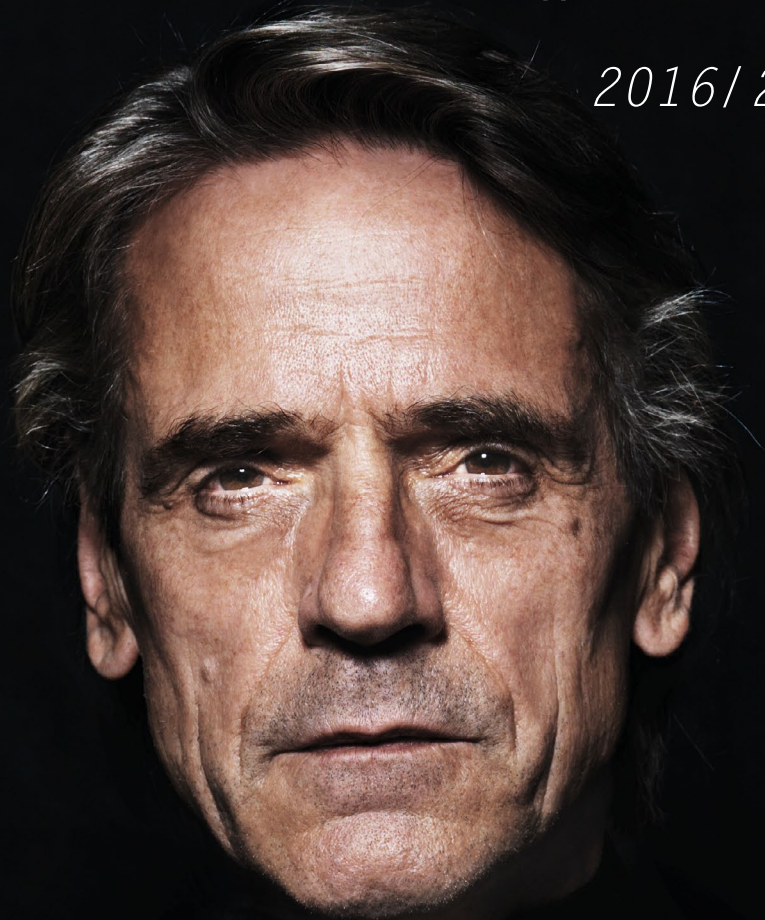
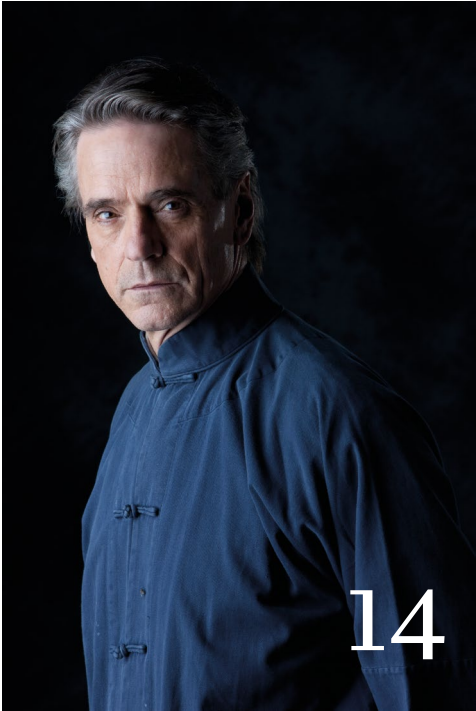


# SPALIFE MAGAZINE

*2016/2017*



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14 CHANCELLOR: JEREMY IRONS

Front cover by Sven Baenziger, courtesy of Sally Fischer PR

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## THE TEAM

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**Editor In Chief** Emily Dove

*Photo credit to Emily Dove*



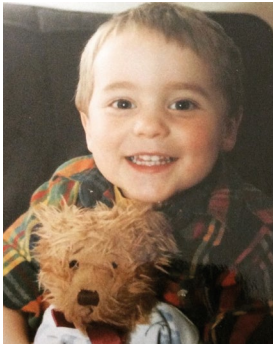
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*Photo credit to Oli Cliffe*



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*Photo credit to Jacob Lewis-Leeson*



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Welcome to SpaLife Magazine!  
I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are excited for a publication full of creativity and inspiring people.

I truly encourage students to take part in as many activities and events whilst at university as it is the most enjoyable time you will ever know. It's a time to meet friends for life and experience as much as you can before going into the real world. So please pick up a copy and uncover the possibilities available to you and indulge in something you know or something new.

SpaLife is always looking to expand the team and support as many students as possible so please get it touch with any of the contacts below.

Have a great first term!



*'Picturesque image of the famous Bath Abbey'  
Photo by Emily Dove*

*Editor In Chief, Emily Dove*

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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Oli Cliffe, Emily Dove, Izzy Hambley, Kitty Hilton, Benjamin Jones, Jacob Lewis-Leeson, Joanna Nissel, Meghann McKeague, Lucy Oates, Georgia Parish and Beth Wise



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Welcome to the first edition of SpaLife Magazine 2016/17. We are your sabbatical officers; which means we're full time student representatives who work within the Students' Union. Our job roles, as well as academic backgrounds are all slightly different, so here's a quick overview.

### Kitty

Studied Psychology from 2012-2015, President of Snow Sports, Freshers Buddy and Student Ambassador. Now President of the Students' Union, thus the lead student representative with the University, as well as on a local and national level.

### Aled

Studied Drama from 2012-2015, Freshers buddy and Sunday league manager for the football club. Now Vice President Welfare and works on ensuring you go through university in the most peaceful way possible, whether that's from helping with housing, or solving your stresses.

### Amy

Studied Drama and Music from 2013-2016, President of Netball for 2 years. Now Vice President Activities works with all extracurricular activities to give students something fun outside of their degree (as well as CV developing of course).

### Kat

Studied Drama and Music from 2013-2016, course rep and involved with the musical theatre society. Now the university's first Vice President Education working exclusively to make your academic experience as good as it can possible be.

You can contact all four of us through [sabbs@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:sabbs@bathspa.ac.uk) or individually through [su-president@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:su-president@bathspa.ac.uk), [su-welfare@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:su-welfare@bathspa.ac.uk), [su-activities@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:su-activities@bathspa.ac.uk) and [su-education@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:su-education@bathspa.ac.uk)



*'The SU sabbatical officers showing off their modelling skills'  
Photo credit to Simon Antrobus*

I looked out of the plane window and was amazed by what I saw. It was like looking at a busy starry night sky, New York City, in the dead of night, was aglow. I had been once before; with family when I was younger, but now I came alone, ready to appreciate the great city and all it had to offer.

In all honesty, my memories of the city are ecstatic and eccentric, people running, lights flashing and obscene, random noises appearing from everywhere yet nowhere.

Everyone in New York had somewhere to be, a destination, and they didn't have time to dawdle or wander or stop, they kept moving. Conversations were blunt. It wasn't like California where people would hear my accent and say, "Well, aren't you far from home?" and stop for small talk. No. They gave me my coffee without even making eye contact with me. I loved it.

The first place we went to was Times Square, a kaleidoscope of advertisements and people; and after being served lunch by a girl called Mars, who deserved her own story, we went shopping. If there are any creatures of consumption like me out there, who have not been to Times Square, then let me awaken your innermost dreams: clothes, music, art, shoes, photography, NYPD merchandise, hats, games - even a t-shirt that tells you to 'Espresso Yourself'.



*'Empire State Building'  
Photo by Georgia Parish*



Regrettably, I only went to see one show. Titled Finding Neverland, it was about the life of J.M. Barrie and his relationship with the boys who inspired him to write Peter Pan. An optimistic show that had Matthew Morrison (Mr Shue from Glee) put on a Scottish accent and play Barrie; which, despite how much it tried to make me believe that Barrie and the Llewellyn Davis boys lived happily ever after, I could not contain my cynicism. After all, one of the boys died in WW1, one drowned and the other jumped in front of a train after Barrie died of pneumonia. But it was still pretty magical.

## Going to Tiffany's was a must for me as a die-hard Audrey Hepburn fan

– although I didn't eat breakfast there or, by that point in the week, have enough money to do an inscription. But just going in there was plenty for me; I could have spent hours looking at each piece of jewellery in detail or watching couples gaze happily at the rings, leaving with small blue bags. One old man left with a bag big enough for a TV to fit into, I looked at him with awe, but also with the wondering of what he was apologising for.

As a person who usually looks at her feet when walking (to make sure I don't trip over anything) I spent an awful lot of time in New York looking up. The Empire State Building, Rockefeller and the Statue of Liberty were particularly beautiful to behold.

## Sometimes it's amazing to see just what humans can accomplish;

and although the attitude of the people in New York suggested individualism, the structures spoke of people coming together to create one of the most iconic cities in the world.



*'Finding Neverland in theatre'*



*'Fifth Avenue, Manhattan'*



*'Times Square' photos by Georgia Parish*

In the depths of the Yucután Peninsula we had found paradise. The distant cries of ‘spring break’ were left behind at Cancun airport as we ventured southwards to the Tulum beaches. White sands and palm trees greeted us on the Mayan Riviera and our accommodation was primitive luxury, the floor of the hut being sand and the beach but a few steps away. Little were we to know, however, that the stretch of land we were staying on had a far more sinister undertone.

We had arrived at midnight and the warm, salty breeze was a sure indicator we were close to the sea. Before we had even entered the property (a thin strip of land perched between two eco-tourist hotels) we were stripping down to our swimming costumes and splashing in the moonlit waters. The following morning we laughed as we ate breakfast on the open-fronted veranda of our neighbouring eco-hotel, it’s views offered the same as ours; palm trees swaying in the wind and tropical waters beyond.

We laughed even more after we found out the cost of their horrifically over-priced rooms.

Eight of us for five days in our beach hut was the same price as a double room for one night here. One couldn’t help notice an infallible irony at the fact that this overpriced hotel was a hippy-style retreat, yet walking around at breakfast were people sporting Henley Regatta t-shirts.

As we further explored the surrounding areas we realised how under-priced our patch of paradise had cost. There was a smug nature to us as we commented on our accomodation.

How fortunate we were to find the Airbnb for so cheap.



*‘A Mayan Ruin perched on the cliffs of the Tulum coast. What was an ancient civilisation spanning across the whole Mayan Riviera, is now preserved as a ruin.’*

*Photo by Jacob Lewis-Leeson*

Little were we to know the humbling reality that awaited us the following morning.

Yielding water bottles and backpacks we set off at 7am to catch the local bus to Chichen Itza. Stood outside the bamboo gates of our property however, we were confronted by tens of security guards brandishing machetes and tear gas along the coastal stretch. These men told us they were adhering to a local judge's orders to evict everyone on the seventeen properties they had seized and to raid the property also.

Inconsistent government regulation and an ambiguous set of laws had resulted in a land dispute that was decades old.

Unfortunately, as tourists, we were caught in-between this political crossfire. Whether this seize was corrupt or not is still unclear, but what we do know is that the Tulum coastline has become a gold-mine for investors due to its idyllic beaches and eco-image. The most devastating result of this however, was not our consequent sanctuary to the Ibiza-like resort of Playa Del Carmen north of Tulum, but for the residents who were also forced to leave their homes. Sickeningly, the corporate owners of the eco-hotels could afford to pay the officers off.

The locals were left stranded on the streets, possessions in hand.

Tulum showed us a harsh existence of Mexican life, where Paradise was found and Paradise was lost.



*'The Airbnb accommodation we stayed in for the final days of our trip.'*

*Photo by Jacob Lewis-Leeson*



What do you do when your first year at university is over? Mojo Monday's ceased to exist, pre-drinks with a cheeky round of Cards Against Humanity became ancient history and all your friends, including your cuddle buddy, are starting to move out and leave you alone, in Bath – for the whole summer! That's exactly what I wondered when I found myself all alone in my accommodation.

Let me tell you one thing; if you want to stay in Bath next summer you need to find other students who are doing the same as you! It's never too late to make new friends, be open to anything anyone suggests to you. By doing that I met amazing new friends and had a great time spending my days and nights with them.

Bath is a great town and it's beautiful, but without a job it can get boring really quickly. That's why you need to find yourself a job as soon as possible, otherwise you'll find yourself watching Netflix all day and night. Don't get me wrong that can be fun for a while, but it's way more fun to hang out with your friends – to cook dinner, have a spa day with the girls or to finally do the Bath Skyline walk!

On a night out you might get surprised by where the evening takes you, after you and your drinking companions had one or the other cocktail at Turtle Bay too much. Opa, a Greek themed bar and restaurant, surprised me more than once with its wonderful view of the Pulteney Weir and their outside seating area. During the weekend the bar evolves into a night club with free entry; I had one of the best nights out there this summer.

Another place to check out is The Slug and Lettuce. The bar offers 2-4-1 cocktails all day every day and has a dancefloor with a DJ on Fridays and Saturdays, and has the most amazing ladies room I've ever seen.

But no matter what you decide to do next summer, be active! If you get bored text a friend and visit for a day or ask for more shifts and there are so many beautiful walks and parks to discover in Bath. A friend said to me the other day, 'You can only regret the things that you didn't do!' Therefore, go out, be silly with your friends, do things you would never do and be spontaneous. All it takes for you to have a great summer next year is you!



*'Greenwich Country Club'  
Photo by Georgia Parish*

When I had imagined where my friend Beky was doing her placement, I thought of some small apartment in New York with her waitressing at a local cafe. But when I arrived at JFK airport and discovered that the address I had been given was not for New York – but for Greenwich, Connecticut, my nerves and excitement kicked in and I knew I was on my way to something special.

Beky, as it turned out, was staying and working at the Greenwich Country Club – which, at \$15,000 a month, is one of the most prestigious social clubs in America. To my surprise, the building I arrived at in my fatigued state was a grand white mansion surrounded by beautiful scenery. But Beky was at the entrance, greeting me with a long awaited hug. Beky studies Event Management at Manchester Metropolitan University and is now on her placement year starting to fulfil her ambition to one day organise great events such as the Olympics.

I was shortly introduced to her colleagues and other interns, who like Beky studied in England and have come to America to gain experience. It seemed evident early on that although they contributed mainly to the service of the country club, they were able to assist in organising events held at the club, notably the upcoming Christmas party.

All of the interns contributed their efforts to make the event as glamorous and efficient as possible, and I have to say they were all extremely professional and ambitious. Structure wise it was like a wedding, with a band and round tables, filled with some of the richest people I will ever meet. The guests including CEOs of major companies who were all polite and welcoming and the conversations never stopped. It was truly inspiring to meet and talk to such ambitious, hard-working people and if it wasn't for this event, I would never have had the opportunity to meet these contacts who can support me in the future.

From Beky's perspective, she had an extremely challenging yet exciting year and I don't think she will ever forget it. Leaving your home and friends behind is always difficult, but she has grown into a more independent, motivated woman who stepped outside of her comfort zone and into a full-time job to begin her journey with her career. Seeing Beky pursue her career has really opened up my eyes to what my future could be but also to put myself out there and persevere in whatever path I choose. Whilst travelling is exciting and trendy, it is becoming more appealing to work abroad to gain experience and money which for students is a big thumbs up. I would recommend speaking to the Careers officers at our university to find out more about internships at home and abroad.

COVER STORY

# JEREMY IRONS

Oscar winning Jeremy Irons  
is named Chancellor of Bath  
Spa University.

*Photo by Jonathan Hession/ Showtime  
Courtesy of Sally Fischer PR*

Bath Spa University announced over summer that Jeremy Irons has accepted the position of Chancellor and will start this position in November in order to bring more creativity and industry experience to the university.

The Chancellor is a figurehead and a national representative, an ambassador to draw new interest to an institution that Irons now represents. An atmosphere of creativity and culture. Whilst some students expressed that they were unhappy with the choice, it will bring creativity to our university but also further popularity and media attention. We have had the likes of Mary Berry and royalty play a role within our University, but Jeremy Irons will provide our students with experience and enterprise from the performing arts and film industries.

Jeremy Irons is just about the best representative possible. Irons is somewhat a local here in Bath as he is best known for performances in renowned films

## Dead Ringers, The Lion King and Die Hard with a Vengeance.

With a short stint at the Bath Royal and the bulk of his training at the Bristol Old Vic, Irons at least has the South West at heart.

Irons is a staunch believer in libertarian ideals and is, at the end of the day, a man with a wicked intellect, a nice motorbike and an industrious work ethic. A vivid representation of the "Bath Spa feeling". Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christina Slade commenced her role in January 2012 and has led the university through development projects of the campuses,

internationalisation and of public private partnerships. Professor Slade said:

“Creativity is at the heart of Bath Spa University. Through his vast experience in the arts Jeremy Irons will bring unique insight to Bath Spa University and influence our vision to be the leading university for creativity, culture and enterprise.”

Much like the university itself, Irons has a track record with philanthropy. He has worked with numerous charities throughout his career, most notable: Goodwill Ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organisation by the United Nations; a notable patron of Evidence For Development, a charity fighting poverty; and an ambassador for WaterAid, posing in their most recent advert.

Most importantly, Irons is incredibly discerning about his creative choices both on screen and in theatre, giving fantastic performances in Lolita, Reversal of Fortune, High Rise and Long Day's Journey Into Night.

This new addition to the University, especially a candidate so similar to Bath Spa's ideals will surely be a considerable leg up over the wash of University advertising and will make the Bath Spa name more known. What our university needs is a clear figurehead to channel the university's image and encourage our students to strive. There is nobody better for this role than Jeremy Irons.

**1) What is it about The Lion King that makes it continue to be so beloved by audiences of all ages?**

It is a classic story, and beautifully animated. It has comedy and tragedy, and wonderful characters who take the audience on an emotional journey. It really is Disney at its best, and I was proud to be involved in the creation of such a great villain as Scar.

**2) What was your aspiration to become the chancellor of our creative and cultural university?**

I have always believed that education should be joined up. That the different disciplines should rub up against one another as much as possible. Only in this way do I think one has any hope of creating rounded individuals. It seems that at Bath Spa there is a real effort to create an Institution where this can happen. When I was invited to be Chancellor, it opened up the possibility of being involved in a quite new area. I never went to University, and have not spent much time in the world of education. I am not sure what I can offer Bath Spa, but the fact I was suggested made me think that some people must think I could be useful. It is a new adventure for me, and one that I look forward to greatly.

**3) What do you see as your goals whilst in this position? What do you see as the future for Bath Spa University?**

At this early stage I am more interested to enter into the conversation, and more than anything, I want to listen. Of course I intend to do all I can to raise the profile of the University, both here and abroad. I hope to be part of its continuing growth, both in size and in scope. Bath Spa is blessed in its location, it's in close touch with one of the prettiest parts of

England. If the student energy can feed on that, the diversity of its own makeup, and the inspiration of the education that is offered, then this can be one of the most special places of learning in the country.

**4) What advice would you give to our students who wish to pursue a career in theatre, film and television?**

I look forward to discussing this when I'm able to do some kind of talk or Masterclass at the University. There we could discuss my experiences, and the role of the Arts in our lives in a forum which I hope, when it happens, will contain students from all the different disciplines that are followed at Bath Spa. For the Arts, and to some respects the talents needed to be an Actor, pertain to all fields of endeavour. I look forward to sharing insights into the relevance of them in the lives which our students are preparing for.

**5) As Chancellor you are clearly motivated by inspiring and challenging students. How do you hope to inspire Bath Spa students?**

I hope, that as your Chancellor, for however long you put up with me, that I will surprise you. I am interested in the myriad intricacies of how we live our short lives. I am interested in discussing air pollution, global warming, the changing face of our Democracy, Capitalism, the refugee crisis, or any number other issues that I would hope would be relevant and interesting to your readers.

Let's start a dialogue about more important things. I look forward to that, and to getting to communicate with as many of you as I can. University life is a privilege for which you pay dearly. I look forward to my small part in it, and to challenging you, sharing with you, and learning from you.





*Photo credit to Showtime  
Courtesy of Sally Fischer PR*

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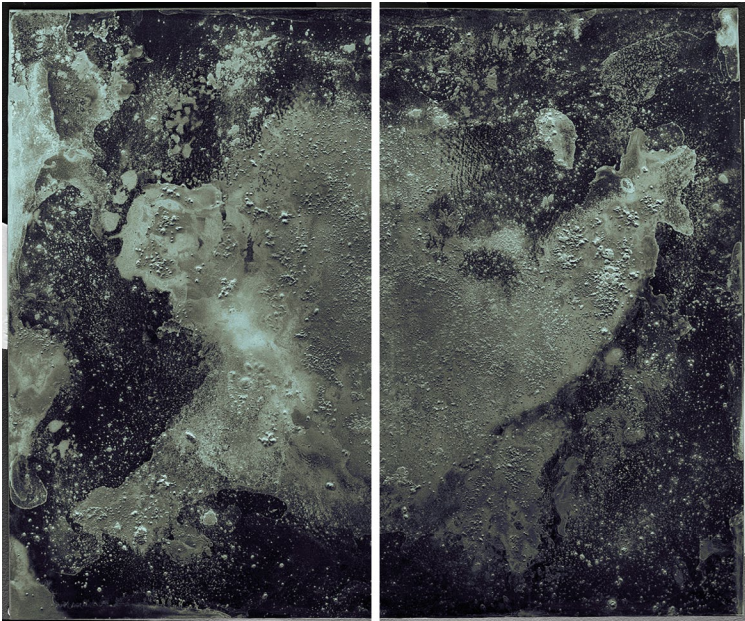
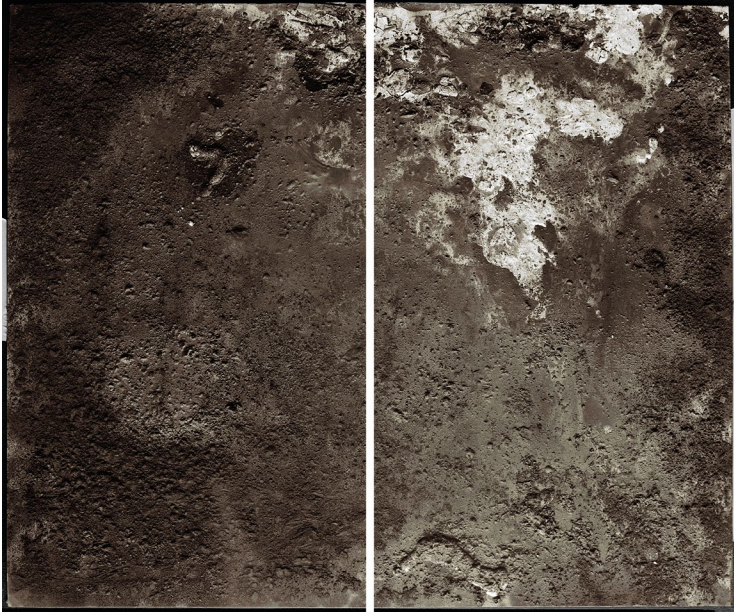
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**BENJAMIN  
JONES**



My work deals with the ambiguity and transformation capacity of photography and the way in which mechanical reproduction changes our perception of subject matter. In these works, aesthetic of landscape has played a defining role, with photography coming into play towards the end of the creational process, transcribing objects to images. Images which have taken influence from the scientific discoveries and a cartographic method of dealing with space. There is therefore a corresponding sense of scale which has permeated each of these fictionalised spaces and so the scale at which they are physically presented directly reflects this.



## The View in Waiting Room 8

Shuffling along pier, arm in arm. Grey slate of seaside's haze \_\_\_\_.  
Breeze moves slowly, winding around us, moaning to release the gasps  
and sighs it remembers from across time through its endless, restless  
calling. We wander through this world –recalling laughter, loss, and  
smiles– while walking by the seaside. On Tuesdays nurses \_\_\_\_\_. I see  
waves frothing and wonder aloud if the foam is like the lace that was on  
my wedding gown. You say, probably not, and we laugh at how cynically  
we've turned out. Boardwalk mulls with white-coated crowds.

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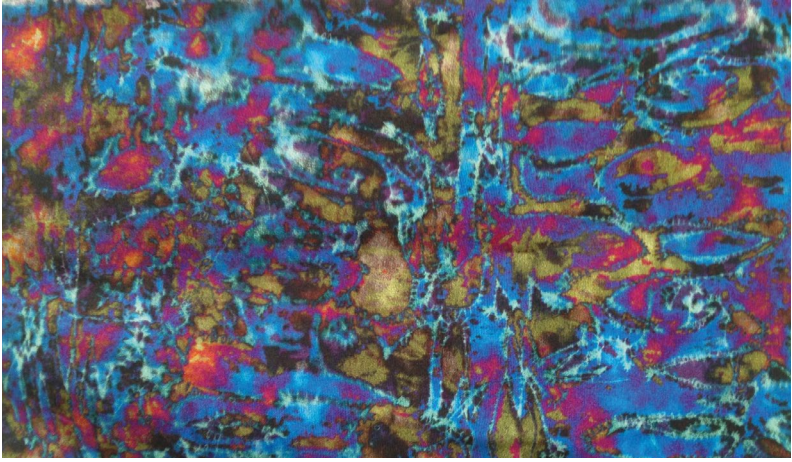
## Insomnia

Open window  
Onto another  
Night

I used to say your eyes were the colour of the sea.  
Blue mercury sat watching from the black remote

She's the first  
Bedpost notch  
That whispers [I was better than you].

ARTIST



My inspiration for this project came from vegetables. I took microscopic images of vegetables I had dried and identified patterns within the images. This was then transformed to screen prints as you can see here.

## Aluk To Dolo The Way of the Ancestors

Whilst travelling within Indonesia I came across the region of Tana Toraja, located in Sulawesi. The Tana Torajan culture and philosophy seemed so disconnected from the moral values of western nations. For the Torajan people, life very much revolves around death; they base their lives around holding extravagant and extremely primitive funeral and burial practices. This involves the mummification of the dead body, which is then kept inside the family home for sometimes up to ten years. The deceased is considered 'sick' during this period and they do not acknowledge their physical death until the first water buffalo is slaughtered at the funeral. I went on to depict the traditional rituals I witnessed, in my work I combined ancient ceramic and textile techniques such as hand building, carving, throwing, printmaking and knitting.

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Aluk to Dolo  
Ceramic oven



Journey to Puya  
Ceramic Canopic series





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## The Last Breath

Screen Print on Paper

Funeral ceremonies in Tana Toraja are saturated with the brutal slaughter of hundreds of live animals, which are personally reared or bought by the funeral guests as a ritualistic offering to the deceased. These beautiful sentient beings were savagely beheaded one by one in front of a large audience whom celebrated this horrific tribulation by dancing and chanting around their dismembered heads.



---

## Ma'nene

Wool and bamboo

The Ma'nene ceremony occurs every August, the dead are brought out from their rock cliff graves to be cleaned, dressed in new clothes, given alcohol and strapped to bamboo to dry out in the sun – Torajan's believe this will preserve the body and bring the family great fortune. These knitted and crocheted figures are part of a series that represent this ritual.



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## Journey to Puya

Embroidery



---

## The People of the uplands

Screen Print on paper





*'Marcus Sedgwick will give talks at the festival'  
Courtesy of Bath Children's Literature Festival*

*'Malorie Blackman guest speaker at this years festival'  
Courtesy of Bath Children's Literature Festival*



## BATH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL

If you love films, books and festivals, then this is something for you!

Bath Children's Literature Festival was founded in 2006. The mathematicians among you will have worked out that 2016 is therefore its 10th birthday. Over those ten years, the festival has brought over

2,500 incredible author and illustrator events and workshops to Bath and beyond,

which have been enjoyed by over a ¼ of a million children, parents and teachers.

This year, their Young Adult (YA) strand sees guest authors giving talks about their past, present and future including

Malorie Blackman (The Noughts and Crosses series), Marcus Sedgwick (The Book of Dead Days), and Rachel Cohn & David Levithan (Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist).

Other guests at this year's festival include

six-time Olympic gold medallist Chris Hoy, CBBC presenters Sam and Mark, and Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield (his book An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth is a treat).

Whether you're interested in writing, looking for a Jeremy-Strong-fuelled nostalgia trip, or just like hearing famous people talk about their lives, check out the Bath Children's Literature Festival website, and book (pun intended) your tickets now!

## BATH FILM FESTIVAL

Long-time fans of SpaLife (that is, anyone who read an issue of SpaLife last year) will know that I am a very avid fan of Bath Film Festival. I first started volunteering at the festival in October 2015, and it has genuinely changed my life.

I have met some of my absolute favourite people, learnt so much about myself, narrowed down what I want to do after University

(although of course, I still have basically no idea), and watched lots of amazing films. “But SpaLife Magazine person”, I hear you cry, “how can I volunteer at Bath Film Festival 2016?” “That,” I reply, “is an almost perfect set up for the rest of this article.” So read on to discover how to get involved, but first let me tell you a little bit about Bath Film Festival.

Now in its 26th year, Bath Film Festival 2016 will take place from the 3rd - 13th



*‘The stage is set for Bath Film festival’  
Courtesy of Bath Film Festivals*

November, at various venues in and around Bath City Centre.

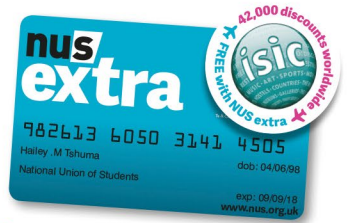
The festival consists of a variety of screenings and events, including full preview screenings of films months before they’re released in cinemas, the annual IMDb New Filmmaker Awards, and exclusive Q&A sessions with directors, writers, and stars. Personal highlights from the last couple of festival include

the deeply creepy *Goodnight Mommy*, a preview screening of *Birdman*, and the ugly-cry-inducing *Room*.

To keep up to date with the latest from Bath Film Festival, sign up to the email newsletter (which also gives you free priority booking) at [bathfilmfestival.org.uk](http://bathfilmfestival.org.uk).

“Wow”, you say, “I’m sold. How do I apply to volunteer?” You are asking all the right questions today, SpaLife reader. Full details on the roles available can be found on the Bath Film Festival website ([bathfilmfestival.org.uk](http://bathfilmfestival.org.uk)), or drop an email to [hello@bathfilmfestival.org.uk](mailto:hello@bathfilmfestival.org.uk), and I will see you in December!

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*"The latest of J.K. Rowling's creation flew off the shelves, but what do readers think?"*

*Photo credit to Beth Angle at Topping and Company*

In the first two days of its release, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child sold over 2 million copies in the US. In its first week of sales in the UK, it sold around 850,000 copies. Whilst the play came flying off the shelves, was it any good? It seems a strange question to ask of anything with the name "Harry Potter" attached to it, and the answer from both critics and readers seems to be a resounding... "average".

Not quite the reaction most people, or perhaps any people expected from the much anticipated eighth (and final?) Harry Potter story. Yet having read the book, (more accurately, the script, or even more so, the "special rehearsal edition script") I am heavily inclined to agree.

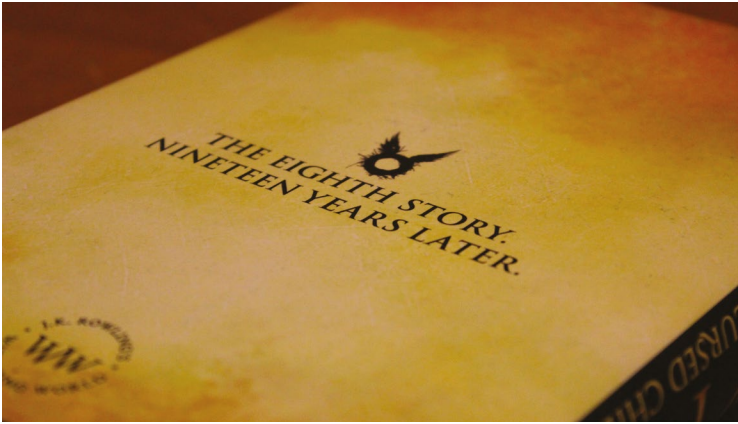
While I initially hated the book, with its incongruous character portrayals and laughable plot, the past few weeks of reflection has somewhat stabilised my opinion.

**It's not that the book is bad. It's just...incomplete.**

It was always going to be a tricky decision for the writers (or the Cursed Child marketing

team) to make. Do you continue (as the Twitter hashtags in the run-up to The Cursed Child's theatrical release encouraged) to "keep the secrets"? Ensuring the integrity of the play as a complete visual and intellectual whole, and in doing so frustrate Harry Potter fans (of which there are a countless and ever-increasing number) who cannot afford, or simply do not want to watch the play live?

Or do you release the play's script as a book worldwide, to be heralded "the eighth story" (with all of the unachievable expectations which accompany that title), and accept the inevitable criticisms which result from audiences consuming only half of an experience which The Telegraph's Susannah Clapp called "utterly theatrical". The performances. The staging. The practical effects. All of these, despite even the most active of imaginations, are inevitably and noticeably missing from the book, leaving behind nothing more than a dialogical skeleton, with vague, succinct, yet occasionally beautiful stage directions scattered across the play's 4 acts. Repeated descriptions of time "spooling backwards" for example, give a welcome snapshot into just how spectacular The Cursed Child could be in its native visual format.



*‘The latest of J.K. Rowling’s creation flew off the shelves, but what do readers think?’*

*Photo by Oli Cliffe*

Regardless of any criticisms however, the script has, as previously mentioned, sold in just the numbers one would expect from the sort-of-sequel to one of the most popular literary series of all time. It is interesting, however, that

**The Cursed Child seems to have had a very limited impact on the world outside of its immediate and most dedicated fan-base.**

Harry Potter is, undoubtedly, a cultural phenomenon. While only a few years ago the criteria for a person being culturally relevant was whether or not they had seen Star Wars, the position of ‘film series which everyone has seen’ has since been passed on to the eight Potter films which (while arguably fluctuating in quality over their combined 20 hour run time) have had an undeniable impact on the lives of a generation. Similarly, it is incredibly rare to find a bookshelf which does not contain

at least one Harry Potter book.

So, was simultaneously releasing Harry Potter and the Cursed Child in its play and script formats a good idea? It’s difficult to say. While economically, I’m sure much more knowledgeable people in suits decided that the answer was “yes”. Artistically speaking however, I’m not convinced.

Regardless, if there is one thing to remember when reading The Cursed Child, it’s that you are, to take a leaf out of Rowling’s seven (or is that eight?) Potter books, witnessing only a fraction of the The Cursed Child’s soul. To quote Horace Slughorn,

**“you must understand that the soul is supposed to remain intact and whole. Splitting it is an act of violation, it is against nature”.**

You know, Horace, I think I agree.

# SPA LIFE MAGAZINE

The logo for SpaLife Magazine features the word "SPA" in black, "LIFE" in white inside a red rectangular box, and "MAGAZINE" in black. The final letter "E" is stylized as a red outline of an open book.

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