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Subject: PCI London Newsletter - July 2026
Date: 30 June 2026 at 16:51
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Welcome to our July newsletter!

Highlights this month include the first ever Polish Codebreaking Festival at Bletchley Park on the 25 and 26th of July, an extended chance to see the work of Polish design studios in the City of London as part of the Curated Connections: Common Ground project, several new book releases, which we have put together in a section entitled 'Summer Reads' and a chance to see the exhibition: Between Life and Death - Stories of Rescue During the Holocaust at Swiss Cottage Library.

In this newsletter, we have also featured a few events taking place a little further ahead in August and September.

Events in this newsletter are in the first instance events directly supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London, with a small number of additional selected events we consider particularly worthy of recommendation.

Stay connected with us on FB ([Polish Cultural Institute](#)), Instagram ([@polish_culture](#)) and X ([@PL_InstLondon](#)) for updates and details on all our events and more.

Happy Browsing!

Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 July
POLISH CODEBREAKING FESTIVAL

CREATIVE FAMILY WORKSHOPS | FOOD | MUSIC
DANCING | TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS | AND MORE

In partnership with
POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London

FESTIVAL/HISTORY/MUSIC

Polish Codebreaking Festival Bletchley Park, 25 -26th July

This summer Bletchley Park and the Polish Cultural Institute together with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Enigma Centre from Poznan, invite you to discover a powerful story of ingenuity, collaboration and determination.

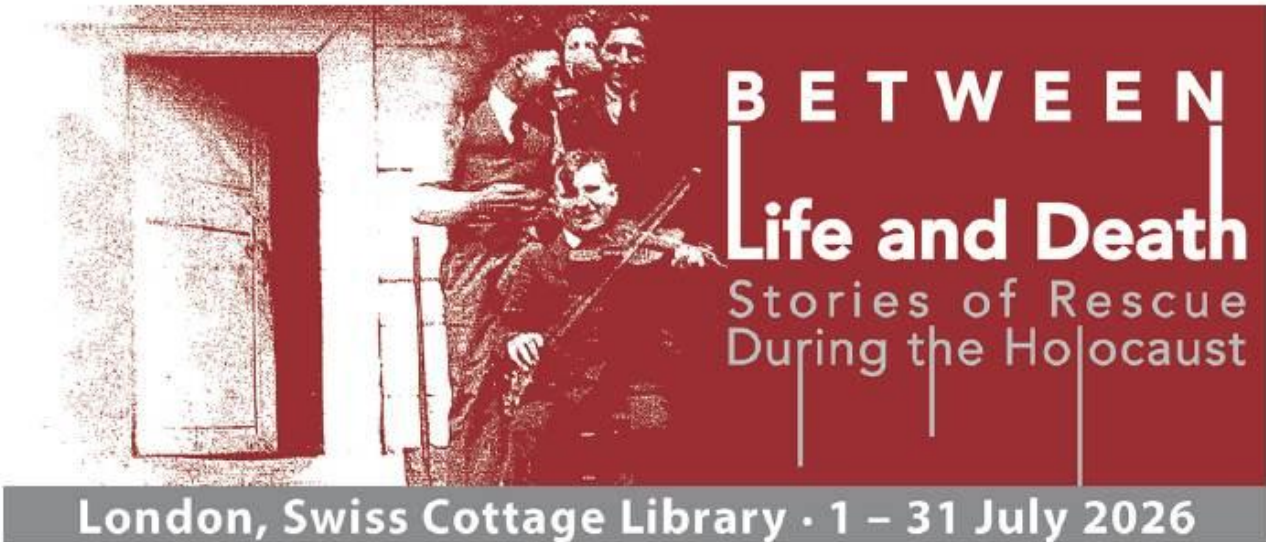
Across one vibrant weekend, explore how early Enigma breakthroughs by Polish mathematicians and intelligence pioneers helped shape and influence the codebreaking work at Bletchley Park. Through conversation, music, creativity and discovery, this festival invites you to explore and celebrate codebreaking history.

Please note, in order to get entry to the festival, you need to purchase a ticket for admission for Bletchley Park for the day of the festival you wish to attend. Each admission ticket also allows repeated entry to Bletchley Park for one year.

Highlights of the programme include:

- Talks with Bletchley Park historians on the connection between Bletchley Park and Polish codebreaking, two talks with author and historian Clare Mulley on the life of Krzystyna Skarbek and Elbieta Zawacka and a Talk with experts from the Enigma Cipher Centre on Polish wartime intelligence and cryptology,
- Special Saturday Evening Talk on "[Polish Codebreaking and Bletchley Park](#)" from Dr Marek Grajek, Sir Dermot Turing and Dr David Kenyon (Ticketed separately)
- Enigma demonstration by experts from Enigma Cipher Centre, Poznań
- Creative Family Workshops
- Music & Dance Performances - Jazz from Elwira Rejnowicz, songs from the 1940s by Katy Carr and Polish folk dance by Mazury dance company
- Polish Food from On'On Grill & Pierogi.

See the Full Programme & Book Tickets [HERE](#)



Partners:



Exhibition Between Life and Death: Stories of Rescue during the Holocaust, UK Tour, Swiss Cottage Library 1 - 31 July 2026, 7th July official opening, 18:00

FREE

1st - 31st July, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HA

This traveling exhibition is the result of a collaborative effort between the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and the Silent Heroes Memorial Centre in Berlin. First presented in Brussels in 2018, *Between Life and Death* has since been shown in numerous European countries and even in Japan, reaching thousands of visitors worldwide.

The exhibition features accounts from survivors and rescuers across fifteen European countries, providing a comprehensive and moving perspective on the moral choices made during the Second World War. The British chapter of the exhibition highlights several significant stories, including that of Eva Paddock, who arrived in the UK as a child on one of the transports organized by the renowned Sir Nicholas Winton. Also featured are the remarkable stories of sisters Ida and Louise Cook, London-based women who played a pivotal role in helping Jewish refugees by smuggling valuables across borders and supporting refugees upon their arrival in the UK. In recognition of their bravery, the Cook sisters were honored as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem in 1964.

For further details about the exhibition's UK tour and to learn more about the stories it tells, visit the official ENRS website at [this link](#).

The official opening of the exhibition at Swiss Cottage Library will take place on the 7th July at 18:00 GMT with special guests including representatives of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS) - No need to book, just turn up.

The Polish Cultural Institute is one of the partners of the exhibition.





THEATRE

[The Morality of Mrs. Dulka, Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, 8-11th July](#)

How far would you go to hide a scandal?

This July, Copernicana CIC and firstlight Theatre bring Gabriela Zapolska's fiercely funny Polish masterpiece to [The Bear Pit Theatre](#). Marking its 120th anniversary, this biting comedy satire explores family tensions, money, and the lengths a matriarch will go to protect her social standing.

Brought to life by a blend of local Warwickshire talent and international artists, this home-grown production promises a hilarious yet painfully accurate look at public respectability versus private reality.

Supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London

Find out more and book tickets, [HERE](#)

Polish Air Force Day Battle of Britain Bunker

"A Fight For Victory
&
A Freedom Lost"



HISTORY

Polish Air Force Day 2026, 11th July 2026

PCI Informs

For history lovers, **Polish Air Force Day 2026** features a full programme of events celebrating the vital contribution of Poland during the Second World War.

The focus of this year's celebrations is '**A Fight For Victory and A Freedom Lost.**' While Polish forces made a vital contribution to Allied victory, their homeland did not regain independence. Instead, Poland came under the control of the Soviet Union, marking the loss of national sovereignty despite their sacrifice.

This unique and poignant history will be explored through a full day of special tours, talks, stalls, and family activities hosted at the **Battle of Britain Bunker** in collaboration with **Polish Heritage Flight** and the **We Have Ways of Making You Talk Independent Company**.

Find out more [HERE](#)





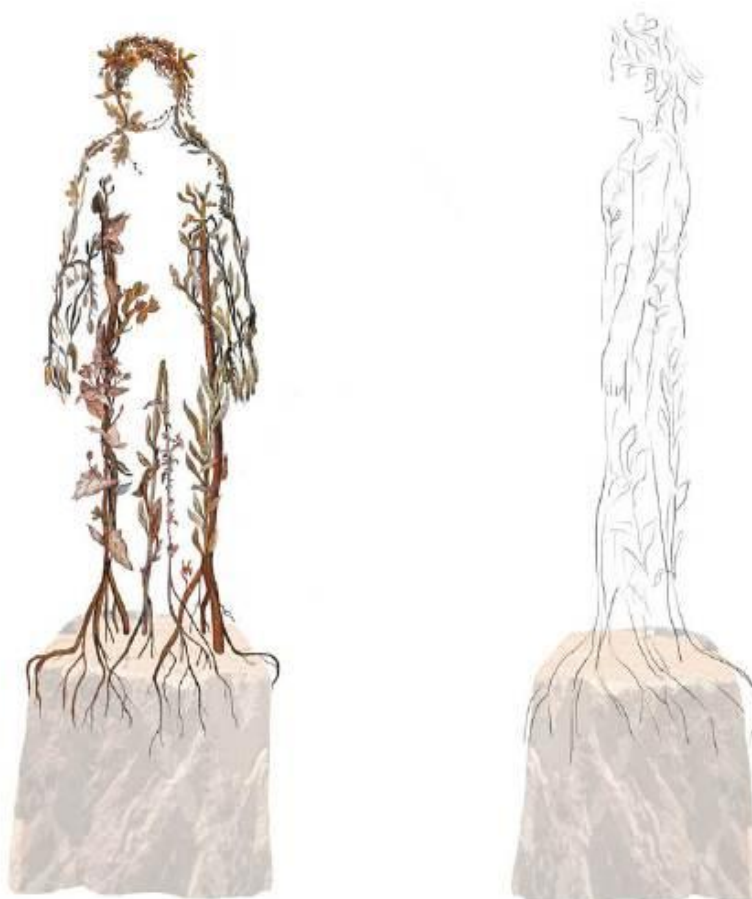
FILM

Polish film screenings around the UK with KINOTEKA On Tour

There is still a chance to see selected films by Andrzej Wajda as part of "Kinoteka on Tour" with screenings in July and August in Hastings and Chichester!

Kinoteka on Tour is an extension of the Kinoteka Polish Film festival and is organised by the Polish Cultural Institute in London with the support of the Polish Film Institute, Di Factory and the Documentary and Feature Film Studios WFDiF.

For more information and to book tickets, See [HERE](#)



NEWS/VISUAL ARTS

New public art sculpture of *Maid Marian*, located in Nottingham, created by Alicja Biala

PCI Informs

Nottingham City Council, [BACKLIT Gallery](#) and It's in Nottingham, are thrilled to announce a vibrant new public artwork will be unveiled this summer.

The artwork, which will be created by artist [Alicja Biala](#) who is renowned for her large-scale paintings and sculptures displayed in public places across Europe.

The statue will be located in the new rain garden at the corner of Maid Marian Way and Upper Parliament Street - a prominent position at a key entrance to the city that will act as a welcome to everyone using the new Maid Marian Way junction and pedestrians using the new public realm.

The statue will be cast and created by the artist this spring and summer, with the public able to get involved through a series of workshops being held at BACKLIT Gallery.

Read the full Press Release [HERE](#)



DESIGN

[Common Ground: Curated Connections. Design, Craft and the City in Dialogue at the London Festival of Architecture, 1st June - mid September 2026](#)

Free

An immersive installation and public programme presents the work of three Polish studios within the Fletcher Priest Architects studio and garden situated within Fleet Street Quarter: Zieta Studio, Pani Jurek and Katarzyna Krej. Running 1 June - mid September 2026, the installations will be open to the public daily from 9.30am - 6.30pm.

Find out more about the project and when you can visit [HERE](#)

Organised by the Creative Project Foundation together with On&On Designs, Fletcher Priest Architects and the Fleet Street Quarter BID (Business Improvement District).

Supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London





Bomsoni Kim during the filming of 'Bacewicz x Bomsoni' (© PWM Edition; photo: Bartek Barczyk)

Sponsored **Features**

The Women Behind Poland's Musical Revolution

19 June 2026 | 4 mins read



MUSIC

[The Women Behind Poland's Musical Revolution, Gramophone Magazine](#)

"Polish musical history is full of surprisingly strong women musicians and composers who exerted significant pressures upon the creative milieu in which they operated".

Learn more about the surge in interest in Poland's female composers in this fascinating article published in Gramophone Magazine.

Read it [HERE](#)



THE POLKA PODCAST

ON POLISH BOOKS. IN ENGLISH.

LITERATURE

THE POLKA PODCAST on Polish Literature Available Now - tune in and uncover Polish Literature! - Third Episode coming mid July

Tune into the exciting new podcast produced by the European Literature Network in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute in London!

Every two months The Polka Podcast will bring you topical news, views and interviews about Polish books in English, to celebrate this new golden age of Polish literature in translation. We'll discuss the best of Polish writing in English: the prose, poetry, non-fiction, reportage, children's literature and graphic novels - all those Polish books you need to know, as well as those we recommend for translation into English.

You can find more information on our websites under the heading The Polka Podcast, at eurolitnetwork.com/the-polka-podcast/ and Instytut Polski w Londynie

The podcast is hosted by **Rosie Goldsmith** and **Anna Blasiak** and is available for free on all your favourite podcast platforms.

Make a date and tune into The Polka Podcast!

SARAH MYERSCOUGH GALLERY

BENEATH THE SKIN





ANETA REGEL

Private View: 25 June
27 June - 7 August

VISUAL ARTS

[Exhibition: 'Beneath The Skin' By Aneta Regel, 27th June - 7th August 2026](#)

PCI Recommends

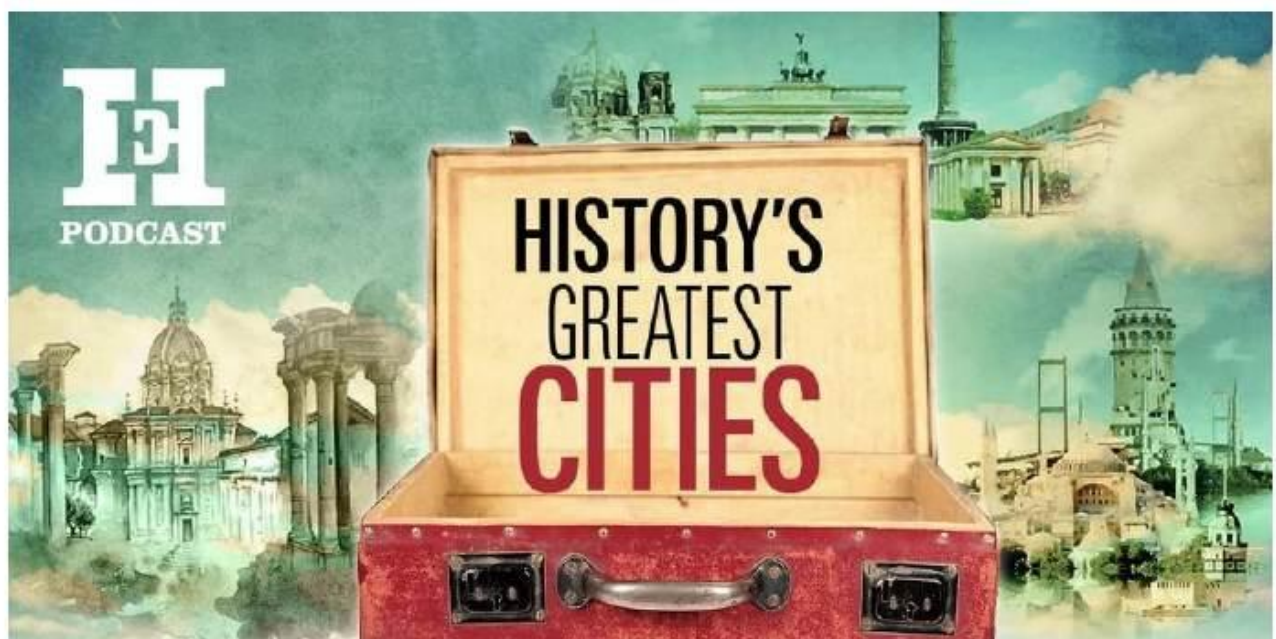
Free

Sarah Myerscough Gallery presents *Beneath The Skin*, the highly anticipated second solo exhibition by acclaimed ceramic sculptor [Aneta Regel](#).

Featuring over 20 radical, hand-built vessels, the collection is inspired by the biting winters, folklore, and post-glacial landscapes of Poland. Moving away from her previous focus on exterior textures, Regel's new work prioritises hollow, mysterious internal spaces. By layering smooth porcelain with rough stone and firing each piece multiple times, she captures the raw, unpredictable beauty of shifting northern landscapes.

Find out more [HERE](#)

Explore the artist [HERE](#)



HISTORY

[History's Greatest Cities Podcast - Episode on Krakow](#)

PCI Informs

Travel writer and history buff Paul Bloomfield and Oxford historian Professor Natalia Nowakowska guide us through the streets, squares and stories of the ancient city of Kraków in this podcast from History Extra, Britain's bestselling history magazine and award-winning podcast.

Listen [HERE](#)



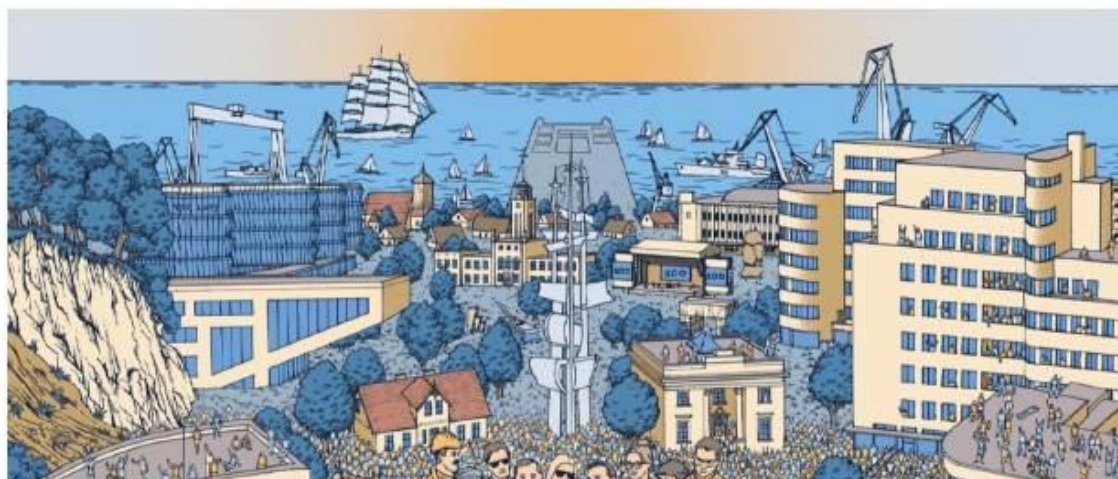
LITERATURE/ NEWS

[EBRD Literature Prize 2026 finalists announced f.t. "Ice" by Jacek Dukaj](#)

"Ice" by Jacek Dukaj, translated from Polish by Ursula Phillips has been chosen as one of the three finalists for the EBRD Literature Prize 2026.

The winner will be unveiled at an awards ceremony in July.

More Information [HERE](#)





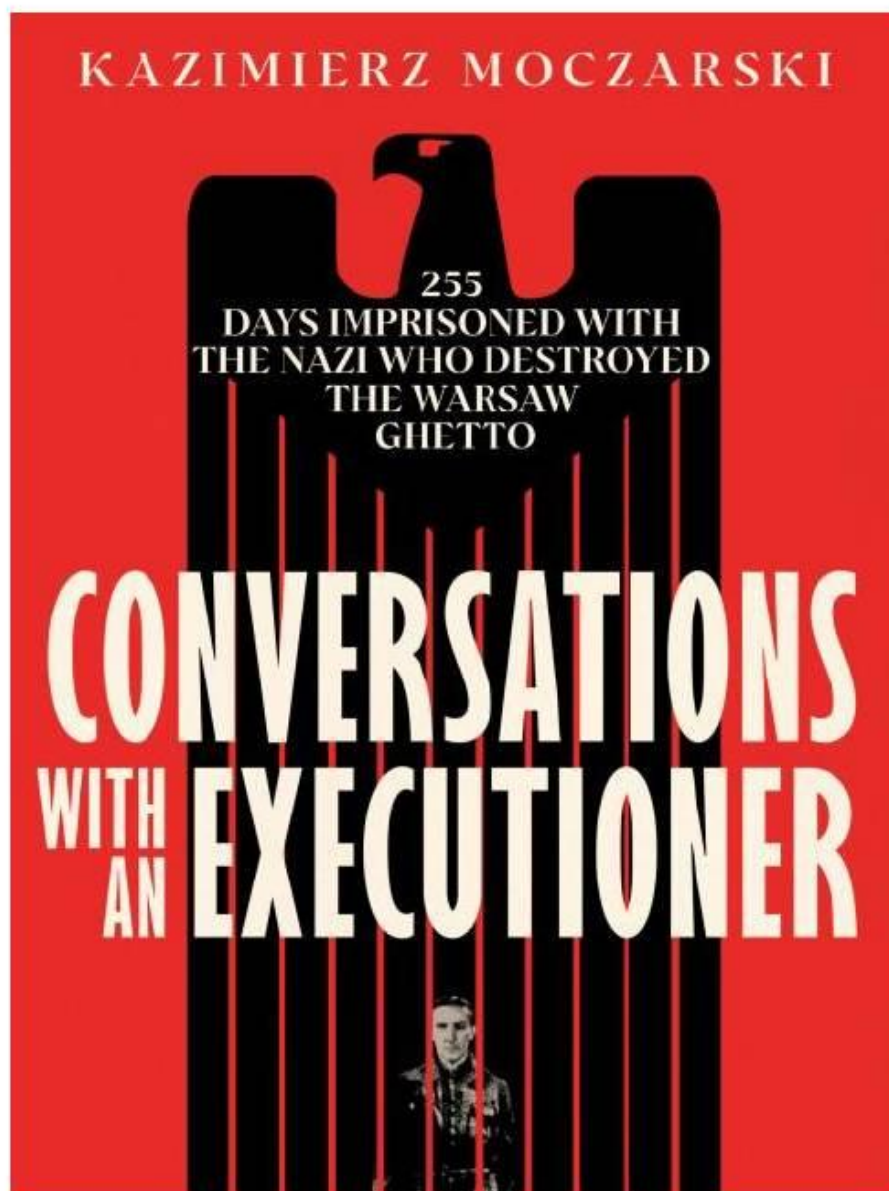
NEWS

[Programme of celebrations for the 100th birthday of the Polish city of Gdynia - all year](#)

Visiting the Polish coast this summer? In 2026, the coastal city of Gdynia celebrates its centenary. This is a truly unique anniversary, one that goes beyond official ceremonies; it is an invitation to come together, to be together, to celebrate as one and to experience a city that, from the very beginning, was conceived as a shared project.

Check out the full programme of events celebrating the centenary [HERE](#)

SUMMER READS...





LITERATURE/HISTORY

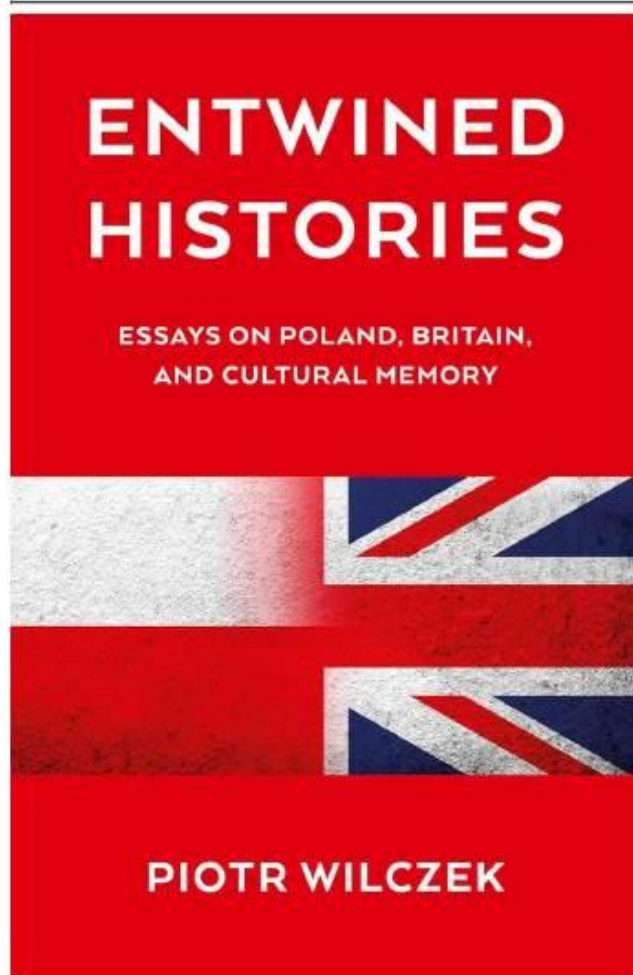
[New publication - Conversations with an Executioner by Kazimierz Moczarski, published 14th May](#)

PCI Recommends

Never before published in the United Kingdom, Moczarski's 'Conversations with an Executioner' is a book of enormous historical importance, written in masterful prose by a writer who tragically wouldn't survive to see his work published. Translated by Sean Gasper Bye and published by Duckworth Books.

Stay tuned for events supporting the promotion of the book this autumn, supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

Find out more and where to Buy the book [HERE](#)



LITERATURE/HISTORY

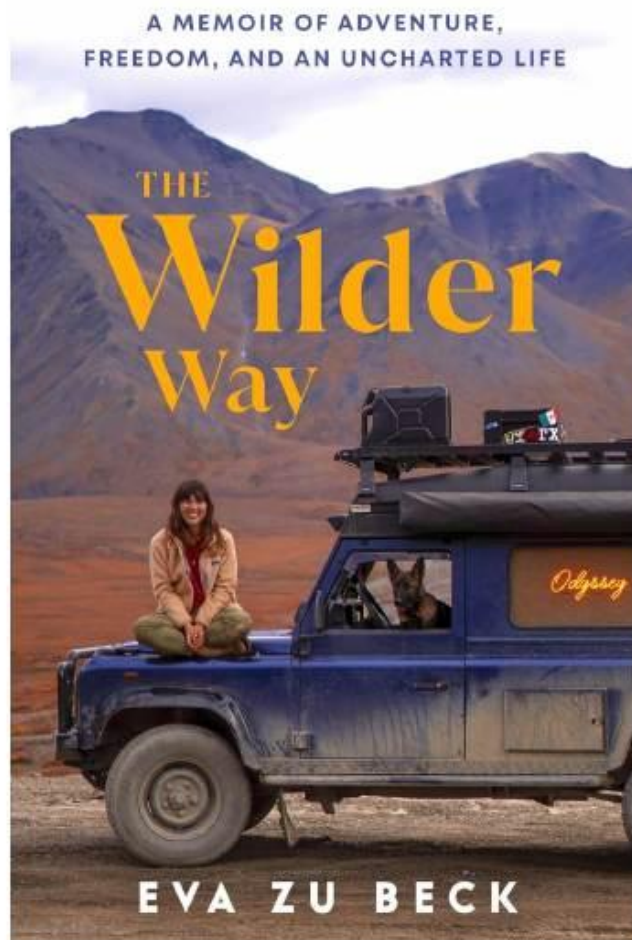
[New publication - Entwined Histories: Essays on Poland, Britain, and Cultural Memory, published 26th May](#)

PCI Recommends

A diplomatic and literary journey through history, identity, and memory written by writer, scholar,

diplomat and former Polish Ambassador to the UK Piotr Wilczek.

Read more and buy the book [HERE](#)



LITERATURE

[The Wilder Way: A Memoir of Adventure, Freedom and an Uncharted Life by Eva zu Beck - published 7th May](#)

PCI Informs

Eva Zu Beck is a professional storyteller, travel TV host, and an avid adventurer of Polish heritage whose Instagram following counts over 1 million followers. She is also one of the world's leading female adventure YouTubers. Alongside her YouTube and Instagram channels, Eva is the host and director of her own National Geographic show, Superskilled, currently in its second season.

This book is the world-expanding memoir of Eva journeying through the world on her own terms - and inspiring example of what awaits when you take the wilder path.

Find out more and where to Buy the book [HERE](#)

Read more about Eva zu Beck on her website [HERE](#)



The Acrobat

Poems

Wisława Szymborska

Winner of the
Nobel Prize
in Literature



LITERATURE

[New Publication - The Acrobat by Wisława Szymborska, published 16th July](#)

Never before published in the United Kingdom, an English version of Szymborska's 'The Acrobat', translated by **Clare Cavanagh**, is being released by **Faber Books** on **July 16th 2026**.

These intimate, immediate poems were written during the precarious years of Soviet occupation in Poland. Rooted in the pains and joys of the everyday, they ask us what it means to live out our

lives amid global conflict and its aftermath. Underlying Szymborska's work is a continual sense of astonishment at having survived, as well as the disbelief and delight that life goes on - that the acrobat's hands have caught the trapeze.

Featuring Szymborska's Nobel Prize acceptance speech as an afterword.

Find out more and Buy the Book [HERE](#)

FURTHER AHEAD...



THEATRE

[Fat and Dumb 'Very' Trilogy @ Edinburgh Fringe, 10th - 15th August, Big at theSpaceTriplex, Edinburgh](#)

At this years **Edinburgh Fringe** watch a series of three performances by Artistic duet [Fat and Dumb](#) : [Patrycja Kowańska](#) (FAT) and [Dominika Knapik](#) (DUMB) in which they construct a tragicomic, bold and taboo-free narrative about the friendship of two freelance artists navigating the precarious theatre market.

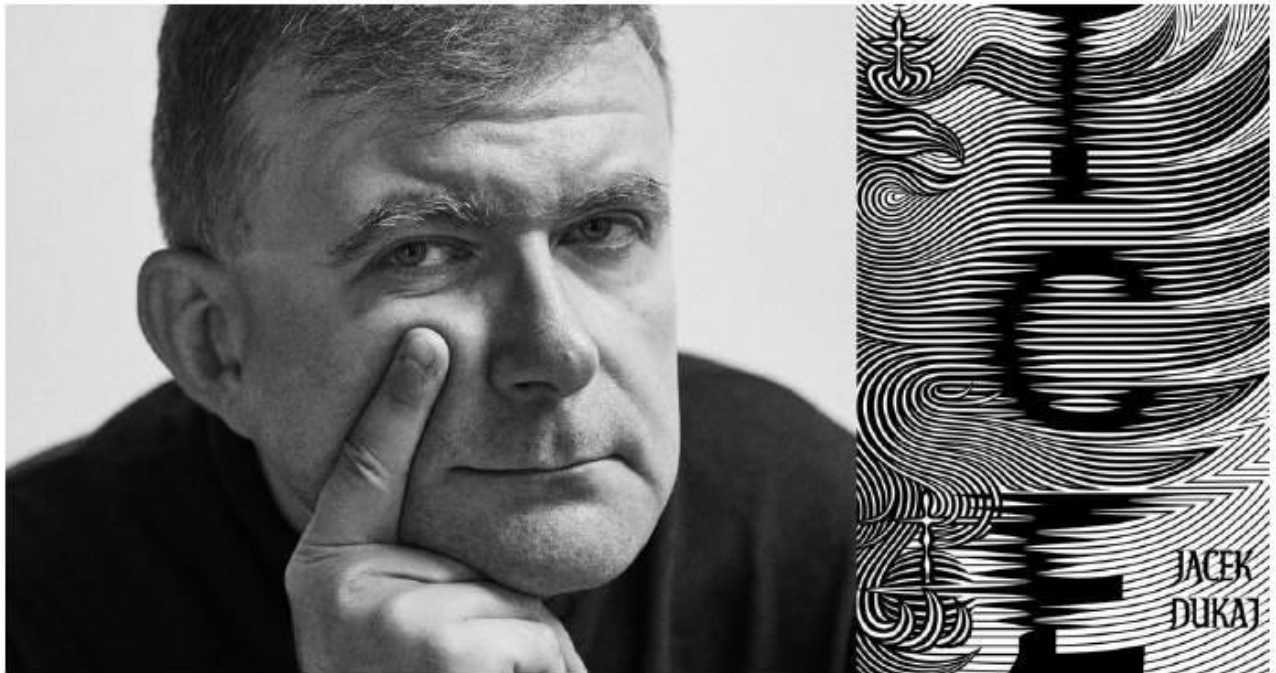
Their Trilogy includes the following performances:

- **VERY FUNNY:** In which they embody Shakespearean fools, confronting their bodies and professional roles with the figure of the artist-genius. Exposing stereotypes, speaking about their own ambitions, insecurities, and creative work. [TICKETS](#)
- **VERY SAD:** An auto-ironic performance focused on aging bodies and psychophysical exhaustion. A form of "sit-up" (stand-up already hurts). A musical trifle about illness, shame, and transience. Very sad, and therefore very funny. [TICKETS](#)
- **VERY CHEAP:** A cabaret-philosophical story about capitalism and the (valuation) of art. Fat and Dumb compare making art to sex work, examining what authenticity and desire are within a system that turns everything into a commodity. [TICKETS](#)

Supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London

Find out more about Edinburgh Fringe Festival [HERE](#)

Find out more about Fat & Dumb [HERE](#)



LITERATURE

[Step into an Eternal Winter: Jacek Dukaj's *Ice* at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Thursday 27 August 2026](#)

Prepare to have your literary reality frozen and rewritten. We are thrilled to highlight one of the most anticipated adult fiction events at this year's [Edinburgh International Book Festival](#).

Join visionary Polish author **Jacek Dukaj** and acclaimed translator **Ursula Phillips** as they dive into the chilling world of *Ice*, a masterpiece of alternate history.

The Story

In Dukaj's mind-bending epic, the 1908 Tunguska asteroid crash plunges the Earth into a permanent, freezing winter. History itself stops moving forward. Follow a young Polish mathematician sent deep into a radically altered, dreamlike Siberia where he must navigate a deranged reality suspended between Polish and Russian tensions.

The Event

Dukaj and Phillips will take the stage to discuss the immense challenge and artistry of translating this audacious, complex world into English. The conversation will be expertly guided by chair **Uilleam Blacker**.

Learn more information and book tickets [HERE](#)





MUSIC

[Polish Jazz Festival London 2026, 11th - 27th Sep 2026](#)

The UK's only festival dedicated exclusively to Polish jazz returns this September!

From 11th to 27th September 2026, the **Polish Jazz Festival London** returns for its second edition following a soldout first edition in 2025. This year, the festival expands across iconic city venues like **Cadogan Hall, Union Chapel, and Kings Place**. This ambitious two-week celebration brings together legendary pioneers of the Polish music scene and a bold new generation reshaping European jazz, with music spanning jazz, folk, classical, and experimental genres.

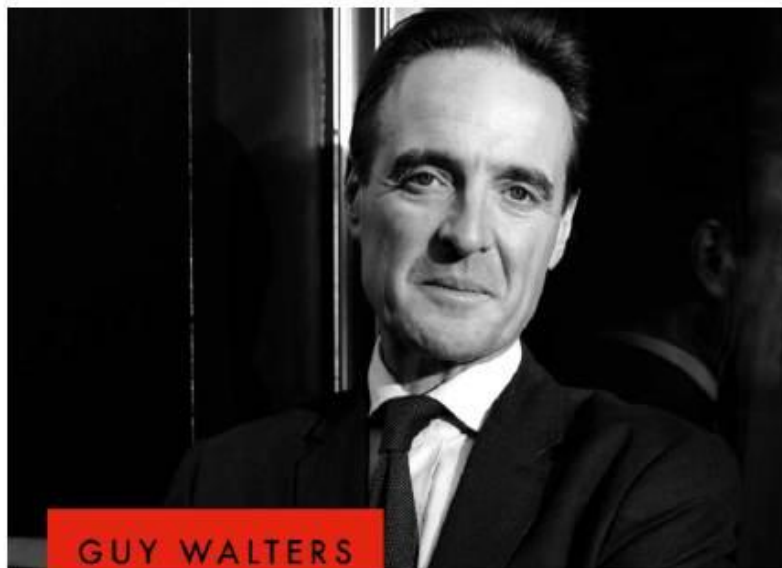
Full Festival Programme:

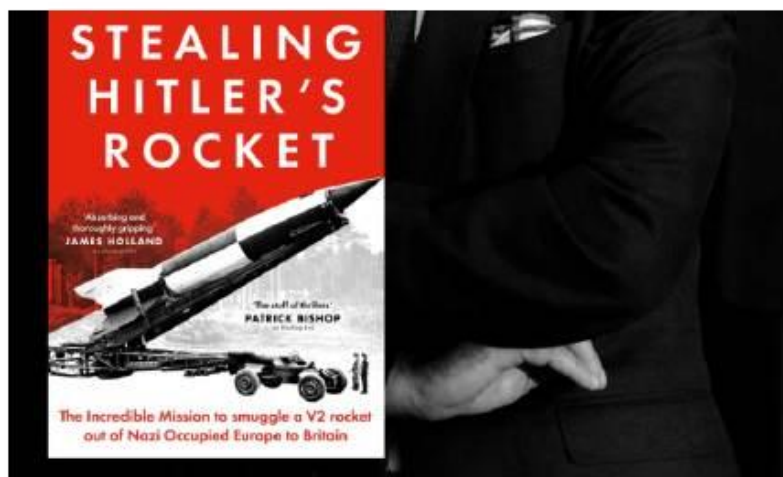
- **11 Sept (19:30) | Cadogan Hall:** Opening Gala featuring EABS & Wojtek Mazolewski Quintet.
- **12 Sept (17:15) | Cadogan Hall:** Kayah presents *Jazzayah*.
- **12 Sept (20:00) | Cadogan Hall:** Vocal icon Urszula Dudziak.
- **13 Sept (18:00) | Union Chapel:** Warsaw Jazz Takeover with Marcin Masecki Trio, HVMBLE, and Warsaw Village Band.
- **26 Sept (18:00) | Cadogan Hall:** *Chopin Residue* project featuring Adrian Utley, John Stanier, and Sean O'Hagan.
- **26 Sept (20:30) | Cadogan Hall:** Leszek Mozdzer - An Evening with Komeda.
- **27 Sept (20:00) | Kings Place:** Closing Concert with rising stars Kosmonauci.

Tickets are already selling fast and are expected to sell-out well before the concert dates, so early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

The Polish Cultural Institute in London is one of the supporters of the festival.

Find out more and book tickets [HERE](#)





HISTORY

[Talk - Stealing Hitler's Rocket: Smuggling a V-2 Rocket out of Nazi-occupied Europe with Guy Walters, 3rd October, National Army Museum](#)

Discover the thrilling true story of the Nazi rocket terror and the brave resistance fighters who exposed it.

In June 1944, Adolf Hitler unleashed the world's first rocket-delivered warheads on London. First came the V1 "Doodle Bugs," followed by the terrifying, supersonic V2 rockets. Striking out of thin air with zero warning, these weapons caused over 30,000 casualties and left hundreds of thousands of Londoners homeless. But Allied forces were not completely blind to the threat.

In this gripping talk, historian Guy Walters reveals how Winston Churchill's intelligence chiefs knew about the V2 weeks before it struck. Learn how the Polish resistance risked everything to spy on secret Nazi test sites in Eastern Europe, providing the vital intelligence Britain needed to prepare for the day of reckoning.

Book Your Tickets [HERE](#)

Learn more about the full festival line-up [HERE](#)