



PERFORMING ARTISTES THE BUSINESS OF SPEAKING

Keynote Speakers – Conference & Seminar Hosts – Entertainment

2025-2026

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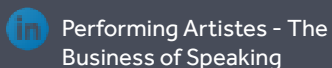
Performing Artistes act as consultants; we agree fees, issue contracts and offer advice. We do not act as agents for all of the personalities listed in this guide, however our knowledge and reputation is such that a number of artistes seek our advice and knowledge for individual projects.

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Performing Artistes Booklet. We are a speaker bureau based in the West End of London, and have been in business for over 30 years. We supply people to give speeches, chair conferences and host events.

For the more serious events, the speakers are best described as keynotes, and could be drawn from the worlds of business, politics, economics and sport. For the lighter events, which tend to be dinners and awards ceremonies, they tend to be from entertainment backgrounds, and may well include comedians, entertainers, bands and even voice of Gods.

While the majority of people we supply are well known – we hate the words famous and celebrity, but are probably a fair description – we are equally comfortable booking lesser known acts, be they up and

coming, or just specialists in their fields, unknown to the wider public.

Regardless of their profile, we apply the same diligence to each booking, offering expert research and advise so enabling you to book the best person for your event, ensuring the desired impact. This is backed up with full briefing and logistical support leading up to the event.

We publish this booklet each year to inform and hopefully inspire the reader. It would be impossible to mention everyone we work with, so just highlight a few people of note from the last year or so, while listing others in frequently requested categories.

Whether you are new to events, or an industry veteran, we are here to help and are dedicated to providing the very best customer service. We call it the business of speaking!

Keynote Speakers

We've always had a problem with the term "motivational speaker". A) it's subjective as to whether you feel motivated by a speech, but B) if you're paying for a speaker, surely inspiration should be a given, and by extension, that inspiration should lead to motivation.

Semantics aside, a good half of the briefs we receive would roughly be described as these. For the purposes of this booklet, we've decided to focus on the topics people are currently requesting the most.

Dame Theresa Villiers – Theresa spent 25 years in elected office, initially an MEP then an MP from 2005. She was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in David Cameron's shadow cabinet before becoming Minister of State for Transport in the coalition government where she oversaw the Elizabeth Line. A stint in North Ireland followed, before she became Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs leading the Brexit preparations on trade and border arrangements. Her last 5 years in parliament was on the influential Intelligence and Security Committee, with oversight of the intelligence agencies, producing reports using highly classified information on issues such as China.

In 2021, she served as one of three members of the Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform, making recommendations on modernising regulation in areas such as GDPR, Solvency II, MIFID II and clinical trials and health technology.



Stephen Sackur

Geopolitics / World Affairs



Stephen Sackur was with the BBC for over 4 decades, initially as a foreign correspondent, before spending the last 10 years in the HardTalk hot seat. His knowledge of world affairs is second to none, having held posts throughout the Middle East, North America and Europe. On HardTalk he was renowned for his in depth and forensic interviews with people drawn from all fields of life, be they, presidents, dictators, businessmen or just sports stars and even actors.

Now free of BBC guidelines – not to mention deadlines – he can provide a unique perspective on what makes the world go round, and provide vital analysis of the geopolitical quagmire we find ourselves in.

Shakira Akabusi

Women's Health / Empowerment



Shakira Akabusi is founder of StrongLikeMum, an organisation dedicated to empowering women to regain control of their physical and mental well being post pregnancy. It came about after Shakira was constantly warned of the changes she would face post pregnancy, only to discover that with the right support and focus, she was able to develop her confidence and health, and proved her belief that physical wellness and mental health go hand in hand. 3 more children later, she is the living embodiment of her philosophy.

She has appeared on the likes of ITV's This Morning and BBC Radio, and worked for brands such as Amazon UK, Gym Shark and Goldman Sachs.

Neil West

Disruption / Tech



Neil West – Neil spent ten years as Apple's Head of Music in UK & Europe, helping grow iTunes into the world's biggest music retailer and co-founding and curating the iTunes Festival. He was ranked #4 in The Guardian's Music Power 100.

He then spent six years as Head of Apple Services for Southern Europe, managing a billion-dollar business across the App Store, Apple Music, Apple TV+, Fitness+, Apple Books and more.

His book *Simplify: Lessons from Apple* will be published in 2026 by Macmillan Business, and lifts the lid on Apple's focus on simplicity in everything they do. As a speaker he draws on the same subject, looking at how Apple went from disruptor to disrupted with the rise of Spotify, and how they've had to constantly reimagine their business/business model to remain at the top.



Ross Atkins

Communication / Social Media

Ros Atkins - Ros is the BBC's Analysis Editor renowned for his pioneering style of video explainers which have become a global phenomenon with vast audiences across social media. The Sunday Times has credited him with having 'invented a new genre of reporting' which can be seen on his BBC News show *Outside Source* and his BBC One show *Ros Atkins On The Week*.

He talks on the art of accurate and effective communication, explaining complex issues compellingly. He builds on his journalistic experience of navigating a broad range of topics from global affairs to interstitial change, while reflecting on his experience going viral and having a digital impact that is innovative and creative.

His book 'The Art of Explanation' was published in September 2023 which guides readers on how to get across complex information clearly.



Sophia Ufy Ukor
Equality / Representation

Sophia Ufy Ukor is the Founder and CEO of Violet Simon, a media company dedicated to closing the narrative gap by amplifying women's voices through storytelling. They foster inclusion and representation, equitable equality and a safe space where women's voices are heard. They are known for their flagship platform, Disruptors which celebrates stories of women challenging the status quo to create a positive impact.

Sophia has had a 16-year entrepreneurial journey taking in Law, Fashion and PR, and is even a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Through her work and collaborations recognised by global platforms such as BBC, UN Women UK, Global Citizen, We Are The City, Forbes among others, Sophia pioneers safe and inclusive spaces for women. Her collaborations bridge gaps, amplify women's voices and drive positive change.



Sarah Furness
Leadership / Resilience
/ Peak Performance

Sarah Furness is a former RAF combat helicopter pilot and Squadron Leader. She combines her high-pressure military experience with practical cognitive techniques to help leaders and teams to thrive.

She not only talks about resilience and peak performance, but also how emotional intelligence is needed for true courageous leadership.

She led on operational combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the first female helicopter pilot to fly and lead UK Special Forces missions in Iraq. Translating lessons from the battlefield directly to the boardroom you'll not only be captivated by her stories - you will leave the room, equipped with practicable and implementable tools.



Anthony Zucker

Geopolitics / US Politics / Trump

Anthony Zucker is the BBC's senior North American reporter, covering US politics and cultural happenings across the continent. He joined the BBC in 2013 and has covered the US Supreme Court, Congress, the technology sector and Texas state politics for more than 100 news outlets during his career.

Anthony gives speeches on the state of the US today and its impact on the modern world, not least trying to bring clarity and understanding in the era of Trump!

Anthony was born in California, grew up in Texas and attended college in Washington DC. He can count the US states he hasn't visited on one hand



Alex Vail

AI / Data Culture

Alex Vail – Alex is the author of Data Culture, which draws on the largest ever research study into the UK's corporate AI capabilities. He interviewed technology leaders at 300 of the country's biggest companies.

Alex speaks on building inclusive data-driven cultures and developing AI strategy in complex industrial environments. His engaging presentations focus on the humans in the loop - rather than just the technology - and his current keynote presentation, Improving Culture, brings the research in the book to life for audiences in an accessible way.

Conference & Seminar Moderators

Nik Gowing is a renowned global thought leader, speaker and facilitator. He has spent eleven years identifying and predicting unthinkables. Now we are all confronting them.

His **Thinking the Unthinkable** work empowers executives and leaders to navigate all the new uncertainties and disruptions with a solutions-driven mindset.

The aim is to upskill to handle them positively

The mission is to inspire bold, confident, purpose-driven leadership that embraces change and drives sustainable growth.

Today this is needed because of the hugely dramatic, destabilising and unthinkable policy shifts we are all experiencing. President Trump's first months have merely compounded a huge number of other unfolding

unthinkables confronting every leader.

Nik's approach is to be positive. He provides inspiring moderation for events, townhalls, workshops and discussions, both in public and confidentially. He thrives in high-energy, interactive engagements. He ensures the most productive conversations and outcomes that lead to change.

Nik offers:

- Speaking that shifts mindsets – No empty words. No tired clichés. Hard truths. Urgent realities. A call to action.
- Moderation that cuts through – Big, inspiring discussions. He keeps it sharp. Focused. Unthinkable, when it needs to be.
- Facilitation that delivers – No passive audiences. No safe spaces for outdated thinking. He pushes people to engage. To rethink. To act.

Matthew
Amroliwala
Zeinab Badawi
Emma Barnett
Alice Baxter
Todd Benjamin
Tanya Beckett
Sanchia Berg
Jackie Bird
Fiona Bruce
Michael Buerk
Andrea
Catherwood
Reeta Chakrabarti
Stephen Cole
Clive Coleman
Declan Curry
Katie Derham
Jonny Dymond
Lyse Doucet
Gavin Esler
Helen Fospero
Philippa Forrester
Matt Frei
Nik Gowing
Krishnan Guru-
Murthy
Yalda Hakim
Roger Harrabin
Aaron Heslehurst
Lucy Hockings
Nina Hossain
John Humphrys
Simon Hughes
Simon Jack
Ian King
Zoe Kleinman
Laura Kuenssberg

Emily Maitlis
Paul Mason
Maxine Mawhinney
Steph McGovern
Louise Minchin
Sarah Montague
Juliet Morris
Naga Munchetty
Clive Myrie
Andrew Neil
Mary Nightingale
Keme Nzerem
Nicholas Owen
Adam Parsons
Maggie Philbin
Nisha Pillai
Richard Quest
Sophie Raworth
Beth Rigby
Tim Sebastian
Ritula Shah
Babita Sharma
Kate Silverton
Martin Sixsmith
Jon Snow
Charlie Stayt
Alastair Stewart
Jeremy Thompson
Nadira Tudor
Karishma Vaswani
Jeremy Vine
Kirsty Wark
Justin Webb
Charlene White
Tim Willcox
Sian Williams
Andrew Wilson



Georgie
Frost



Gerard
Lyons



Dave
Fishwick



Jo
Hamilton

Finance/Economy

Georgie Frost - Georgie is one of the UK's top Financial Broadcasters. A multi-award-winning presenter, she is best known for her work as the host of the number one finance podcast, This is Money, and as Editor-at-large at Times Money Mentor.

An expert commentator on all matters of personal finance and consumer affairs; she has won a number of finance broadcasting awards and accolades. She has travelled the world, hosting events and broadcasting from the likes of COP to the Cannes Lions Festival and Mobile World Congress, covering a wide range of topics including finance, climate change, AI, technology, marketing, and health care.

Gerard Lyons - Gerard has been described by The Times as 'one of the most influential analysts of the global economy' and is a former candidate for Governor of the Bank of England.

He is the Senior Independent Director and sits on the Board of Bank of China (UK) and is Chair of the Risk Committee and on the Board of BGC Partners, the global brokerage firm. He is Chief Economic Strategist at Netwealth Investments, the discretionary wealth manager where he is a shareholder and which he helped establish in 2016.

An excellent speaker and an active contributor to the economic policy debate, he has spoken to business, financial audiences and appeared on global policy fora in 84 countries. He has also testified to committees of the US Senate and House of Representatives as well as to committees of both Houses of the UK Parliament. Gerard's analysis of the global economy has regularly been sought by policymakers, including politicians and central bankers.

Local Heroes

Some people help define their areas, while others transcend them while remaining equally loved and admired locally as well as nationally. **Dave Fishwick** and **Jo Hamilton** cover both ends of the spectrum.

Dave Fishwick - Dave first came to prominence on the Channel 4 Documentary "Bank of Dave" which followed him trying to set up the first new UK bank in over a 100 years. We first started working with him around this time, and stayed in touch ever since – while his story has continued to interest clients, it's been taken to a whole new level with the release of two Netflix films in the last 3 years, bringing his story to a whole new audience – and not just in the UK, but around the world. Dave is still true to his roots, and continues to live in Burnley, albeit in rather plusher surroundings

compared to where he grew up!

Jo Hamilton – The post office scandal was brought to prominence with the ITV drama "Mr Bates vs The Post Office". One of the victims of this miscarriage of justice was Jo Hamilton, who had been a sub-post mistress in South Warnborough. Like so many, she'd been running a small village shop and post office in the heart of the community when discrepancies appeared in her accounts – unbeknown to her – as a result of the faulty Horizon software.

She initially put her own money into cover the shortfall, but ended up being prosecuted. Amazingly, the community rallied round her, and 74 people – including the local vicar – turned up in to court to support her where she received a suspended sentence (now repealed). She talks about her experiences and on going fight for justice and compensation.

Two of a kind...

NATALIE GUMEDE & NAVIN CHOWDHRY

Natalie and Navin are both celebrated, award winning actors making their names on numerous popular TV dramas. Away from the screen, they have developed side lines in the corporate world, with Navin giving presentations sharing how actors deal with nerves and develop confidence in front of an audience, while Natalie discusses the vagaries of the industry and how to develop resilience from its numerous ups and downs. As people of colour, they also reflect on challenges they have faced. In addition to speaking, they are confident hosts, be it in a seminar or dinner setting.



Navin Chowdhry

Natalie Gumede



Dr Sarah Jarvis

Health & Wellbeing
/ Media Campaigns



Dr Sarah Jarvis

2025 marks 12 years since we started working with Dr Sarah Jarvis – back then her children were still at school, approaching GCSEs....they're now both married, and Sarah is a grandmother!

Sarah is a stalwart of radio days, and worked with numerous brands over the years. As a practising GP, not to mention BBC contributor, she can't endorse clients, but she is allowed to work as a medical advisor. Current clients include Lo Salt, Symprove and Medical Travel Compared. Away from radio days and campaigns, she is also a sort after conference chair, and awards hosts –while medical brands are an obvious fit, her high profile and professional nature make her an easy fit for all manner of sectors.

Rob Rinder

After-Dinner Speaker
/ awards host



Rob Rinder

A stand out for us in the recent months has been Robert Rinder. He has hosted a number of awards ceremonies for us, as well as speaking at lunches and conferences, entertaining and informing audiences in equal measure.

Originally a barrister (he specialised in international criminal law) he is now an esteemed broadcaster and Sunday Times No.1 bestselling author. His episode of Who Do You Think You Are won a BAFTA and, following on from this, his documentary series 'My Family, The Holocaust, and Me' and 'Holy Land our untold stories,' aired to wide critical acclaim.

He has continued to present a wide array of programmes from documentaries to travel series alongside Rylan.

Comedy & Entertainment

Comedy and entertainment accounts for roughly half of what we do as a company. Sometimes it can be for a dinner at the end of a conference, or a stand alone awards ceremony. We have worked with many of the acts for many years, however we are always on the look out for new talent, and showcase them at our New Year Speaker Drinks as well as industry events we support, such as the Conference and Event Awards.

Tom Davis

Tom is an actor, comedian, podcaster and writer. Possibly best known for King Gary, he's also been in feature films, Wonka and Paddington 2. He presents his hugely popular podcast Wolf and Owl with Romesh Ranganathan, and is becoming a firm favourite at corporate events appearing at some of the biggest venues on the circuit such as The Great Room at the Grosvenor House and Battersea Evolution.



Laura Smyth

Laura is a relative newcomer to the comedy scene, having originally been a teacher. Since winning the Funny Women Awards in '19 she's gone on to tour extensively, most recently completing 5 nights at the indigo2. A proud East Londoner, she has a Radio 4 comedy programme "Your Mum", podcast "Bang On It" with Michelle de Swarte and currently has a number of witing projects in development.

Maisie Adam
Tom Allen
Ronni Ancona
Richard Ayoade
Stephen K Amos
David Baddiel
Charlie Baker
Bill Bailey
Angela Barnes
Rob Beckett
Andrew Bird
John Bishop
Frankie Boyle
Jo Brand
Rory Bremner
Kevin Bridges
Marcus Brigstocke
Doc Brown
Rob Brydon
Ed Byrne
Jason Byrne
Jimmy Carr
Jo Caufield
Paul Chowdhry
Alun Cochrane
Sean Collins
Roisin Conaty
Nina Conti
Hal Cruttenden
John Culsaw
Greg Davies
Jack Dee
Rob Deering
Gary Delaney
Hugh Dennis
Omid Djalili
Joel Dommett
Simon Evans
Micky Flanagan
Matt Forde
Ed Gamble
Rhod Gilbert
Mo Gilligan
Ivo Graham
Rich Hall
Miranda Hart
Lenny Henry
Richard Herring
Harry Hill
Adam Hills
Dominic Holland
Alex Horne
Rufus Hound
Russell Howard

Reginald D. Hunter
Rhys James
Milton Jones
Miles Jupp
Russell Kane
Patrick Kielty
Shappi Khorsandi
Nish Kumar
Zoe Lyons
Olga Koch
Jason Manford
Andrew Maxwell
Paul McCaffrey
Jimmy McGhie
Michael McIntyre
David Mitchell
Patrick Monahan
Justin Moorhouse
Al Murray
Lee Nelson (Simon Brodtkin)
Ross Noble
Geoff Norcott
Pierre Novellie
Dara O'Briain
Andy Parsons
Sara Pascoe
Lucy Porter
Chris Ramsey
Romesh Ranganathan
Jan Ravens
Jon Richardson
Andrew Ryan
Katherine Ryan
Paul Sinha
Frank Skinner
Emmanuel Sonubi
Debra Stephenson
Tiff Stevenson
Ian Stone
Aurie Styla
Ellie Taylor
Chris Turner
Tim Vine
Holly Walsh
Seann Walsh
Phil Wang
Tom Ward
Mark Watson
Henning Wehn
Jack Whitehall
Josh Widdicombe
Andy Zaltzman
Emmanuel Sonubi



Bands

Music is another mainstay of the business, and we've been supplying both unknown acts, and household names since the very beginning, ranging from classical or jazz groups all the way through to full on Rock n' Roll. For awards ceremonies, many clients are now opting for live walk up music as a way to maintain energy levels and keeping audiences engaged throughout the evening.

Recent big name bookings include: Heather Small, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Rick Astley, Chesney Hawkes, and Roland Gift (Fine Young Cannibals).

Herringbone Cocktail Club

The Herringbone Cocktail Club is a truly unique and captivating fourpiece from London. With their barbershop-tight harmonies and incredible musical arrangements, they have been lighting up events all over the world since 2018.

Offering both acoustic and amplified sets, they are one of the most versatile bands on the events circuit, and also adept at walk up music for conferences and awards.

Johnny Wilkinson with the Kaiser Chiefs at Twickenham



Sports

Annie Emmerson

Annie is a former Tri Athlon champion, turned commentator and host. She provides punditry for broadcasters including Channel 4 and the BBC, and is the main reporter/commentator for Super League Triathlon. Away from competition, she hosts the Le Blanc Tour where guests get to ride stages of well known races, while enjoying hospitality incorporating her interviewing the likes of Sir Chris Hoy, Sir Bradley Wiggins or even 5 time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain.

Annie was also a podcast pioneer, hosting the Her Spirit podcast with Louise Minchin from '19-21 and now co hosts the critically acclaimed Be Braver podcast.



World Cup

What with the Club World Cup and ascendance of Women's football, we don't really have fallow years in between men's Euros and football World Cups now.

However, 2026 sees the return of the FIFA Men's World Cup, which is being jointly hosted by the USA, Mexico and Canada. It was last held in north America in 1994, albeit sans England who failed to qualify...readers of a certain vintage may recall we all got behind Jack Charlton's Irish heroes that year!

The time difference should lend itself to plenty of screenings of the game over here, offering plenty of corporate opportunities, but of course do be aware of clashes between home nation games and your existing events.

Mark Chapman

Mark is the new host of Match of the Day, duties he'll be sharing with Kelly Cates and fellow corporate regular, Gabby Logan. Although officially a new role, Mark has of course been hosting MoTD2 for over a decade, and even stood in for Gary Lineker on occasion, so same, same in many respects.

Although he is still busy with 5 Live commitments, and the weekly 'Sports Agents' podcast with Gabby Logan, he still finds time to fit in the occasional corporate event, and is well received when the time allows.



14th October 2025: Performing Artistes

Showcase at the BNC Show

13th January 2025: New Year Speaker

Drinks

11th June 2026 – 19th July 2026: FIFA

World Cup

Oct 2025

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Feb 2026

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Jun 2026

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Nov 2025

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Nov 2026

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Aug 2025

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Dec 2025

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Apr 2026

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Aug 2026

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Dec 2026

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Sep 2025

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Jan 2026

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May 2026

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Sep 2026

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