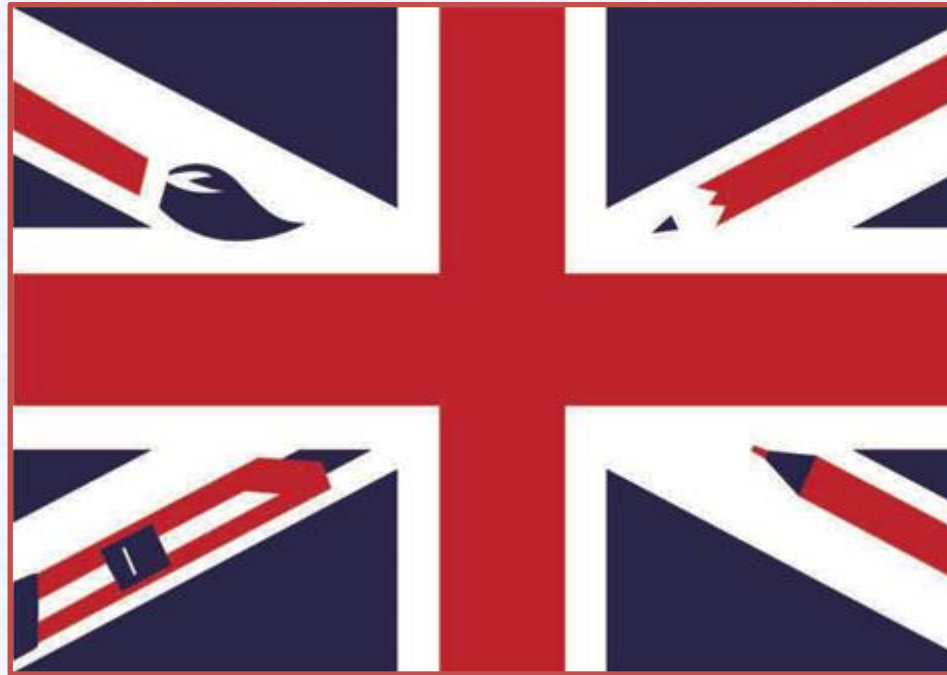


THE ARTS



RAFFAELLA ANTINUCCI

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What is culture?



Two major meanings:

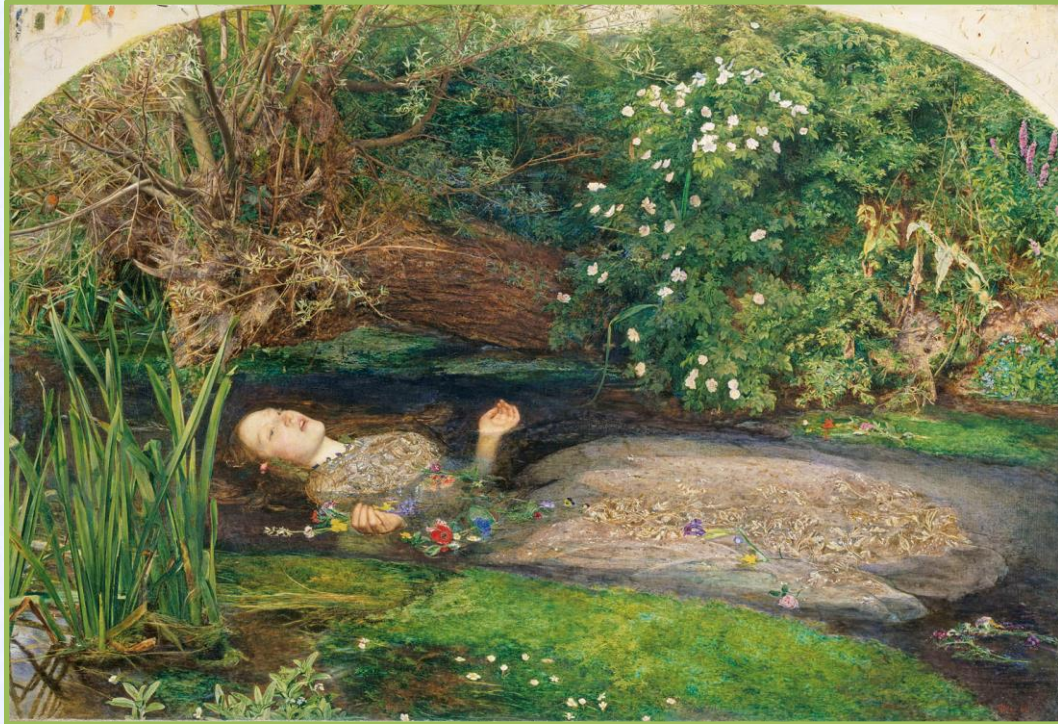
- the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or social group (anthropological sense)
- the arts

The arts



- An umbrella term for the various branches of creative activity, such as **painting, music, theatre, literature, opera, and ballet**
- ‘serious’ connotation (vs entertainment)

Art or fine arts



- Visual arts, such as painting and sculpture
- ‘Art’ as a school subject

Artist

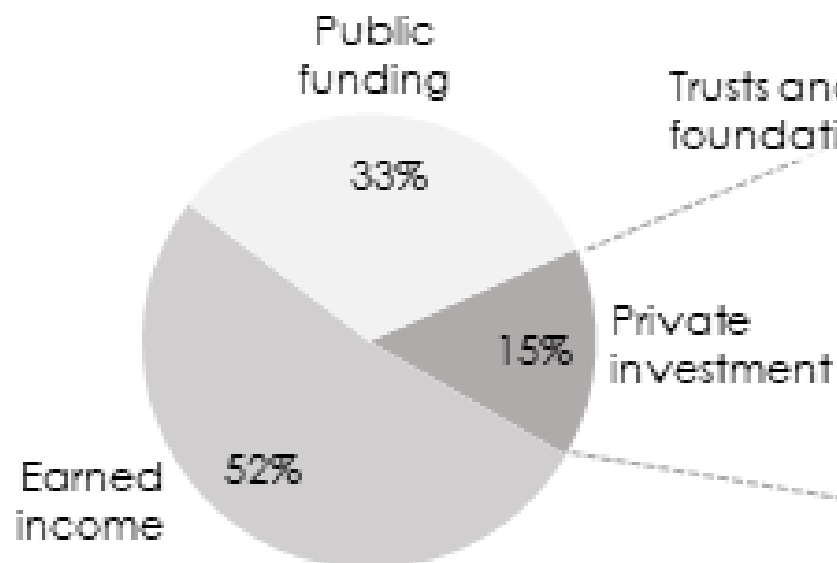


- A person working in the fine arts
- A person working in any field of the arts

1. The arts in society

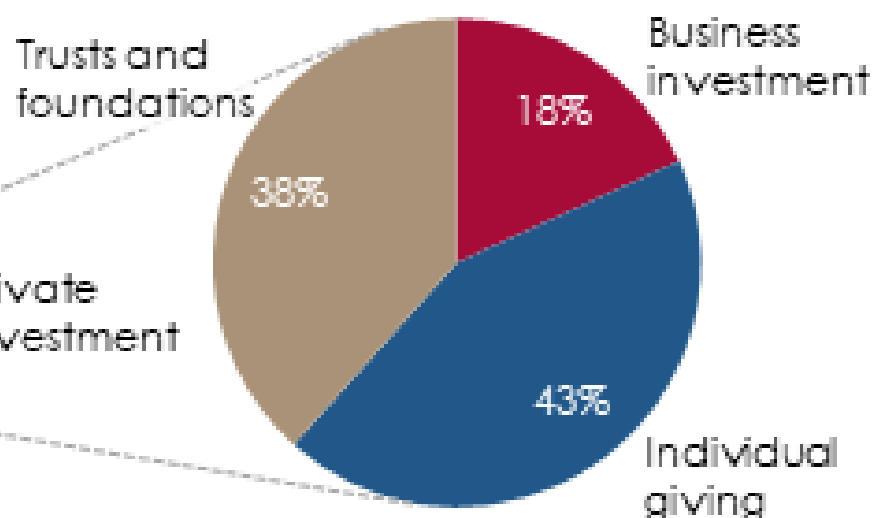
- Interest in the arts in Britain used to be largely confined to a small elite.
- The arts in Britain are met with a mixture of **public apathy** and **private enthusiasm**.
- Public funding is considered undemocratic.
- Many of the arts rely heavily on **private sponsorship**.

Total income



Total private investment

Total: £545m



Visual arts



27%

Museum



23%

Music



18%

Theatre



15%

Combined arts



9%

Dance



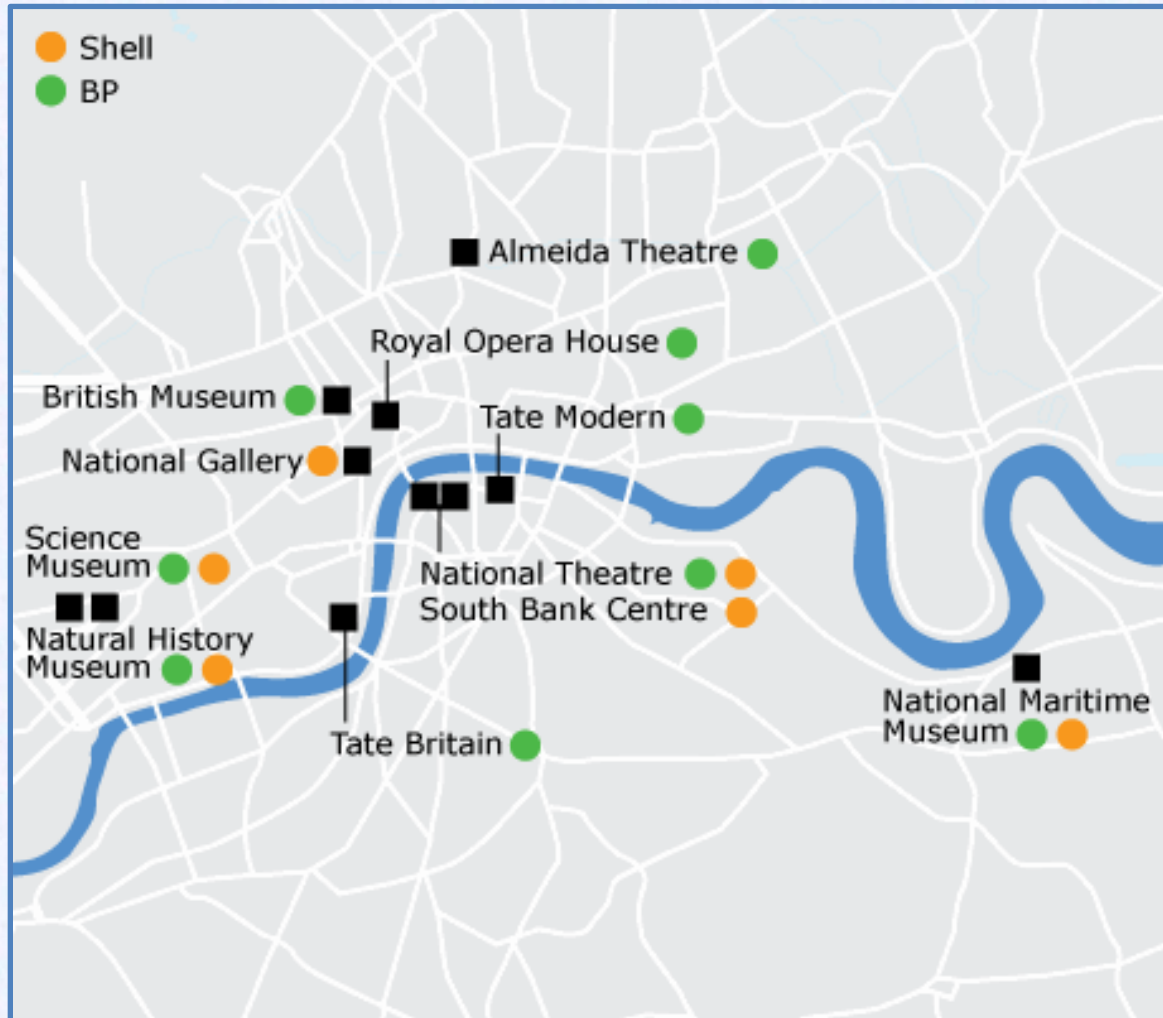
3%

Literature



2%

Private investment in the arts in England 2017-2018



Shell's and BP's sponsorship of Britain's most prestigious galleries, theatres and museums. Graphic: guardian.co.uk

Protests



British Museum



National Gallery



Tate Modern



Characteristics of arts and letters

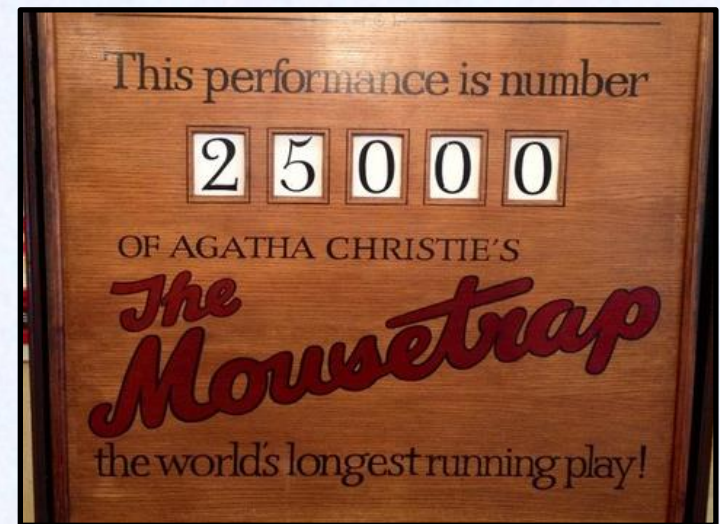
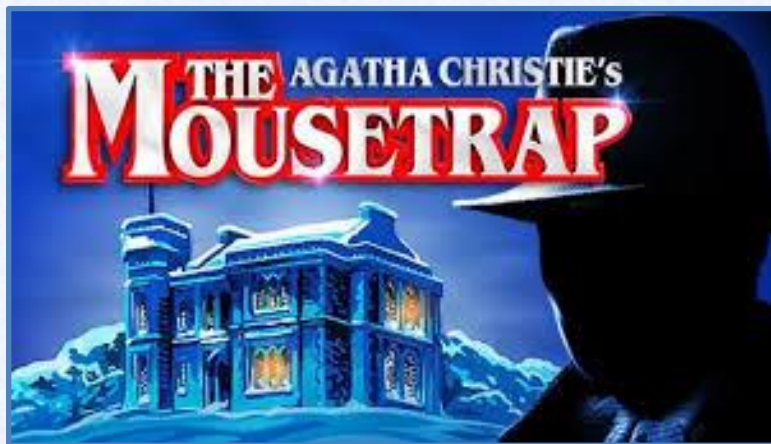
- Artists have little public recognition
- Amateurism (amateur dramatic societies)
- Artists not usually ideologically or politically committed
- Novelists too tend to be individualists, exploring emotions rather than ideas
- Conventional style
- Artistic creation is considered to be a personal affair, not a social one

2. THEATRE



The Globe (London)

- The theatre has always been very strong in Britain.
- **London West End** is its centre: successful plays can sometimes run without a break for many years (Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*)
- Every large town in the country has its theatres. Even small towns often have “**repertory**” theatres, where different plays are performed for short periods by the same group of professional actors (a repertory company).





Perhaps theatre is so popular because it gives the undemonstrative British people a safe opportunity to look behind the mask of accepted social behaviour.

The country's most successful and respected playwrights are usually those who explore the darker side of the personality and of personal relationships, often through comedy.



- Excellent **acting tradition** (to the point that Hollywood is forever raiding its talent for people to star in films).
- **Musicals**: Broadway, when looking for its next blockbuster musical, pays close attention to London productions.

British actors



Many of the most well-known television actors continue to see themselves as first and foremost theatre actors.



3. CINEMA



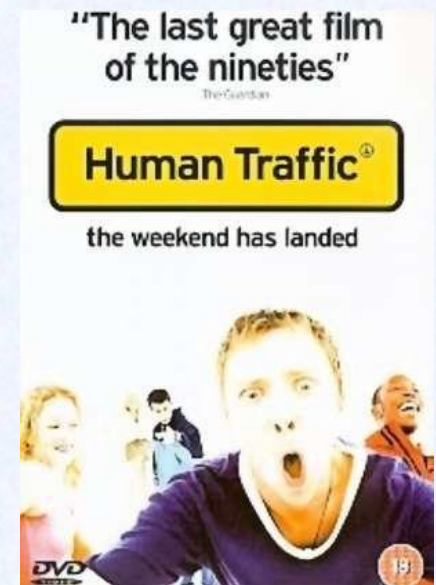
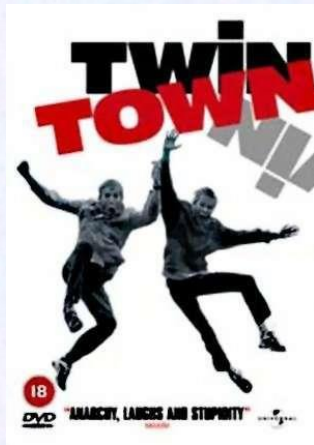
- Generally regarded as “entertainment”
- Very few films, however highly successful

(Some) Famous British films

- *The 39 Steps* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1935)
- *Great Expectations* (David Lean, 1946)
- *A Clockwork Orange* (Stanley Kubrik, 1971)
- *Blow-Up* (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1966)
- *Chariots of Fire* (Hugh Hudson, 1981)
- *My Beautiful Launderette* (Stephen Frears, 1985)
- *A Fish Called Wanda* (Charles Crichton, 1988)
- *Howard's End* (James Ivory, 1992)
- *The Remains of the Day* (James Ivory, 1993)
- *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (Mike Newell, 1994)
- *Sense and Sensibility* (Ang Lee, 1995)
- *Secrets and Lies* (Mike Leigh, 1996)
- *Gosford Park* (Robert Altman, 2001)
- *Bridget Jones's Diary* (Sharon Maguire, 2001)
- *Bend it like Beckham* (Gurinder Chada, 2002)
- *This is England* (Shane Meadows, 2006)
- *Under the Skin* (Jonathan Glazer, 2013)

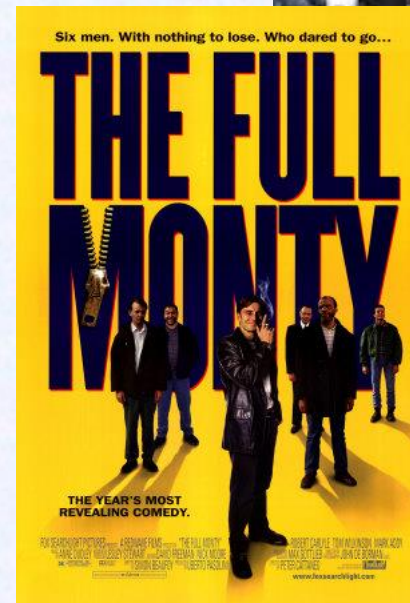
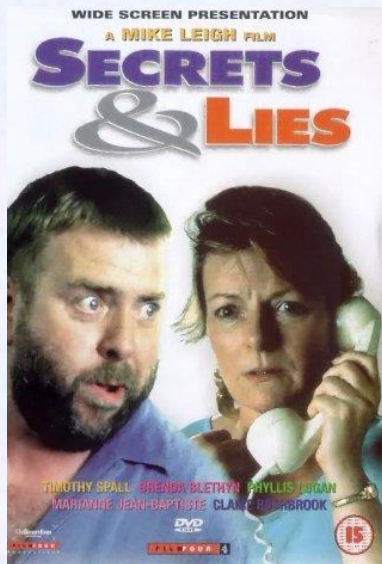
Young People

- *Trainspotting* (1996)
- *Twin Town* (1996)
- *Human Traffic* (1999)
- These films also represent aspects of Britishness other than Englishness



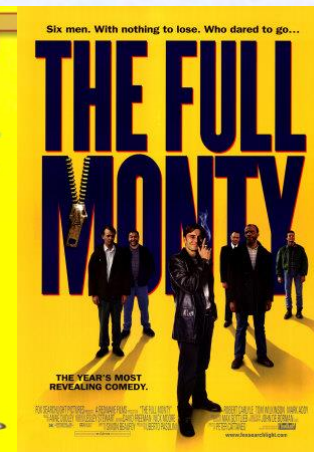
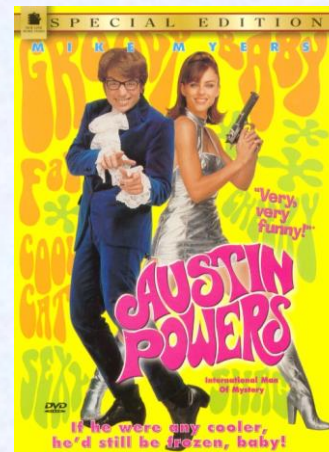
The 'Underclass'

- The work of Ken Loach and Mike Leigh:
- *Brassed Off* (1996)
- *The Full Monty* (1997)
- *This is England* (2006)



Cool Britannia

With the arrival of New Labour in Britain there was an upswing in re-branding Britain as a ‘cool’ place to be – reflected in its culture (music and art as well as film) – this led to films which moved away from the more gritty traditional Brit Film and followed the more American-friendly path of *Four Weddings & a Funeral*. Such projects led to further professional interest in British film and more financial investment from both local and international sources.

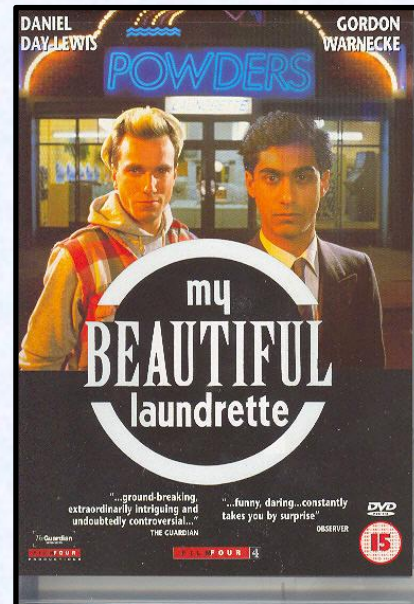
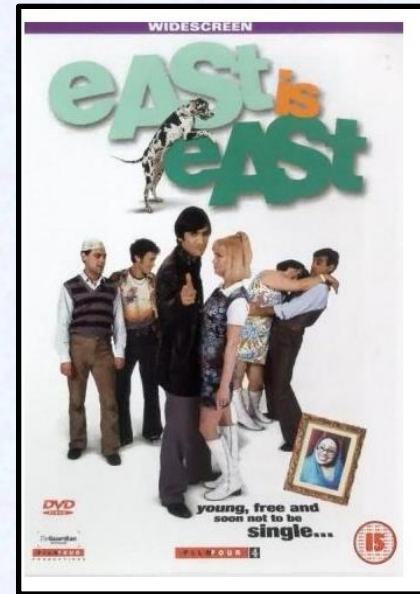


Ethnic Communities

- Most modern cultures consist of a number of different and distinct cultures and stories.
- It has been suggested (in the report *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain*) that Britain is best regarded as a ‘community of communities’.
- Multi-culturalism and the legacy of 9/11.
- Cinema’s and television’s generally liberal stance on ethnicity contrasts strikingly with the illiberal views expressed by much of the press on this issue.

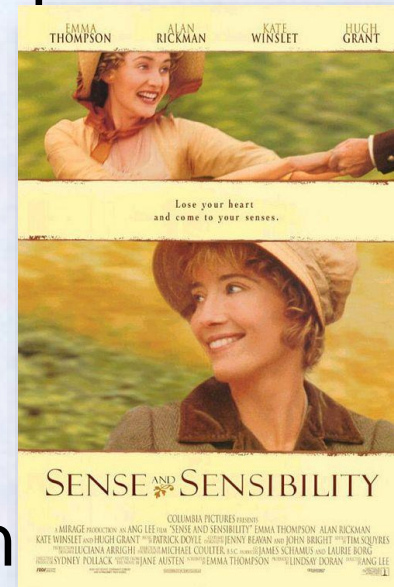
Ethnic Communities

- *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985)
- *My Son the Fanatic* (1997)
- *East is East* (1999)
- The work of Gurinder Chadha
- *Yasmin* (2004)
- *Brick Lane* (2007)



Heritage cinema

- “One of the most powerful imaginative constructs of our time” (Raphael Samuel, *Patriotism*, Routledge 1989).
- Backward-looking, nostalgic
- Rural
- White
- Focussed on the upper classes
- English, and frequently southern
- A laundered, sanitised past
- “The glamour of backwardness” (Tom Nairn, *The Enchanted Glass*, Vintage 1994).



4. MUSIC



Classical music

- Classical music in Britain is a minority interest. Few classical musicians, whether British or foreign, become well known to the general public.
- Prestigious academies, such as the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Royal Northern College of Music, ...



Royal Academy of Music, London

Royal Northern College of Music,
Manchester



‘Popular’ music

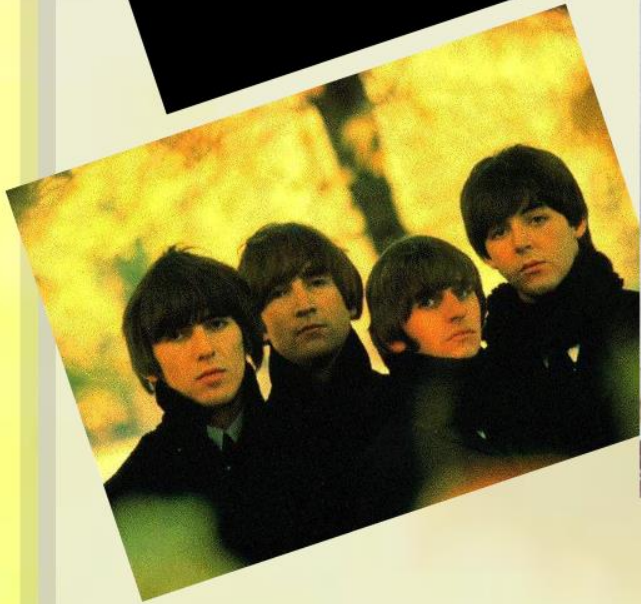
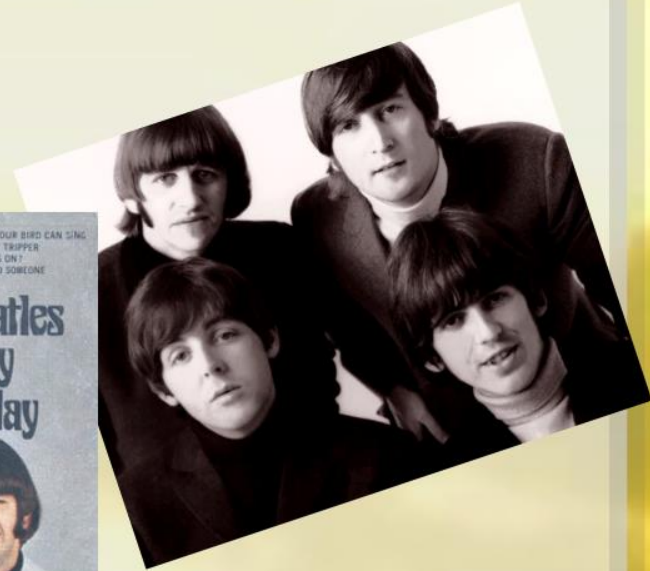
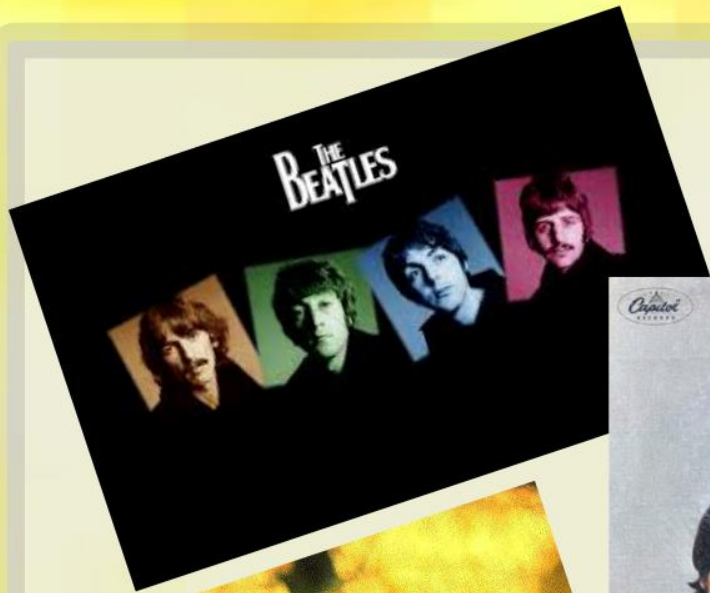
- In the 1960s, British artists had a great influence on the development of music in the modern, or “pop” idiom.



The Beatles

- formed in Liverpool in 1960.
- 4 members: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr.
- in 2004, *The Rolling Stone* Magazine ranked The Beatles number one of the 100 greatest artists of all time.
- famous songs: yesterday, let it be, and i love her, all my loving, hey jude,...so on.



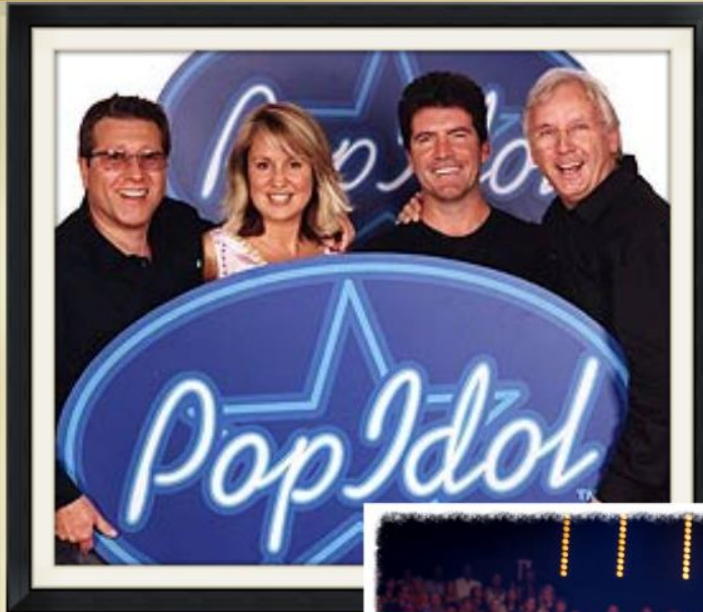


Other famous bands and singers

Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, U2, Queen, The Police, Oasis, The Who, Radiohead, Take That, Coldplay...



Talent shows



Venues for the performing arts

- Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon (RSC)
- Old Vic, The Barbican, the Globe
- Royal Opera House at Covent Garden (ballet)
- Victoria and Albert Hall
- The South Bank area (Royal Festival Hall and the National film Theatre)

Popular music festivals in UK

- Aldeburgh (June): classical music
- Glastonbury, Somerset (June): rock music
- Eisteddfod, Wales (August)
- BBC 'proms' (July-September, since 1895)
- Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland (November)

Popular Arts Festivals

- Edinburgh International Festival (August)
- Womad, Charlton Park, Wiltshire (July)



5. THE FINE ARTS

- Painting: huge collections in Britain
- Two major auction houses are based in London: Sotheby's and Christie's



Sculpture

- Turner Prize
- Angel of the North
- The Goddess of the North



6. LITERATURE

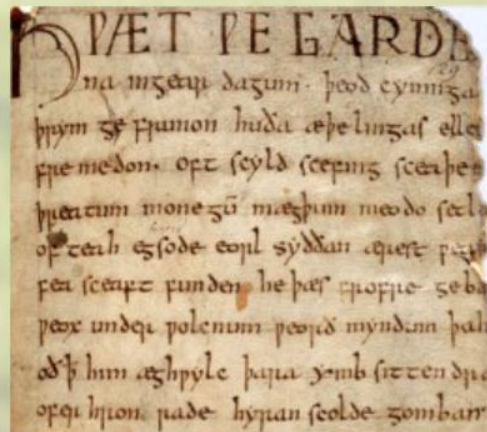


6. LITERATURE

- Enthusiastic readers (over 60% has a library card)
- Verbal culture: long and renowned tradition with iconic figures such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens
- ‘middlebrow’ literature
- 2 Nobel prize winners: William Golding and Harold Pinter
- Many other winners wrote in English
- Poetry is still popular

Old English literature: (450–1100)

English literature, or Anglo-Saxon literature, encompasses literature written in Old English in Anglo-Saxon England.



Middle English literature: (1100–1500)

After the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the written form of the Anglo-Saxon language became less common, and under the influence of the new aristocracy, Law French became the standard language of courts, parliament, and polite society. As the invaders integrated, their language and literature mingled with that of the natives and the Norman dialects of the ruling classes became **Anglo-Norman**. At the same time Anglo-Saxon underwent a gradual transition into Middle English. This period is famous for **Geoffrey Chaucer**.



English Renaissance: (1500–1660)

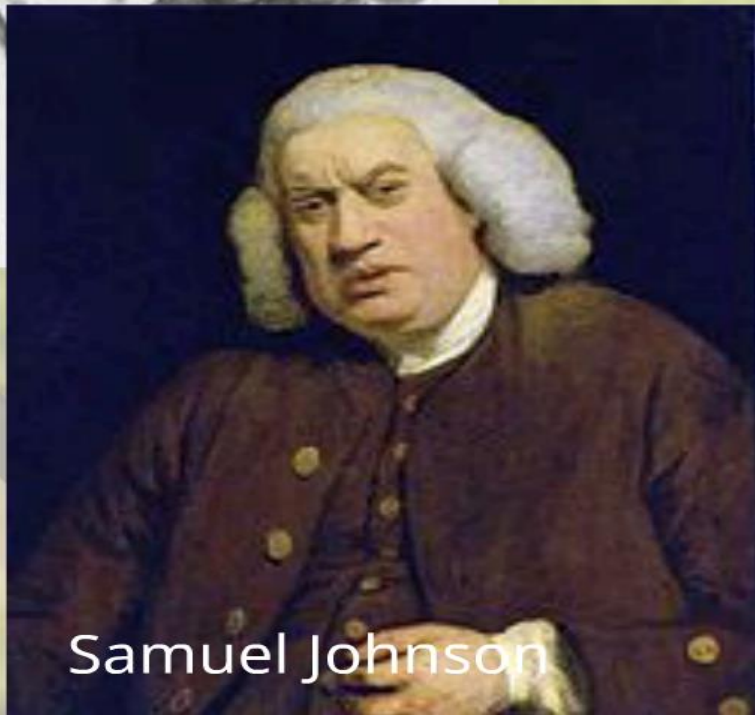
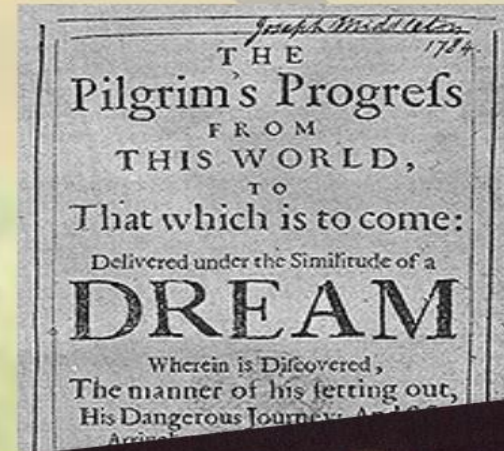


Elizabethan and Jacobean period (1558–1625) is famous for **William Shakespeare**, often called **the poet/bard**, who is widely considered the greatest dramatist of all time.

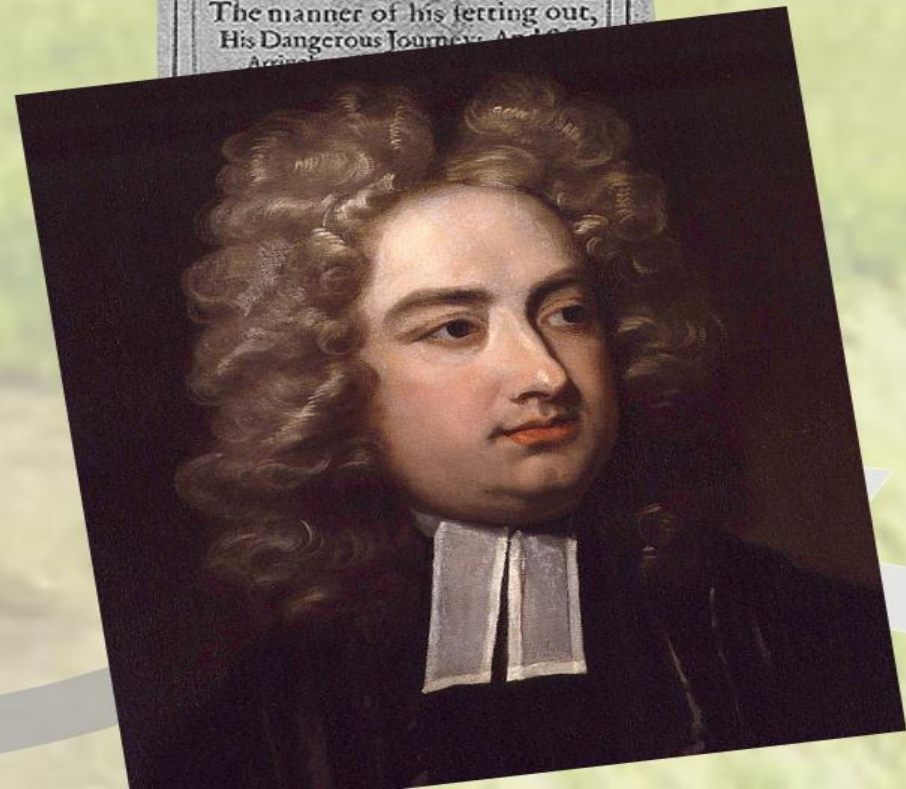


Late Renaissance (1625–1660): the most famous author of this period is **Samuel Pepys**

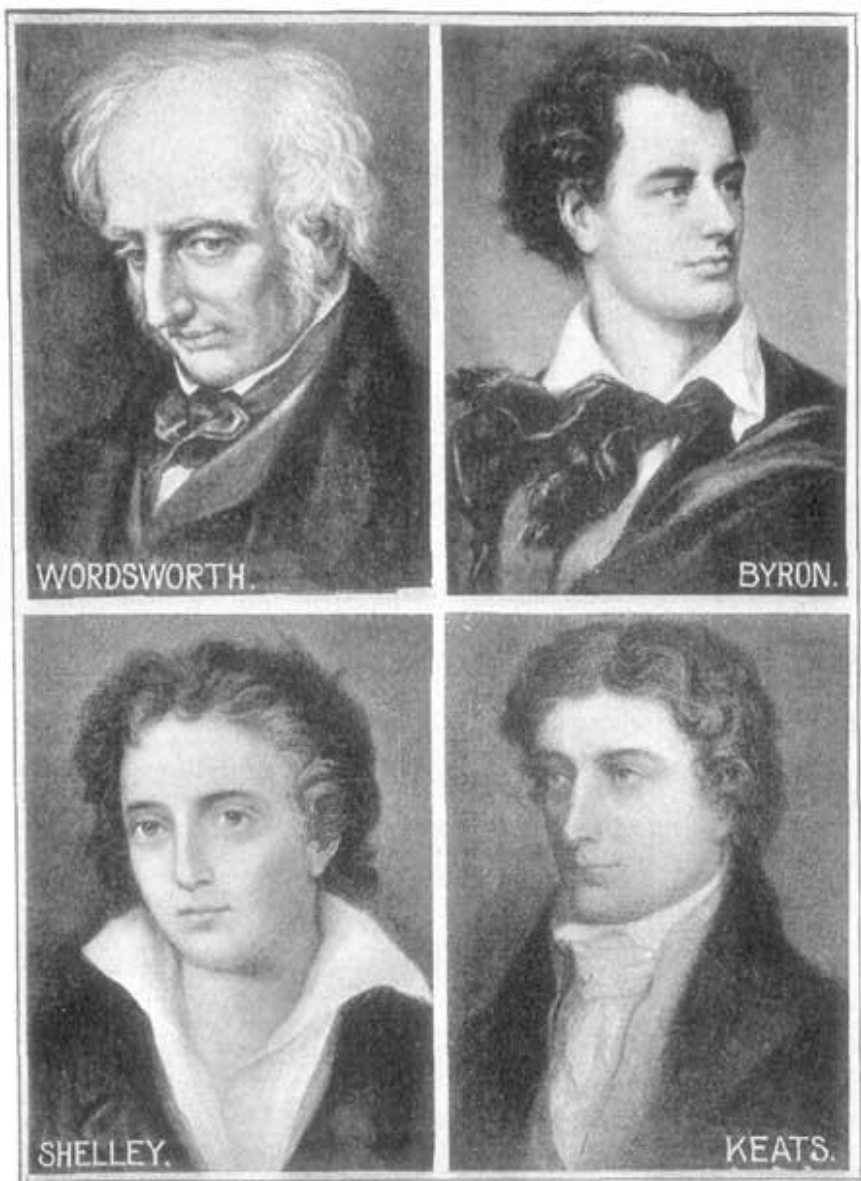
Neo-Classical Period: (1660–1798)



Samuel Johnson



Romanticism (1798-1837)



The Victorian age (1837-1901)



Charles Dickens

English literature since 1901



Rudyard Kipling



Virginia Woolf

Irish writers



James Joyce



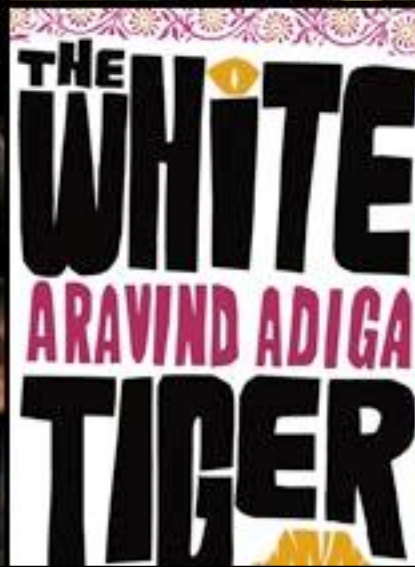
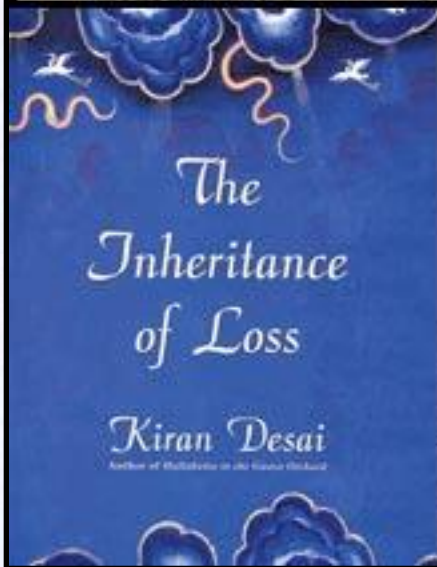
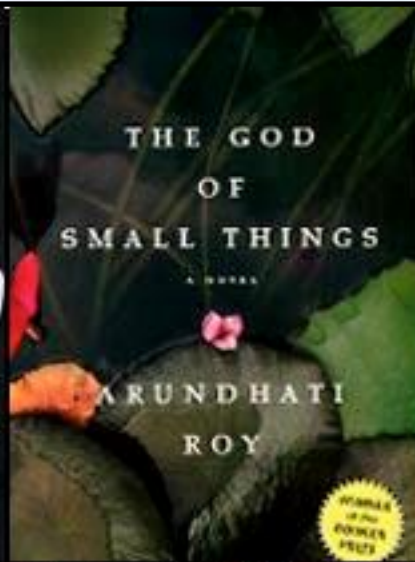
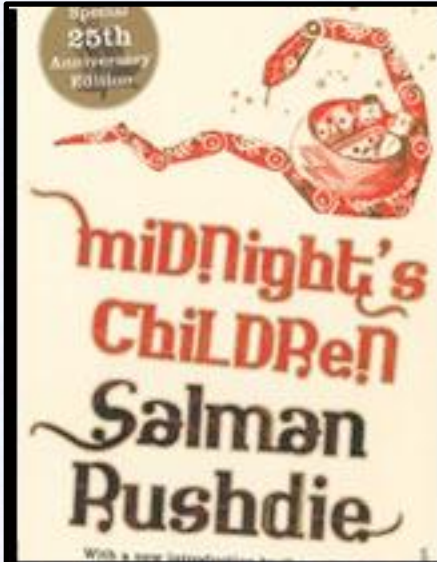
Oscar Wilde

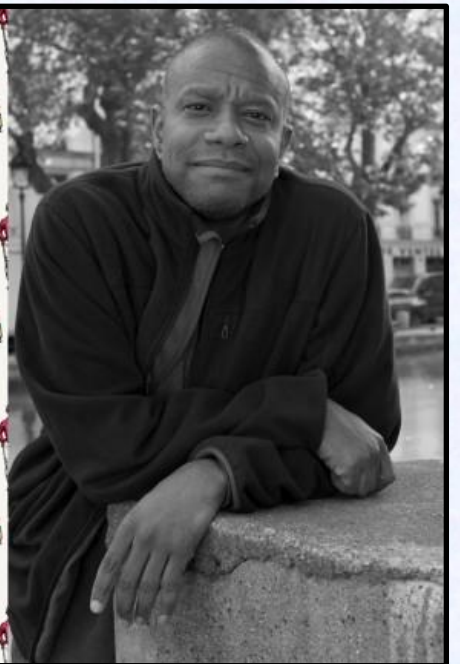
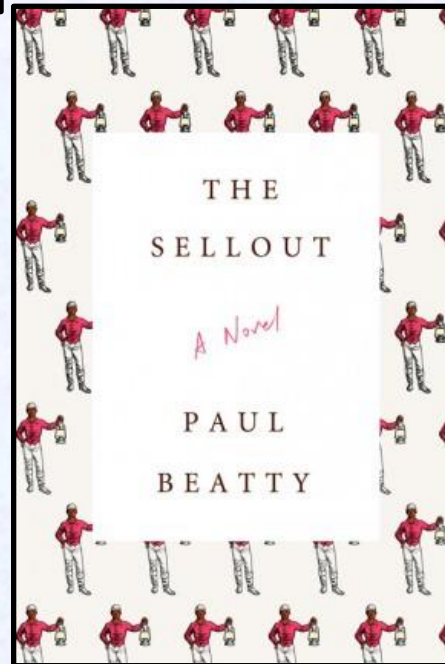
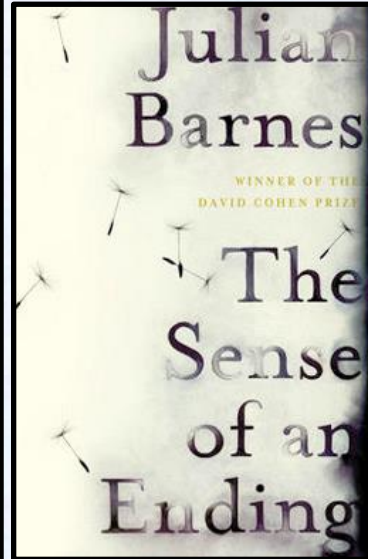
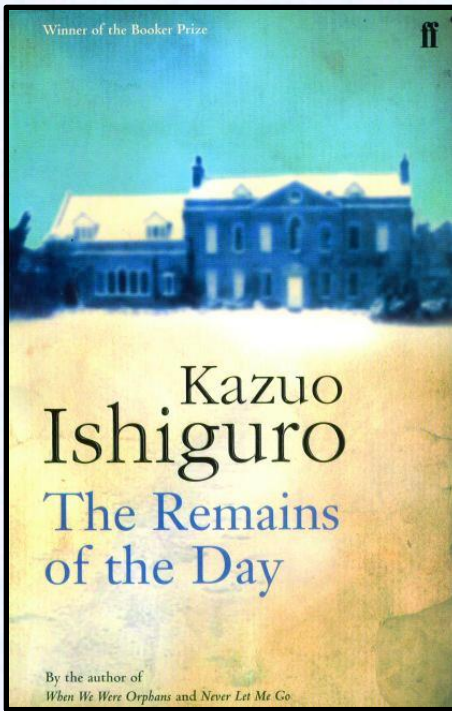


1. ***The Lord of the Rings***, JRR Tolkien
2. ***Pride and Prejudice***, Jane Austen
3. ***His Dark Materials***, Philip Pullman
4. ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***, Douglas Adams
5. ***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire***, JK Rowling
6. ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, Harper Lee
7. ***Winnie the Pooh***, AA Milne
8. ***Nineteen Eighty-Four***, George Orwell
9. ***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***, CS Lewis
10. ***Jane Eyre***, Charlotte Brontë
11. ***Catch-22***, Joseph Heller
12. ***Wuthering Heights***, Emily Brontë



- The most important annual prize in Britain for a work of fiction for written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom and/or Ireland.
- Since 1981, half its winners have been writers from former British colonies (Canada, India, Nigeria, Ireland,...)

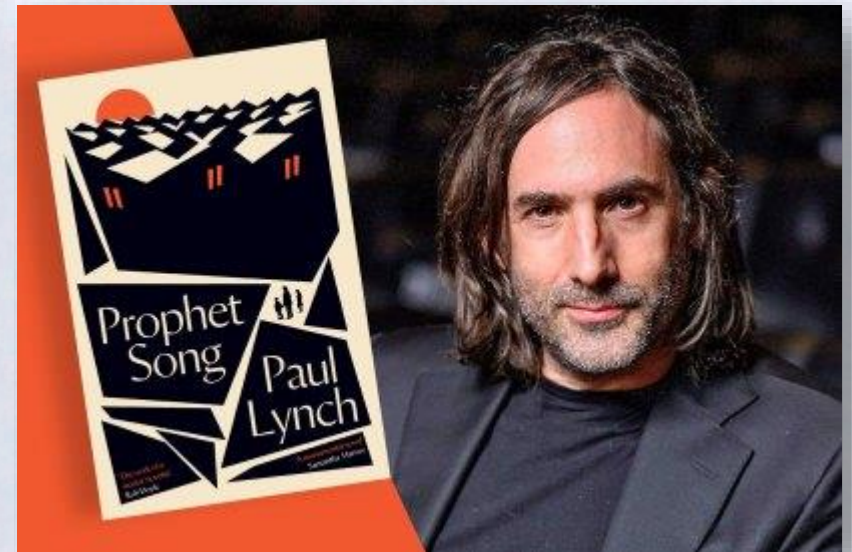




2019 winners



2023 winner



What's next?

