

Norma Cohen

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Profile:

Norma Cohen is a London based writer/performer whose writing ranges from novels and short stories to plays for stage and radio and arts journalism. Much of her work reflects, with a light touch and a deal of sardonic humour, her experience of growing up in Liverpool in a Jewish Communist household during the Cold War era. Trained as a dancer, Norma moved into theatre, and later into journalism and fiction writing. She currently maintains both strands of her professional life, writing and performing, and has just completed her second novel: **Waiting for Farid**.

Fiction:

- * **Ganzer Macher** dramatised reading of novel extracts: Novel London/Big Green Bookshop
- * **Waiting for Farid** reading of novel extract: Novel London/Travelling Through Bookshop
- * **The Fish and Chip Boat: Celebrating Liverpool and Culture:** Orbis magazine
- * **Childhood** short story: Jewish Year Book 2008/09
- * **At the Adelphi** novel extract from **1956: Saying Goodbye** Jewish Renaissance magazine
- * **A Violent Tale/Mordechai's First Brush with Love:** short story, Loki Books
- * **Novel extracts: Jewish Book Week** readings: Hackney Libraries, Stoke Newington Bookshop

Non-Fiction:

- * **Karl Marx was a Scouser: a Liverpoolian childhood:** lead feature, Jewish Quarterly
- * **Alan Kane: Britain's Ambassador of Song:** lead feature, Jewish Renaissance & The Cable
- * **Theatre works: A Guide to Working in the Theatre** pub. National Theatre/ Theatre Museum
- * **Radiant Illusion? Middle-class recruits to communism in the 1930s.** Eve Editions.
- * **Out of Focus: Images of Women in the Media.** Women's Press
- * **Death of a Mother; daughters' stories: John Lennon is dead; in memoriam.** Pandora Press
- * **Bouquet with Flying Lovers, Celebrating a Life.** Gally Cat Press/ MS Society
- * **The Fish and Chip Boat: Celebrating Liverpool and Culture.** Orbis magazine
- * **Lithuania: Place of Rain** lead feature, Jewish Renaissance
- * **The Dybbuk of Delight: Jewish Women's Poetry.** Poems. Five Leaves Press.

Theatre plays:

- * **Gone for a Burton** Rehearsed Reading, JW3.
- * **No Reasonable Offer Refused** Rehearsed Reading, Park Theatre 2013
- * **Does it come with Ketchup?** Rosemary Branch 2009
- * **Giulietta's Feast** Rehearsed Readings: relationship between Federico Fellini and his wife/muse Giulietta Masina: Rosemary Branch & Stratford East 2009
- * **Toot, Toot** TV comedy drama Rehearsed Reading Ship of Fools 2008
- * **The Unbroken Line** Rehearsed Readings Theatre Royal, Stratford East & Rosemary Branch Theatre 2008
- * **My Federico/Giulietta's Feast** Rehearsed Reading with Jane Lapotaire, Rosemary Branch (Arts Council Commission Award) 2000

Radio:

- * **The Last Supper** (short story) BBC Radio 4, director Alfred Bradley
- * **That's Up to You, Comrade** (play) Rehearsed Reading Jewish Book Week/Hackney Libraries
- * **The Deeper Well** (play, set in the former GDR) extract, LBC Drama Festival
- * **Let's Move:** two series of play scripts for BBC Schools Radio

- * Pen to Paper: BBC Radio 4

Film:

- * Picnic in Gaza (screenplay: PVK Pictures)

Journalism

Recent:

- * **English PEN 2019: memorial: Rafiq Abdullah**
- * **Part of a current: one of the family: House of Commons, December, 2017**
- * **Cape Times, South Africa: Insight: David Lurie obituary**
- * **New Camden Journal: Party Animals by David Aaronovitch: book review/feature**
- * **The Guardian, Other Lives: obituary: David Lurie**
- * **Smithdown Litfest 2017, Liverpool: review: publisher Ian Skillicorn's website**

Previous:

- * **Freelance arts journalism for Yorkshire Post, The Lecturer, The Guardian, Dance & Dancer, Radio Times, Jewish Quarterly, Jewish Renaissance**
- * **Dance Editor: TES**
- * **Health Editor: City Limits**

Awards/Prizes:

- * **Society of Women Writers & Journalists Charitable Foundation: bursary for novel writing**
- * **Arts Council, England: grant for mentoring from writer Jacob Ross on novel in progress: Leaving Lime Street, set in Liverpool, 1956**
- * **Arts Council Literature Award: further writing grant to finish the novel**
- * **British Embassy Lithuania funding: to research family roots in Lithuania and meet with Jewish writers in Vilnius and Kaunas**
- * **WIZO Short Story Prize for Goodbye to Childish Things**
- * **Arts Council Commission Award to write stage play: My Federico**
- * **Waiting for Farid, work in progress novel extract, finalist EASTSIDE/TEXACO Competition**