



(Art credit Vincent Chong)

# World Fantasy Convention 2025

## Progress Report 3

Thursday 30th October - Sunday 2nd November  
Double Tree by Hilton Brighton Metropole  
[www.WorldFantasy2025.co.uk](http://www.WorldFantasy2025.co.uk)

*“This is the land of Brighton,” said the Faun, “where we are now; all that lies between the lamp-post and the great castle of Cair Paravel on the eastern sea.”*

- Not C. S. Lewis.

### **Welcome to Progress Report 3 on World Fantasy Convention 2025.**

We're in the final phases of getting everything ready for the event. The programme is drafted and should be with participants at the moment, so we can solve any last minute clashes and changes. It will be released on our website once this process is complete. When this is ready, attendees will find they can look up panels on the website and see who is on them, or look up people and see what panels they are on.

Discussions with Waterstones Brighton have been finalised this week. They are very excited to be a part of the event.

Currently, we have more than 900 people coming to the event. Day passes have just been released in the last week, so we expect these to bring the total higher in the last few weeks.

Unfortunately, **Sarah Pinborough**, our MC for the event has had to withdraw for personal reasons. We wish her well. Our new MC for World Fantasy Convention 2025 is **Joanne Harris**. You can find out more about her in this report.

Thank you to everyone who has registered to attend already. If you get the chance, do take a look at the Members List (<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/member-list/>). Everyone can post a public profile on the website after they have purchased a membership of the convention. If you need a little help filling in your own profile, please check the FAQ (<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/f-a-q/>) and if that doesn't solve the problem, get in touch and we'll be happy to assist.

This progress report includes information on:

- Updates to Guests of Honour and our MC for the event.
- WFC Art Show
- WFC FAQ (<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/f-a-q/>)
- The World Fantasy Awards (Nominations List)
- WFC Discord (<https://discord.gg/enfUuvzk4b>)
- WFC News (<http://www.worldfantasy2025.co.uk/News/>)
- WFC Thursday: Open Mic
- Brighton: Travel and Stay (<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/travel/>)
- Food and Awards Banquet at the Convention
- Arriving at the Convention
- Gender Neutral Toilets

If you need to contact us, do email [enquiries@WorldFantasy2025.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@WorldFantasy2025.co.uk) or message us via social media.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Brighton.

***From Karen and all the WFC 2025 Team***





# WFC 2025 Guests of Honour Updates

Our previously announced guests are:

Author Guest of Honour: [Suniti Namjoshi](#)

Artist Guest of Honour: [Vincent Chong](#)

Horror Laureate: [Ramsey Campbell](#)

Each guest now has a dedicated page on our website. These are linked above, just click on their names. This is where you can find out about their amazing creative works.



Photograph supplied by Vincent Chong

(Photo by Sharron Wallace Photography)

(Photograph supplied by the Author)



## WFC Art Show

The Art show is now closed to new applications. Final space is being allocated to existing artists. We have a great selection of works and are excited for you to see them.

## F. A. Q.

We have an F.A.Q. page on our website covering topics such as; “How do I get my name on the member list?” and “how do I volunteer to be on a panel?” It can be found here:

<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/f-a-q/>



# Introducing World Fantasy Convention 2025 Guests of Honour - Nick Landau and Vivian Cheung

Nick Landau and Vivian Cheung are British entertainment entrepreneurs with a passion for SFF, comics, and pop culture. Business partners and spouses, they founded the Titan Entertainment Group in 1993, comprising the Forbidden Planet retail stores as well as the Titan Publishing Group, which includes Titan Books established in 1981, Titan Magazines in 1991, Titan Comics in 2013 and Titan Manga in 2022 – plus Titan Distributors in 1977 (born out of Comic Media in 1971 and CMDS in 1973), Titan Productions in 1989 and Titan Merchandise in 2014.

Landau established the first Forbidden Planet – now a much-loved national chain of stores – on Denmark Street in 1978, with its iconic mothership located on Shaftesbury Avenue, and then with Vivian, under the TEG banner, Forbiddenplanet.com and Forbidden Planet Originals in the early 2010's.

Titan's blend of original fiction and commissioning writers to work on some of the biggest global franchises, makes for a heady mix of imaginative works. There is an emphasis on quality, as realised by recent award nominations and wins for works of Fantasy

and horror.

Much of the tie-in fiction allows for an in depth exploration of existing characters and stories. Gavin G. Smith's *Original Sin* (2022) a novelisation of the Marvel comic books story, being one good example among many.

Award winners and nominations include:

*The Reformatory* by Tananarive Due (Saga Press/ Titan UK), which won the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel in 2024.

*Talonsister* by Jen Williams, which won the 2024 British Fantasy Award for Best Fantasy Novel (the Robert Holdstock Award)

*Don't Fear the Reaper*, by Stephen Graham Jones,

# Introducing World Fantasy Convention 2025

## Master of Ceremonies - Joanne Harris



Joanne Harris (OBE, FRSL) was born in Barnsley in 1964, of a French mother and an English father. She studied Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Cambridge and was a teacher for fifteen years, during which time she published three novels, including *Chocolat* (1999), which was made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Juliette Binoche .

Since then, she has written over 20 more novels, plus novellas, short stories, game scripts, the libretti for two short operas, several screenplays, a stage musical (with Howard Goodall) and three cookbooks. Her books are now published in over 50 countries and have won a number of British and international awards. She is an honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, has honorary doctorates in

literature from the universities of Sheffield and Huddersfield, and has been a judge for the Whitbread Prize, the Orange Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Betty Trask Award, the Prima Donna Prize and the Royal Society Winton Prize for Science, as well as for the Fragrance Foundation awards for perfume and perfume journalism (for which she also received an award in 2017). She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2022.

She is a passionate advocate for authors' rights, and was the Chair of the Society of Authors (SOA) for four years. She was a member of the Board of the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) between 2018 and 2024.





# The World Fantasy Awards



The World Fantasy Awards will be presented on Sunday 2nd November, in the afternoon following the banquet, at the World Fantasy Convention in Brighton.

World Fantasy Final Ballot 2025 (for 2024)

## **Lifetime Achievement:**

Juliet Marillier

Michael Whelan

## **Nominations:**

### **Novel:**

The Tainted Cup by Robert Jackson Bennett (Del Rey/Hodderscape)

The Fox Wife by Yangsze Choo (Henry Holt & Co./Quercus)

The Bog Wife by Kay Chronister (Counterpoint Press/Titan Books)

The Bright Sword by Lev Grossman (Viking/Del Rey)

The Wings Upon Her Back by Samantha Mills (Tachyon Publications)

### **Novella:**

Crypt of the Moon Spider by Nathan Ballingrud (Tor Nightfire/Titan Books)

In the Shadow of Their Dying by Michael F. Fletcher

and Anna Smith Spark (Grimdark Magazine)

Yoke of Stars by R. B. Lemberg (Tachyon Publications)

The Woods All Black by Lee Mandelo (Tordotcom)

The Butcher of the Forest by Premee Mohamed (Tordotcom/Titan Books UK)

### **Short Fiction:**

“Our Best Selves” by Hiron Ennes (Weird Horror Magazine #9)

“Godskin” by CL Hellisen (Strange Horizons, March 4, 2024)

“The V\*mpire,” by PH Lee (Reactor, October 2024)

“Raptor” by Maura McHugh (Heartwood: A Mythago Wood Anthology)

“Everything in the Garden is Lovely” by Hannah Yang (Apex Magazine #143, March 2024)

**Anthology:**

Heartwood: A Mythago Wood Anthology, ed. Dan Coxon (Drugstore Indian Press)  
Discontinue If Death Ensues: Tales from the Tipping Point eds. Carol Gyzander & Anna Taborska (Flame Tree Press)  
Northern Nights ed. Michael Kelly (Undertow Publications)  
The Dagon Collection, ed. Nate Pedersen (PS Publishing)  
The Crawling Moon: Queer Tales of Inescapable Dread ed. Dave Ring (Neon Hemlock Press)

**Collection:**

Ghostroots by 'Pemi Aguda (Norton/Virago)  
A Sunny Place for Shady People by Mariana Enriquez, translated by Megan McDowell (Hogarth/Granta Books)  
Good Night, Sleep Tight by Brian Evenson (Coffee House Press)  
Kindling: Stories by Kathleen Jennings (Small Beer Press)  
Craft: Stories I Wrote for the Devil by Ananda Lima (Tor Books)

**Artist:**

Jenni Coutts  
Nico Delort  
Manzi Jackson  
Tran Nguyen  
Liv Rainey-Smith

**Special Award, Professional:**

Hildur Knútsdóttir and Mary Robinette Kowal, for The Night Guest audiobook (Tor Nightfire)  
Gabriela Lee, Anna Felicia Sanchez, and Sydney Paige Guerrero, for Mapping New Stars: A Sourcebook on Philippine Speculative Fiction (The University of the Philippines Press)  
David Thomas Moore, for editorial work with Solaris/Rebellion  
Sheree Renée Thomas, for The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction  
Jacob Weisman, for Tachyon Publications

**Special Award, Non-Professional:**

Andy Duncan, for “It Is Always Time to Think about These Things” (Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts, Vol. 35, Number 1)  
Gavin J. Grant and Kelly Link, for Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet  
Michael Kelly, for Undertow Publications and Weird Horror magazine  
DaVaun Sanders, for FIYAH magazine  
Steve J Shaw, for Black Shuck Books  
Patrick Swenson, for Fairwood Press

Congratulations to everyone shortlisted.

**Jurors:**

James Brogden  
Jessica Day George  
Lee Murray  
Jonathan Oliver  
Molly Tanzer

Please Note, Judges have recused themselves from voting in any category where they have a conflict of interest.

## WFC 2025 Discord

We have a Discord server for WFC members, this is available for all Attending and Online members. It is not available for supporting memberships or day attendance.

This gives members an opportunity to socialise online, find out about dealers and artists and receive event announcements/information. We hope to have programme items listed there with details of timing and rooms, but to view recorded or streaming programme items you will need to login to the website.

It would be incredibly helpful if people who would like to use our discord could login so we can approve

your access prior to us getting onsite/setting up for the event. This will also help us to iron out any issues in plenty of time.

The link for the server is:

<https://discord.gg/enfUuvzk4b>

**We will need to match your details with a membership before you get full access, if you have not yet purchased your event membership, you will need to do this first.**

# WFC 2025 News

On the World Fantasy Convention websites you can find a selection of articles about the event and about Brighton in general. You can access this here:

<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/news/>

The most recent post is about Halloween traditions. We have also updated the 'things to do' page which includes a variety of other events. going on in winter 2025.

<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/things-to-do/>

# WFC 2025

## Thursday: Open Mic

### Sign up to our Open Mic!

On Thursday evening at the convention, we will be running an open mic for attendees to read from their work. This will be in the main room (The Oxford).

Prose or poetry, flash fiction or a piece from your novel, all is welcome, as long as it's not longer than five minutes.

Please use this form to sign up <https://forms.gle/bgk-TxVMPPpNvhsyKRA>

**Please note, this is in addition reading slots and other programme content.**



**WE ARE  
THE BRITISH  
FANTASY SOCIETY**



**A welcoming community for all those who love, read, write, edit, publicise - and more! - in speculative fiction**

Established in 1971 as the British Weird Fantasy Society, the British Fantasy Society (as we're now known) is dedicated to celebrating everything to do with speculative fiction from this country. Our members represent all aspects of the fantasy world (though we await our first dragon), and gather to meet, chat, share, help, debate, and create.

### Community

We connect fantasy readers, writers, and industry professionals both online and IRL.

### Promote

We offer members opportunities to promote themselves and their work, including through our weekly member profiles and guest post opportunities.

### Celebrate

Fantasycon and the British Fantasy Awards help our community to connect, network & get recognition.

### Inform

Members receive our regular publications, BFS Horizons and BFS Journal, plus our newsletter and access to our members-only Discord server.

**Annual memberships start at just £25! Details at: [www.britishfantasysociety.org](http://www.britishfantasysociety.org)**



# Brighton: Travel and Stay Information

On our website, we have a dedicated area to providing travel information for getting to the convention and seeing other sites around Brighton:

<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/travel/>

This includes step by step guides for getting to the convention from a number of different locations.

Bedrooms in the convention hotel can be booked via the hotel website. The convention rate no longer applies.

The hotel website is:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bshmedi-double-tree-brighton-metropole/>

You can book alternate accommodation via Visit

Brighton:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/WFC2025>

They are adding more options as venues agree discounted rates for our event. Hopefully, this helps you to find an option which suits your requirements and budget.

**We have negotiated a discounted rate with the Grand Hotel next door to the convention.**

Visit Brighton also have discounts for attractions of their website for WFC 2025 attendees:

<https://www.visitbrighton.com/special-offers/delegate-deals-o2311>

Offers are likely to change nearer the time, so do check back to see what is still valid and what has been added.



## Member list, Profile, Programme & Receipts

If you need to check your payment went through correctly or get a record of this; firstly you should receive a confirmation email. Secondly, use your chosen user name and password (created when you bought your membership) to login to the website. In the Member Center, on the Subscriptions tab you will see your membership type (Attending, Online, etc.) listed as a Subscription and the status should be listed as active. If it is listed as inactive or you can't login then it is likely that it has not gone through, but do drop us an email, [enquiries@WorldFantasy2025.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@WorldFantasy2025.co.uk) if you are not sure.

If you would like to appear on the list of members on our website. After you have bought your membership, please go to the Member Centre option and click on Edit Profile. Here you can fill in the name you would like displayed on the website. If you do not want your name on the website, please tick the Hide Me from Member listing option. If your badge name reads as "Please Update" then it will not be displayed on the website, so please do ensure this is updated.

The member list can be found on our website:

<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/member-list/>

You can update your profile in Member Centre, add a photo, bio and a link to your website. You can also indicate if you would like a signing space at the Mass Autographing session and any accessibility and dietary needs which we use to plan the event and refreshments.

**Programme participation signup is now closed.** If you have completed the programme participation form, then we will have allocated you onto the programme of panels, workshops, talks and reading slots. You should have received a separate email from us allowing you to access the draft programme so you can let us know if there are any problems with what we have allocated for you.

# Food and Awards Banquet at the Convention

We are working with the venue to provide a number of options for food and drink for purchase at the venue, including burgers, jacket potatoes and sandwiches. We aim to have reasonably priced, meat, vegan and gluten free options, as well as all the allergy information you would expect, available in the social area of the convention.

We will also be putting together a restaurant guide letting you know about nearby options.

The World Fantasy Awards Banquet will be held at lunch time on Sunday 2nd November. The tickets for this are in addition to the cost of membership. You do not need a banquet ticket to attend the Awards themselves.

Tickets can be purchased our website shop:  
<https://worldfantasy2025.co.uk/shop/>

The banquet is a fixed menu, but you do have the option of the Meat or Vegetarian menu. If you have stated no dietary requirements you will get the Meat option as the default. If you have already bought a ticket for this and wish to have the vegetarian menu instead, do please drop us an email. Other allergies and dietary requirements can be catered for. If there is not an easy way to add this to the shop item (there are some options listed) then please do drop us an email.

The meat based menu is:

**Starter:** Warm caramelised onion & Goats cheese tart, beetroot salad (V)

**Main:** Chicken breast, rainbow carrots, sun-blushed tomato, Tenderstem broccoli, champ potato, jus.

**Dessert:** Honeycomb cheesecake.

The vegetarian menu is:

**Starter:** Hummus, beetroot falafel, sourdough ancient grains pita bread, pomegranate (Ve)

**Main:** Butternut squash, cumin and lentil wellington, seasonal vegetables, mash potato (Ve).

**Dessert:** Chocolate brownie torte (Ve).



The ticket will also include a glass of wine and bread & butter (or vegan spread).

If you would prefer not to have wine on your table, for religious or personal reasons, please let us know and we will try to seat you with those who feel the same.

You can let us know if you would like to sit with someone specific, a table can accommodate 10 people. If your group is smaller than 10 people we will add additional people to make up the table numbers. If we need to split your group we will let you know.

*The cut off for purchasing banquet tickets is Tuesday the 30th of September.*

## Arriving at the Convention

**We will not be sending a physical ticket to you prior to the convention. However, we have a list of all people who have booked.**

When you arrive at the convention, please come to the registration desk to collect your badges and other items from our Red Cloak team.

The Red Cloaks are here to assist you throughout the event.

**If you are arriving early, there will be a British Fantasy Society meetup on Wednesday Evening at 7pm in the hotel bar.**

## Gender Neutral Toilets

Gender neutral toilets will be available at the event.

