

WRITING THEIR NAMES INTO HISTORY



Margaret Busby OBE

Margaret (Nana Akua Ackon) was born in Ghana, of part-Caribbean parentage and was educated in Britain. On graduating from London University in the 1960s she became the UK's youngest and first Black woman publisher.



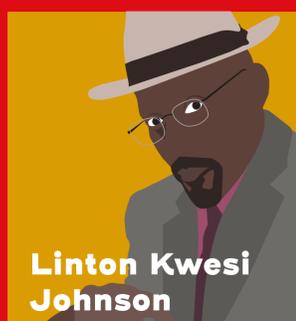
David Olusoga OBE

David is a British historian, writer, broadcaster, presenter, and filmmaker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester. He has presented historical documentaries on the BBC and contributed to The One Show and The Guardian.



Malorie Blackman OBE

Malorie is a British writer who held the position of Children's Laureate from 2013 - 2015. She primarily writes literature and television drama for children and young adults. She has used science fiction to explore social and ethical issues.



Linton Kwesi Johnson

LKJ, is a Jamaican dub poet and activist who has been based in the United Kingdom since 1963. In 2002 he became the second living poet, and the only black poet, to be published in the Penguin Modern Classics series.



Bernardine Evaristo OBE

Bernardine FRSL FRSA, is a British author and academic. Her eighth book, the novel, Girl, Woman, Other, won the Booker Prize in 2019, making her the first black woman and the first black British person to win it.



Biyi Bandela

Biyi is a Nigerian novelist, playwright, and filmmaker. Bandele is a UK-based Nigerian writer for fiction, theatre, journalism, television, film, and radio. He moved to London in 1990.



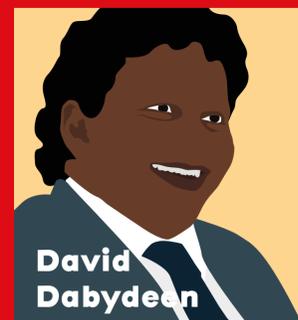
Adisa

Adisa is an Artist and Poet. He gives presentations with high energy interactive performances.



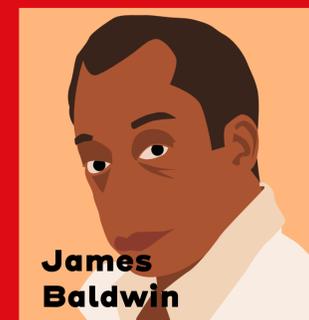
Alice Walker

Alice is an American novelist, short story writer, poet, and social activist. In 1982, she became the first African American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, which she was awarded for her novel The Color Purple.



David Dabydeen

Guyanese-born broadcaster, novelist, poet and academic. Once Guyana's Ambassador to UNESCO from 1997 - 2010 and the youngest Member of the UNESCO Executive Board, elected by the General Council of all Member States of UNESCO.



James Baldwin

An American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist. His essays, collected in Notes of a Native Son, explore intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in the Western society of the United States during the mid-twentieth century.



Lemn Sissay OBE

Sissay is a British author and broadcaster. Official poet of the 2012 London Olympics, has been Chancellor of the University of Manchester since 2015, and joined the Foundling Museum's board of trustees two years later.



Alex Wheatle MBE

Alex is a British novelist, who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment after the 1981 Brixton uprising. He started reading books by the likes of Chester Himes, Richard Wright, C.L.R. James and John Steinbeck, and found his passion for writing.



Aminatta Forna OBE

Aminatta is a Scottish and Sierra Leonean writer. She is the author of a memoir, The Devil That Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Quest, and four novels: Ancestor Stones, The Memory of Love, The Hired Man and Happiness.



Ben Okri OBE

Ben is a Nigerian poet and novelist. Okri is considered one of the foremost African authors in the post-modern and post-colonial traditions and has been compared to authors such as Salman Rushdie and Gabriel García Márquez.



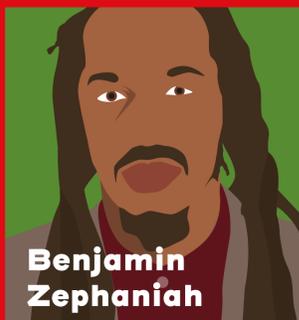
Paul Gilroy FBA

Paul is a British historian, writer and academic, who is the founding Director of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Race and Racism at University College London.



Irenosen Okojie MBE

Nigerian-born short story and novel writer. Her stories incorporate magic realism and make use of her West African heritage. Butterfly Fish won a Betty Trask Award in 2016, and her story Grace Jones won the 2020 Caine Prize for African Writing.



Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin is a British writer and dub poet. He was included in The Times list of Britain's top 50 post-war writers in 2008.



Zadie Smith

Zadie is an English novelist, essayist, and short-story writer. Her debut novel, White Teeth, immediately became a best-seller and won several awards. She has been a tenured professor in the Creative Writing faculty of NYU.



Yrsa Daley-Ward

Yrsa is an English writer, model, and actor. She is known for her debut book, Bone, as well as for her spoken-word poetry, and for being an "Instagram poet". Her memoir, The Terrible, was published in 2018, and in 2019 it won the PEN/Ackerley Prize.