

LISTINGS RELEASE

For immediate release: Wednesday 18 February 2009

Celebrate International Women's Month with The Women's Library

Enjoy comedy, commemoration and the fascinating world of women's magazines with The Women's Library this March. Highlights of its events programme include:

- **Women's history walks** of Bloomsbury (1 March) and Oxford Street (21 March)
- A study day on **sex and gender in magazines** (28 March), complementing the critically-acclaimed exhibition, 'Between the Covers: Women's Magazines and their Readers'.
- A special participative performance celebrating the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (5 March)
- The Women's Library's **first comedy night**, with talented female comics including Danielle Ward, Liz Bentley and Yara El-Sherbini (6 March)

The International Women's Month events kick off a packed programme for Spring/Summer 2009. Dates for the diary include:

- 26 February: A free talk for LGBT History month explores the fascinating bohemian life of Vera Holme, **Cross-dressing Actress, Chauffeur and Suffragette**.
- 2 April: **Nawal El Saadawi**, Egypt's most famous feminist activist and one of the first female Muslim writers to discuss sex, feminism and the veil talks about her new book 'Walking Through Fire' on a rare visit to the UK.
- 30 April: Women's magazine editors including Ali Hall (*Look*), Marsha Rowe (formerly of *Spare Rib*) and Jane Reed (formerly of *Woman's Own*) discuss if there can ever be a place for **politics in women's magazines** in the '**Sex, Shopping – and Sisterhood?**' debate.

Listings information follows...

LISTINGS INFORMATION

February

Illustrated talk

Vera 'Jack' Holme: Cross-dressing Actress, Chauffeur and Suffragette

Thursday 26 February 2009, 7pm, free

The Women's Library's collections include the archive of Vera Holme, whose diaries, photographs and papers tell the story of her bohemian life - as a cross-dressing actress, suffragette chauffeur to the Pankhursts and servicewoman overseas during the First World War. Join archivist Anna Kisby to find out more about this intriguing woman and some of her romantic relationships with women. In collaboration with Tower Hamlets Equality Unit

March

Walk

Bloomsbury Women

Sun 1 March, 10.30am

£8, advance booking essential

Long associated with the Bloomsbury Group who 'lived in squares and loved in triangles', Bloomsbury has been home to many other women who have also lived, loved and worked there. Educational, medical, society and literary ladies including Virginia Woolf, Mary Ward, and Christina Rossetti feature in these leisurely weekend walks.

Artists Performance

Anniversary: an act of memory

Thurs 5 March, 7pm, Free

Anniversary: an act of memory is a national participatory art project marking the 60th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Artist Monica Ross is striving to embody the Declaration by attempting to memorise and reiterate it in a unique multi-linguistic performance. Monica will be joined by women from across London and together they will recite articles from the Declaration. The performance will be followed by a discussion. In collaboration with Public Gallery, West Bromwich.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Comedy

Wisewords comedy night

Fri 6 March, doors open 6.30pm for 7.30pm start
£10/£8 concs

Wisewords presents a remarkable and refreshing line-up of talented and lively female comics celebrating comedy writing with a twist! Liz Bentley, Cynthia Hamilton, Yara El-Sherbini, Ria Lina and Danielle Ward perform. In collaboration with Alternative Arts

Artists in discussion

Women and the archive: a partial disclosure

Sat 14 March, 1pm-6pm
Free

Women and the archive: a partial disclosure presents four perspectives on the relationship between women and the archive in contemporary artistic production. Artists and collectives who have used archives as source material will present their rarely shown collections of photographs, videos and audio recordings around women of artistic, social and political importance. Presentations, screenings and performances by The Otolith Group, Cinenova, The Remembering Olive Collective and Marysia Lewandowska.

In collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery, and devised by Anna Colin and Mia Jankowicz for Canal, as part of The Street.

Guided walk

Stories behind the stores

Sat 21 March
10.30am
£8, advance booking essential.

Napoleon called the British 'a nation of shopkeepers' and today we are also a nation of shoppers. Walk in and around London's premier high street discovering how shopping has developed in the capital, and how small stores from centuries ago have become household names.

Continues...

LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Study Day

Blowing the cover: sex and gender in magazines

Sat 28 March, 10.30am-3pm
£20/£15 concs

A day of talks from academics and historians exploring a variety of topics in the history of women's and men's magazines. Subjects include British Vogue's response to World War II, sex, fiction and the problem page in 1920s and 1930s magazines, men's magazines, and feminist magazines of the 1970s.

April

Literature

Nawal El Saadawi: walking through fire

Thurs 2 April, 7pm, £6 / £4 concs

Nawal El Saadawi, Egypt's most famous feminist activist has written extensively on women and Islam. One of the first female Muslim writers to discuss sex, feminism and the veil, her powerful writing highlights social and religious injustice. Hear Nawal on this rare visit to the UK, coinciding with the re-release of some of her classic books: Searching, A Daughter of Isis and The Circling Song. In collaboration with Zed Books.

Guided walk

Wonderful women of Whitechapel and Spitalfields

Sat 18 April, 10.30am
£8, advance booking essential.

Visit sites associated with women who have defined Whitechapel and Spitalfields. From Eva Luckes and Edith Cavell at the London Hospital, to social reformers Annie Besant and Mary Hughes. Find out how writers and artists like Monica Ali and Tracey Emin have used the area to inspire their work.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Panel discussion

Sex, shopping and sisterhood: politics in women's magazines

Thurs 30 April, 7pm

£8/£6 concs

This event explores how women's magazines have addressed politics, from influential feminist journal Spare Rib to leading popular magazines like Woman's Own. Join past and present editors to discuss the successes and challenges, and debate whether politics and pleasure really can mix. Marsha Rowe (Spare Rib), Jess McCabe (The F Word), Ali Hall (Look) and Jane Reed (Woman's Own) in discussion.

May

Talk

Evelyn Sharp: rebel woman

Thurs 7 May, 7pm

£6/£4 concs

Angela V John (Professor of History, Aberystwyth University) talks about her latest biography, the life of Evelyn Sharp (1869–1955), journalist, suffragette, pacifist and incorrigible rebel. Sharp was a popular writer of children's school stories and fairy tales. She was twice imprisoned for suffrage militancy, and edited Votes for Women in its later years.

Writing Course

Bringing life-writing to life

Sat 9 May, 11am-4pm

£20/£15 concs

Have you thought of writing about your own life experiences or drawing on people from history? Turn experience and research into creative life-writing on this one-day intensive writing workshop. Find out how to use objects, photographs and the Library's archives, or bring your own objects to inspire and shape your writing.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Guided walk

Suffering, salvation and suffrage: the lives of East End women

Sat 9 May

10.30am, £8, advance booking essential.

Walking tours of East London often focus on the sites of the horrific Jack the Ripper murders, overlooking places in which women lived, worked and campaigned. From the world of the Victorian prostitutes to the missions established to save them, this walk takes in a range of women's experiences in the East End and offers an alternative perspective on the area.

Panel discussion

Black in fashion: have we turned the page?

Wed 13 May, 7pm

£8/£6 concs

September 2008's Italian Vogue featured only black models and went on to be one of its best-selling issues, challenging the myth that black models can't sell mainstream magazines. Minority ethnic media have for a long time been successful in meeting the needs of their readers. Our panel asks how well do mainstream women's magazines reflect the diversity of the population? Join Carol Tulloch, trAIN/V&A Research Fellow; Carole White, Premier Model Management.

In collaboration with Precious magazine.

June

Special event

Women and the Anti-Apartheid Movement

Sat 13 June, 10.30-1pm

Free

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Join a panel of speakers to look at women's involvement in the political activities in London, and their support for the women's movement in South Africa, especially those that were engaged in the struggle for freedom. The event will feature writers, activists and academics, including some of the London women Anti-Apartheid Movement activists.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Panel discussion

Body image: the impact of magazines

Thurs 18 June, 7pm, £8/£6 concs

Magazines continue to attract criticism from feminists and health campaigners for the images of women they portray. Join a panel of experts to discuss the role that magazines play in how women feel about their bodies, including Susie Orbach, author of *Fat is a Feminist Issue*.

Readings

London Metropolitan writers

Thurs 25 June, 7pm, Free

An evening of readings from London-based writers who not only teach extensively but successfully publish their own creative work. Hear fiction from Sunny Singh and Carolyn Hart and poetry from Peter Wilson, Briar Wood and Sarah Law. Each author's work both embraces the capital and extends beyond it, exploring different interests, styles and genres.

Guided walk

Bloomsbury Women

Sat 27 June, 10.30am

£8, advance booking essential

Long associated with the Bloomsbury Group who 'lived in squares and loved in triangles', Bloomsbury has been home to many other women who have also lived, loved and worked there. Educational, medical, society and literary ladies including Virginia Woolf, Mary Ward, and Christina Rossetti feature in these leisurely weekend walks.

Guided walk

Westminster's women of America

Sat 4 July, 10.30am

£8, advance booking essential.

Celebrate American Independence Day on a tour focusing on American women from all walks of life who have left their mark on London. Follow in the footsteps of Nancy Astor, the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, suffragist Susan Anthony, and Jennie Jerome, mother of Winston Churchill. Advance booking essential.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION continued

Children's Art Day

Posture and poses: drawing for fashion

Sat 11 July, 11am-12pm, 12.30-1.30pm, 2-3pm, Free

A chance for children and young people to experiment and discover their own drawing talents, inspired by *Between the Covers*. Come and create your own fashion pages using fashion drawing techniques, cut outs and collage. No need to book – just turn up!

Exhibition

Between the Covers: Women's Magazines and their Readers

Now until 29 August 2009, Mon–Fri 9.30-5.30pm, Thur until 8pm, Sat 10-4pm

Free

Immerse yourself in a gratifying and thought-provoking journey through the history of women's magazines. Our critically-acclaimed exhibition takes a fresh look at the world of magazine publishing, from its roots in the 1690s to the present day. Find out about the origins of the problem page, listen to stories from industry insiders and have your say about women's magazines on display.

Guided Tour

Between the Cover: Women's Magazines and their readers

First Thursdays (6.30pm) and last Saturdays (12pm) of each month, March-July 2009.

Free

An opportunity to join a tour of the exhibition, taking you through the highlights and a chance to find out more about the extensive range of magazines on display. No need to book – just turn up!

BOOKING INFORMATION

To book: call 020 7320 2222 or email moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

Venue: The Women's Library
London Metropolitan University
Old Castle Street
London
E1 7NT
www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

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Notes to Editors follows...

NOTES TO EDITORS

- **For PRESS information or images** please contact Chandan Mahal or Angela Grainger at The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University on 020 7320 3503/3502 or via pressinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk. (Details not for publication)
- Established in 1926, The Women's Library is an archive, museum and library housing one of the greatest collections of women's history in the world. It is part of London Metropolitan University, one of the foremost providers of undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and vocational education and training in Britain.
- The Women's Library
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