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**Saturday 30 November, Ritzy Brixton - Upstairs at the Ritzy SW2 1JG**

# Programme

*An afternoon of talking about books, swapping books and networking.*

**Open: 11.30am**

**Bernardine Evaristo - author of *Mr Loverman* 12.00pm**

Bernardine Evaristo was born in Woolwich, south east London, the fourth of eight children, to an English mother and Nigerian father. She was educated at the Rose Bruford College of Speech & Drama, and Goldsmiths, University of London, where she earned a PhD in Creative Writing. She spent her teenage years acting at Greenwich Young People's Theatre. Bernardine is the author of seven books including her new novel, *Mr Loverman*, about a 74 year old Caribbean London man who is a closet homosexual. Her writing is characterised by experimentation, daring, subversion and challenging the myths of various Afro-diasporic histories and identities. Her writing ranges in genre from poetry, verse-novels, a novel-with-verse, a novella, short stories, prose novels, radio and theatre drama and literary essays and criticism.

**Lloyd Bradley - author of *Sounds Like London: 100 years of Black Music in the Capital* 12.45pm**

Lloyd Bradley is author of *Bass Culture: when Reggae was King*, the best-selling book ever on Jamaican music, as well as a regular contributor to *Mojo* and *The Observer*. He is one of the UK's most respected writers on Caribbean culture and music. He will talk about his latest book *Sounds like London* - a journey from the early presence of pre-first world war Black music, through the Soho jazz scene, Brixton blues parties and onto the sound systems and raves that shaped the city and in turn the nation.

**Lunch: 1.30pm - 2.45pm**

**Irenosen Okojie 3.00pm**

Irenosen is a new author, *Butterfly Fish* and *Speaking Gigantular* are her first published works. She was born in Nigeria and moved to England aged eight. A freelance Arts Project Manager, she has previously worked at *Apples & Snakes* as the National Development Coordinator and for *The Caine Prize* as a Publicity Officer for their 10th Anniversary Tour. Her short stories have been published in the US, Africa and the UK. Irenosen Okojie has completed her first novel, *Butterfly Fish*.

**Nadifa Mohamed - author of *The Orchard of Lost Souls* 3.40pm**

Nadifa Mohamed was born in Hargeisa in 1981 while Somalia fell deeper into dictatorship. She moved to London in 1986 with her family and was forced to stay by the outbreak of war in Somalia. She studied Politics and History at Oxford and then returned to Hargeisa in 2008. She currently lives in London and *The Orchard of Lost Souls* is her second novel. It charts the complex story of Somalian civil unrest during the 1980s through the lives of three female characters. Earlier this year *Granta* included Nadifa in their 40 under 40 - Best of Young British Novelists.

**Close: 4.30pm**