POLAND MARKET FOCUS #LBFPoland

Cultural Programme – Monday 13 March 2017

14.30 – 17.30
British Library Conference Centre
£15/£10

Joseph Conrad Study Day

This study day considers Conrad's career as a novelist and his contribution to British culture in the year that has been designated 'Joseph Conrad Year' in Poland. Joseph Conrad, probably now best known as the author of Heart of Darkness and The Secret Agent, was born in 1857 at a time when Poland had been divided between Austria, Prussia and Russia. He first came to Britain in 1878 as an apprentice on a British steamer. He spent the next sixteen years in the British Merchant Navy before beginning his career as a novelist with Almayer's Folly.
Professor Robert Hampson FEA, FRSA initiates an afternoon of expert discussion with a lecture on Conrad as 'England's Polish Genius', followed by a conversation around 'Conrad and London' and a panel of novelists, including Giles Foden, discussing Conrad's influence on their work.
In association with the British Council and the Joseph Conrad Society (UK).

19.00 – 20.30
British Library
£8/£5

A Life of Crime? Crime Writing from Poland

Polish writers Olga Tokarczuk and Zygmunt Miloszewski join us to discuss the permeable boundaries of genre fiction. Miloszewski is a writer who has made his name writing psychological thrillers like Rage and a Grain of Truth, but he has also experimented with other genres, including fantasy and thrillers. Tokarczuk is famous for her strange, introspective works of fiction, but her crime novel Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead has recently been made into a film by Agnieszka Holland. Together they will discuss genre fiction, its possibilities and limitations, and whether genre restrictions for writers are helpful or unhelpful.

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Cultural Programme – Thursday 16 March 2017

19.00 – 20.30
London Review Bookshop
Free

Olga Tokarczuk in conversation with Deborah Levy

Olga Tokarczuk is one of Poland's best known writers, several times winner of the prestigious Nike award. Tokarczuk has written more than 15 works of prose, poetry and fiction over a 20 year career. Primeval and Other Times is published by Twisted Spoon Press. Her most recent novel, The Books of Jacob, *is set in 18th century Poland and tells the story of a controversial Jewish figure, Jacob Frank, and will shortly be published by Fitzcaraldo editions. Tokarczuk will be in conversation with Deborah Levy, author of Booker prize nominated* Swimming Home *and* Hot Milk.

19.00 – 20.30
Waterstones Gower Street
Free

Imagining the Future

Are we living in an era predicted by science fiction? What do we imagine for our future? Celebrated Polish science-fiction writer Jacek Dukaj and British-Malaysian writer Zen Cho come together to discuss 'imagined futures' within the genres of speculative and science fiction. This event is in collaboration with English Pen, and chaired by Anna James.

20.00 – 21.00
Saison Poetry Library
Southbank Centre
Free

World Poets Series: Polish Poets in London

Broaden your horizons with readings from Polish poets in this special event in partnership with the British Council. In recent years, The Poetry Library has hosted readings from poets from South Korea, Mexico and Syria. This year, we host poets from Poland to celebrate the Polish focus of the London Book Fair.

Cultural Programme – Saturday 18 March 2017

14.15 – 15.15
Harlow Library
£7

Partners in Crime

Tajemnica Domu Helclów (The Mystery of Helcel House) is a deliciously camp pastiche of a period crime story published by Jacek Dehnel and Piotr Tarczynski under the name Maryla Szymiczkowa. The adventurers of their main protagonist, Mrs Szczupaczynska, often referred to as the Miss Marple of Polish crime fiction, will be shared with leading UK 'partners in crime fiction' Nicci French.