



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

aha!

the
first
ten
years

Celebrating ten years of aAh! Magazine

Ten years – and what an incredible Hall of Fame we’ve accumulated! It’s hard to believe that a decade has passed since aAh! (formerly *Humanity Hallows*) began its journey at Manchester Met. As we celebrate this milestone, we take the opportunity to reflect on the magazine’s evolution and the talented students who have shaped its story.

Since its launch in 2014, over 400 students have been part of the aAh! print magazine, each leaving their unique mark on the publication. From writers and editors to designers, photographers and illustrators, our contributors have transformed the magazine into a vibrant, collaborative community and a springboard for creative careers. The stories in these pages are just the tip of the iceberg, representing countless hours of dedication, creativity and passion.

Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of supporting hundreds of students each year working across our online and print platforms as they achieve their first bylines, see their work in print, cover their first live gigs, secure their first photo passes, and even embark on international press trips. Each of these successes reflects the creative, collaborative and cross-disciplinary spirit aAh! is built on.

At the magazine, we have a running joke that each print issue is even bigger and better than the last – and in many ways, it’s true. The team is continuously evolving, introducing new ways of working, and bringing new perspectives, all while building on what has come before.

Watching students interview politicians, race around the city covering major events, and grow into confident professionals has been one of the most rewarding aspects of running the magazine. We’ve overcome big challenges – the team rose to the realities of remote working during the pandemic, producing an entire issue online while in lockdown. Despite the physical distance, the team became an even tighter-knit community. International students joined meetings via Zoom and the magazine became their connection to the university and the city when they could not travel.

aAh! is more than just a magazine – it’s a place for students to be heard and find community. Many students reach out to get involved long before their course starts, having picked up a print magazine at open days. Some stay with us after graduation too, continuing to build their portfolios until they are ready to break into the industry, while others return to give back to our community by delivering workshops and guest lectures. It’s been incredible to watch our aAh! graduates build exciting careers and become leaders in their fields.

As we celebrate aAh!’s ten year print anniversary, we look back on the stories, the gigs, the awe-inspiring designed spreads, the stunning artwork, and the collaborative creative briefs that have defined our student magazine. We also eagerly look forward to the next generation of creatives who will continue to push boundaries and have their voices heard.

It has been a wonderfully creative and dynamic decade, and looking back on our amazing work fills me with pride for all that we have achieved together. To the new students joining us: this is for you, and it is yours – be a part of your student magazine.

Natalie Carragher

Editor & Project Coordinator

Senior Lecturer in Multimedia Journalism

Humanity Hallows

Introducing *Humanity Hallows* – Manchester Met's student magazine. By students. For Students. (2014 – 2018).

What began as an ambitious student engagement project based in the Faculty of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences, quickly grew into a thriving creative hub and launchpad for hundreds of students to embark on successful industry careers. First established as an online publication in 2012, *Humanity Hallows* launched its inaugural print magazine in 2014.

Across its eight issues, our team shared many incredible moments. From interviewing music legends like The Smiths' Johnny Marr in Night & Day Café and American singer and bassist Suzi Quatro at Salford Quays to delivering workshops and hosting editorial meetings that have honed the skills and shaped the portfolios and careers of our contributors.

Humanity Hallows.co.uk

MMU Student Press Office



**Bipolar Sunshine:
Interview with
Manchester's
Rising Star**

How to Survive
University

Street Style on a
Budget

Essential Guide to
Manchester

Issue 1 - Autumn 2015

Our first print issue launches, featuring a cover interview with singer-songwriter Bipolar Sunshine, aka former Kid British frontman Adio Marchant. The eldest son of Jamaican Mancunians, Adio grew up in South Manchester as the days of The Hacienda and acid house drew to a close.



“Young me was wild, man. Manchester was very hot and you see the full spectrum of life here: the good, the bad and the ugly. I’ve seen all those things and that’s what’s shaped me and played a massive part in my music and in my whole life aura.”
- Bipolar Sunshine

back in the States through Manchester’s magnetism. She returned to our pages in 2022 offering advice as our Student Union President.

The Warehouse Project celebrates its tenth anniversary – aAh! goes on to interview its co-founder, Sacha Lord, in our own tenth print edition *The LEGACY Issue* years later. A banana bread recipe also makes an appearance. Who knew it would take over the world in 2020?

Our ‘Essential Guide to Manchester’ captures our favourite venues including Rusholme’s much-missed Antwerp Mansion, one of the city’s great lost music and arts havens. International student Letitia Jones pens ‘A Letter to America’ to help guide her family



Issue 2
Spring

Humanity Hallows

MMU Student Press Office

Gulwali Passarlay

HOME

Literary Tour of
Manchester

**Joe Stretch:
A Write Performance**

Issue 2 - Spring 2016

Our second issue celebrates Manchester Met's Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences Faculty moving to a new home in the former Cornerhouse cinema. To honour this fresh beginning, our creative writers present 70 lines of flash fiction across ten, seven-line stories.

HOME, the Cornerhouse's spiritual successor, finds its own home at Tony Wilson Place on First Street, becoming one of the UK's most exciting art and culture centres. Meanwhile, the Manchester Writing School welcomes author Joe Stretch and he shares with us his passion for prose. The Gothic Manchester Festival casts a shadow across the city.

"That moment when you create a separation between you and the text, that's the heaven of writing."

- Joe Stretch



"These kids in 2015 shouldn't be suffering for the crimes committed 20 years ago. It's important that they feel they have a representative share in their future."

- RECLAIM

The first edition of SASCA, a Somali newspaper designed to support the integration of the Somali community in Manchester, launches.

We also cover RECLAIM, a social project that offers pastoral support to young working class people in Greater Manchester, inspiring them to fight discrimination and reach their full potential.



Humanity Hallows.co.uk

Manchester Met Uni Student Press Office



Sarah Millican:
**Families, Friends
and Feminism**

Experience Manchester
For Less

Good Foxy

Georgie Wood

Science in the City

The attention of the global scientific community turns to Manchester in 2016 as it becomes the European City of Science, hosting the EuroScience Open, one of the world's most prestigious scientific events.

"I stood in front of my friend in the fitting room and we both gasped at how lovely (my BAFTA) dress was and how lovely I looked in it, and then in the newspapers and on TV the next day they allow people to come in and pull apart women for something that is incidental - I put clothes on all the time, I don't really consider it part of my job."

- Sarah Millican

Costa First Novel Award winner and Manchester Writing School alumnus Andrew Michael Hurley's book *The Loney* attracts international acclaim. Stephen King calls it "an amazing piece of fiction". Ziferblat opens on Edge Street and reimagines the modern coffee shop; charging 5p per minute, it brings an all-you-can-eat-and-drink element to the world of relaxation.

Comedian Sarah Millican talks to us about families, friends and feminism. She touches on the comedy business, 'Millican's Law' and, of course, her new Outsider tour. Sarah rebuffs critics of her BAFTA outfit, which raises the issue of the objectification of women in the entertainment industry.

3,500 people march in solidarity against sexual violence, street harassment and assault in demonstration with Reclaim the Night.



Issue 4
Autumn

Humanity Hallows.co.uk

Manchester Met Uni Student Press Office

Get Active: Stay Fun

Things To Do For
Under A Fiver

Freshers Advice

CABBAGE: Fighting, Hair-pulling & Lovemaking

Following the Brexit vote, the Manchester Youth Council campaigns to make sure that young people still have a voice in Europe with a bid for European Youth Capital.

Local band Cabbage describe their music as “an idiosyncratic, satirical attack in the form of discordant neo post-punk” and intergalactic rockers Henge share songwriting tips and other important messages from the cosmos. Sankeys welcomes Manchester’s first *This is England* club night, featuring classic tracks from the Shane Meadows masterpiece.

Manchester School of Art’s 26:86 Collective visits Chernobyl to create a multi-disciplined body of work responding to the abandoned city of Pripjat and the surrounding exclusion zone.

“Following Brexit, we want to make sure that young people have a voice in Europe.”
- Manchester Youth Council

Elsewhere, Prof. Dawn Archer tells us how to spot a lie and education activist and the world’s youngest Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai endorses the university’s Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition as students, teachers and poetry lovers from all over the UK gather to celebrate the winners.

“If you want to be bigger, if you want to be stronger, if you want to be great... you must believe in multiculturalism and multilingualism.”
- Malala Yousafzai

Issue 4 - Autumn 2016

Issue 5
Spring

Humanity Hallows

Manchester Metropolitan University Student Magazine



Adam O'Riordan

Spring Fashion

Budget Student Eats

Travel for less

Johnny Marr
Manchester Legend



Issue 5 - Spring 2017

We interview Manchester music legend Johnny Marr at Night & Day Café to talk about his new autobiography *Set The Boy Free*. Bridport Prize winner and Manchester Met alumnus Mark Pajak reveals what led him to fall in love with poetry and how to gain recognition within the discipline's tight-knit community.

Adam O'Riordan becomes the new Academic Director of the Manchester Writing School and we spend five minutes with Leilie Mohseni, an award-winning singer, songwriter and poet who grew up in Iran during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War.

We pay homage to cultural landmark Afflecks (formerly Afflecks Palace), Lucy Spraggan talks new music, tour and life

"It's conceptual fashion and it is also a research platform. We have commercial collections but they come out of a strong narrative question."
- Andrea Zapp

"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. We were both coming from the same place, a place of poignancy and fundamental emotion."
- Johnny Marr

after *The X Factor*, and we round up Manchester bands to look out for in 2017, including 1st 1st, Pale Waves and The Hyena Kill.

Fashion designer and senior research fellow Andrea Zapp describes her life as an international media artist and we crown Georgina Hurdsfield as our first student photography competition winner.



Issue 6
Summer

Humanity Hallows

Manchester Metropolitan University Student Magazine

.co.uk

PINS



Festival Round Up

Escape the City for Less

Suzi Quatro

Hannah Witton

We speak to cover stars PINS about their new *Bad Thing* EP and how they came to collaborate with Iggy Pop. Mancunian feminist author Hannah Witton explores sex, relationships and online bullying, while we launch our 'I'm a feminist because...' series as 2,500 protesters take to Oxford Road for the 2017 Reclaim the Night march.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham pledges to end rough sleeping in the city by 2020 and *Positive News* Editor-in-Chief Sean Dagan Wood shares his commitment to constructive journalism.

We also turn our attention to the upcoming festival season,

"I think it's going to be important that whoever is the Greater Manchester Mayor, they need to get our voice heard on the national stage. We are being drowned out by Scotland and London and that has left many people feeling unsure about politics."

- Andy Burnham

"Our mentality and our style is DIY, like working with your friends or people you know to do something together independently. If there's not someone there to help you to do it, you just do it yourself anyway."

- PINS

which sees Foo Fighters and Radiohead top the bill at the Reading and Leeds Festival, alongside first-time headliners The 1975 at Parklife and Frank Ocean's first UK performance since 2014. Ben Macwhinnie's time-lapse shot of St Peter's Square crowns him this issue's student photography winner, while photographer Simon Buckley talks about his new project *Not Quite Light*.



Issue 7
Autumn

Humanity Hallows.co.uk

Manchester Metropolitan University Student Magazine



HELLO FRESHER
ANGELA RAYNER
MCR MUSIC
TIPS AND TRICKS
ANNIE ZAIDI

ARGH KiD



Issue 7 - Autumn 2017

Our seventh issue is published four months after the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017 tragically took the lives of 22 people. Inspired by Percy Shelley's 1819 poem 'The Masque of Anarchy', our feature 'Ye are many - they are few!' echoes Manchester's message of warmth, strength and resilience in the aftermath. This includes poet Tony Walsh's performance of 'This is the Place', which moves thousands of grieving Mancunians gathered in Albert Square for a vigil of peace, while millions more watch at home.

Fellow Manchester poet ARGH KiD's 'She Gives You Just Enough' also gives us strength

"I didn't vote for Jeremy (Corbyn). I voted for Andy Burnham, I believe he is the best leader we never had and I'm thrilled he is the Mayor of Greater Manchester now as he deserves it."
- Angela Rayner

during this time and he sticks two fingers in the face of 'poetry as a privilege'. The now Deputy PM Angela Rayner discusses life growing up in the city and Labour's education priorities and Australian actress and Save the Children ambassador Isla Fisher releases a new children's book.

"Ye are many - they are few!"

Elsewhere, *Pitch Perfect 3* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* top our new film round up, we share a beginner's guide to the Gay Village and delve into swiping, ghosting and the tangled web of dating apps with sociologist Dr Jenny Van Hooff.



Issue 8
Spring

Humanity Hallows.co.uk

Jack Monroe

JOHN ROBB

NEW MUSIC

NICHOLAS ROYLE

INTERNATIONAL NEWSROOM



Issue 8 - Spring 2018

Award-winning food journalist and campaigner Jack Monroe leads the fight against fake news, fresh from their Twitter libel case win against columnist Katie Hopkins in a row over tweets about damage to a war memorial. Monroe came into the public eye following the popularity of their series *Cooking on a Bootstrap* and has since released several 'austerity recipes' books, becoming an important figure in UK campaigns against poverty and hunger.

Singer, bassist and boss of music magazine *Louder Than War* John Robb discusses being the first person to interview Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and coining the term 'Britpop'. Donna Trump and Eva Serration – two popular Queens from Manchester's thriving drag scene – tell us about the city's Queer culture and explain why politics and drag are closely intertwined.

"Queer will always be relevant and even more so with the rise of the far right, there is almost a correlation."
– Eva Serration

"There's actually an argument that Manchester was built in the vision of punk and post-punk. When you look at the city, it looks like The Hacienda – the straight lines, the angles, the type of design. Rather than 'We built this city on rock and roll'... Manchester's version would be: 'We built this city on punk and post-punk.'"

– John Robb

Novelist and editor Nicholas Royle releases a new short story collection, *Ornithology*. The first cat café comes to town and American true crime podcast royalty *My Favourite Murder* hosts Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark sell shows out across the UK.



The logo consists of the characters 'aAh!' in a bold, white, distressed font. The 'a' is lowercase and has a slightly irregular shape. The 'A' is uppercase and very bold. The 'h' is lowercase and also bold. The exclamation point is large and prominent. The overall style is gritty and artistic.

Introducing aAh! – Manchester Metropolitan University's online and print arts and culture student magazine (2018 – present).

In 2018, *Humanity Hallows* transformed into aAh!, marking a significant milestone in our journey. The rebrand, led by Graphic Design lecturer John Walsh and his team of student designers, not only gave the magazine a bold new look, but also cemented aAh!'s identity as Manchester Met's official arts and culture student magazine. What truly sets aAh! apart is its cross-disciplinary, collaborative approach. It serves as a dynamic space where students from all year groups and disciplines can come together to work on real-world briefs, reflecting the demands of the industry.

Through this hands-on experience, students showcase their creativity, build professional portfolios, and gain the practical skills that make them stand out to future employers. aAh! is more than just a magazine – it's a launchpad for emerging talent, where ideas come to life and careers take flight.



The UGLY Issue - Summer 2018

In June 2018, Manchester Met's official student magazine *Humanity Hallows* transforms into aAh! – a new arts and culture online and print magazine. Each issue has a tailored theme running through its features, opinion pieces, Q&As, featured artwork, photography, poetry and flash fiction.

“Ugly issues in our society? Division and poverty. The ugliness of great wealth and shiny buildings alongside homeless people begging to try and survive.”
– Jeremy Corbyn

The first issue of aAh! launches at the Degree Show with the theme 'UGLY', tackling issues from racism, classism and poverty, to art censorship and mental health. Award-winning rapper and political activist Akala shares the internal conflict he's faced with success and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn sends out a strong message of defiance against Conservative austerity policies, rattling Theresa May's 'strong and stable' vision.



We explore Manchester's brutalist architecture, dive into the underbelly of the music industry and reckon with the dehumanisation of disabled people in the media. Instagram model Jazzelle Zanaughtti turns beauty standards on their head and we uncover the ugly side of relationships, covering cheating, Tinder and low self-esteem with Relate relationship counsellor Carol Lyons.

Millennials listen up... Our lovely liberal generation is also unfocused and vague. We think we know everything, which we kind of do, but mostly we don't. aAh! hopes to present the opportunity for readers and writers to question their own ideas about the world we've fallen into.



aAh!

The y.ES ISSUE

The YES Issue - Spring 2019

Our second issue themed 'YES' explores consent, acceptance and authenticity. We share tips for embracing sustainable living and recognise that, yes, climate change is real. Andy's Man Club facilitator Kieran Holliday explains why acknowledging men's mental health matters.

**"The way I dress
is not a yes."**

Elsewhere in the city, new music venue YES opens and The Pink Room there quickly becomes a Manc favourite. Young entrepreneurs talk about their calling in fashion and the lightbulb "yes moments" that have made their creative businesses what they are today.



2018 becomes the year of student protest worldwide and in the UK young people show a greater interest in politics following Britain's 2016 decision to leave the EU.

**"Why pink? Because
every venue is black!"**
- YES bar

In October, more than 700,000 protesters take to the streets of London to demand a second referendum, followed by the People's Vote protest in March 2019. Over six million sign a petition to revoke Article 50 and remain in the EU.





In March 2020, university teaching moves online in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. We release *The FOOD Issue* online and update our taste tour of Manchester to include Covid-19 updates on dining options.

We spotlight the local businesses getting on board with the Too Good To Go app to combat food waste and review Lara Williams' latest book *The Supper Club*. Amal Hassan – the Somali refugee who came to the UK after civil war broke out – becomes a *MasterChef* star and entrepreneur and shares her story.

“It didn’t get any better than that. Bringing Somali-inspired food to *MasterChef*, I felt like I was lifting a veil off a world that I know has a lot to offer food-wise.”
- Amal Hassan

Mob Kitchen founder Ben Lebus dishes up accessible recipes for inspiring healthier food options and we sample the simple genius of Slovakian sweet meals discovered while studying abroad.

Greater Manchester Poverty Action reveal the scale of food poverty in the city and we pore over the eating habits of the political elite. Looking back on Ed Miliband’s mauling of a bacon sandwich and Theresa May’s



awkward chip-eating episode, we delve into the media’s obsession with politicians’ eating habits and consider how they might better utilise food in their politics beyond ‘looking human’ to solve the real social issues brought about by austerity.

INDIVIDUALITY. LIVE MUSIC.
OWN DECISIONS. EXPRESSION.
EQUITY. OPPORTUNITIES. JOY.
INDEPENDENCE. THE CHOICES.
SMILE. LIGHTNESS. EQUALITY.
FRATERNITY. FREEDOM LIGHT.
BRAIN. THINKING. DANCING.
SEX. FLYING. ISSUE STRUGGLE.
READING. OPEN ROAD. MONEY.
OPEN MIND. BLAZE. HEALTH.
TRAVELLING.
SECURITY.

aAh!

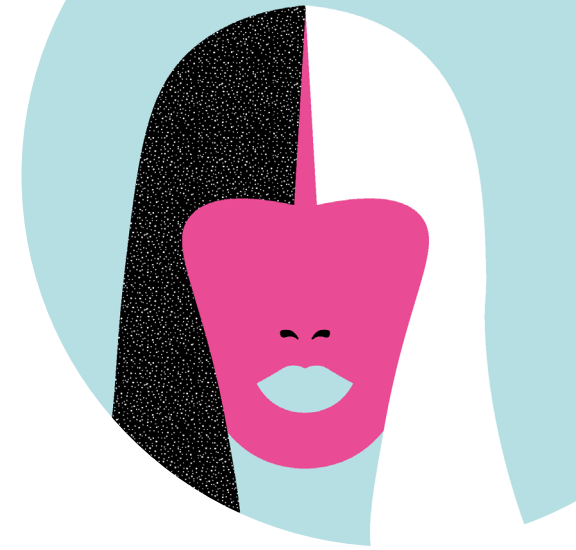
As lockdown restrictions ease and we begin to regain freedoms, aAh! examines the word 'Freedom' on collective and individual levels. From personal stories of creative freedom to political accounts that highlight the lack of liberty among certain communities, *The FREEDOM Issue* shines a light on the experiences of others to help construct a bridge of commonality.

"I've got a message for Priti Patel: 'You cannot eat money. When there's hurricanes and fires gushing through this world. We want equality, diversity and true racial change and we want to stop killing the planet.'"

- Natasha March

Human rights campaigner Natasha March talks activism post-Kill The Bill and the proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill receives backlash due to its

◀ **Cover** We asked a diverse group of people how they define 'Freedom' in two words or less. These are their unfiltered responses.



proposed regulations on protests. What doesn't garner much attention among the public though is how the new regulations will affect travelling communities across the UK.

BookTok contributes to a lockdown book boom, Britney Spears' conservatorship case hits headlines and we celebrate the return of live music over summer with a photo profile on Leeds Festival. DMA's Johnny Took shares how he finds freedom through music and we round up free things to do – while still feeling the pinch of the pandemic.



aAh!



the
change
issue

The CHANGE Issue - Spring 2022

We run the theme of 'Change' for our sixth issue to capture our experiences over the past two years and the ways society has transformed in the long shadow of the pandemic. From personal stories of growth and strength to exploring the evolving social and technological era we now live in, *The CHANGE Issue* looks at a post-pandemic world of innovation, championing change-makers and new horizons across the realm of arts and culture.

"On the 24th of February, at 5 o'clock in the morning, my mother ran into my room and said: 'Wake up daughter, the war began.' I will never forget these words. I didn't know what to do, I was lost to be honest. I had a panic attack. I just couldn't believe it."
- Aleksandra, 21, speaks to aAh! via Telegram from Ukraine

The team is proofreading their almost print-ready magazine when war breaks out. The world watches on in horror as Russia invades Ukraine in an escalation of the conflict which started eight years earlier. *Changing* the entire direction of the content and design to reflect the world's biggest story, our cover art of a chameleon in the blue and orange of MMU transforms into the blue and yellow of the Ukraine flag and the issue launches our #StudentsSupportUkraine humanitarian campaign.

Our journalists speak via the social media app Telegram to a student in hiding who has fled Ukraine with her family for our feature 'A Letter from Ukraine'. We interview her best friend, a Russian/Ukrainian exchange student studying in the city, who is fundraising for the cause.

"The subject of change has permeated itself within this issue until the very last second"





The FRESHERS Issue - Autumn 2022

The first annual special mini issue of aAh! – *The FRESHERS Issue 22/23* – launches to shine a spotlight on everything Manchester has to offer to welcome new (and returning students) to the city. We highlight the freshest spots, serve up budget-friendly recipes from our friends at MetMUnch and share advice from our Student Union Officers.

“It seemed like a no-brainer to bring music onto campus because it’s Manchester - it’s the city of music. It’s got such a rich heritage.”

- Evan Wilson,
Art School Live

Essential reading for everyone looking to get the most out of their time studying in the best city in the world, we round up the top spots for music, art, culture, food and drink. Evan Wilson from Manchester Met’s live-streamed music festival Art School Live shares how the latest series went and who to look out for on the bill this year.



Our features cover overcoming homesickness, avoiding the trap of ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ schemes and ways to shop more sustainably on a budget to help Freshers ease into student life.





THE ENERGY ISSUE



The ENERGY Issue - Spring 2023

The **ENERGY** Issue looks at everything from living off-grid in the British countryside and Tanzania's plight against climate change to how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting creative students and where to find a quiet corner around town to recharge your own energy. We share energy-boosting grub recipes in collaboration with MetMUnch and spotlight the city's artists who are tackling the climate crisis head-on.

Manchester Met's sports live stream broadcast show Matchday Live celebrates vision mixer Callum Hughes landing a top industry job at *EuroSport*.

"We are receiving a punishment for a mistake we have not made."

- Lazaro, a student at the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania



We recommend the best books to reignite your love for reading and round up the best coffee shops to 'plug in' and work or 'switch off' and play.

The Northern Quarter Night & Day Café late night noise row rages on, British rock band Enter Shikari bring their solar-powered album *A Kiss For The Whole World* to Manchester's historic New Century Hall and we surprise readers at our launch party with an interactive animated front cover by graphic design student Laufey Guðnadóttir.





The FRESHERS Issue - Autumn 2023

Our second mini 'FRESHERS' themed issue launches in time for Freshers Week 2023. We uncover the hidden gems that make our campus special, share the results of our hunt for the perfect burger and round up the best vintage clothing shops that won't break the bank.

Artificial intelligence rears its head so we speak to Professor of AI and head of Manchester Met's Research and Knowledge Exchange Centre for Advanced Computational Science, Professor Yonghong Peng about the implications of the technology and its impact on our cultural landscape.

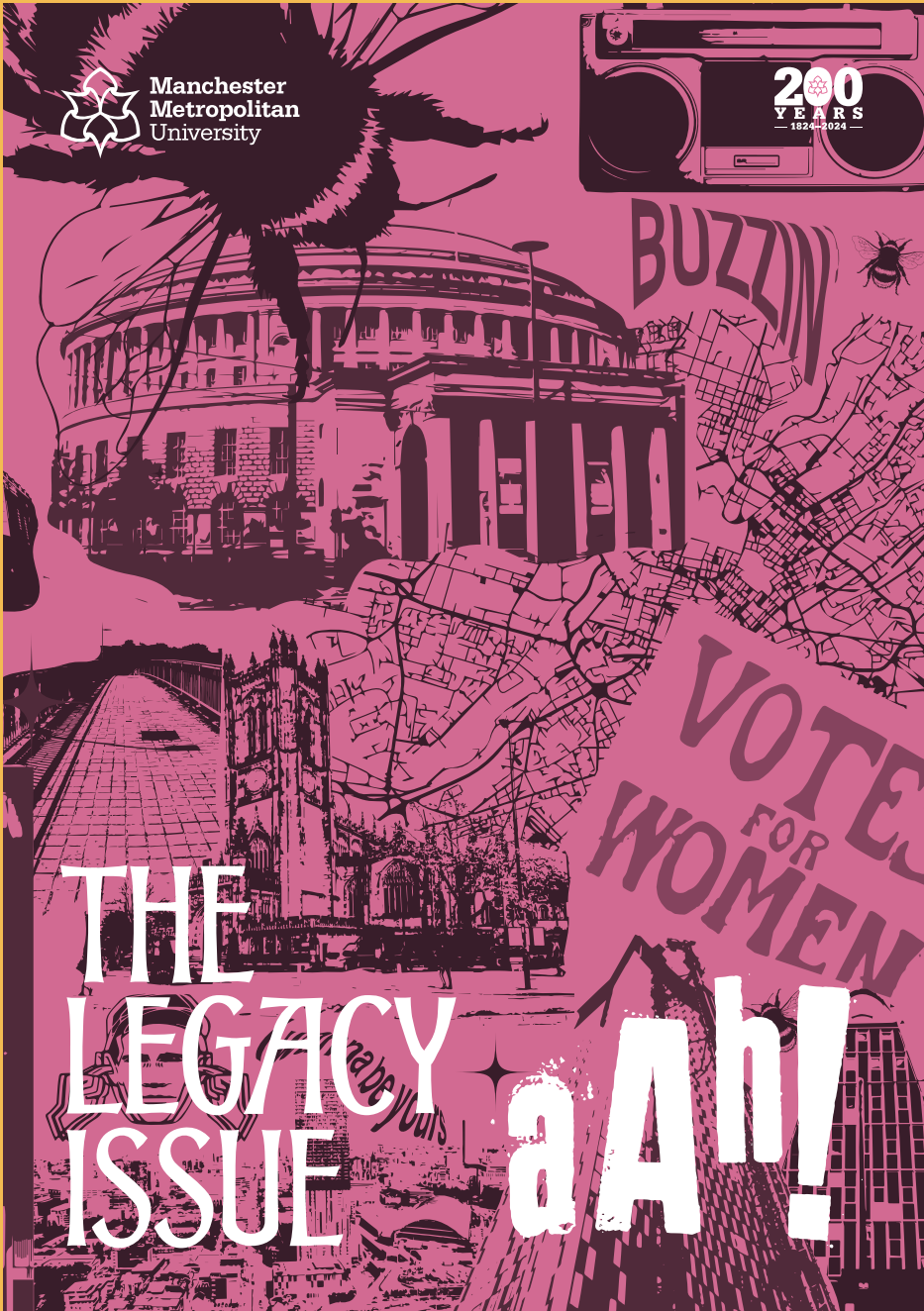
"Drag can be ANYTHING! It has no boundaries. Art is limitless, and drag is art. However, the community that we call drag nowadays is an amalgamation of many different cultures and movements throughout history."

- Viola

Manchester's rising drag star Viola takes us on a journey through their experience on hit TV show *Queen of the Universe*.

Manchester Cathedral's Writer-in-Residence Tom Branfoot shares his vision for using poetry to make a difference. We immerse ourselves in the creative world of Venture Arts and dive into the story of this innovative charity empowering individuals with learning difficulties and supporting them to excel as bold artists.





The LEGACY Issue - Spring 2024

Our tenth print issue of aAh! lands in the midst of Manchester Met's 200th anniversary celebrations. With the theme of 'LEGACY,' we reflect on our past, present, and future, highlighting the historical events and figures that have left a lasting impact on our creative community.

The University's Grade II listed Grosvenor West Building reopens for the first time since a major refurbishment. aAh! graphic designer Bradley Sansom has created a new 'Grosvenor' font by redrawing artist Walter Crane's engravings above the door of the art school.

Taking a nostalgic stroll down Memory Lane (and Wilmslow Road), we revisit student life in the 1980s and spotlight modern pioneers in the city's music scene – Hit & Run's Rich Reason and Parklife, Warehouse Project founder Sacha Lord – and the trailblazing women from the

Manchester Writing School who are reshaping the city's literary landscape.

"It's an exciting time to be a student in our brilliant city"

Manchester Fashion Institute graduate Ellie Louise Brown introduces her new disability-friendly, sustainable clothing brand, and we serve up a culinary legacy for all to enjoy: Nana Meg's Tater Ash – a family recipe passed down the ages.





The FRESHERS Issue - Autumn 2024

Our third mini 'FRESHERS' themed issue launches, welcoming new and returning students to an evolving campus. All Saints Park reopens, the library moves to John Dalton Building, and our front cover illustration by Dylan Meek captures this moment in time.

“The most wonderful thing in the world is inclusivity”
- Peter Hook

In this issue, we focus on keeping it real – the theme of 'Authenticity' runs through both the content and design. We offer honest advice on combating first-year loneliness, and the team incorporates manual processes into the production of this issue, utilising the workshops and talents of the university's students. Embracing the art school's 'Many arts, many skills' motto, techniques like letterpress, risograph printing, and watercolours are brought right up to date with digital processes.

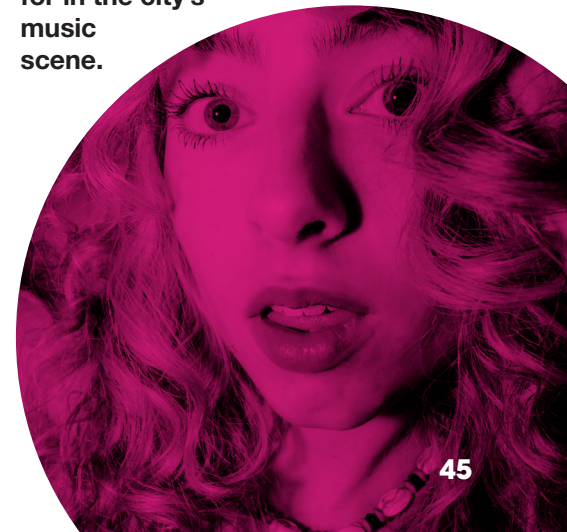
As Manchester celebrates its European Capital of Cycling status, we talk to Greater Manchester Bicycle Mayor



Belinda Everett, who is gearing up for the Lights Up bike ride. Peter Hook shares a message for our new generation

“The Black community has been cycling for a very long time — since the 1800s: it's just you haven't seen it.”
- Belinda Everett

of students, and we spotlight the female rising stars to look out for in the city's music scene.



The hall of fame

2014-2024



Since its launch, over 400 students have contributed to the aAh! print magazine, each leaving their unique mark on the publication.



Ben Thompson

Freelance Journalist and Tutor at News Associates



"Take every opportunity, even if it scares you"

Ben Thompson studied Modern History at Manchester Met before completing an NCTJ course in Multimedia Journalism with News Associates. He first joined aAh! (formerly *Humanity Hallows*) during his second year and says the experience proved invaluable, teaching him how to meet deadlines and work in a diverse, fast-paced environment.

Ben says: "I can't express enough how much good it did me as a young journalist. It taught the benefit of working to deadlines and working in a range of environments, whether that was along a parade route for Manchester Day or at a poetry convention or a Hong Kong rights protest."

Ben is currently a freelance journalist, primarily working with *Supercar Blondie* and teaching journalism at *News Associates*. His work has appeared in *LadBible*, *The Daily Mail*, *Newsweek*, *The Sun*, *The Mirror*, *Manchester Evening News* and *The Manchester Mill*.

Sharing advice to students looking to break into the industry, Ben says: "Take every opportunity, even if it scares you. In journalism, you'll encounter a lot of situations that might make you feel nervous deep down. Whether that's a big event to cover or a difficult interviewee, it's par for the course. Feel the fear and do it anyway. Even if something goes wrong, there'll be a lesson there. And you'll be sure to meet a journalist with a similar experience or a bigger blunder."



Brontë Schiltz

Northern Correspondent at *The Big Issue* and News Editor at the International Network of Street Papers



"It could lead you to discover a line of work that you really love!"

Brontë Schiltz is a PhD candidate at the Manchester Centre for Gothic Studies researching the Televisual Gothic. She also works as the Northern Correspondent at *The Big Issue* and News Editor at the International Network of Street Papers. During her MA in English Studies in 2018, Brontë served as the Editorial Assistant for aAh! Magazine, where she managed the team of section editors, coordinated team meetings and workshops, and oversaw the magazine's print and online platforms.

In March 2019, Brontë was awarded the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Outstanding Contribution to Media and Communications Award for her work with aAh! Magazine. Her time working with aAh! was instrumental in shaping her journalism career: "I am now doing work that I love – and work I would not be doing now without the experience and bylines I gained with aAh!"

Reflecting on her experience, Brontë says: "I loved working at aAh! – from planning themed issues to hosting editorial meetings and interviewing musicians. The work was always varied, exciting and fulfilling. I highly recommend getting involved, not only to build your portfolios but also to gain experience of working in a newsroom and exploring the many different kinds of journalism – it could lead you to discover a line of work you really love!"



Georgina Hurdsfield

Music photographer



"I wouldn't be where I am now without aAh! magazine."

Georgina Hurdsfield studied Psychology at Manchester Met and joined the aAh! team as a music photographer in 2017. She currently works as a music photographer for Gigwise, Live at Leeds Festival, Festival Republic, Y-Not Festival, Futuresound Group, *Renegade Magazine* and *Punktastic*. After graduation, Georgina continued to volunteer for the magazine for five years, coordinating aAh! Live – the magazine's live music section.

Speaking about aAh!'s role in her development as a photographer, Georgina says: "I always tell everyone I wouldn't be where I am now without aAh! Magazine. Working with the magazine has been an invaluable learning experience. I've photographed more than 50 gigs and festivals for aAh!, which has honed my skills in communicating with PR and industry professionals."

Since covering her first gig with aAh! in 2017, Georgina has photographed hundreds of artists including The 1975, Billie Eilish, Ethel Cain, and Little Simz. She has also been recruited to join official image teams for festivals she first shot with aAh!: "A standout moment was covering Leeds Festival in 2019. It was a surreal opportunity to photograph some of my favourite artists. I used to attend a lot when I was younger, so being there with a press pass was a full-circle moment."

Georgina credits the opportunities she received through aAh! with directly helping her to secure her dream roles: "Following my coverage of Live at Leeds Festival and Leeds Festival in 2019, I submitted my work to the festivals, which ultimately led to my inclusion in their official photography teams." She adds: "I want aspiring photographers to have the same opportunity, support and knowledge starting out. I would love for them to envision a future where they too can shoot for their favourite festivals or tour with an artist."



Jacqueline Grima

Author



"Your time at university is short, so make the most of it."

Jacqueline embarked on a Creative Writing MA at Manchester Met in 2015, graduating with a distinction and winning the 2018 Janet Beer prize for outstanding contribution. During her time at Manchester Met, Jacqueline worked as student editor-in-chief and a commissioned journalist for *Humanity Hallows* (now aAh!). Her work has since appeared in a variety of publications, both in print and online and her first psychological thriller *The Weekend Alone* was published in January 2023.

Jacqueline reflects on how working on the student magazine gave her life-changing opportunities such as travelling to Poland to join a press team with the Holocaust Educational Trust. Jacqueline says: "I have very fond memories of my time working as editor-in-chief of *Humanity Hallows*. Being part of the student press office team brought me a wealth of opportunities, enabling me to meet staff and students from across the whole university, as well as a celebrity or two. It was also a lot of fun!"

Since graduating, Jacqueline has had three psychological thrillers published with HarperCollins, and is now working towards becoming an editor. Jacqueline says: "My experience at Manchester Met is a great addition to my CV. My advice to current students would be: go for it. Get involved with as many extra-curricular activities as you can. Your time at university is short, so make the most of it. You won't regret it!"

Our 20 print issues have featured...

Aaron Lembo
 Abigail Black
 Abigail Leatherbarrow
 Adam Evans
 Adam McKinney
 Agota Juskaite
 Aidan Heesbeen
 Aimee Cross
 Aimie-Ligaya Gater
 Akash Ali
 Alex Butler
 Alex Challies
 Alex Tadros
 Alexandria Slater
 Ali Ward
 Alice Denison
 Alice Stevens
 Alisha Edge
 Aliyyah Sharnah Poyser
 Alka Tiwari
 Amber Bermingham
 Amber Walker
 Ameena Ceessay
 Amelia Brook
 Amelia Masters
 Amina Jeng
 Amy Corringham
 Amy Kinnings-Smith
 Anael Emenanjo
 Andrea Maria Petrie
 Andrew Deyes
 Andrew Wilcox
 Anita Belous
 Anna Klekot
 Anna Torrance
 Antony Cross
 Aoife Dobson
 Ben Macwhinnie
 Ben Orgill
 Ben Redshaw
 Ben Thompson
 Ben Townsend
 Benjamin Cassidy
 Beth Fulham
 Bradley Sansom
 Bridget Taylor
 Brodie Whittaker
 Brogan Devlin
 Brontë Schiltz
 Bronwyn Riseley
 Bryn Rogers
 Cait Earnshaw
 Caitlin Baber
 Caleb Nelson
 Callum McLeod
 Callum Pickup
 Callum Scott
 Camilla Whitfield
 Campbell Bishop
 Cara Brogden
 Carl Parrott
 Carla Acevedo-Ferron
 Cass Hyde
 Catherine Player
 Cecile Fardoux

Charlie Jordin
 Charlotte Hawksworth
 Charlotte Howson
 Christie Leigh Marsh
 Christine Johnstone-Swift
 Christopher David Goggs
 Ciamh McDonnell
 Ciara Reynolds
 Cindy Khin
 Clare Nangreave
 Clayton McLoughlin-Lopez
 Corey Davis
 Daisy Mojave Holland
 Damilola Oladokun
 Daniel Howden
 Daniel J Broadley
 Daniel Peter Weekes
 Daniel S Martin
 Daniel Spragg
 Daniela Lupton-Páez
 Darcy Gillham
 Darragh Kempson
 David Keyworth
 Debbie Alty
 Di Pajarillaga
 Dylan McCallum
 Dylan Meek
 Ebony Langley
 Ed Tucker
 Eddie Toomer McAlpine
 Edgar Scukins
 Elena John
 Elisabeth Munro
 Elizabeth Clark
 Ella Bartman
 Ella Walsh
 Ellen Scott
 Ellie Bower
 Ellie Croston
 Ellie Kilshaw
 Ellie Swindale
 Ellie Tyson
 Ellie Walmsley
 Ellie Wright
 Elliot Morrow
 Ember Kirsch-Pinfold
 Emily Dicks
 Emily Downes
 Emily Jones
 Emily Oldfield
 Emily Pellen
 Emily Tarlton
 Emily Williams
 Emma Jane Makarova
 Emma Nash
 Erin Botten
 Esme Greaves
 Eve Hebron
 Farrah Pinder
 Farwa Naseer
 Faye Byrne
 Felicity Hitch
 Finn O'Leary
 Francielly Cristina Dias Torres
 Frankie Richardson

Freddie Bruhin-Price
 Freya Barwell
 Freya Dew
 Gabriel Awuah
 Gelsica Gloria
 George Freeman
 George Haigh
 George Wainwright
 Georgia Downham
 Georgia Harmey
 Georgia Pearson
 Georgina Hurdsfield
 Corey Davis
 Grace Atkinson
 Grace Parnell
 Gracie Hall
 Graham Murray
 Hajar Douglas
 Hannah Noor
 Hannah Clark
 Hannah Cornall
 Hannah Fielding
 Hannah Ladmore
 Hannah Lewis
 Hannah Quine
 Hannah Roddy
 Hannah Terry
 Harry Freebre
 Helen Adams
 Helen Kay
 Helena Heaton
 Helena Tomlinson
 Holly Mckay
 Holly Watson
 Ian Burke
 Ian Peek
 Imogen Champion
 Imogen Lambert-Baker
 Indea Lucas
 Isobel Bates
 Iver Lawson
 Izzie 'Denmark' Flynn
 Jack Dean
 Jack Holmes
 Jack Kimberley
 Jack Ramsey
 Jack Silverwood
 Jack Taylor
 Jack Warne
 Jack Weir
 Jacob Charlton
 Jacob Phillips
 Jacque Talbot
 Jacqueline Grima
 Jade Hannah Smallshaw
 Jake Jones
 James Ogden
 James Skipper
 James Toon
 Jamie Oliver
 Jamie Stewart
 Jane Ashworth
 Jane-Ann Meah
 Jas Bird
 Jas Smith
 Jay Mulholland

Jenna Muiderman
 Jennifer Ferentluk
 Jennifer Grace
 Jenny Li
 Jess Berry
 Jess Stoddard
 Jessica Aurie
 Jessica Carruthers
 Jessica Platt
 Jessica Wise
 Jessye Persee
 Joanna Shaw
 Joanne Xu
 Jody McDowell-Barnes
 Jody Woodhouse
 Joe Roper
 Joe Walby
 John Walsh
 Jonny Bowman
 Joseph Crutchley
 Joshua Fielding
 Joshua Harrison
 Joshua Lee
 Josie Lamb
 JP Burns
 Julie Chang
 Jun (Jackie) Li
 Kaitlyn Brockley
 Kami Jagla
 Kate Calvert
 Kate King
 Kate MacAlister
 Kate Relton-Grice
 Katelan Evans
 Katie Ryan
 Kawaljit Kaur
 Kayla Monteiro
 Keith Bloody Mary
 Keja Isaac Sofekun
 Kerry Power
 Kiah-Azriel Freer
 Kian Godbold
 Kieran Hepworth
 Kizzy Yuill
 Laufey Guðnádóttir
 Laura Pathe
 Laura Potts
 Laura Rooney-Harbottle
 Laura Sheridan
 Lauren Bourne
 Lauren Garland
 Le Ha Thu
 Lee Ashworth
 Leona Hall-Shaw
 Leonie Kellar
 Leslie Kerwin
 Letitia Jones
 Lewis Finney
 Lexi Bickell
 Leyao Xia
 Liam Bonney
 Lily Hodgkinson
 Linda Cosgriff
 Lisa Owen-Jones
 Lisa Silva
 Louis Brierley
 Lucille Mazel
 Lucy Madeleine Watson
 Lucy Simpson

Lucy Vincent
 Lucy Warburton
 Lulu Panatti-Reeve
 Lydia Allison
 Macy Evans
 Maddie Clayton
 Maia Nikitina
 Makenna Ali
 Maria Lykke Salling
 Marta Bagnoli
 Martha Wilson
 Masha Milenkovic
 Maxine Douglas-Morgan
 Maya Luthra
 Meera Jacob
 Megan Bailey
 Megan Levick
 Megan McArdle
 Megan O'Sullivan
 Melissa Birch
 Melissa Svensen
 Meliza Sestito
 Merike van de Vijver
 Mia Thurston
 Milly Harrison
 Miriam Sabbah
 Molly Clarkson
 Molly Granger
 Monica McManaman
 Nadia Tira
 Natalie Carragher
 Natasha Leigh
 Nateisha Scott
 Nathan Eckersley
 Neil Harrison
 Nele van Hout
 Nerissa Cargill Thompson
 Niamh Melody
 Nick Stone
 Nicola Broadbent
 Nicola Macey
 Nima Ebadi
 Nima Khorramooz
 Nina Schaarschmidt
 Orrin Saint-Pierre
 Oskar Walin
 Parham Salimy
 Paul Corry
 Paul Fahey
 Philip Orton
 Phoebe Barks
 Phoebe Bonser
 Phoebe Oldendorp
 Phoebe Rawding
 Pierangelly Del Rio Martinez
 Pragya Singh
 Pruthvi Khilosia
 Rachel Bruce
 Rachel Crowley
 Rachel Halsall
 Rachel McLoughlin
 Rachel Rowlands
 Rachel Stowers
 Razeena Patel
 Rebecca Dyson
 Rebecca Redican
 Rhiannon Thrush
 Robbie Xavier
 Robert James Gardham

Rosa Methol
 Rosalie Wood
 Rose Proudfoot
 Rowan Thorp
 Ruby Qaimkhani
 Ruth Hudson
 Ryan Geraghty
 Ryan Rothwell
 Ryann Overbay
 Sadie Blake
 Sadie Wake
 Sam Gosling
 Sam Peckett
 Sam Simpson
 Samuel Ethan Jolly
 Samuel Rye
 Sara Da Silva
 Sara Fisher
 Sara Haywood
 Sara Khaliq
 Sara Lopes
 Sara Merkaj
 Sarah Beck
 Sarah Lane
 Sarah Lavery
 Scott Liam
 Sean O'Mahoney
 Shannen Seaby
 Shawna Healey
 Siddra Daud Asghar
 Simone Richardson
 Simran Sahiba Kaur Takhi
 Sioned Riffel
 Snehal Rajendra Dhanwate
 Sophie Hanson
 Sophie Wisedale
 Steven Mackle
 Sumaira Khalid Naseem
 Suzanne Finch
 Tamar Levy
 Tanisha Rout
 Tanya Ashworth
 Tara Morony
 Teodora Brăcău
 Teodora Busurca
 Terri Wroe
 Thalia Carr
 Thamanna Choudhury
 Thanos Kyrtziz
 Thomas Cooper
 Thomas Mansbridge
 Tiffany Bowman
 Tom Collinson
 Tom Gallagher
 Tom Green
 Tyler Devine-Scott
 Tyrese King
 Victoria Mironenko
 Victoria Thiele
 Waldemar Stepien
 Rachel McLoughlin
 Rachel Rowlands
 Rachel Stowers
 Razeena Patel
 Rebecca Dyson
 Rebecca Redican
 Rhiannon Thrush
 Robbie Xavier
 Robert James Gardham



Jane Ashworth

Writer



"The students were absolutely lovely, so professional and welcoming"

Jane Ashworth graduated with an MFA Creative Writing from Manchester Met in 2021. During her time on the course, Jane contributed to aAh! Magazine and had work featured both on the website and in several print issues.

Reflecting on her time at university, Jane says: "The course was fantastic, but the icing on the cake for me was working with the team at aAh Magazine. I saw an invitation to write a creative piece for *The FREEDOM Issue* and nervously made a proposal. It was accepted and I immediately began to stress over it. The support from the editorial team was amazing, they checked my copy, came up with stunning graphics for the double-page spread, made suggestions for the edit when it had to be cut down. I was in good hands. Three or four more pieces followed in subsequent print magazines and each time the students were absolutely lovely, so professional and welcoming."

Jane continued to contribute to aAh! Magazine after graduation, and in 2024, she wrote a letter to Joni Mitchell titled 'Joni & Me,' published in *The LEGACY Issue*, a special issue marking the university's 200th anniversary.

Jane says: "The positive feedback has given me the confidence to enter competitions. I was long-listed for the Msexia Novel Competition last year. I am also sending my novel to agents and publishers, fingers crossed that the story of a middle-aged woman's second blooming will strike a chord."

Sharing advice for students, for students considering getting involved, Jane says: "I have attended launches where I read my submissions and the feedback had me buzzing for days. I'd encourage anybody to get stuck in, the experience can only help you to develop as a writer and a human being. The first time you are scared but you succeed, then face the next task with more self belief. I am proud to have contributed."



Laufey Guðnadóttir

Motion designer at One Agency



"Don't be afraid to try new things, even if they seem intimidating"

Laufey Guðnadóttir graduated with a BA (Hons) in Graphic Design from Manchester School of Art in 2023 and is now a motion designer at One Agency in Manchester. During her time at Manchester Met, Laufey joined aAh! Magazine's Graphic Design Collective, where she worked on several key issues, including *The ENERGY Issue*, *The FREEDOM Issue*, and *The CHANGE Issue*. This hands-on experience helped her refine her skills in print design, branding, and layout, laying a solid foundation for her future career in motion design.

Laufey credits her time at Manchester Met – and a pivotal 3D computer graphics workshop with lecturer Will Albin-Clark – for setting her on her career path. "I'd always been interested in 3D design, but it was the optional Blender workshop that cemented my passion for motion graphics," she says. This experience helped her land her current role at One Agency shortly after graduating.

Laufey also gained invaluable real-world experience as an in-house graphic designer at BMC Networking during her studies, which boosted her confidence and clarified her career goals. Her advice to current students? "Don't be afraid to try new things, even if they seem intimidating. The more skills you gain, the more you'll stand out in the industry."



Lisa Silva

Graphic Designer and Illustrator



"Stay in touch with your tutors and fellow creatives."

Lisa Silva graduated with a BA (Hons) in Graphic Design from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2023 and is now a full-time graphic designer. During her time at Manchester Met, Lisa played a key role in aAh! Magazine's Graphic Design Collective, leading several issues including *The ENERGY Issue* and *The CHANGE Issue*. This hands-on experience helped her develop expertise in editorial design, art direction, and print production, providing a strong foundation for her future career.

During her studies, Lisa gained a range of practical experience through freelance projects, which she continues to pursue alongside her full-time role, and her work with aAh! Magazine. Lisa says: "Working on the magazine taught me how to give and receive feedback, which is vital when you're working in a team," she says. This experience, along with an internship and portfolio studio visits, helped her become more resilient and prepared for the challenges of the design industry.

Sharing advice to students and recent graduates, Lisa says: "Don't be afraid to apply for roles, even if you don't meet all the criteria. Networking is also key – stay in touch with your tutors and fellow creatives, as a lot of work comes from word-of-mouth."



Nick Stone

Designer at Malcolm Reading Consultants



"aAh! was also the perfect chance to get to grips with the rules of typography, using imagery and upping my software skills to a professional standard"

Nick Stone graduated with BA (Hons) in Graphic Design from Manchester Met in 2018. He has since worked at *The Telegraph*, Tortoise Media and on various freelance projects after working with aAh! during his time at university. Nick now works at a consultancy organising architectural competitions, where he designs the brand and associated printed and digital material for each competition. Nick says, "We've run projects for museums and other buildings in the US, all around Europe, Asia and the Middle East."

Nick reflects on his time working with aAh! and how the experience has helped his career: "Having now worked with some of the best editorial designers there are on printed books, magazines, newspapers and digital publications for the last six years, I know they really value the techniques I picked up while working on aAh! Magazine. It gave us the chance to learn how other people around the room form ideas, develop these ideas as a team, and try out new techniques using real words and pictures."

For Nick, the variety of experiences he had with aAh! gave him the confidence to challenge himself: "The more ideas you can fill your head with at art school – the larger the range you can give in a job when you have the task of sketching ten unique spread or cover ideas by the end of the day. aAh! was also the perfect chance to get to grips with the rules of typography, using imagery and upping my software skills to a professional standard. Lastly, having something that has been properly printed and published is great to bring along to an interview."



Sam Peckett

Internal Communications Officer at Mencap



"aAh! added so much to my CV"

Sam Peckett graduated with an MA in Multimedia Journalism from Manchester Met in 2020. Alongside his studies, Sam worked as a Culture editor and social media assistant at aAh! and he is now working as a communications officer with Mencap, a charity supporting people with learning disabilities.

Sam says: "Getting involved with aAh! during my Master's degree was one of the best things I did at Manchester Met. It gave me a huge amount of experience to talk about when applying for roles in marketing and communications – sourcing stories, interviewing, editing copy and design work as well as soft skills like teamwork, creativity and time management.

"I'm now working in Internal Communications for a charity and really enjoy my role. I support the charity to communicate with and to its employees, making sure everyone has the info to do their jobs well.

"My advice to students at Manchester Met would be get involved with aAh! Magazine as soon as possible and to contribute as much as you can. aAh! added so much to my CV – plus you get to meet like-minded people and find other opportunities through it."



Shawna Healey

Affiliates and reviews writer at Manchester Evening News



"As a Geography student, I never dreamt of a career in journalism until I stumbled upon aAh! Magazine."

Shawna Healey graduated with a BSc in Geography at Manchester Met in 2020. During her studies, Shawna became a prolific contributor and editor at aAh! Magazine, leading the Fashion and Lifestyle section and contributing to several print issues.

Shawna says: "As a Geography student, I never dreamt of a career in journalism until I stumbled upon aAh! Magazine. I was hooked from the first meeting and I can't stress how invaluable the experience working on the student magazine has been, not only professionally, but to my life."

Shawna went on to study Journalism at postgraduate level: "Thanks to aAh! I'd go on to study postgraduate journalism at Leeds Beckett University, secure my first few general reporter jobs, before landing on affiliates writing at the *Manchester Evening News* where I cover shopping content and reviews. I now get paid to interview the likes of Guns N' Roses' Duff McKagan and the founder of [clothing brand] Scamp and Dude, Jo Tutchener-Sharp."

Sharing advice to new student journalists, Shawna says: "Write, write, write. Building your portfolio is imperative so you can impress future editors with your chops and bag a commission – or even a staff job. Having a niche is great, but try writing in a variety of forms and topics so you can then really hone in on what you want to do after you graduate. I went from covering fashion and lifestyle at aAh! to being a 'hard news reporter', then back to writing about lifestyle."

Reflecting on having the opportunity to develop a print portfolio, Shawna shares: "It's increasingly rare to see your name in print – so when you receive your copy of aAh! with your article and byline attached, there is no better feeling!"

Featured Artists

2014-2024

In each issue, we spotlight
a featured artist...

Aidan Heesbeen
Akash Ali
Alisha Edge
Brogan Devlin
Daisy Mojave Holland
Ellen Scott
Georgia Harmey
Grace Parnell
Gracie Hall
Josie Lamb

Keith Bloody Mary
Le Ha Thu
Leyao Xia
Lisa Silva
Nerissa Cargill Thompson
Nicola Macey
Sarah Beck
Tyler Devine-Scott
Victoria Mironenko



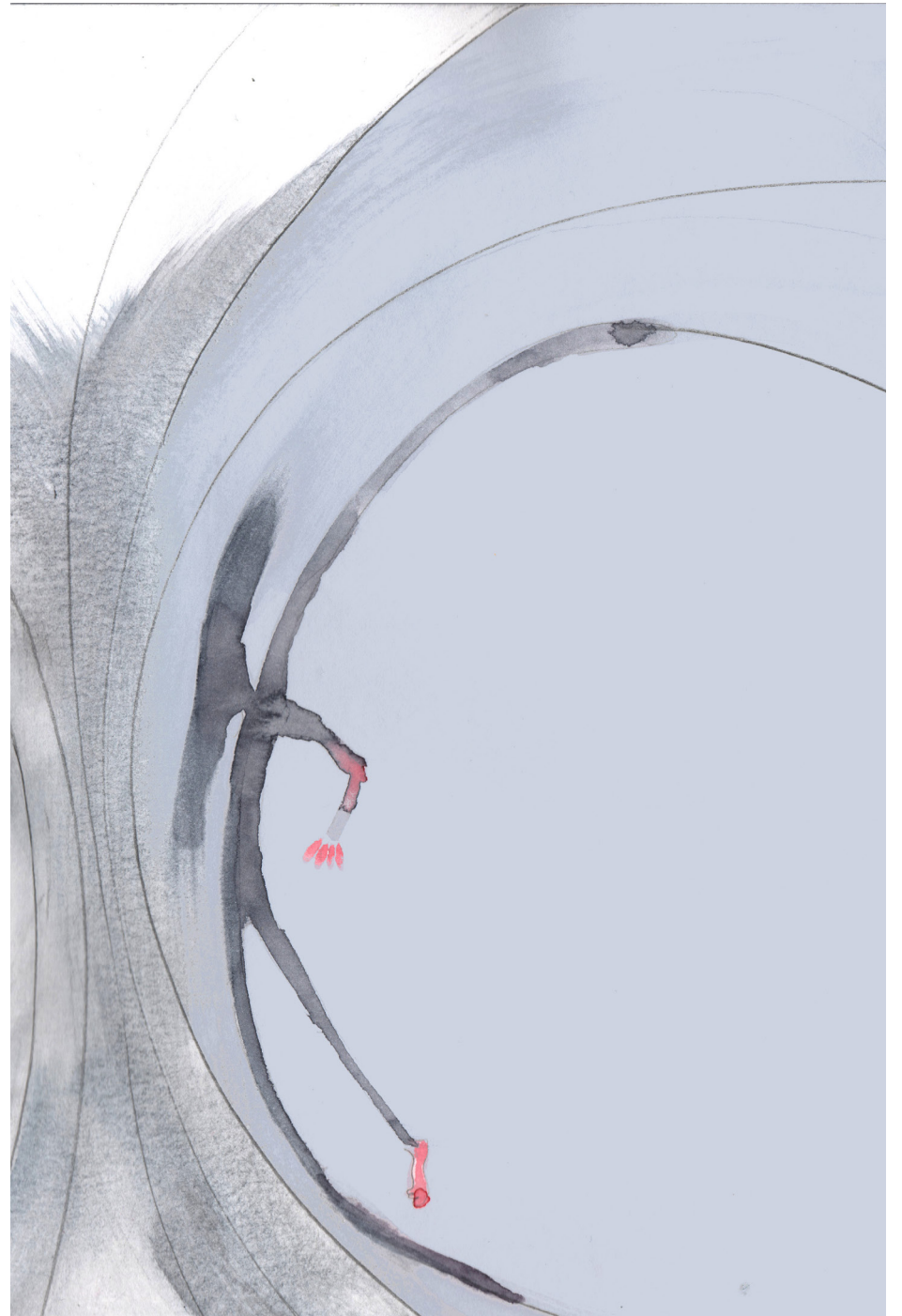
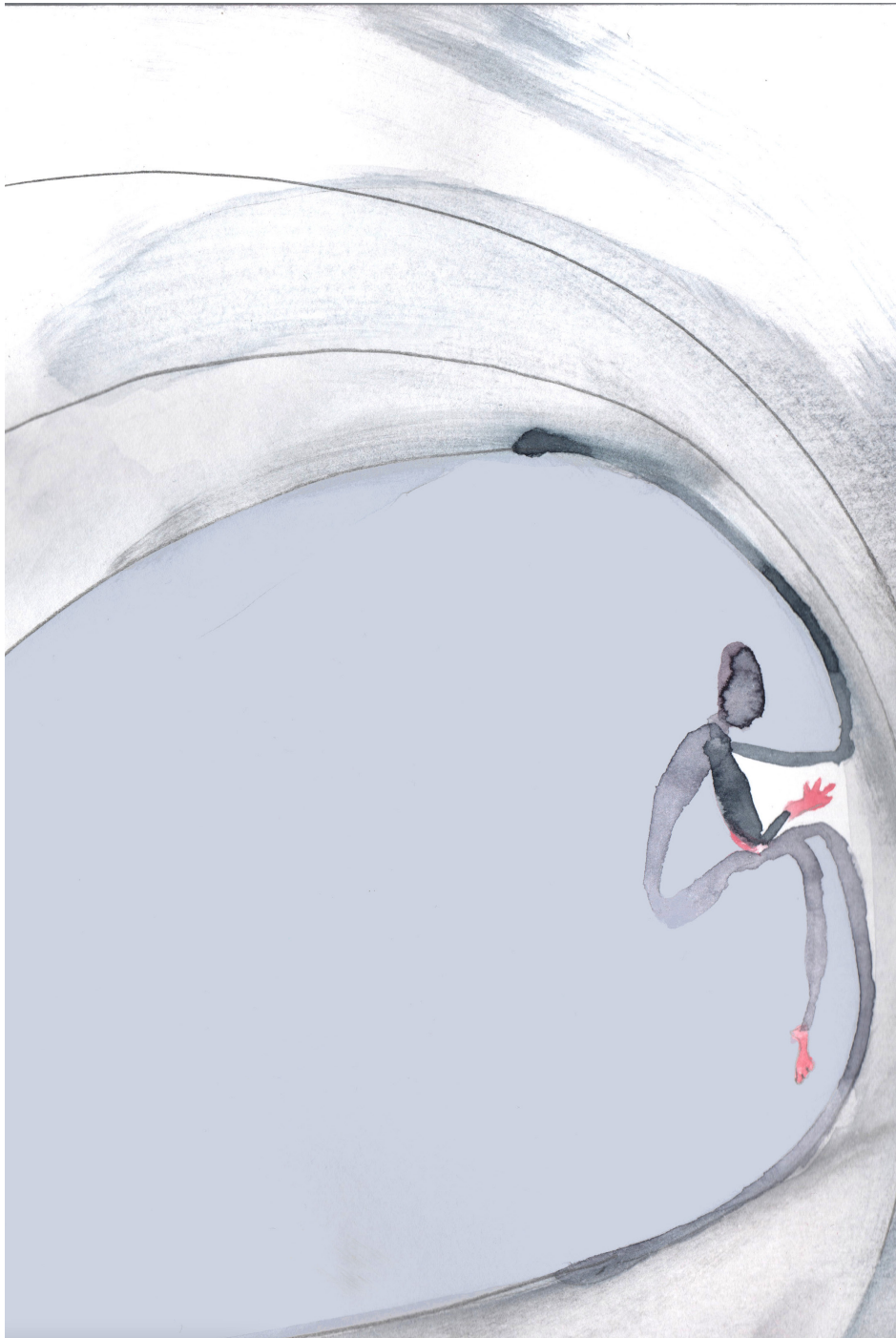


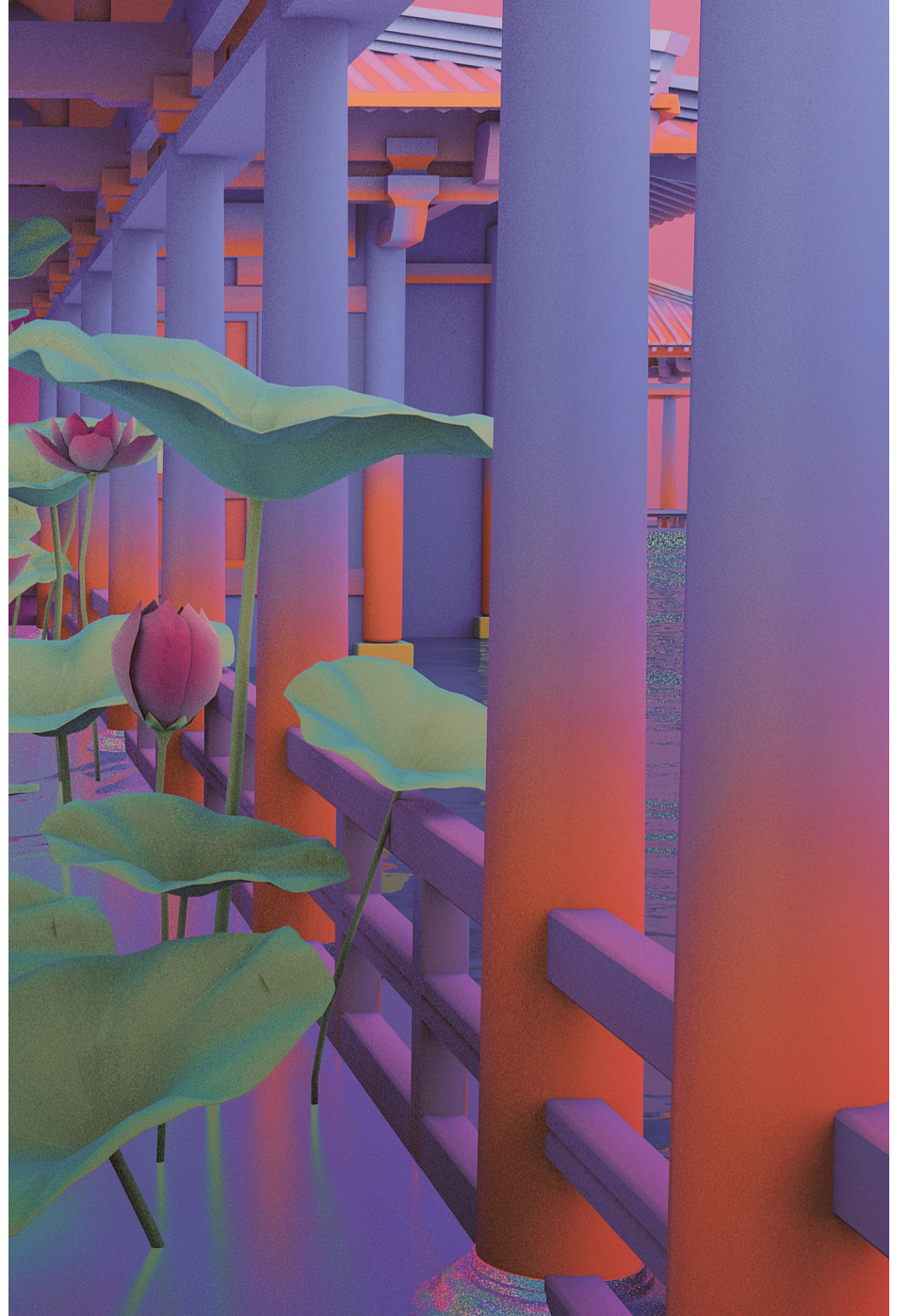
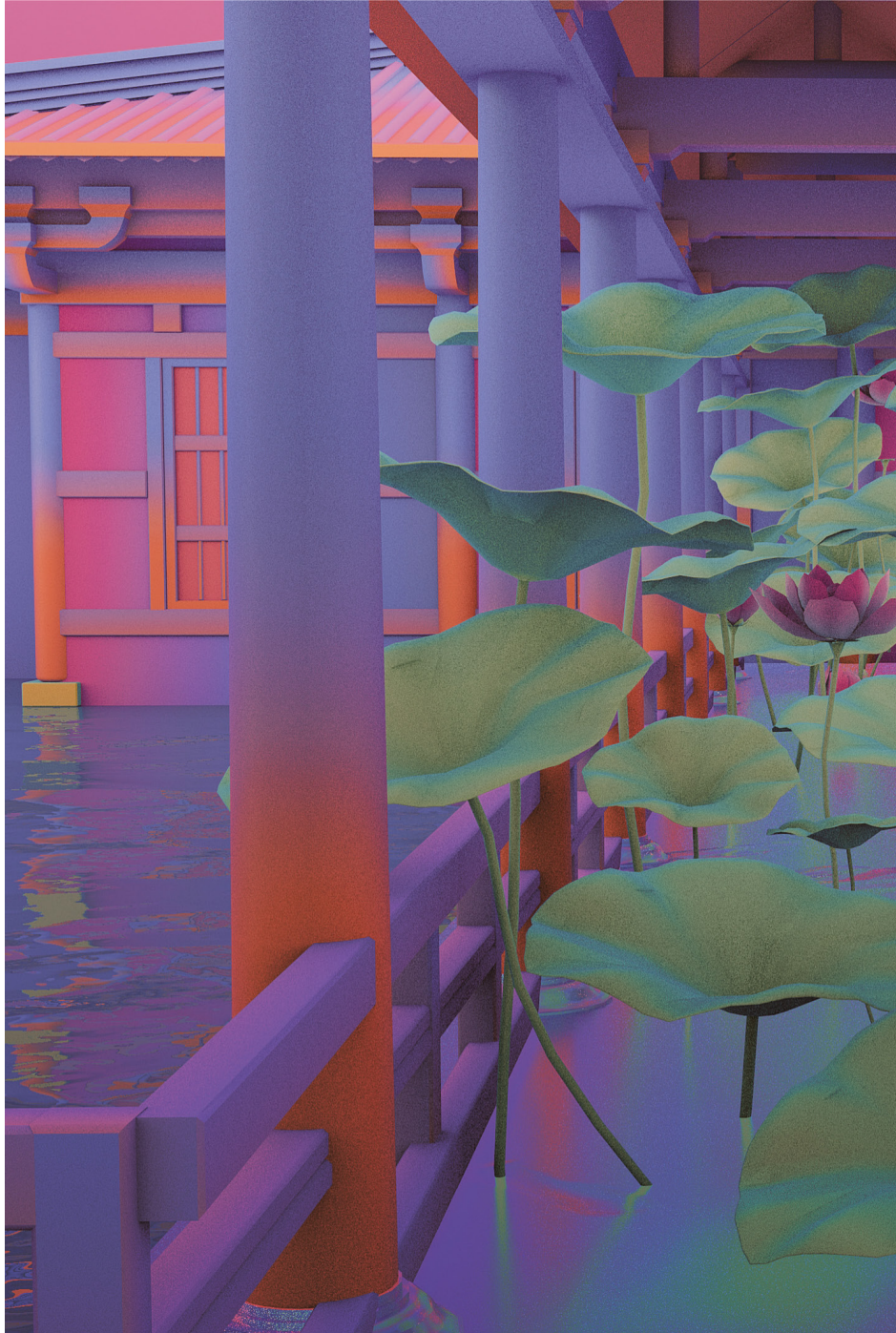


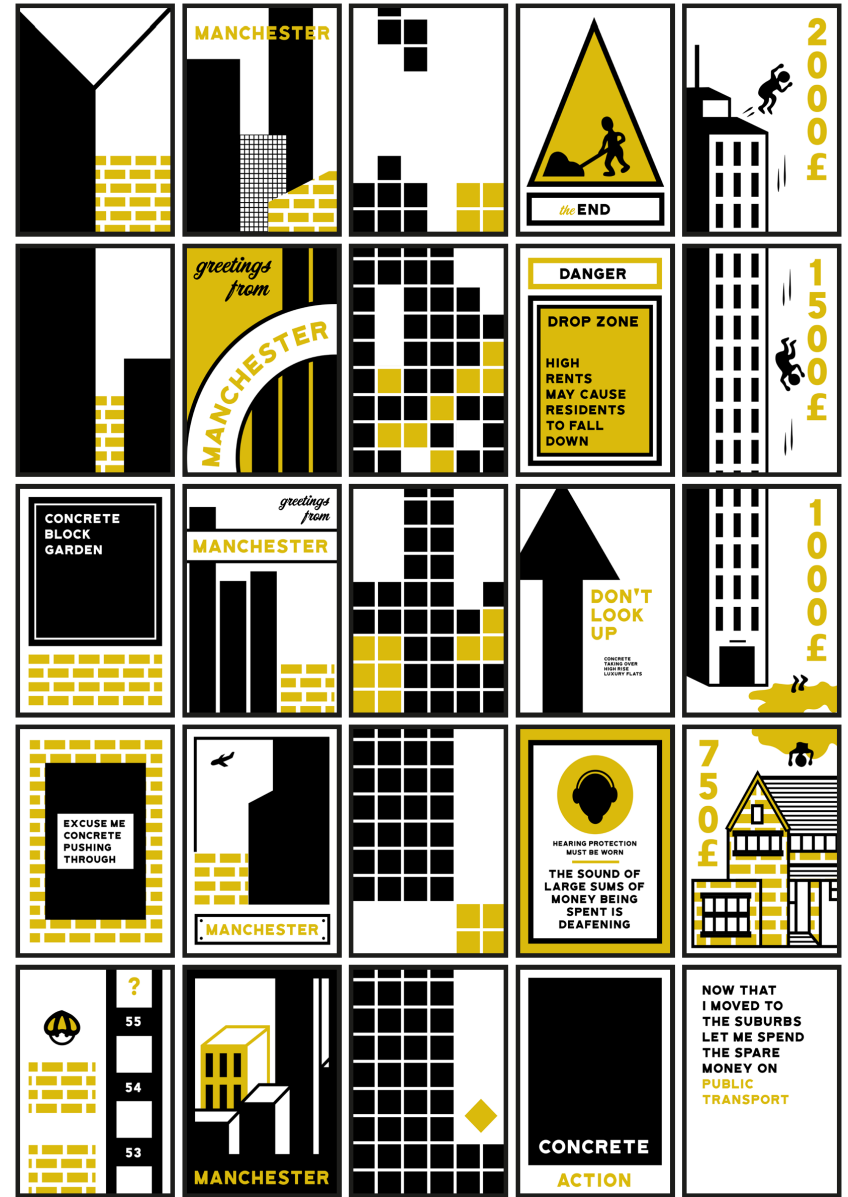




















Multimedia Journalism at Manchester Met

Special thanks to

Ade Hunter
Alicia Hart
Angela Cole
Anita Slater
Belinda Everett
Bethan Kelly
Claudia Conerney
Dave Porter
David Liptrot
Elle Simms
Evan Wilson
Gbemisola Elegunde
Haleh Moravej
Helen Darby
Helen McCormick
Hilde Heim
Ian Whadcock
Jac Fossett
James Draper
Jason Cooke

Jeremy Craddock
Jess Edwards
Jill Griffiths
Joe Stretch
John Lean
John Walsh
Kaye Tew
Kevin Danson
Laura Hickman-Sparkes
Lawrence Brannon
Lisa Bach
Lisa Vincent
Liz Aubrey
Louise Clennell
Man Met Rise
Manchester Youth Council
Maria Loray
Marilena Antoniadou
Mark Peace
Martin Robinson

Martyn Evans
Matchday Live
Matthew Carney
MMU Design Studio
MMU Print Services
MSoA Bookbinding
Nathalie Griffith
Phillip Drake
Rachel Bruce
Rachel Halton
Richard Davis
Richard Silburn
Rob Bracey
Rob Drummond
Sam Heitzman
Samantha Harwood
Sharon Handley
Simon Webb
Special Collections Museum
Vince Hunt

DISCOVERING A NEW CITY THROUGH JOURNALISM



By Makenna All | Photography Richard Davis | Design Kian Godbold

Moving to Manchester was one of the hardest things I've ever done. When I think of the mountain range outside my window and the hummingbird that flutters in the garden, my eyes get misty as I reminisce about Trinidad. Still, I know there's no place I'd rather be than Manchester.

When applying to the UK for postgraduate study, I found myself applying to several universities across various English Literature and Language programmes. I almost didn't accept Manchester Met's offer for an MA in Multimedia Journalism, but nearly a year in, I cannot imagine studying journalism anywhere else.

Before moving, I devoured study abroad blogs and created Pinterest boards, romanitising my new life as a journalist in the UK. I was ready for my aesthetic 'English girl' life, but not for the relentless Manchester rain. My first day at Manchester Met was nerve-wracking: I was amazed at the size of the modern, sprawling campus compared to my undergraduate university back in Trinidad, which was located on a former slave plantation in a valley between two mountains.

My first semester was far from what I expected. I wasn't prepared for the heavy workload or being thrown into the deep end of journalism — sitting through Manchester City Council meetings and racing to meet newspaper deadlines. But journalism became my guide to the city, leading me to places I may never have discovered otherwise.

Assigned to report on Hulme as my favourite community patch, I discovered my favourite place in the city: Hulme Community Garden Centre. It has become such a safe place for me. When I'm feeling homesick, I'll visit the garden centre, treat myself to a hot chocolate, and read a book while the resident cats snuggle against my legs. Getting involved with Ah! Magazine opened up another world of opportunities. As an editor, I met and interviewed writers who felt larger-than-life to me. One of the most memorable encounters was with Malika Booker, an award-winning British poet of Grenadian and Guyanese descent and

I also had the privilege of interviewing Monique Coffey FRSL, an award-winning Trinidadian-born author whose novels I turned to comfort when I first moved to the UK to feel a sense of home. The moment she heard my voice, she asked: "Is that a Trinidad accent I hear?" Monique told me that I was the first Trini she had ever met at Manchester Met, which created an instant connection.

Working on Ah! also introduced me to legendary Hulme photographer, Richard Davis. Meeting at *The LEGACY Issue* magazine launch party and exhibition, we connected over our shared interest in Hulme. Before Richard became the photographer that he is today, he started off as a student photographer for Manchester Met's previous student magazine, *PULLP*. He captured Nirvana at their 1989 concert at Manchester Polytechnic Student Union, as well as iconic portraits of the likes of Sir Lems Sissay, Steve Coogan and Caroline Aherne in and around Hulme.

My time working at Ah! and getting involved with both the online and print issues has allowed me to connect with other aspiring journalists, designers, illustrators and photographers. Through these connections, I've found a community of ambitious creatives who share my aspirations: to gain valuable experience, enter the professional world, and dream big.

As I come to the end of my time in Manchester and reflect on these experiences, I am reminded that, even away from home, my West Indian identity will always find me. Manchester has given me a newfound appreciation for and connection to home through the people I've met and the projects I've worked on. I have always carried a part of Trinidad with me, and this city will always have a special place in my heart because in Manchester I've found a home away from home.



Steven Ralston

Manchester United Reporter at the Manchester Evening News

Steven Ralston graduated with a BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism at Manchester Met in 2020 and is now a sports writer at the *Manchester Evening News* (MEN) reporting on Manchester United. Steven managed to bag some work experience at the MEN after meeting the paper's editor at the annual Multimedia Journalism Industry Day event. From this encounter, he secured a week of work at the end of his first year at university and managed to convince them to let him come in every Friday during his second year.

He explains making contacts this way is one of the best ways to secure work experience and get an insider's view of the industry. He has other advice too: "I'd always go in with multiple original article ideas while I'd also speak and make an effort with my colleagues. Being personable and confident is half the battle, you're there for a short time on work experience, so try to make the most of it with questions – you have to be enthusiastic and hard-working."

Steven says that establishing relationships with established journalists and getting your foot in the door is one of the key ways to getting that first break in your career. He says: "Work experience is the most important thing when you're at uni and the more you can get out of it the better. It will also bring your writing style tenfold. Finally, when you do go to interviews, which could be on Zoom, do something different from the crowd. [At the MEN], I was the only candidate to make a PowerPoint and present, for example."



Tyrese King

Freelance Journalist and Researcher at the BBC

"Employers want someone who can learn and evolve"

Tyrese King graduated from Manchester Met in 2022 with a degree in English and Multimedia Journalism. During his second year, Tyrese gained hands-on experience working as a Gallery Production Runner for the Tokyo Olympics and later on as a Studio Floor Runner for the Winter Olympics during his third year. These roles, alongside a two-week placement with the BBC Sport short form team helped him build connections and develop editorial skills, leading to him freelancing for the BBC, before securing a fixed-term contract this summer.

Now working primarily on the live news desk and football live, Tyrese transcribes live radio commentaries, writes copy and breaking news stories, and works across BBC platforms. His journalism highlights include working on the Men's 2024 Euros last summer and pitching and writing features on Muslim women in sport ahead of the Paris Olympic Games.

Tyrese believes one of the best things about getting involved in *The Northern Quota*, and was helpful to his development was the freedom to explore wide interests in different types of journalism such as literature, arts and culture, and sport. This also allowed him to build a portfolio during his studies, as well as being adaptable and receptive to feedback: "Employers want someone who can learn and evolve." Tyrese's degree also prepared him for in-depth research, which was crucial in writing long-form content such as his piece for the BBC on France's hijab ban and its impact on athletes.

Tyrese believes Manchester's media scene is growing, with the BBC offering a strong platform for journalists outside of London: "The BBC has been the best place for me to develop as a journalist so far."



"If you don't knock on the door, the answer will always be no"

Senior Journalist at BBC News

Olivia-Marie Baron

Olivia-Marie Baron graduated with a (BA) Hons in Multimedia Journalism in 2018 and is now a senior journalist at the BBC. Alongside her studies, Olivia worked as social media marketer for *Humanity Hallows* (now AHi), managing the magazine's social media accounts and promoting the publication to a wider audience.

Olivia says: "Working on *Humanity Hallows* alongside my studies enabled me to gain valuable hands-on experience working for a publication while developing skills in journalism, writing and creativity."

The skills Olivia learned through her involvement with journalism at Manchester Met have helped her pursue her career goals, and the experience of working on AHi! Magazine gave her the confidence in interviews to land her dream job.

She adds, "It was great to add this to my CV and portfolio and this set me apart from other candidates when I was applying for jobs after university. I'm now working as a senior journalist on the BBC's Money & Work unit at Media City."

Sharing advice for other students looking to secure a job in the industry, Olivia says: "Firstly, I'd say try and get as much experience as possible. And secondly, don't be afraid to ask – if you don't knock on the door, the answer will always be no."



"The skills I learned are all integral to my current role"

Digital Managing Editor at Smooth Radio

Sian Hamer

Sian Hamer graduated with BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism from Manchester Met in 2018, where she received the Outstanding Achievement award and the Outstanding Contribution to Media and Communications Award for her work with *The Northern Quota*.

Speaking about life after graduation, Sian says: "I've spent most of my career so far in broadcast media, working for some of the UK's biggest radio stations, writing articles and features, managing social media presences, and creating videos."

Sian was recently appointed Digital Managing Editor of Smooth Radio. She reflects: "It's a position I could never have achieved without my Multimedia Journalism degree. The skills I learned in my three years at Manchester – editing, writing, researching, interviewing – are all integral to my current role. But it wasn't just the course that made this career achievable: Manchester Met has a wealth of extra-curricular activities that gave me the opportunity to build a portfolio and showcase those skills in tangible, credible environments."

Reflecting on the extensive portfolio she built during her studies, Sian says: "My experience as co-editor of *The Northern Quota* and my articles published in AHi! Magazine all positively contributed to the job applications that got me to where I am today."



Melissa Svensen

**Marketing Manager at
Universal Music Publishing Group**

Melissa Svensen graduated with a degree in Multimedia Journalism in 2018 and is now a marketing manager with Universal Music Publishing Group. Melissa says that

what helped her land her first role with her employer was evidence she could show off extra-curricular activities she had undertaken alongside her degree. As well as writing

for Ah! Magazine, Melissa was involved in a range of multimedia projects and publications: "I was writing for music websites, and part of the Radio Society, and I then continued to do a radio show in my spare time after uni."

Melissa's role is multi-faceted and involves working on marketing the brand and Universal's songwriters. She oversees the company's social media accounts and co-ordinates its worldwide social teams, including

songwriter social media accounts, as well as making sure the website is updated.

Melissa adds: "My advice would be (though sometimes easier said than done) not to stress – the job you want will come! You might have to take a job that isn't your dream initially, but I think it's very rare to step straight from uni into the perfect job, so be patient. You'll get there."

"Don't stress - the job you want will come!"



Jack Dulhanty

Journalist at The Manchester Mill

Jack Dulhanty joined Manchester Met in 2018 to study Multimedia Journalism and specialise in features and long-form writing. With that ambition driving him – and a

good helping of natural talent – it wasn't long before Jack was writing for our online outlet *The Northern Quota* as a food, arts and culture critic. To broaden his portfolio, Jack moved on to sport features, how life was changing during the COVID-19 pandemic and also American politics.

Jack says: "I graduated from Manchester Met's Multimedia Journalism course in July 2021. It was a brilliant

introduction to the world of journalism, and it both guided and challenged me to think in new ways about this kind of work and how to find your place in media."

"Writing for *The Northern Quota* alongside my studies was a particularly formative part of that, offering me an environment where I could try my hand as a writer and get my first sense of how a newsroom works.

Sharing a piece of advice for new students, Jack says: "My main piece of advice is do not wait to be told when or how to do the work you want to do. Start working on stories that interest you, no matter whether they'll get published right away or at all. Just start doing the kind of work you envisage yourself doing as soon as you can."

"Do not wait to be told when or how to do the work you want to do"



Caitlin Dick

English Editor at the MDPI

Caitlin Dick graduated with a BA (Hons) in English with Multimedia Journalism in 2022. She was unsure about her future career path after graduation and decided to continue studying, successfully gaining a place on the MA in Publishing at Manchester Met.

Now an English editor at MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute), Caitlin says the 20% alumni discount was also a big factor in persuading her to stay on at the university for postgraduate studies: "I enjoyed my masters and it was so helpful in realising what job I want to go into and allowing me to gain more insight and experience in this industry. My course was really hands-on and provided me with so much practical experience in the book industry that I wouldn't have otherwise."

During her postgraduate studies, Caitlin worked as a bookseller at Waterstones and credits her MA in Publishing with helping her to secure that particular role. "I think that there can be a lot of pressure to go straight into a 'career job' after graduating, but it's OK to take some time out if you need it or choose to do a masters or other course. I know that I've found my passion while doing my masters and feel much more prepared for entering the world of graduate jobs, knowing that I have the experience and support network from my BA and MA."

"I've found my passion while doing my masters this year"



Divine Vika

Content Assistant at the BBC

Divine Vika graduated with a BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism in 2021 and now works as a content assistant at the BBC. Divine says she always knew she wanted to work in journalism, which is why she chose the course at Manchester Met.

"Don't be afraid to ask the people around you for help"

Like many others who are successful in their field, Divine says it was what she did outside the class which really helped her in her chosen career path: "During my studies, I got involved with *The Northern Quota*, which really set the foundation for the roles I have embarked on post graduating. I also took part in a 12-week trainee scheme with the Andy Taylor Foundation in partnership with SharpFutures, and later took on the role of a video journalist for LADbible Group."

Divine is currently part of BBC's *Tiny Happy People* campaign team and has some words of wisdom for current undergraduates: "My advice to anyone reading this would be to work on perfecting your craft. Take the time to work on your talents and interests as it will help you in the long run. Do not be afraid to ask the people around you for help, because what you learn from them will be the pieces that will contribute to the end picture of your puzzle. "I would also advise anyone reading this – to always put your best foot forward because your efforts will help shape you for what is ahead."



"Stay agile and seize new opportunities"

Social Media Specialist

Aisha Zackaria

Aisha Zackaria graduated from Manchester Met in 2020 with a BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism. She is currently working as a social media specialist at the General Medical Council.

During her degree, Aisha volunteered for university publications such as Ahi! Magazine and *The Northern Quota*, working on the weekly newsletter. Aisha says: "This inevitably helped me develop a variety of skills to further support and enhance my personal and professional development."

While studying at Manchester Met, Aisha expanded her knowledge in creative campaigning, social media and digital marketing.

Sharing advice to new students looking to enter the industry, Aisha says: "Stay agile and seize new opportunities in the rapidly evolving spheres of social media and Journalism. Networking, adapting to trends, and embracing conversations are key to staying ahead. I wish you a successful journey at Manchester Met and beyond, paving the way for a rewarding career path."



"Build an amazing portfolio – it really will help you"

Sub-editor at Practical Publishing

Andrea Petrie

Andrea graduated with a BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism from Manchester Met in 2021 and is now a sub-editor at Practical Publishing. Reflecting on her transition into the professional world, Andrea says the writing skills she developed on her degree course – particularly her strong attention to detail and ability to adapt to different writing styles – made sub-editing a natural choice. She describes her current position as her "dream job."

Andrea's journey with Practical Publishing began in a merchandiser role, where she gained experience in SEO, Google Analytics, and sub-editing for website content and email newsletters. Her dedication and skills quickly led to a promotion, securing a full time role as a sub-editor.

Looking back on her time at university, Andrea offers advice to current and future journalism students: "Manchester Met offers so many opportunities to support students – from *The Northern Quota* to Ahi! Magazine. Make sure to take advantage of these opportunities and build an amazing portfolio – it really will help you get a job." Her message to graduates entering the job market is clear: "Apply, Apply, Apply! I was rejected for so many jobs before landing my current role and constantly doubted myself along the way. On average, it takes a graduate six months to secure a job after finishing university – it'll happen, just keep at it."

Celebrating ten years of Multimedia Journalism

Following an ambitious launch just ten years ago, the development and growth of Multimedia Journalism at Manchester Met has positioned the university among the top 15 Journalism educators in the country.

In its first year the BA undergraduate course recruited approximately 50 students with that figure rising to 150 as the reputation of the programme has grown. Over the last ten years learning resources have kept pace with technological advances, including students using industry standard software and developing our own public facing news website, *The Northern Quota*, into a full multiplatform operation. The opening of our bespoke TV and Radio studios in Grosvenor East in 2021 was a key moment in recognising the growth and scope of Journalism at Manchester Met.

Respected and championed by industry, the Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes are written and delivered by former journalists for the next generation of journalists. Graduates are equipped with current, relevant knowledge and skills to contribute and operate effectively in the media landscape.

In the last decade, collaboration with recognised organisations including the BBC, Bauer Media, *Manchester Evening News*, *The Mirror*, *The Guardian*, ITV Granada and *The Mill* to name just a few, has contributed to the makeup and design of teaching so that it constantly evolves to reflect current practices. This network has helped to establish a career focussed scheme for final year students who are paired with a mentor to support their transition from university into the workplace.

As we reflect on the last ten years we can be assured our alumni are able to carve out careers with the knowledge, confidence and skills to shape the future of journalism through an impressive breadth of opportunities and employment.

Nathalie Griffith

Section lead, Multimedia Journalism

the
first
ten
years

Multimedia
Journalism at
Manchester Met