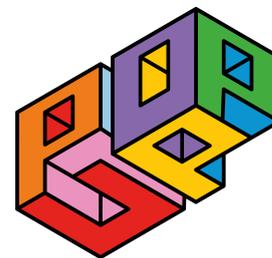


## Pop Up Projects CIC

The Rainbow Library

[www.pop-up.org.uk](http://www.pop-up.org.uk)



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### Information Sheet - INVERNESS

9th to 14th April at Eden Court | 23rd April and 7th May online

Rainbow Library is a two-year course by [Pop Up Projects CIC](http://www.pop-up.org.uk) open for those who are LGBTQ+, aged 16-26 years-olds and are able to commute to Inverness. Those joining will develop their creative writing skills and provide support to the publication of books for children and young people that include LGBTQ+ identities and experiences, have access to creative training and professional development workshops and mentoring sessions with established LGBTQ+ writers and illustrators.

The **Inverness** workshops will take place at **Eden Court** and online.

"In a world where LGBTQ+ young people are so often frozen out of the narrative, marginalised by society due to their identity, and oppressed at an institutional level, projects like The Rainbow Library are truly imperative in helping them find and channel their voice."

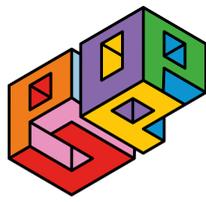
- Jamie Beard, Course Leader

### About the Course

The Rainbow Library course addresses near-invisibility of LGBTQ+ identities & demand for LGBTQ+ inclusive stories in children's stories. The course has been designed as a space for LGBTQ+ young people to network with peers around shared experiences and challenges. Participants will join a cohort of creative LGBTQ+ young people to develop their knowledge and experience of writing, illustration and publishing with support from our network of established authors and mentorship from across the UK and Ireland.

The course will take place across the United Kingdom, Ireland and Northern Ireland in eight places: Manchester, Nottingham and Basildon in England; Glasgow and Inverness in Scotland; Belfast and Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland; and Cork in the Republic of Ireland. In every one of these places, over two years, a group of LGBTQ+ young people will:

- Take part in **8 days of workshops** led by course leader(s)
- Develop their own writing and illustration skills during those workshops;
- Receive **professional guidance** from the course leader(s);
- Be featured in **an anthology** of the best writing and illustration;
- Work with the course leader(s) to give critical feedback on their draft stories - which will be edited and designed into a collection of **8 books**. Young people will be credited as contributors;



- Support the promotion of the collection by participating in a **local and national campaign** to tie-in with Pride celebrations;
- Come together with all the groups across the UK and Ireland to plan and organise a **3 day conference**, supported by the UNESCO cities of Nottingham, Manchester & Dublin, among other partners.

## About the Organisers

Pop Up Projects (est 2011) is a non-profit social enterprise with a mission to transform lives through literature and publishing. Through our work we aim to:

1. Provide literary experiences and publishing opportunities for writers and illustrators of all ages, including children and young people;
2. Engage and inspire, nurture and invest in writers and illustrators from under-represented and excluded backgrounds;
3. Contribute to a more inclusive canon of children's books, so that more young readers can find themselves and discover others in the books they read.

To find out more about Rainbow Library (e.g. course leaders, workshop dates, times and locations) and our other work, please visit our website [www.pop-up.org.uk](http://www.pop-up.org.uk).

## About the Course Leader

**Leyla Josephine** is an artist originally from Glasgow, now residing in Prestwick. She is a performance poet, theatre maker, screenwriter, facilitator and project leader.

Leyla has been on the same bill as Kae Tempest, Hollie McNish and Lowkey. Last year, she performed for the First Minister of Scotland and supported John Cooper Clarke on his Scottish tour. Her solo shows Hopeless and Daddy Drag have taken the UK by storm with sold out shows across the country. Hopeless was runner up for Saboteur's Best Spoken Word Show 2018. Daddy Drag won the Autopsy Award 2019 which celebrates artists making ground-breaking work in Scotland. It was also shortlisted for Filipa Braganca Award 2019, which honours solo female artists creating important work at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

She has had poems featured in The National, The Scotsman, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Upworthy, BBC Scotland, BBC Radio 4, BBC Social and Gutter magazine

## Apply now!

To apply, all you need to do is let us know in a few words (via writing, video or audio format) why you are interested in participating in the course, and email it to [naomi@pop-up.org.uk](mailto:naomi@pop-up.org.uk)