims and what your reader suspects, and how to make that gap do the work of an entire plot.

Come ready to write. Leave with a scene you couldn't have imagined writing before.

(Suitable for beginner and emerging writers. No experience of the technique necessary - only curiosity and a willingness to be a little untrustworthy.)

**Emma Dhesi** is a Scottish novelist and book coach based in Edinburgh. She writes emotionally charged women's fiction and domestic suspense, and publishes crime novels under the pen name Rachel Bremner. She is the author of multiple novels and the bestselling writing guide, *Launch Pad: The Countdown to Writing Your Book* and speaks regularly at literary events.

## WORKSHOP

- Mareel, Screen 2
- Saturday 13 June, 15.00 – 16.30
- For Noir (priority booking) & Saturday Card holders – Limited availability, please book early



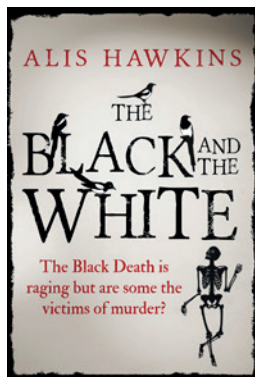
**PANEL SESSION: AMATEURS AT WORK**

Three authors discuss the advantages and difficulties of having an amateur sleuth, and how that affects their crime novels.

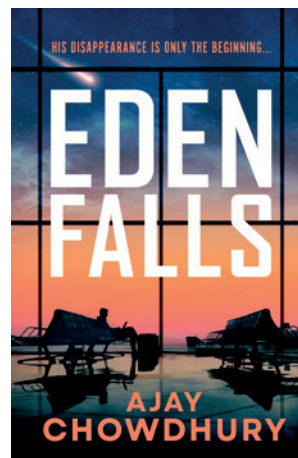
**MODERATED BY**

**Dr Timothy (Tim) Rideout** is a literary scholar, critic and interviewer, with a special interest in Gothic, crime and contemporary fiction. He is known for his work in Gothic studies and for engaging authors and audiences at literary festivals and events, where he regularly chairs panels and conducts in-depth interviews with writers. Tim's academic work explores how modern fiction engages with cultural anxieties and social precarity, themes central to his book *Gothic Precarity: Fear and Anxiety in Twenty-First-Century Fiction*, published by the University of Wales Press as part of their Gothic Literary Studies series.

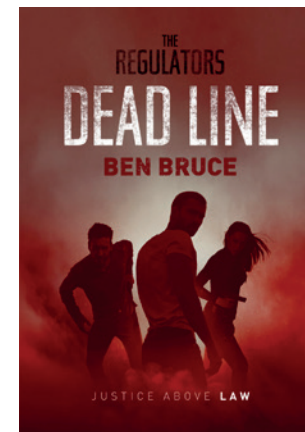
**Alis Hawkins** writes Victorian crime fiction – the Teifi Valley Coroner series set in west Wales with blind ex-barrister Harry Probert-Lloyd; the Oxford Mysteries set in Oxford at the beginning of the womens' college movement feature young Welsh polymath Rhiannon Vaughan and Oxford don Basil Rice. Her books have been shortlisted for the CWA Historical Dagger and longlisted for the Gold Dagger.



**Ajay Chowdhury** won the inaugural Harvill Secker/Bloody Scotland crime writing competition for his debut crime novel, *The Waiter*, which is being adapted for television, and was followed by four critically acclaimed sequels. His standalone thriller, *Eden Falls* is out this year as well as the next book in his series, *The Patriot*. Outside his writing career, he is a tech entrepreneur and theatre director.



**Ben Bruce** is the author of the action-packed thriller series, *The Regulators*, and 1960s crime series, *Dead Men...*, Ben has carved out a successful career in TV before the release of, *The Regulators*.



**PANEL**

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Saturday 13 June, 15.30 - 16.30
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders



IN CONVERSATION WITH  
YRSA SIGURDARDOTTIR

Join internationally acclaimed Icelandic author Yrsa Sigurdardottir for a conversation with Dr Jacky Collins, Founder and Director of Newcastle Noir.

**Yrsa Sigurdardottir** writes crime fiction, horror, and children's books and has been translated to over 30 languages, sold over 5 million copies and won numerous awards both in Iceland and abroad. Two of her stand-alone horror novels have been made into films and her latest book *Can't Run, Can't Hide* was recently purchased for TV production in the UK. Along with fellow author Ragnar Jónasson, Yrsa is a co-founder and organiser of Iceland's annual literary festival, Iceland Noir.

In addition to being an author, Yrsa is a civil engineer and was the technical manager for the construction supervision of the Kárahnjúkar Power Plant project, Iceland's largest construction undertaking to date.

**Dr Jacky Collins** is Programme Director for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland. Jacky's research, publications and teaching spans Spanish cultures, queer popular culture and international crime fiction. Jacky is also founder and director for the Newcastle Noir international crime fiction festival. She has moderated at festivals around the world.

HEADLINER

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Saturday 13 June, 17.00 – 18.00
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders or £15



TRIP: TUNES  
& STORIES

Join us at St Ninian's Isle in Bigton for a relaxed evening of food, stories, tunes and excellent company by the fire. Experience the magic of Shetland's summer, when the sun barely dips below the horizon and it never really gets dark.

From Mareel we will travel by bus to Bigton, where we will enjoy some food at the local hall before making our way to the beach - where we'll gather by the bonfire to enjoy tales and tunes from local storytellers and musicians, on one of Shetland's most famous beaches.

St Ninian's Isle is famous for being the UK's largest active sand tombolo. This 500 metre double sided beach connects to an island featuring dramatic cliffs, 12<sup>th</sup> century chapel ruins, and the site of a renowned 1958 Pictish silver treasure discovery.

TRIP

- Leaving from Mareel
- Saturday 13 June, 19.30 – 23.00
- For Noir Card holders or £35 additional cost



FILM SCREENING:  
IN A LONELY  
PLACE (1950)

Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame excel in Nicholas Ray's tale of murder, love and suspicion in 1950s Hollywood.

After a Hollywood screenwriter (Humphrey Bogart), suspected of murder, is given an alibi by his neighbour (Gloria Grahame), the pair become lovers and he overcomes his writer's block. But can their relationship survive the persistent attentions of the police investigation? Nicholas Ray's brilliantly precise direction, coupled with superb lead performances and Burnett Guffey's eloquent camerawork, makes for a psychologically astute account of a love affair under threat.

FILM SCREENING

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Saturday 13 June, 20.00 – 21.30
- For Noir and Friday Card holders



**PANEL SESSION:**  
**MURDER MOST COMPLICATED**

How do writers go about creating the kind of plot that gets more and more baffling and ends with a surprise solution?

**MODERATED BY**

**Marsali Taylor** is best known for her Shetland-set crime novels starring live-aboard sailor Cass Lynch and Inverness DI Gavin Macrae. She's an STGA tourist-guide who is fascinated by history, and has published plays in Shetland's distinctive dialect, as well as a history of women's suffrage in Shetland. She's a keen sailor and a member of her local drama group.

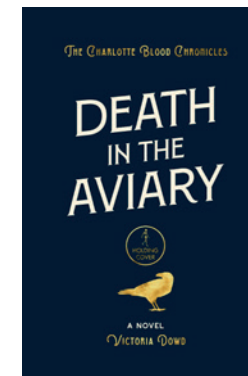
**Lesley Kara** is a Sunday Times bestselling author of psychological thrillers. Her debut, *The Rumour*, was the highest-selling print crime fiction debut of 2019, sold in over 18 countries and is now a major TV series on Channel 5. Her most recent novel is called *Troublemaker*. A Faber Academy graduate, Lesley lives in Kent and writes full-time.

**Tom Benjamin** grew up in north London and began his working life as a journalist before becoming a spokesman for Scotland Yard. He's currently working on the eighth instalment of his critically acclaimed Bologna-set series, although his seventh, *Old Bones in Puglia*, published by Constable this May, dispatched his family of private investigators south for their most challenging case yet.

**Tom Mead** is a Derbyshire mystery writer and aficionado of Golden Age Crime Fiction. His novels include *Death And The Conjuror*, *The Murder Wheel*, *Cabaret Macabre* and *The House At Devil's Neck*, and he also recently published a collection of mystery stories, *The Indian Rope Trick (And Other Violent Entertainments)*. His books have been translated into 12 languages (and counting), nominated for various awards and named books of the year by The Guardian, The Telegraph, Publishers Weekly and Crimereads.



**Victoria Dowd** is Vice-chair of the Crime Writers' Association. She is the author of the Smart Woman's Mystery series and *The Blood Chronicles*, winning The People's Book Prize and the Gothic Fiction prize. Her work was shortlisted for the CWA Dagger. Victoria was a criminal defence barrister. Her standalone, *The New Rules of Murder*, will be published by Sphere next year.



**PANEL**

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 10.00 - 11.00
- For Noir and Sunday Card holders



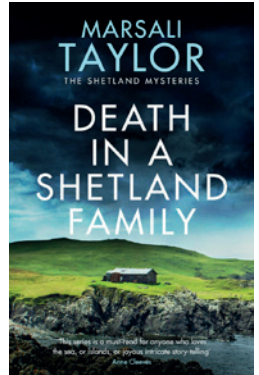
**PANEL SESSION: FANTASTICAL CRIMES**

Time-travelling detectives, trows and njuggles, and eerie goings-on in the Scottish countryside. Three authors talk about getting away from the traditional Colonel Mustard and the lead pipe in the library.

**MODERATED BY**

**Dr Timothy (Tim) Rideout** is a literary scholar, critic and interviewer, with a special interest in Gothic, crime and contemporary fiction. He is known for his work in Gothic studies and for engaging authors and audiences at literary festivals and events, where he regularly chairs panels and conducts in-depth interviews with writers. Tim's academic work explores how modern fiction engages with cultural anxieties and social precarity, themes central to his book *Gothic Precarity: Fear and Anxiety in Twenty-First-Century Fiction*, published by the University of Wales Press as part of their Gothic Literary Studies series.

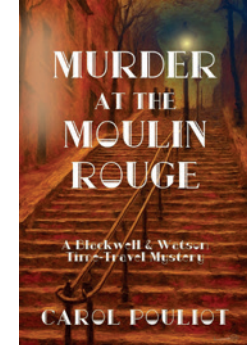
**Marsali Taylor** is best known for her Shetland-set crime novels starring live-aboard sailor Cass Lynch and Inverness DI Gavin Macrae. She's an STGA tourist-guide who is fascinated by history, and has published plays in Shetland's distinctive dialect, as well as a history of women's suffrage in Shetland. She's a keen sailor and a member of her local drama group.



**Suzy Apsley** is a former journalist who's debut novel *Crow Moon* was published by Orenda Books in 2024. It was the first in a series of gothic thrillers featuring journalist Martha Strangeways and set in remote and rural parts of Scotland. She won Bloody Scotland's Pitch Perfect competition in 2019, and was shortlisted in the Capital Crime New Voices award. *Crow Moon* was shortlisted for the Bloody Scotland and Theakston's McDermid debut prizes and longlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award. In 2026, she has been awarded a residency at Moniack Mhor creative writing centre in the Highlands.



**Carol Pouliot** is an Agatha-nominated author. Her time-travel mysteries are known for their fast pace and unexpected twists and turns, for their attention to historical details, rich atmosphere, and multi-layered plots. The former President of her Sisters in Crime chapter, Carol teaches a workshop for beginning mystery writers and enjoys speaking to groups. Carol's passion is international travel.



**PANEL**

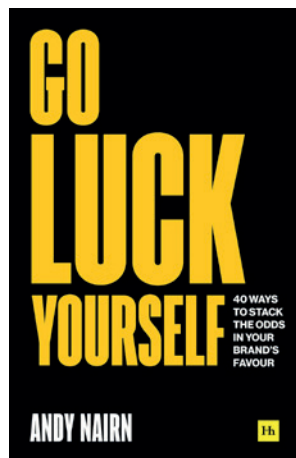
- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 11.30 - 12.30
- For Noir and Sunday Card holders



**WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING A KILLER MARKETING STRATEGY**

Even the best crime stories don't sell themselves. So how do you help your book stand out, in a cut-throat market? When he's not writing historical murder mysteries, A K Nairn is the founder of one of the UK's top ad agencies. In this fun session, he'll share some fiendishly clever ways to make your murderous tales even more notorious.

**A K Nairn** writes historical murder mysteries, set 500 years ago, in the world of the Border Reivers. When he's not doing this, he's plain old Andy Nairn and works in advertising. His ad agency Lucky Generals has been named one of the top 10 in the world and Andy has captured his learnings in an award-winning non-fiction book, *Go Luck Yourself*.



**WORKSHOP**

- Mareel, Screen 2
- Sunday 14 June, 11.45 - 13.15
- For Noir (priority booking) & Sunday Card holders - Limited availability, please book early



**FILM SCREENING: HOMEMADE HIGHLIGHTS - SCREENING TWO**

A celebration of Shetland's filmmaking talent, *Homemade* is our annual showcase of short films created by local filmmakers of all ages and abilities. Every genre and style is welcome, from documentary and drama to animation and experimental. There is just one rule: each film must be four minutes or less.

We are delighted to be bringing you *Homemade Highlights* from last year, showcasing just some of our local film making talent, with each screening featuring a different selection of short films.

We hope you enjoy these highlights!

**FILM SCREENING**

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Sunday 14 June, 12.50 - 13.20
- For Noir and Sunday Card holders





**PANEL SESSION : POLICING THE WORLD**

Four authors from all round the world discuss the policing styles and problems of their countries, and how that shapes the crime novels they write.

**MODERATED BY**

**Dr Jacky Collins** is Programme Director for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland. Jacky’s research, publications and teaching spans Spanish cultures, queer popular culture and international crime fictions. Jacky is also founder and director for the Newcastle Noir international crime fiction festival. She has moderated at festivals around the world.

**AJ Liddle** (Georgia) is a Scottish novelist, former ships’ captain and manager in the oil and gas industry. He has written four crime thrillers featuring detective Lieutenant Ramaz Donadze. His first, *No Harm Done* was shortlisted for the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize.

**Kate Ellis** (UK) is best known for her DI Wesley Peterson novels which blend mystery, archaeology and history. Her latest in this series is *Deadly Remains*. She has also written an acclaimed trilogy set in the aftermath of WW1 and the spooky DI Joe Plantagenet series set in Yorkshire. She was awarded the CWA Dagger in the Library in 2019.

**Lea O’ Harra** (Japan) has published six crime fiction novels, including the Inspector Inoue mystery series set in rural Japan, each linked to a season – *Imperfect Strangers*, *Progeny*, *Lady First*, and *Falling Leaves* – as well as two standalones, *Dead Reckoning* and *Sayonara, My Sweet*. The books have been awarded various prizes.

**PANEL**

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 14.00 - 15.00
- For Noir and Sunday Card holder



**AUTHOR READINGS**

A chance to hear four authors reading from their own novels.

**Emma Dhesi** is a Scottish novelist and book coach based in Edinburgh. She writes emotionally charged women’s fiction and domestic suspense, and publishes crime novels under the pen name Rachel Bremner. She is reading from *Follow Me*. Everyone has secrets. Even the innocent.

**Lexie Conyngham** lives in North East Scotland. Her historical crime novels, set in Georgian Scotland, 1940s Aberdeen, and Viking Orkney, are born of a life amidst Scotland’s old cities, ancient universities and hidden-away aristocratic estates. She is reading from *Tomb for an Eagle*. Murder and mayhem in Viking Orkney.

**Louise Mangos** writes novels, short stories and flash fiction, which have won prizes, been placed on shortlists, and narrated on BBC Radio. Louise is reading from *The Girl in the Doorway*. A bookseller, a homeless student and a sassy sleuth chase clues in an attempt to solve the crime of several valuable stolen books, from the streets of London to the glittering resort of St Moritz in the Swiss Alps.

**Paula Munier** is Senior Agent at Talcott Notch Literary and the USA TODAY bestselling author of the award-winning Mercy Carr mysteries from Minotaur. She is reading from *The Snow Lies Deep*. Murder strikes a Vermont village on the darkest day of the year.

**AUTHOR READINGS**

- Mareel, Screen 1
- Sunday 14 June, 14.40 – 15.20
- For Noir and Saturday Card holders

# MAREEL GIFT SHOP



Pick up unique gifts, prints, books and more by artists and makers from both near and far, including items produced exclusively for us.



## PANEL SESSION: YOU THE JURY

A Scottish crime from the 1890s: a boat accident, followed by a fatal shooting. What was the real story behind the death of a young aristocrat on holiday?

Authors and local actors will use the trial records to portray those involved. You, the audience, will be given a chance to ask questions, then you'll vote as the jury. Will you agree with the original verdict?

### PANEL

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 15.30 - 16.30
- For Noir and Sunday Card holder



## IN CONVERSATION WITH ANN CLEEVES

Dr Tim Rideout, literary scholar, critic and interviewer, sits down with our Patron Ann Cleeves to reflect on 20 years of Jimmy Perez, *Shetland* and what's to come.

**Ann Cleeves** is the author of 39 critically acclaimed novels, an international bestseller translated into over 20 languages worldwide. In 2017 she was awarded the highest accolade in crime writing, the CWA Diamond Dagger. She is the creator of popular detectives Vera Stanhope, Jimmy Perez and Matthew Venn, who can be found on television in ITV's *Vera*, BBC One's *Shetland* and ITV's *The Long Call* respectively. The TV series and the books they are based on have become international sensations, capturing the minds of millions worldwide.

Ann also spends her time advocating for reading to improve health and wellbeing and supporting access to books. In 2021 her Reading for Wellbeing project launched with local authorities across the North East, and in 2022 she was awarded an OBE for her services to reading and libraries.

**Dr Timothy (Tim) Rideout** is known for his work in Gothic studies and for engaging authors and audiences at literary festivals and events, where he regularly chairs panels and conducts in-depth interviews with writers. Tim's academic work explores how modern fiction engages with cultural anxieties and social precarity, themes central to his book *Gothic Precarity: Fear and Anxiety in Twenty-First-Century Fiction*, published by the University of Wales Press as part of their Gothic Literary Studies series.

### HEADLINER

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 17.00 - 18.00
- For Noir and Sunday Card holders or £15

# DONATE

With your support, we can help more people across Shetland experience, create and connect through the arts, regardless of income, age or location.

Every gift makes a difference and any amount is welcome. Generosity at every level opens doors for people.

For example:

- **£10** could subsidise a ticket for someone unable to afford it.
- **£25** could provide materials for a creative workshop.
- **£50** could help bring activity to people living remotely.
- **£100** could support artist fees for a participatory project.



Find out more or donate on our website:

[www.shetlandarts.org/support-us](http://www.shetlandarts.org/support-us)



## NOIR QUIZ!

A fun way to end the festival, with prizes up for grabs!

How well do you know your Noir? From shadowy detectives and gripping TV dramas to bestselling crime novels, this quiz will challenge even the most dedicated fans.

The quiz will be led by our team of sharp-witted quizmasters, who run our monthly Film Quiz. We'll warn you now that they mean business – our Film Quiz is one of the longest running, continuously held film-based quizzes held in the UK!

Sign up at the front desk in Mareel by 5pm on Sunday with a team of up to six to test your knowledge of all things criminal. You can also sign up individually and we'll match you with a team.

### EVENT

- Mareel, Auditorium
- Sunday 14 June, 20.00 - 22.00
- For Noir and Sunday Card holders



## TRIP: SHETLAND NOIR BUS TOUR

Experience the character and beauty of Shetland with this guided bus tour. It's the perfect opportunity to unwind after the busy weekend and explore more of the isles at a relaxed pace.

Travel through the striking landscapes of Shetland's north and west, from traditional crofting countryside and wild heather hills to scenic clifftops and historic sites. Along the way we'll be making stops in a number of villages, including Voe, Brae, Aith, Whiteness and Scalloway.

A delicious "Soup and Sweet" lunch will be provided at Hillswick Community Hall by the local committee, featuring homemade soup, sandwiches, and a dessert - an authentic taste of Shetland hospitality.

At the end of the tour, before returning to Mareel, we will stop at the Northlink Ferry Terminal for guests who are travelling on Monday evening. You are welcome to take your luggage with you on the bus if you have checked out of your accommodation.

Tour highlights include:

- The dramatic Eshaness cliffs, lighthouse and Tangwick Haa museum
- Aith Lifeboat Station, the most northerly in the UK
- Westings viewpoint, offering panoramic coastal views
- The historic ruins of Scalloway Castle, home of Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney & Shetland
- Landmarks dedicated to the brave men of the 'Shetland Bus', a WW2 resistance operation
- Pit-stop to meet Shetland's famous native breed of ponies

### TOUR

- Meet in the Mareel Foyer
- Monday 15 June, 09.30 - 16.00
- For Noir Card holders

**THURSDAY 11 JUNE**

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

19.00 - 22.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 6

**FRIDAY 12 JUNE**

**MEET THE PANELLISTS**

10.00 - 11.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 6

**IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE PENNY**

11.30 - 12.30 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 7

**FILM SCREENING: HOMEMADE HIGHLIGHTS - SCREENING ONE**

12.50 - 13.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 8

**PANEL SESSION: TOUGH GUYS & GALS**

13.30 - 14.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 9

**AUTHOR READINGS: AUTHORS ACROSS BORDERS**

14.40 - 15.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 10

**WORKSHOP: RESEARCHING A HISTORICAL STORY**

15.00 - 16.30 Mareel, Screen 2 CARDS ONLY Page 11

**PANEL SESSION: DEALING WITH REAL LIFE CRIME**

15.30 - 16.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 12

**IN CONVERSATION WITH LORNA DAWSON**

17.00 - 18.00 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 13

**IN CONVERSATION WITH LEE CHILD**

20.00 - 21.00 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 14

**SATURDAY 13 JUNE**

**PANEL SESSION: THE SHAETLAN PANEL**

10.00 - 11.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 15

**IN CONVERSATION WITH VASEEM KHAN**

11.30 - 12.30 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 16

**FILM SCREENING: SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF SHETLAND**

12.50 - 13.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 17

**PANEL SESSION: AUTHORS AROUND THE WORLD**

13.30 - 14.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 18

**AUTHOR READINGS**

14.40 - 15.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 20

**WORKSHOP: UNRELIABLE NARRATORS**

15.00 - 16.30 Mareel, Screen 2. CARDS ONLY Page 21

**PANEL SESSION: AMATEURS AT WORK**

15.30 - 16.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 22

**IN CONVERSATION WITH YRSA SIGURDURDOTTIR**

17.00 - 18.00 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 24

**TRIP: TUNES & STORIES**

19.30 - 23.00 St Ninian's Beach, Bigton £35 Page 25

**FILM SCREENING: IN A LONELY PLACE (1950)**

20.00 - 21.30 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 25

**SUNDAY 14 JUNE**

**PANEL SESSION: MURDER MOST COMPLICATED**

10.00 - 11.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 26

**PANEL SESSION: FANTASTICAL CRIMES**

11.30 - 12.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 28

**WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING A KILLER MARKETING STRATEGY**

11.45 - 13.15 Mareel, Screen 2 CARDS ONLY Page 30

**FILM SCREENING: HOMEMADE HIGHLIGHTS - SCREENING TWO**

12.50 - 13.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 31

**PANEL SESSION: POLICING THE WORLD**

14.00 - 15.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 32

**AUTHOR READINGS**

14.40 - 15.20 Mareel, Screen 1 CARDS ONLY Page 33

**PANEL SESSION: YOU THE JURY**

15.30 - 16.30 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 34

**IN CONVERSATION WITH ANN CLEEVES**

17.00 - 18.00 Mareel, Auditorium Cards or £15 Page 35

**NOIR QUIZ!**

20.00 - 22.00 Mareel, Auditorium. CARDS ONLY Page 36

**MONDAY 15 JUNE**

**TRIP: SHETLAND NOIR BUS TOUR**

09.00 Mareel, Auditorium CARDS ONLY Page 37

# SHETLAND ARTS

Mareel | 01595 745500 | [www.shetlandarts.org](http://www.shetlandarts.org)