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**Welcome to Humanity Hallows, Manchester Metropolitan University’s official student magazine.**

Firstly, congratulations to our Student Photography Competition winner: Georgia Beth Hurdsfield. Our followers loved your photo ‘One man in Salford Quays’ and so did we. Well done!

This issue is packed with lots of great Manchester-themed features. We’ve got an interview with the one and only Manchester music legend Johnny Marr, talking about his new autobiography, writer and Manchester Writing School Director Adam O’Riordan, Manchester band Sly Antics, Manchester fashion, and up and coming Manchester poet and winner of the Bridport Prize Mark Pajak. We also have lots of hints and tips for students, including how to move successfully from halls to a house and how to make the most of an exchange year.

If you’re a Manchester Met student looking to get involved in a new project this year, we are always looking for writers, illustrators, filmmakers, photographers, designers on an ongoing basis to help make Humanity Hallows an informed, inspiring, witty and opinionated collection of student voices and talents that make our city brilliant. All current students and alumni are invited get involved. For more information turn to page 48.

Enjoy!

Jacqueline Grima
(Student Editor-in-Chief)

Humanity Hallows, Manchester Metropolitan University’s official student magazine, is a Student Media Make a Difference project run by the IDEA office based in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

For information on upcoming features, advertising opportunities and more contact: N.Carragher@mmu.ac.uk

Natalie Carragher
(Student Media Officer)
Since 1982, Afflecks, formerly known as Afflecks Palace, has dominated Manchester’s Northern Quarter with its alternative shopping experience. The centre is an emporium of diverse spaces where customers can buy anything from a top hat to a tattoo, or even get themselves a haircut.

The indoor marketplace was first opened by James and Elaine Walsh in the early 1980s, with the aim of offering emerging entrepreneurs an affordable place to grow their businesses.

In March 2008, Afflecks Palace closed, reopening a month later as ‘Afflecks’ under new landlords and current management Bruntwood Estates. Fans feared that Afflecks would be redeveloped under the new management and that Manchester’s mecca of alternative culture would be lost. These fears were thankfully quashed when Bruntwood told the BBC, “Never in our 30 year history have we bought one of our customers’ businesses, but Afflecks is a Manchester icon that we wanted to protect.”

To this day Afflecks stands strong as a cultural landmark of Manchester and homes over 60 outlets. Whether you were buying tie-dyed t-shirts in the 90s ‘Madchester’ Summer of Love, after the latest Happy Mondays records in ‘Eastern Bloc’, or getting your first tattoo/body piercing, Afflecks has always been, and always will continue to be, central to the history and culture of Manchester.

Among the vintage and retro clothing outlets and tattoo and body piercing parlours are other, more quirky, spaces including Fudge Ape, a dedicated fudge shop with every imaginable flavour, and The Foxy Fairy, where you may find one-of-a-kind jewellery pieces, greetings cards and gifts. We take a look at some more of our favourites...

Words: Daniel J. Broadley
Photography: Agota Juškaite

Exploring Afflecks and what it means to our city

No Angel
Based on the 1st floor, No Angel was established in 1995 by Amy Wainwright, a fashion graduate from Salford University. The business has since grown and has become a showcase for new designers. There is a huge selection of one-off designs not found on the high street, and is said to have been frequented by Blondie singer Debbie Harry.

Jutah Studios
One of the newest stores is Jutah Studios who occupy a space on the second floor and are specialists in international streetwear. Connie Page, of Jutah Studios, says, “Afflecks is very independent and people love the area; it’s perfectly placed in the Northern Quarter. If there is any part of you that would like to undercut the big corporations, then come down and say hello.”

Black Milk
Whether it’s for breakfast, lunch or simply a snack, cereal is never a bad idea. This isn’t just the regular old pour-in-the-bowl, add-the-milk-and-you’re-done cereal either. At Black Milk, there are huge selections of cereals from around the world to choose from. Then, to top it off, you can pick toppings, like Smarties or Oreos, to add. And it doesn’t end there. You can then choose the flavour of milk you would like! This isn’t just cereal, this is genius.

Afflecks has stood the test of time and won’t be going anywhere anytime soon, so if you fancy something different to the hectic commercialised shopping centres, you know where to go.

Afflecks: 52 Church Street, Manchester, M4 1PW
afflecks.com

“If there is any part of you that would like to undercut the big corporations, then come down and say hello.”
Top 5

1. **Crazy Pedros Part Time Pizza Parlour**
   Hungry? You will be...
   For those who like a little party with their pizza, Crazy Pedro’s is the perfect choice. With a £5 lunch menu (£6 if you’re having a beer), you can enjoy a fiesta feast without breaking the bank. With great tunes, amazing food and a friendly, house party vibe, a couple of hours at Crazy Pedro’s is always memorable – if you don’t stay around for the tequila!
   Crazy Pedros, 55-57 Bridge St, M3 3BQ & Crazy Pedros NQ, Short Street, M1 1JG

2. **Turtle Bay**
   Boasting an amazing range of Caribbean flavours, the reasonably priced menu at Turtle Bay will leave you sprit for choice. While you’re struggling to decide what to order, you can order a cocktail and soak up the fun and reggae atmosphere. A short walk from Manchester Met and University of Manchester campuses, Turtle Bay’s Oxford Street site is perfect for lunch, while the Northern Quarter restaurant is a great place to start a night out. Just go easy on the hot sauce!
   Turtle Bay, 33-35 Oxford St, M1 4WB

3. **Changos Burrito Bar**
   Recently opened on Oxford Street, Changos Burrito Bar is fast becoming a student favourite – and for good reason. With nothing on the menu over £5, you can grab a decent-sized burrito on the go or relax with mates over a beer in the spacious dining room. Don’t be put off by the queues; the service is quick and you’ll be rewarded with a tasty and authentic Mexican street food experience.
   Changos, St James Building, 91-93 Oxford St, M1 6ET

4. **Dogs ‘n’ Dough**
   Tucked away down an alley just off Albert Square, Dogs ‘n’ Dough’s green neon sign guides you to an underground gem. Put on your loose fitting pants and get ready to indulge in some stateside-sized treats in a fun and varied atmosphere. A short walk from Manchester Met and University of Manchester campuses, Dogs ‘n’ Dough’s Oxford Street site is perfect for lunch, while the Northern Quarter restaurant is a great place to start a night out. Just go easy on the hot sauce!
   Dogs ‘n’ Dough, Bow Lane, M2 4JW

5. **B.Eat Street**
   For the ultimate street food fix you can’t B.Eat (sorry) this now permanent pop up. With European, Caribbean, Indonesian, Indian, Chinese and US-style grills and stalls regularly in residence, you can satisfy all of your picky mates in one awesome venue. As the name suggests, once you’ve eaten there’s no need to go far - the rooftop terrace party goes on well into the night with regular guest DJs.
   B.Eat Street, Deansgate Mew, 235 Deansgate, M3 4EN

Manchester bands to watch out for in 2017

2016 was the undisputed year of Manchester’s indi-pop heroes Blossoms, who scored the best-selling debut album of the year with their self-titled release, filled up indie dancefloors with hoky single ‘Charlemagne’ and ended the year with the announcement that they would be headlining a gig at Castlefield Bowl. Quite the year for the Stockport five-piece, but as we say goodbye to the year of Blossoms, Hive Radio looks to the future to bring you five more bands to watch out for in 2017...

5: **Cabbage**
   Much has already been said about Manchester buzz band Cabbage in the last 12 months but 2017 could prove to be a big year for music’s unluckiest heroes with an air of inevitability about the release of their debut album. Having declared their first song ‘Kevin’ “the worst song they’ve ever written”, Cabbage have had a productive year releasing four EPs of politically motivated indie rock. Having supported Blossoms on a recent tour, Cabbage are now booked to support Courtneers at their massive homecoming show at Old Trafford Cricket Ground. Quite the achievement for a band with the same name as a vegetable.

4: **The Hyena Kill**
   With powerful drums and distorted guitar riffs, this Manchester duo are the perfect blend of Royal Blood and Filter. Their 8 track debut ‘Atomised’ was released earlier in 2016 and was characterised by singer/guitarist Steven Dobbs’ searing vocals over drummer Lorna Broadley’s bruta backbeat. They recently headlined a gig at Asma in Manchester’s Northern Quarter. Coverage from Kerrang would suggest an exciting year in prospect for this two-piece.

3: **PALE WAVES**
   A cross between Peace and Honeyblood, PALE WAVES have forged a sizeable fan base since their formation in 2015 on the strength of their indie dream pop sound and catchy hooks on releases ‘Heavenly’ and ‘The Tide’. Frontwoman Heather breezes her vocals over hazy guitar riffs to create a summer soundscape sure to brighten the dreariest of Manchester evenings. Having recently played The Deaf Institute, the future is looking as bright as the music for PALE WAVES.

2: **Ist Ist**
   Hailing from Stockport, the music of Ist Ist stays in your head with an almost subtle ferocity. Their driving riffs and crashing drums are overlaid with frontman Adam’s relentless baritone which could make even Ian Curtis feel uneasy. Clearly influenced by Joy Division, Ist Ist recently sold out The Soup Kitchen back in September on the strength of their two songs released so far, ‘White Swan’ and ‘Night’s Arm’. Ist Ist are set to headline a show at Sacred Trinity Church on February 3rd which could kickstart their rise in 2017.

1: **Whyte Horses**
   Formed in 2014 by Manchester musician Dom Thomas, Whyte Horses released their debut album ‘Pop or Not’ in 2016 which was a 17 track dizzying mix of psychedelia with catchy pop melodies. Having performed live in session on BBC 6 Music, Whyte Horses performed their album in full at The Dancehouse with special guest appearances from the likes of Badly Drawn Boy and Stealing Sheep. To judge their future by their album, Whyte Horses could only be described as unpredictable. But they’re all the more exciting for it.
Interview: Lucy Madeleine Watson

Johnny Marr has had an incomparable career. In 1982, he founded The Smiths, a band that would go on to change the alternative rock genre indefinitely. He has since enjoyed a successful career recording and performing with a selection of artists, including Electronic – a collaboration between Marr and New Order’s Bernard Sumner – and American rock band Modest Mouse, as well as The Cribs. We talk to him as he shares all in his autobiography Set The Boy Free.

SET THE BOY FREE

Johnny Marr has had an incomparable career. In 1982, he founded The Smiths, a band that would go on to change the alternative rock genre indefinitely. He has since enjoyed a successful career recording and performing with a selection of artists, including Electronic – a collaboration between Marr and New Order’s Bernard Sumner – and American rock band Modest Mouse, as well as The Cribs. We talk to him as he shares all in his autobiography Set The Boy Free.

To date, Marr has contributed to sixteen studio albums, including two solo albums, and has appeared as a guest musician on numerous projects. We meet in Manchester’s Night & Day Café, a favourite venue of Johnny’s. “I’ve got really close ties with this place,” he explains. “Compared to other bars, this place is really easy to be around.”

Last year, Marr released his long-anticipated autobiography, Set The Boy Free, a collection of poignant childhood experiences, career highs and lows, and insights into his songwriting. He explains how the memoir came about: “I liked the idea of writing a book and something told me that if I didn’t do it soon, I would never get around to it. I didn’t want to write a novel, so I thought the autobiography would be a good place to start.”

The guitarist joined his friend and composer Hans Zimmer on a select number of dates for his recent European tour, but admits he still found time to schedule writing sessions.

“Sometimes I’d be in a hotel room for ten hours, just writing. I don’t want it to sound like it was a chore because there was so much joy in a lot of it and a sense of achievement. I enjoyed the process; it was great.”

What was his vision for Set The Boy Free? “I didn’t want it to be a ‘boys with guitars’ thing. I made a definite decision that I was going to write about some of the songwriting processes because I felt that people would like the story of how ‘There is a Light’ was written and how ‘How Soon is Now’ was recorded. I think people who are interested in me, and particularly in The Smiths, are going to want to know how it felt when we recorded ‘Hand In Glove’ or ‘This Charming Man’.”

Marr recounts the moment he knocked on Steven Morrissey’s front door – Morrissey a then 23-year-old writer in an oversized cardigan – and asked him to front his new band. They bonded, instantly, and he explains why he and Morrissey worked so well as songwriting partners: “It’s not just upbeat music with sad lyrics. Sometimes it’s completely the opposite and that tells you even more about mine and Morrissey’s relationship.
My understanding of his sadness equaled my partner's understanding of my joy, and vice-versa. Sometimes I would be the intense one and he would be the jolly one. We were both coming from the same place, a place of poignancy and fundamental emotion."

Despite the split and everything that followed, Marr's memoir includes some wonderful perceptions of his and Morrissey's friendship. One standout moment involves the pair leaning into one another over a tape recorder, with Marr hunched over his guitar.

"I was trying to not let it fall between my knees," he laughs, demonstrating the arched pose. "The two of us in this little space, knowing that we were creating something really special."

Marr says the last time he and Morrissey saw another was in 2008. Is the partnership really over?

"We've emailed each other since then, back and forth, but we don't really need to talk that much."

Set The Boy Free isn't just for fans of The Smiths. Shortly after their demise, Marr joined The The – an alternative rock band fronted by Matt Johnson.

"Not everybody that follows me thinks The Smiths is the best thing I've done. There are loads of people who love The The and don't really like The Smiths very much. 'Slow Emotion Replay' is a contender for one of my favourite things I've ever done."

Johnny and his family moved to Portland, Oregon in 2006 to join American rock band Modest Mouse, a time in his life of which he is particularly proud.

"I didn't expect that I would spend a significant amount of my career in an American band. Isaac Brock is an incredible lyricist and I was really fascinated by what he was writing. Even if it was weird lines like, 'Tiny Giants made of Tinker Giants.' I'd be listening thinking, 'Did he really just sing that?' It was the best time of my life and it was very successful. I think that has surprised a few people because I'm so identified with The Smiths."

Marr describes how it felt when he knew it was working: "I remember sitting in a studio in Mississippi and I had a moment of clarity, where I looked around and took a picture of that situation. I've been around long enough to know that it was a special combination of people. The chemistry was amazing. It's all part of my career now and I couldn't swap those moments for the world."

As much as he enjoyed life on the west coast of America, the musician says there is something about being a creative in Manchester that he can't give up. Now, Johnny is a patron of the Manchester Modernist Society, a group dedicated to celebrating post-war architecture and design in the North West of England.

"They get together and put on talks, and go on historical walks around the city. The talks will be on the lines of: Town Planning in the early '70s and how that relates to brutalism."

He explains a term that he came across during a conversation, which perfectly describes his affinity for architecture and place:

"I'm interested in psycho-geography. It's to do with information that you take in from your environment and the atmosphere of your surroundings. Manchester's a fascinating place and I started to bring a lot of that interest into my songs."

"With my song 'Dynamo,' I wanted to write a love song but I didn't know how to get around doing the obvious. So I ended up thinking, why don't I just write a song about a building? Because I can say things about certain buildings that I wouldn't normally say about a person."

Does he think that there is such a thing as a Manchester sound?

"It's a valid question, not just because of the amount of music that comes out of here. There's a sound in Buzzcocks from the late '70s and Oasis, twenty-five years later, and all points in between. Even though the bands may be completely different, it has a Northern quality to it. You can't underestimate the significance of the industrial revolution on anything creative and cultural in Manchester."

He elaborates on personal experience:

"Growing up as a creative person, you need to get out of the rain and put some colour into your life. If you're growing up in a grey and wet place, it's pretty good to make rock music, and that's why Joy Division come from Manchester and not Australia."

Growing up as a first generation Mancunian with Irish parents, Marr says his family's attitude towards music was more of a way of life than entertainment.

"People would literally push the furniture back just to play instruments and dance. I noticed that when my friends' parents listened to records it would be at Christmas or on a weekend at best, whereas my family, they'd be rocking on a Monday night."

With Set The Boy Free, Marr wanted to avoid addressing 'Rock Star Neurosis' and insists that he lives with a positive outlook. However, like anybody, he has his moments:

"Anguish and doubt, and feeling fucked up like anybody else. Sharing insecurities, doubts and human failings is absolutely fantastic. I think that if you're a creative person and you don't work, you'd go mad. There's something going off in my mind that says, 'if you don't make a record or go on tour, then you're probably going to end up in the nuthouse.'"

He adds, quickly: "Not everyone's creative though and that's OK. The last thing you need when there's a power cut is a poet."

In 2010, Johnny worked with Hans Zimmer on the score for the film Inception and again in 2014 for The Amazing Spiderman 2, as part of supergroup 'The Magnificent Seven', with Pharrell Williams and producer Junkie XL.

"I prefer working on films that aren't big blockbusters. Inception was the exception because it was just such a great film. I wasn't too crazy about working on Spiderman. It was a great experience but I wouldn't want to do too many times. It felt a little bit like a job. As much as I enjoy professionalism, I never want what I do to feel like 'just a job.'"

Why was working on the Inception score so special?

"Guitars weren't used in movies for years and when they were it was this kind of '90s, guitar shop stuff. And then after Inception, suddenly there were all these twelve string guitars popping up all over the place. I can't take any credit, other than I played it. It was his vision to bring a guitar into the Inception soundtrack. If you're working with people like Hans Zimmer, you haven't got too much to complain about."
Singer, songwriter and poet Leilie Mohseni was born into an artistic family in Iran.

Humanity Hallows speaks to her to find out more about her recent songs, musical inspiration and the art of song writing.

Living through the Iran-Iraq war as a child, Leilie Mohseni began to write lyrics while attending primary school in the south of Iran, exploring the horror of the war in her writing.

Leilie, who has a degree in Film Studies from Salford University, has recently appeared in a short film produced by Manchester Film School called Maryam. Her new music video ‘You’re I was re-released in 2016 and won the Best Poetry Award at The Real Time Film Festival. Humanity Hallows recently caught up with her:

Congratulations on winning The Real Time Film Festival Award! How did it feel when you found out you had won?

I couldn’t believe it! I didn’t expect that a foreign language song would win the year’s Best Poetry Award out of so many strong productions. I am very pleased that the voice of many women from Iran and other Middle Eastern countries has been heard in different parts of the world.

Leilie Mohseni’s new song ‘Burn Me’ has recently appeared in a short film, The Boy Free, which is available to buy now.

A dedicated family man, Marr passes the interview to point out his guitarist son Nile, rehearsing in the back with his band, Man Made, I ask, “It is exciting to see his son choose a similar career.”

“I’m just glad he’s got a job and that he’s good at it. My kids grew up around creative people and they’re artists. My daughter Sunny works in publishing. The thing is that they’ve got a work ethic.”

The Smiths disbanded when Marr was just twenty-three years old. How does he feel when he is defined by something he did at such a young age?

“I wouldn’t say I’m frustrated because I understood it. There’s a big part of me that just always says, ‘You’re really lucky to be known for anything.’ I know that The Smiths were so loved and were such a magical thing to people. I personally like a lot of the other stuff that I’m doing. The bottom line is, I’m a working musician and that’s what defines me. I never get too far away from that.”

Marr exudes great enthusiasm for the younger generation:

“I think it’s important for anyone doing something creative not just to support them, but also to have a tie with the student community and what’s going on with the university, the groundswell of modern thinking.”

With his charisma, passion and unmistakable talent, Humanity Hallows is sure that Johnny Marr will be a huge presence in the music industry for years to come.

Visit leilieohmoseni.com for more from Leilie Mohseni.
Lucy Spraggan talks new music, tour and life after The X Factor

Interview: Pragya Singh

She came, she performed, and she conquered the nation's hearts.

Lucy Spraggan knew from a young age that music was where her heart was and she very quickly made it her home. To celebrate the release of her latest album I Hope You Don't Mind Me Writing, Humanity Hallows chat with the newly-wed singer about her X Factor journey, the events of 2016 and her plans for the future.

You've had an exciting year: a new album, managing your fiancée Georgina in the summer and a new band. How are you in a good place at the minute?

I'm in the best place I've ever been and I say that with so much relief, but also of some pretty dark places, but I feel in a very good place with my career and personal life, too.

You left The X Factor mid way through the live shows due to illness. How do you think your career might have developed if you had stayed?

I haven't given that much thought to be honest. It's taken to be in the now and I'm extremely thankful for the position I am in. I'd be a whole lot more likely to ask questions if I might not have been able to have the same relationship with my fans as I do now. I might not have ever bought my dog or met my wife and I'd never want to change those things.

The videos did have their dangerous moments, however: “I accidently set my legs on fire recording that video. A friend of ours was in the gym and overheard a group of local women chatting about what they'd seen; they thought they were chasing an escaped institute patient. They'd called the police and everything!”

When it comes to new releases, Sly Antics have taken things into their own hands: “We ended up creating our own label, Vixen co-op. When it comes to record releases, Sly Antics have released their album Captive City, with the video for Captive City. The videos did have their dangerous moments, however: “I accidently set my legs on fire recording that video. A friend of ours was in the gym and overheard a group of local women chatting about what they'd seen; they thought they were chasing an escaped institute patient. They'd called the police and everything!”

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Manchester is a city that is uniquely attuned to literature and self-expression.

In 2008, poet and academic Adam O'Riordan became the youngest Poet-in-Residence at Cumbria’s Wordsworth Trust. This accolade was followed in 2011 by a Somerset Maugham Award for his debut poetry collection In the Flesh. This year, Adam took another leap forward in his career when he was appointed the new Academic Director of the Manchester Writing School. Humanity Hallows caught up with him to ask where his passion for poetry came from and how he envisions going forward in his new role.

Interview: Jacqueline Grima

Adam’s collection of short stories The Burning Ground will be released this year by Bloomsbury in the UK and Norton in the USA alongside another poetry collection The Herring Famine, which will be released by Chatto and Windus. He is also currently working on a novel, set in turn-of-the-20th-century Manchester. Is the process of writing a novel different from writing poems?

“People feeling that poetry is something that is open to them is so important. It’s about removing barriers. Fortunately, Manchester is a city where there aren’t those kinds of restrictions. As WB Yeats said, ‘Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.’ And certainly lighting that metaphorical fire among students is the team of established writers and tutors at the Manchester Writing School. Adam’s passion for his new role as Academic Director is clear.

“For the past year, we have been working on our new MFA in Creative Writing programme, which launched in 2016 and which exists in the school which is wonderful.”

How does Adam envision the future of the Manchester Writing School?

“One of the things I’m most excited about is establishing the Writing School as a global brand. Manchester is a city that is uniquely attuned to literature and self-expression and I want to make the Manchester Writing School a place that students want to come to from all around the world and that established writers want to teach at. With all the new staff we have had join us this year - Helen Mort, Monique Roffey, Andrew Michael Harley, Conrad Williams, Wyl Mimmur, Rachel Genn and Anjum Malik - this is a very exciting time for us.”

And the relationship between poetry and academia?

“How does Adam envision the future of the Manchester Writing School?

“Poetry and academia are intimately linked. The deeper the grasp a writer has of theory, the more that can only feed into his or her work in a good way.”

Although clearly his first love, poetry isn’t the only form of writing that Adam is passionate about. Other projects include a screenplay, a novel and a book of short stories. Adam is certain that experimenting with form can only benefit writers. “I always wanted to write poems, stories, a novel and a screenplay and see which worked best. We shouldn’t place these restrictive labels on ourselves.”

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“A novel asks different things of you. It’s subject to different rhythms. In a way, it’s more demanding because you can’t see it in its entirety.”

If that isn’t enough, Adam is also a prolific reviewer of other people’s work. “Reviewing can definitely be a big part of a writer’s apprenticeship. If you are looking at books and engaging with different styles of writing, then it can only enrich your own work.”

And judging by his impressive output, that is certainly the case for Adam. To find out more about his latest releases, visit adamoriordan.com
The patterns, the vivid images, repeated sounds and strong rhythms opened language up for me.

Bridport prize winner Mark Pajak reveals what it takes to get recognised within the poetry community, and what led him to fall in love with poetry.

Interview: Benjamin Francis Cassidy

Manchester Writing School MA student and poet Mark Pajak’s work has been published in Magma, The North and The Rialto. He has been highly commended in the Cheltenham Poetry Competition and National Poetry Competition and won first place in the Bridport Prize. He has also recently taken on the role of House Poet in the Carol Ann Duffy and Friends series of events.

You were commended in the 2014 Poetry Society National Competition. Was that the first platform you found for your work, or did you have exposure before that?

The ultimate platform for any writer’s work is a published book. The standard ‘first step’, however, is to publish single poems in literary magazines. I feel I’d be better able to answer in hindsight. For if (fingers crossed) I do one day publish a book I’d be able to reflect, even discuss with the publisher, what had been responsible.

You recently won the Bridport Poetry Prize with your poem ‘Spitting Distance’. Where were you when you received the news? How did it feel to win?

I was washing dishes. I noticed a missed call. A message from Kate Wilson, Bridport Prize administrator, asking if I could call back. I thought wow maybe I’ve been commended – maybe I got third place. Kate said first place; my mind blanked. My hands were still warm from the dishwasher. The sky was grey. I asked Kate to repeat herself and, with a little laughter in her voice, she did.

I was delighted, surprised and scared. But, again, it was mostly affirming; this activity of writing that I had committed myself to was something that I could and would keep doing.

How competitive is the world of poetry, in terms of ‘getting noticed’ and published? How do you deal with that and do you feel pressured now that you have achieved success?

In poetry, you can’t see the competitors vying for the same opportunities you’re striving for. They’re not running beside, ahead, or behind you. They are miles away in their bedrooms, offices and kitchens, working at their craft, more in competition with themselves than anyone else. Everything in poetry is done with anonymity, so it’s hard to gauge the level of competition; it’s not something that comes to mind, when writing. When did you realise poetry was something you wanted to dedicate yourself to? What made you choose such a notoriously difficult field to go into?

I grew up with severe dyslexia, which wasn’t fully understood; my parents were told I would remain partially illiterate for the rest of my life, never learning the basic skills: spelling my own name, telling the time. However, my parents worked tirelessly to find ways for me to learn, reading to me often as their jobs allowed and paying for extra classes they couldn’t afford. We found that poetry was something I engaged with. The patterns, the vivid images, repeated sounds and strong rhythms opened language up for me, in a way that prose couldn’t. Poetry became part of my everyday life.

Looking forward to 2017, who in the poetry world excites you now, in the UK, or the wider world?

There are many. Two that spring to mind are Zaffar Kunial and Geraldine Clarkson. Both are award winning and (deservedly) well-known, but still ‘up and coming’. They have yet to publish first collections. In 2017, I will be searching out their work. Kunial with his needle-sharp eye for the subtleties in language, allowing for ingenious twists, that often strike with beautiful fragility; and Clarkson with her incredible ability to push a poem, presenting readers with sudden, graceful details, that reveal deeper truths about human adversity and becoming independent. The narration from Sidra’s eyes offers a brilliant and different perspective about the human experience, while Jane’s part is a moving tale of somebody overcoming adversity and becoming independent. An Indian computer geek who travels to the United States on a work visa looking for the American Dream. After landing a terrible job and losing it due to the tech-sector decay, Arjun is fired and ends up accidentally releasing a virus called ‘Leela’ which will cause a global havoc.

Transmission is a story told by multiple perspectives, which promises to focus on the subjects of global communication, technology, culture shock and the corporate world. These topics, Kunzru’s skilled narrative, plus the speaking characters – so different and unique – are what makes Transmission an interesting and highly entertaining read. By the end of the novel, however, some would feel like something is missing as Kunzru chooses to focus on the consequences of Leela’s virus rather than the character, leaving some storylines hanging.

Nevertheless, Transmission is a novel that represents our modern society, thus making it ideal for those who are studying contemporary literature. [Pierangelly Del Río Martinez]

A Closed and Common Orbit
By Becky Chambers

“Lovelace had been in a body for twenty-eight minutes, and it still felt every bit as wrong as it had the second she woke up inside it.”

With this quote, Becky Chambers opens A Closed and Common Orbit, following her debut novel The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet.

Set in the same universe, (but can be read as a stand-alone book), the story follows the life of Lovelace, a sentient AI who is down-loaded to a human body after a total reboot.

In a world where her kind are illegal, Lovelace, now named Sidra, will try to adapt to her new life with Pepper, an engineer with a history of dealing with Artificial Intelligence.

The story is split into two narratives, the first is the present, which follows Sidra adapting to her new body and the second is about Jane, a girl who grew up as a slave in a fabric, unknowing there was a whole different world outside.

A Closed and Common Orbit is not the typical scifi/genre novel. It is set in a world of advanced technology, robots, spaceships and diverse alien species. However, it doesn’t focus on dystopian communities or intergalactic adventures but rather on friendship, the search for identity and survival.

The narration from Sidra’s eyes offers a brilliant and different perspective about the human experience, while Jane’s part is a moving tale of somebody overcoming adversity and becoming independent. A must read for science fiction fans and readers who are keen to experience an optimistic and feel-good story.

Transmission
By Hari Kunzru

Transmission is a novel by award-winning writer Hari Kunzru. It follows the story of Arjun Meta, an Indian computer geek who travels to the United States on a work visa looking for the American Dream. After landing a terrible job and losing it due to the tech-sector decay, Arjun is fired and ends up accidentally releasing a virus called ‘Leela’ which will cause a global havoc.
spring fashion

ASOS have a hot January line-up, certain to get you feeling spring-ready!

JACKETS FAVS
Layered with your favourite tee, jackets are the perfect way to help you transition from winter to spring!

METALLIC MUSTS
Add one of these shiny accessories to your outfit for instant style points.

SPRING BACKPACK
Tired of lugging all of your books around? So are we! Brighten up your day with cute floral patterns. Stylish

STAND OUT
This time of year is all about showing off those bold prints, whether you’re just hanging with friends or busy with lectures!

Available at asos.com

By Lucy Madeleine Watson
AZ. is a womenswear and conceptual design label with a strong artistic manifest creating an authentic profile in fashion and print.

The brand is inspired by German born Andrea Zapp’s background in film and her travels as an internationally exhibiting media artist. We join Zapp at her Manchester Met based studio where she works as a researcher in Fashion, Media and Technology, to find out more.

Zapp began with a studio in Islington Mill and began her organic development using digital media as an artist and a curator. Throughout her life she has explored all contexts of imagery and visual aesthetic. Her interactive work focuses on still imagery and photorealism, with Zapp using imagery from her commissions and photography taken travelling around the world.

AZ. is not a seasonal brand but rather a research platform with commercial elements, viewing fashion from a narrative point of view. The School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University has supported Zapp in starting her business alongside her colleagues at Hollings, allowing the research side of the project to flourish.

Sharing dresses with us from her latest collection, Zapp discusses storytelling through fashion and the inspiration behind incorporating social and digital visuals transferred on to fabric and dress design.

“I use new media for self-performative ways of storytelling. I explored the idea of the internet on your skin. I called it ‘Third Skin’ because the first is our skin with the second being our environment. So, I played very loosely with the idea of electronic skin. It was really well received and people started to ask where they could buy the dresses.”

Zapp’s varied background as an artist, creator, writer, lecturer and years working in interactive gave her the tools and inspiration to experiment designing vibrant narratives and printing them on to silk and quality fabrics.

“I came to fashion via my interest in media art. My background is also in literature and languages, but overall it’s storytelling. It’s just me telling stories, but using dresses. I was interested in moving from digital to analogue and back into making and craft projects. I looked to combine this with more academically combined research and that is where I moved into textiles.”

“The dresses are like a canvas or screen and that is the media context for me. I was always interested in visual aesthetics. I moved on to media arts where I did interactive installations but always focused on moving or still imagery.

AZ. has developed a portfolio of exclusive limited editions and international collaborations which have established a cult following in the art world.

“Where we are now with the label is somewhere between commercial and commission, and that is a corner I am quite comfortable with. We are not a seasonal brand as it would be impossible on that scale at the moment.”

And the most interesting element of the brand?

“The conceptual language. It’s conceptual fashion and it is also a research platform. We work on commissions with people who really understand what we are doing, which means thinking about fashion and accessories from a narrative’s point of view whilst applying this to a new collection.

“The collections are not about picture postcard dresses, the principle is that I use that one image, I would not Photoshop or try to cut things or work on it digitally, as I would rather use a different image. It is a conceptual label because of the way I see the garments. The audience is a small one but I did go to all of the Fashion Weeks and I would do that again. I was in Japan earlier this year with other fashion designers in the UK. We have a stockist in Tokyo: somebody said this is exactly what the people there would like.”

Recently, Zapp collaborated on a project with Britain’s Antarctic Survey (BAS), which is a stunning example of how the brand is able to research with other institutions.

“The BAS asked me to commission some scarves. This interpretation of the Aurora Australis (Southern Lights) is a great example of where fashion meets art and science. In this project, I used photography from members of the station. Then I created a range of scarves where I inserted the imagery and applied my usual designs.”

Future plans?

“I’m currently researching into the future of fashion and technologies, investigating the potential of future smart fabrics for design purposes and new visual production concepts in fashion and design.”

For more from AZ. and to view the full collections, visit andreasazapp.com
Manchester through the eyes of an Erasmus student

The first struggle that every exchange and Erasmus student will encounter is choosing the destination city. Being an Erasmus or exchange student certainly involves thinking about all the possibilities that every university and city offered in the programme can grant you.

When I had to choose my destination, I made up my mind on Manchester, first of all because of the fact that I thought I would be surrounded by nature. In addition, being in a city that once housed the BBC really attracted me. I also wanted to experience the so-called ‘Englishness’ and I thought Manchester was a good place for that. I was also interested in the great English and Literature programmes that the universities offer.

Once you have your destination, the feeling of wanting to know what is awaiting you in this new environment grows bigger and bigger, and you end up creating a perfectly detailed picture of what you really want the city to be. With Manchester, there is no difference. You start searching pictures on the internet, trying to find out how the city really is in order not to become disappointed. The truth is, however, you will always end up a little disappointed, and a little amazed by how different this city is from the way you imagined it.

As an Erasmus student who comes from Spain, I turned out to have a very different vision of Manchester before coming here. In my imagination, this city still had huge Victorian style factories, pretty little houses that were only two floors high and huge parks and crowded venues. I expected it to be quite an old city in which you can still perceive a glimpse of the past. I hoped to find cottages in the suburbs and classical big white mansions in the rich areas; those in which, we are surrounded by nature. In addition, being in a city that once housed the industrial revolution is a kind of glimpse of the past. I hoped to find cottages in the suburbs and classical big white mansions in the rich areas; those in which, we are surrounded by nature. In addition, being in a city that once housed the industrial revolution is a kind of glimpse of the past.

Katharina Napaea, from Austria, imagined a Manchester similar to the one told in films, rich posh English people used to live. Classical big white mansions in the rich areas; those in which, we are used to seeing women wearing Manchester City or United T-shirts, or any kind of football teamer shirt, and cheering on their teams on the streets. Even though she hasn’t found many of them, she still thinks that Manchester is “a lively city with a very good ambiance for students”.

Our images differ, but there is a point on which all of us agree: there are a lot more students than we ever thought a city could accommodate.

Every exchange student created his or her own dream of Manchester in their minds. But strange as it may seem, finding out it was not as we had imagined did not sadden us. On the contrary, it was a great surprise. The city might not be surrounded by green huge fields and we might not encounter chimney-sweeps and artists in every corner, but it is still unique and special. The fact that the city makes old and new buildings not only not to clash but to reach a kind of harmony between them still amazes us.

Another good thing in this city is the fact that you can walk everywhere - and it takes less than 25 min if you’re in the centre and if you are too lazy to do so, you can always catch one of the thousands of buses crowding Oxford Road and Piccadilly Gardens. And let’s not forget that we were all pleasantly surprised by the number of pubs and clubs in this city. Some of us just didn’t imagine this city had nightlife, but it certainly has! And all exchange students agree on one thing, we couldn’t have chosen a better city to go through our Erasmus experience. Manchester is a great city for you no matter where you come from.

5 tips to move from halls to house

1. Choosing your housemates

Choosing who to live with is a massive part of moving and often the first step when it comes to student living. Perhaps you want to live with the same people from your halls or with new friends from your course or societies. Choosing the right people to live with can make or break your time at university. It might seem like a good idea to live with ‘Party Pete’, but when deadline week arrives and he’s still rolling in at 4am, you might regret that decision. Make sure you talk through what your expectations are so you’re all on the same page.

2. Location

Once you have decided who to live with, you then have to decide where. Manchester has a huge amount of student housing on offer in all areas, each differing in price. The university and Student Union can be a great help when it comes to recommendations. The main student areas are Fallowfield and Withington, but, if you want an area closer to the university, try broadening your search to Victoria Park or Hulme. Most student houses are terraced houses with basic furniture and small bedrooms, so remain open-minded and realistic in your expectations. Make sure you all like the house and are honest with each other. Otherwise, you may regret it.

3. Choosing a letting agent

Now your location is set, it is time to start looking for houses and to decide on a letting agent. This is not a decision to be taken lightly as it can have a big impact on whether your move is successful. The university can help you with this but you should also check out online reviews.

4. Bills included or excluded?

Deciding who to live with is a massive part of moving and often the first step when it comes to student living. Perhaps you want to live with the same people from your halls or with new friends from your course or societies. Choosing the right people to live with can make or break your time at university. It might seem like a good idea to live with ‘Party Pete’, but when deadline week arrives and he’s still rolling in at 4am, you might regret that decision. Make sure you talk through what your expectations are so you’re all on the same page.

5. Who gets the biggest room?

Deciding who to live with is a massive part of moving and often the first step when it comes to student living. Perhaps you want to live with the same people from your halls or with new friends from your course or societies. Choosing the right people to live with can make or break your time at university. It might seem like a good idea to live with ‘Party Pete’, but when deadline week arrives and he’s still rolling in at 4am, you might regret that decision. Make sure you talk through what your expectations are so you’re all on the same page.

Moving from halls to a house can be a daunting time for any student, no matter what year of study they are in. Coming to the end of life in halls can be a challenge with lots of new, and sometimes difficult decisions to be made. From choosing who to live with to managing money, a successful move is all about compromise and thinking ahead. Humanity Hallows has five top tips to help make some of this time a little easier.

Words: Andrew Deyes

Deposits are also something to consider as only some are inclusive of administrative costs. Deposits can vary widely, so it’s important to factor this into your budget. Most importantly, make sure your deposit is held in a Deposit Scheme, as it will protect you and your money.

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4. Bills included or excluded?

Whichever you decide to go with, budgeting is a must. Remember, if you cannot pay your rent, your guarantor is responsible for it. If your bills are included, all you have to think about is paying your rent every month and putting enough money aside for food and travel. If you decide to go bills excluded, then remember to budget for them. Your letting agent or landlord should be able to give you advice with costs on this one. It’s also wise to consider using a ‘bill-splitting’ app, to share the responsibility of keeping up to date and ensuring there are no disputes about who is paying what and when.

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**Travel**

**Why every student should visit Rome at least once in their lifetime**

Tips on how to explore Europe without breaking the bank.

Words: Holly Watson

Europe is undoubtedly one of the world’s most popular travel destinations. Brimming with culture, history, and mouth-watering food, it has become a favourite destination for both serious travellers and holiday-makers alike.

For students on a budget, visiting Europe is often nothing more than a dream, an idea that most don’t have the time or the money to explore. With a little bit of planning, you can make that dream a reality, with our top tips on how to visit one of Europe’s most beautiful cities: Rome. Often dismissed as a place just for the older generation, this fascinating city might have more to offer students than you think.

**Nightlife**

The locals in Rome certainly know how to throw a party. Whether visitors want to dance away those pizza carbs or simply chill in a wine bar, there is something for everyone. If it's spirits and liquors that you worship, then Testaccio is your temple. When Romans want to party, they head over to this neighbourhood.

Some not into the club scene might want to check out some of Rome’s hippest bars and lounges that host some of the happiest hours in the Eternal City.

**Food**

If you're after something completely different, climb aboard the vintage party tram, where, for only 45 euros, you can listen to live rock music and enjoy unlimited wine.

**Romance**

Think Italian romance and you most likely think of Venice. But in reality, Rome, with its hidden cafes, ivy-encrusted alleys and beautiful lookouts, makes for one very romantic setting. The Romans are a passionate bunch and these beautiful spots reflect this. For example, with its fragrant orange blossoms, fantastic views and the gorgeously sun-sprinkled walkways, the ‘Giardino Degli Aranci’, also known as the ‘Parco Savello’, is a beautifully romantic place to be.

There are a hidden gem for everyone in Rome, and with prices as low as £30 for a return flight, it’s well worth a visit.

**Copenhagen on a budget**

How to visit the Danish capital Copenhagen without spending your entire student loan.

Words: Laura Pathe

Copenhagen is notorious for being on the wrong side of pricey. Up there with Oslo and Stockholm, it’s been branded as one of the most expensive places to visit. So, is it possible to go on a budget? The simple answer is, yes. With some pre-planning and savvy know-how, it is indeed possible for a frugal student to visit this magical Danish capital.

**Getting there and getting around**

It isn’t expensive to get to Copenhagen, with flights costing between £40 and £100. So, if you fancy paying a visit to the Danes in the New Year, there’s little stopping you.

Copenhagen is small but by no means compact. Pick up a free map in the airport, download the app CityMapper, and you will be all set to explore the city’s delights. You can also get the CityPass straight to your phone. It’s around £22 for 72 hours travel and it includes airport transfers, trains, buses, trams and boats.

**Sightseeing**

There are so many things to do for free in Copenhagen that you may struggle to find time to do them all:

The Round Tower is free to enter and offers the most spectacular view of the city.

The Botanical Gardens is a naturally beautiful space within the heart of the city.

The Victorian style greenhouse is comprised of three rooms filled to the rafters with exotic fauna.

Remisen Flea Market in Osterbro is a great indoor space to wander around. You can also grab a cheap coffee and cake in the community run café on site.

Copenhagen is a haven for students on a budget. Don’t let misconceptions hold you back, this city is full of plenty of cheap options, and they are just waiting for you to find them.

**Music and Drink**

Copenhagen offers a huge cuisine variety, ranging from sushi to burgers, avocados to pastries; there is something even the fussiest eater will enjoy. The Danes are rather famous for their pastries, and this is a great way to cut down on breakfast expenses. Source your nearest bakery and head there for a sweet morning treat and coffee.

**Forest gateau and chocolate infused with Crazy, creative flavours like wasabi, Black ice cream in the city at Fatamorgana, with euros, you can have two scoops of the best of red, Rome is famous for its fantastic food, most popular travel destinations. Brimming with culture, history, and mouth-watering food, it has become a favourite destination for both serious travellers and holiday-makers alike.**

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Tips on how to explore Europe without breaking the bank.

Words: Holly Watson

Europe is undoubtedly one of the world’s most popular travel destinations. Brimming with culture, history, and mouth-watering food, it has become a favourite destination for both serious travellers and holiday-makers alike.

For students on a budget, visiting Europe is often nothing more than a dream, an idea that most don’t have the time or the money to explore. With a little bit of planning, you can make that dream a reality, with our top tips on how to visit one of Europe’s most beautiful cities: Rome. Often dismissed as a place just for the older generation, this fascinating city might have more to offer students than you think.

**Nightlife**

The locals in Rome certainly know how to throw a party. Whether visitors want to dance away those pizza carbs or simply chill in a wine bar, there is something for everyone. If it’s spirits and liquors that you worship, then Testaccio is your temple. When Romans want to party, they head over to this neighbourhood.

Some not into the club scene might want to check out some of Rome’s hippest bars and lounges that host some of the happiest hours in the Eternal City. Sotto 42 is a great place to hang out, and the bohemians and artsy crowd gather nightly at Freni e Frizion’i in Trastevere. Or, if you’re after something completely different, climb aboard the vintage party tram, where, for only 45 euros, you can listen to live rock music and enjoy unlimited wine.

**Food**

If you’re after more sustenance than a bottle of red, Rome is famous for its fantastic food, and it doesn’t come at a hefty price. For two euros, you can have two scoops of the best ice cream in the city at Fatamorgana, with euros, you can have two scoops of the best ice cream in the city at Fatamorgana, with cheap coffee and cake in the community run café on site.

**Romance**

Think Italian romance and you most likely think of Venice. But in reality, Rome, with its hidden cafes, ivy-encrusted alleys and beautiful lookouts, makes for one very romantic setting. The Romans are a passionate bunch and these beautiful spots reflect this. For example, with its fragrant orange blossoms, fantastic views and the gorgeously sun-sprinkled walkways, the ‘Giardino Degli Aranci’, also known as the ‘Parco Savello’, is a beautifully romantic place to be.

There are a hidden gem for everyone in Rome, and with prices as low as £30 for a return flight, it’s well worth a visit.

**Copenhagen on a budget**

How to visit the Danish capital Copenhagen without spending your entire student loan.

Words: Laura Pathe

Copenhagen is notorious for being on the wrong side of pricey. Up there with Oslo and Stockholm, it’s been branded as one of the most expensive places to visit. So, is it possible to go on a budget? The simple answer is, yes. With some pre-planning and savvy know-how, it is indeed possible for a frugal student to visit this magical Danish capital.

**Getting there and getting around**

It isn’t expensive to get to Copenhagen, with flights costing between £40 and £100. So, if you fancy paying a visit to the Danes in the New Year, there’s little stopping you.

Copenhagen is small but by no means compact. Pick up a free map in the airport, download the app CityMapper, and you will be all set to explore the city’s delights. You can also get the CityPass straight to your phone. It’s around £22 for 72 hours travel and it includes airport transfers, trains, buses, trams and boats.

**Sightseeing**

There are so many things to do for free in Copenhagen that you may struggle to find time to do them all:

The Round Tower is free to enter and offers the most spectacular view of the city.

The Botanical Gardens is a naturally beautiful space within the heart of the city.

The Victorian style greenhouse is comprised of three rooms filled to the rafters with exotic fauna.

Remisen Flea Market in Osterbro is a great indoor space to wander around. You can also grab a cheap coffee and cake in the community run café on site.

Copenhagen is a haven for students on a budget. Don’t let misconceptions hold you back, this city is full of plenty of cheap options, and they are just waiting for you to find them.

**Music and Drink**

Copenhagen offers a huge cuisine variety, ranging from sushi to burgers, avocados to pastries; there is something even the fussiest eater will enjoy. The Danes are rather famous for their pastries, and this is a great way to cut down on breakfast expenses. Source your nearest bakery and head there for a sweet morning treat and coffee.
A closer look

Tech

They say there’s an app for everything, and here at Humanity Hallows, we know there are plenty we would struggle to live without. Apps can be fun, save us time, manage our money and help us stay healthy. We take a look at the best apps to help you get through student life.

Words: Benjamin Francis Cassidy

Alarmy (Sleep If U Can)

Missing your 9am lectures because you can’t get out of bed? Are you guilty of turning off your alarm when you’re half asleep? This novel app makes it easier for sleepy heads to get up and out in the morning. Instead of simply hitting a button to switch off your alarm, you’ve got to work for it. By the time you’ve done one of the pre-set tasks your brain will have kicked into gear, and you’ll be wide awake and ready to start your day. From tasks including photo challenges to maths questions, this alarm will get you moving and your brain ticking.

Rota

Rota is a relatively new app that connects hospitality companies to rated staff. This revolutionary app offers choice, flexibility and fun, as workers get to choose shifts at cool venues that suit them. Rota offers a unique approach to seeking employment without having to leave the house, which is perfect for students with hectic schedules. Not only does it allow you to employ without having to leave the house, which is perfect for students with hectic schedules. Not only does it allow you to

MyMMU

Manchester Met has its very own app that has numerous features, including your timetable for the week and full access to your student email and Moodle area. Its touch-screen interface is straightforward allowing users to access files on the go from their designated cloud storage space. This function is particularly useful as you are able to access your files on the go, saving you carrying a bulky laptop around campus or printing off reams of notes.

Netflix

Netflix is now available on the move, meaning you can plug in your headphones and watch your favourite box sets on the way to work or university. You can download the app for free, at no extra cost to your subscription. You can also pick up where you left off, and spend your journey time relaxing.

Uber

One of the most popular apps at the moment is Uber. This app allows you to book a taxi in minutes using GPS, meaning there’s no need to wait for a taxi or bus. You don’t even get cash out, simply tap to request a ride, and select whether you’d like to pay with card or cash. With pre-agreed fares and the ability to track your cab, this is the best way to get around the city. Personal and safety touches include the information of your driver, along with their car registration number. You can also contact the driver directly through the app if there are any mix-ups with your location.

The best apps for students

Want a job that fits around your studies? Rota have an app for that.

Find a job you love that fits around your life isn’t easy, particularly if you’re a student. Juggling lectures, deadlines and finding time to see your mates is difficult enough, without the added stress of trying to fit in a job that funds it all.

If you don’t fancy walking around town endlessly handing out your CV at bars and restaurants and then settling for working every Friday and Saturday night for the rest of your university life, there is another way.

Rota has a solution, offering choice, flexibility and some pretty cool venues to work at for great pay. Established by Nick Bolton and business partner Tom Williams, Rota invites employers to post shifts and workers can sign up to them at the touch of a button. The app lets you browse shifts on offer near you without leaving the comfort of your home or printing your CV.

We caught up with Nick to find out more.

When and how did the idea for the app come to you?

The idea was formed in 2015. We built the app that summer and launched in October 2015, so it all happened rather quickly. It was my business partner Tom Williams who first had the idea. His family home is a hotel and wedding venue in Hertfordshire. They run over 300 weddings a year there! Tom saw first-hand the problems associated with hiring and managing temporary staff including the over reliance on temporary agencies that charge huge margins and provide untrained, de-motivated staff. He knew there were loads of great people in the local area that wanted work and would do a great job so it was just about finding a way to communicate to them and get them to the venue. It was when using an Uber that the solution soon became clear. If you can book a car through an app why can’t you book yourself a bartender?

How has your experience in the hospitality industry been instrumental in building Rota?

I have been working in the hospitality industry for ten years, starting off as a waiter when I was 16 years old. The deep understanding of the industry from both the venue side as well as the employee has really helped to ensure that we have built something that people love.

Why should students use your app?

It’s a great way to earn extra cash and it’s 100% flexible. You’ll never even be asked to do a shift, let alone forced, and there is no minimum. If you are a little behind on uni work or got exams coming up, then you can give it a break for a bit. When your student loan starts to run out pick up a few extras so you don’t have to survive on beans on toast.

What is the coolest venue you work with in Manchester?

We have a number of great venues that people love to work at. The current highest rated one in Manchester is the Arena, which is hardly surprising as our members get to go to gigs such as The 1975, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Drake, The Weekend etc.

“I love using Rota. The app is so easy to pick up shifts and even tells you when and how much and when you are getting paid.” - Rory, Rota Member and MMU Student

What’s the best feature of Rota?

Flexibility. It gives people the chance to fit their work around their life, not the other way around. When your student loan is running thin you can pick up a few extra shifts but, when exam season comes around, you can get your head down to study without losing your job or feeling like you have let anyone down. The fact we pay significantly more than almost every other bar or restaurant is pretty cool too!

What are your plans for the app in 2017?

2017 is going to be a really exciting year for Rota: we have plans for expansion both in the UK and internationally.

So, if you are looking for work that provides a decent wage, exciting venues, that fits easily around you, look no further.

For more information visit rota.com and download the app for free online.
**Culture**

**Clubnight Highlights**

We may have lost our beloved Sankeys (for now), but Manchester still has plenty to offer.

**High Hoops**

Those hoping to boogie, won’t be disappointed by High Hoops, a night that specialises in bringing you the finest purveyors of techno, funk and house. Held at different venue each time, this night brings a sense of free-spiritedness to Manchester. Think glitter, smiles and a lot of dancing. Recent guests include Hurree, Antal and Suzanne Kraft. Get yourself down to Hidden in April to see the D-troit legend Omar S, amongst others, including Manchester’s very own, Annabel Fraser.

**Project Thirteen**

Born and bred in Manchester, Project Thirteen is a night specialising in the darker side of dub, techno and bass. Known for its stellar line-up and past guests including DJ Stingray, Andy Stott and Tesselaa – it’s an experience not to be missed.

**Swing Ting**

Expect a mix of reggae, basement, jungle and the in between with Swing Ting, a club night taking place on the third Saturday of every month at Soup Kitchen. It’s a cheap night out, costing a fiver all night, plus you get to dance to the selections of Manchester’s finest talent, Samrai, Platt, Murto, Joey B and Fox. Swing Ting always have a special guest each month, so keep your eyes peeled!

**The White Hotel**

With an address so obscure that even your taxi driver might not know where to go, The White Hotel is based on the outskirts of the city centre. Don’t let this put you off, as this D.I.Y. venue encapsulates the gritty and raw essence of partying and you can truly let yourself go inside. A variety of nights happen at the Hotel, so get yourself down and join the fun.

**HOME: Spring/Summer**

HOME, Manchester has announced its packed Spring/Summer season, which offers a variety of shows ranging from theatre to dance.

**Duncan Macmillan’s adaptation of Paul Auster’s City of Glass**

Sat 4 – Sat 18 Mar

Paul Auster’s novel tells the story of Quinn, a crime writer who finds himself becoming a detective. This metaphysical mystery has been adapted by Olivier Award-nominated playwright Duncan Macmillan, and will be directed by Leo Warner (59 Productions). HOME will also be hosting a book reading and signing event with Paul Auster on March 10.

**Blak Whyte Gray**

Thu 9 – Sat 11 Feb

Olivier award-winning company Boy Blue Entertainment will make their debut at HOME with their brand new hip hop dance triple bill Blak Whyte Gray, following performances at Sadlers Wells. This will be choreographed by Kenrick ‘H2O’ Sandy (Romeo & Juliet, HOME). Their work explores a need and desire to make change happen.

**Operation Black Antler**

Wed 7 – Sat 17 Jun.

This will be an immersive, site-specific theatre experience which sends you into an undercover operation at secret locations in central Manchester, produced by BAFTRA nominated Blast Theory. This performance invites its audiences to take on the role of an undercover officer encouraging them to consider what is and isn’t acceptable in the name of security.

**Rose by Martin Sherman**

Thu 25 May – Sat 10 Jun

Following its premiere at London’s National Theatre, HOME will present the first UK revival of the award-winning Rose by Martin Sherman. Walter Mejerich (Artistic Director) has described it as “an epic story of persecution, displacement and survival told with passion, pathos and wild humour.” It will see Dame Janet Suzman return to the stage to play the title role, and the production will be directed by Richard Beecham (who recently directed Playing for Time at Shakespeare’s Crucible, which received critical acclaim).

**The Whitworth Art Gallery’s latest exhibition, ARTIST ROOMS: Andy Warhol**

The Whitworth Art Gallery’s latest exhibition, ARTIST ROOMS: Andy Warhol, offers a darker view into the Pop of Pop’s later years, casting us away from the saccharine laden portraits of Twiggy and Marilyn, to offer an exhibition that still feels relevant to today’s affairs.

Retaining a wry sense of humour and vibrancy, the exhibition features Warhol’s hallmarks, in terms of his abstract prints and bold strokes, as well as some quieter pieces.

The artwork on show draws upon Warhol’s views on capitalism, political views, corruption and his own personal life, more specifically his near-death experience. Warhol was shot by his old friend and radical feminist, Valerie Solanas, in 1968. An aura of death and political tension can also be felt in Camouflage (1986) with its camouflage print in shades of blood red and army green.

The more unusual paintings on display are his abstract ‘diamond dust’ paintings, the Di-amond Dust & Shadows series from 1979. Glittering, iridescent and colourful, these are beautiful pieces of art inspired by the shadows in photographs cast by maquettes and are not what you might think of as ‘traditional’ Warhol.

ARTIST ROOMS: Andy Warhol runs until April 16 at the Whitworth Art Gallery. For more information visit, whitworth.manchester.ac.uk
In Cinemas

Films hitting the big screen in 2017.

Words: Alice Denison

Trainspotting 2
Director: Danny Boyle
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle, Kelly Macdonald, Johnny Lee Miller, Shirley Henderson, Ewen Bremner
Released: 27 Jan

Trainspotting 2 is a film that critics and fans alike have been waiting a long time for. The sequel novel by Irvine Welsh entitled Porno was also set and released 10 years after the first novel. The film will follow this from the 1996 to the present, in 2017. It will be interesting to see how Renton’s life has panned out over the past decade and how Boyle’s style has developed. He will most likely be able to create unforgettable disturbing scenes when it comes to Trainspotting, like the infamous scene with the baby on the ceiling.

Rings
Director: F Javier Gutierrez
Starring: Aimee Teegarden, Vincent D’Onofrio, Johnny Galecki
Released: 3 Feb

Rings is an American supernatural psychological horror film directed by F. Javier Gutierrez and the third in the trilogy of The Ring series. Gutierrez has taken the reins for the next film, following the theme of changing directors with every installment. It will still be interesting to see where Gutierrez takes it. The seven days’ theme is still well set into the third film along with Samara and her creepy video, so the original ideas are there and hopefully it will show a new spin to avoid being an exact repeat.

The Lego Batman Movie
Director: Chris McKay
Starring: Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes, Zach Galifianakis, Michael Cera
Released: 10 Feb

The idea of watching a film about Lego people that act out other characters seems a little ridiculous, but you can’t help but love it. The Lego Batman film presenting the moody side of Batman and suffering. Fans are going to be in for a whirlwind ride.

Fifty Shades Darker
Director: James Foley
Starring: Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson
Released: 10 Feb

The Fifty Shades craze is ever present recently with the best-selling books and the hype around the first film, so undoubtedly the second instalment will be just as hyped. It will certainly be the reason of chatter among the critics. With the original director Sam Taylor-Johnson quitting, it will be interesting to see Foley’s spin of the film series. The merchandise and branding is always entertaining for this film, so prepare yourself for some Valentine’s Day Christian Grey underwear.

Logan
Director: James Mangold
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Doris Morgado, Patrick Stewart, Richard E Grant, Steven Merchant
Released: 17 Mar

Hugh Jackman will always be Wolverine and the fact this is the last time he will play him is upsetting. However, the excitement building around this film is immense. Mangold’s The Wolverine (2013) was a raising success and no doubt Logan will too. Fans will be saying goodbye to Jackman and hopefully the film will tie up loose ends surrounding his story. The trailer itself looks emotional, with Johnny Cash’s heart wrenching version of “Hurt” blasting over Logan’s pain and suffering. Fans are going to be in for a whirlwind ride.

Beauty and the Beast
Director: Bill Condon
Starring: Emma Watson, Luke Evans, Ewan McGregor, Emma Thompson, Ian McKellen
Released: 17 Mar

The remake of this Disney classic has caused a stir already and the trailer doesn’t give much away. The question around Emma Watson’s suitability to play Belle has all longstanding Beauty and the Beast fans in an uproar. Despite any fears, this is one cinematic experience not to be missed. The film itself will be stunning if Condon’s previous body of aesthetically pleasing work is anything to go by.

Richard Gadd, acclaimed winner of Best Show at The Edinburgh Festival in 2016, comes to Manchester

Richard Gadd: Monkey See Monkey Do

‘His charisma and commitment to his art is extraordinary.’
- The Telegraph

Words: Steven Mackie

Manchester Tickets: www.perfectstrangerscomedy.co.uk

Richard Gadd: Monkey See Monkey Do, Feb 16, Gorilla, Manchester comedy institution, Gorilla.

Richard Gadd: ‘I always say I was sexually assaulted because I don’t want my parents reading the word you’re thinking of. And I didn’t want to relive the actual event because I have worked so hard to get the flashbacks out of my head. But I wanted to portray the repercussions, which still last today, and show to the world that mental health problems are just the same as having a broken leg. Just because you can’t see it, or you don’t know someone’s story, doesn’t mean it isn’t real. I cannot tell you how bad it got, but the worst thing my abuser did was to take my confidence away from me. I feel this will go some way to getting it back.’

The vast majority of the show is performed by Gadd as he runs on a treadmill, which when you consider he performed the show for a full month in Edinburgh (plus added extra shows) is a testament to his commitment. “For two years, the only way I could put the monkey on my back to sleep was to run and run and run. I was running 10 miles a day, six days a week. I wanted to show that everything in it is very real.”

Following sell-out runs in Edinburgh (in which crowds squeezed into the unfussbly tiny venue just feet from the stage) and London Gadd will go out on his first ever full UK tour, which kicks off in Manchester on February 16 at the aptly named Gorilla, home of Manchester comedy institution, Gorilla.
Creative Collaboration

By Lucy Madeleine Watson & Jamie Stewart

*Humanity Hallows* asked writers to create a piece of flash fiction or poetry in the theme of 'Home and Away'. In honour of our 5th issue, we challenged poets and writers to contribute work using either five words or five lines. We then invited illustrators to design a response to those pieces within a five minute time limit. Here are the results...

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**Homeless, Nameless, Lost at sea.**

By Natasha Leigh

Illustration: Jas Bird

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**The Away is the Other.**

The heart lives at home.
Travelling on the train.
Crackles down the phone.
Finding joy in the rain.

By Robert James Gardham

Illustration: Jennifer Ferentluk

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**He ‘played away’ at work,**

That’s what he called it.
His wife had no idea,
He thought. Until, one lunchtime,
She poisoned his cheese sandwiches.

By Emma Jane Makarova

Illustration: Daniel Howden
There has never been a better time to be a vegetarian, with so many choices of eating venues in Manchester. Here is a roundup of the Top 5 Veggie and Vegan restaurants in and around the city.

By Hannah Lewis

Eighth Day Co-Operative
Situated on Oxford Road, opposite Manchester Met’s All Saints campus, this veggie cafe is the perfect pit stop for a cheap, filling lunch. Upstairs you can pick up cruelty-free cosmetics, groceries and cleaning products, and head down to the cafe to munch on the daily changing menu. There is also a pastry and cake counter upstairs to take away. Hint: The vegan brownies are divine!

Eighth Day, 111 Oxford Road, M1 7DU
8thday.coop

Fuel Cafe Bar
Fuel cafe serves veggie and vegan food from breakfast to dinner, and has a wide range of options, including ‘fish’ (haloumi). In the evening, Fuel transforms into a bar and music venue, perfect for a nightcap after eating.

Fuel Cafe Bar, 448 Wilmslow Rd, M20 3BW
0161 448 9702

V Rev MCR
Styled on an American Diner, V Revolution is the answer to every vegan’s junk food prayer, serving mouth-watering burgers, hot dogs and daily changing specials. Having recently moved from their original home on Oldham street to a bigger venue on Edge Street, this is definitely not a place to miss!

V Rev, 20-26 Edge Street, M4 1HN
vrevmcr.co.uk

1847
Looking for something a bit more upmarket? 1847, named after the year the Vegetarian Society was formed, offers veggie inventive dishes using seasonal ingredients. Sitting in the centre of the city, this is a perfect place for date night!

1847, 58 Mosley Street (Entrance on Booth Street)
MM2 3HZ | 0161 236 1811

Greens
Wiling to go a bit further afield? Greens in West Didsbury, run by TV chef Simon Rimmer, offers an exciting array of dishes which are a world away from your average veggie options. Even your carnivorous friends will be impressed...

Greens, 41-43 Lapwing Lane, West Didsbury
M20 2NT | 0161 434 4259

Room for dessert? Check out Ice Shack in Withington for vegan ice-cream and other sweet treats!
Celebrity Trump

James Skipper reflects on the effects of celebrity and the media on politics.

Since the dawn of social media, our inescapable infatuation with celebrity culture has created a parallel universe. The glib, sometimes self-centered, lives of famous individuals have become an aspirational sort of life, and their omnipresence stimulating constant comparison among young people. 

A study by NHS UK Digital concluded that the image-centric nature of social media has contributed to growing levels of stress and anxiety, particularly among young women who feel pressured to conform with a ‘selfie society’. This mindset has also permeated the political sphere, where politicians are regularly scrutinised on their public appearance.

Donald Trump has been a celebrity in America for a long time. A prolific businessman, the property development magnate became a household name in the 1980s. Having appeared regularly on US television networks over the years, Trump has also made cameos—playing mainly the role of himself—in popular films such as Home Alone 2 (1992), Zoolander, and Ghosts Can’t Do It (1989), in which he was voted ‘Worst Supporting Actor’ by the Razzie Awards in 1991.

More recently, he has staked in and co-produced The Apprentice US and successfully The Celebrity Apprentice US, as well as becoming a viral hit after appearing in a parody of Drake’s ‘Hotline Bling’. Trump is not the first on-screen star to occupy top political roles in the US however: Arnold Schwarzenegger held the California governorship for some years, and Ronald Reagan appeared in over 50 films before serving two terms as President between 1981 and 1989.

Trump’s position of fame in the mainstream celebrity world undoubtedly gave him a platform to launch a campaign that reached far and wide across America, attracting ample media attention from the offset. Perhaps it was this unique standing, combined with his derisive policies of socio-political upheaval that was appealing to so many people.

The divisive rhetoric used in his campaign obviously resonated within communities that feel left behind by their government, who have gravitated towards immigration and globalisation as a simple answer to problems. By tapping into this entrenched finger-pointing mentality, Trump interrogated feelings of distrust towards certain cultural groups, using them as a springboard to seize a promise of momentous change.

Was it then, the concoction of existing racial tensions, political distrust and Trump’s accomplished image that gave him presidential legitimacy in the minds of so many Americans?

In the present day, celebrity culture and politics are somewhat intertwined: even Hillary Clinton called upon superstar couple, Beyoncé and Jay-Z to endorse her in the final throes of the campaign. On the plus side, this makes it possible to reach broad audiences that might otherwise feel detached from the political process, but populism should promote, not dictate politics.

Although Hillary Clinton was by no means the most credible candidate the US has ever seen, Trump is not a politician—which may have been the attraction for many voters. Hopefully, this will make political establishments across the globe rethink the way they connect with the general public in a way that doesn’t trivialise politics, but encourages people to seriously interact with policy. Surely, that starts with education?
We are currently recruiting for a number of volunteer roles and welcome applications and contributions from all students.

Humanity Hallows is a platform run entirely by student volunteers with a passion for journalism and a passion for Manchester. Working with Humanity Hallows is the ideal way for students to get that all important work experience while at university. We aim to provide a safe and supportive space in which student volunteers can be creative and have their voices heard, while boosting their confidence – and their CV – with skills in journalism, editing, publishing, social media and more.

Freelance Contributors
We are looking for writers, illustrators, filmmakers and photographers on an ongoing basis to help make Humanity Hallows an informed, inspiring, witty and opinionated collection of student voices and talents that make our city brilliant. If you have an idea for a contribution, register your interest and get in touch with the team via our ‘Work With Us’ page.

Editorial Team
We have a number of exciting opportunities for Manchester Met students to become members of the Humanity Hallows editorial team. Joining the Humanity Hallows editorial team is a great opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of journalism, to pick up genuine employability skills and contacts and meet new people.

Apply Online
To be considered for a Humanity Hallows team position apply online at humanityhallows.co.uk/work-with-us

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- Post-Millennial Gothic

For further details, dates and costs, and to apply: mmu.ac.uk/english/course/short
or contact: postgradenglish@mmu.ac.uk