

5 BOOKS IN
THE MEDIA
NEXT WEEK

↓ INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING

Pariah: 'expect the unexpected'

Manchester-based independent launches with definitive Mancunian title in response to a perfect prefect-like publishing industry

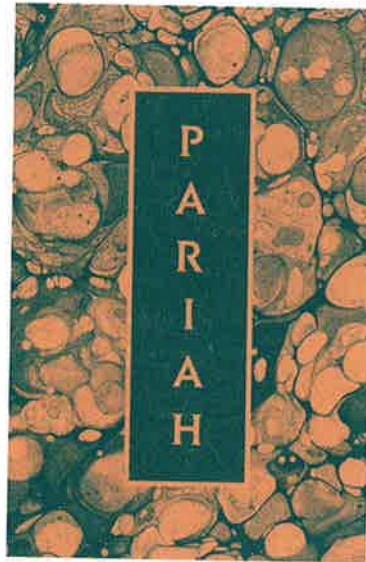
BY ANNA JAMES

A new independent press is launching in Manchester, seeking to "engage and excite".

Pariah Press is the brainchild of Jamie Lee and Jonny Walsh. Lee, the great-nephew of Laurie Lee, is also the lead singer of band Money. Walsh is the head of Manchester-based record label Only Joking Records. Walsh said: "Publishing can be seen as being dominated by perfect prefect types... we're more aligned with the Bash Street Kids." Walsh described both Money, and Lee's lyrics, as "unashamedly literary", and said Pariah was "Jamie's alternative voice".

Lee and Walsh started Pariah last year, inspired by independent publishers such as Rebel Inc and Black Sparrow Press, which Walsh described as "houses that took a risk and provided excitement".

Walsh expanded: "The small rebellious acts of the literary world, the books themselves and the surrounding hoopla, are attractive. We see Manchester as awkwardly backward-looking in



of educational and state abuse". Walsh said: "We live in times of rampant philistinism, perpetuated by an intellectually challenged and class-entrenched establishment, as well as a completely risk-averse, safe and crass popular media. We feel the idea of risk—both financial and cultural—is the only way to feel excited and connected with the arts again in this country. *The Myth of Brilliant Summers* is a book that needed to be written and set loose on the populace."

As well as continuing to support *The Myth of Brilliant Summers* ("imperative as an independent publisher"), including a tour of UK universities, Pariah will publish more books that it is excited by. Walsh said: "We're going to try to be careful to not be pigeonholed as some northern, avant-garde bastions of masculine writing. Therefore expect the unexpected with our next release, in terms of content and format."

As well as hosting launch parties for Collings in London, Glasgow and Paris, Pariah is planning a series of "slightly deranged parties" next year in its office/event space in Manchester, which it refers to as "the Den". Walsh said: "If we fail, we intend it to be glorious."

many ways, whereas we'd like Pariah to be seen to look to the future."

Pariah's launch title is *The Myth of Brilliant Summers* by Austin Collings (November, £9.99). Walsh said: "We feel there is still no definitive Mancunian book. We hope this

might be it—definitive in its own awkwardness, perhaps."

The Myth of Brilliant Summers is a collection of interlinking flash fiction stories about "decades



PALO ALTO

Friday 17th, selected cinemas

James Franco plays a shady school football coach in this film adaptation of his collection of short stories (Faber & Faber Fiction).

A LITTLE PRINCESS

2.35 p.m., Sunday 19th, ITV2

Alfonso Cuarón-directed 1995 film, based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's riches-to-rags tale (Vintage Children's Classics).

THE LOVE SONG OF MISS QUEENIE HENNESSY

10.45 a.m., Monday 20th, BBC Radio 4

Rachel Joyce's new novel (Doubleday) is dramatised for BBC Radio 4's "15-Minute Drama" slot.

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

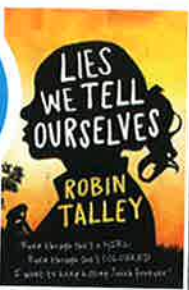
4 p.m., Monday 20th, BBC Radio 4

Brian Sibley celebrates Ian Fleming's only children's book (Macmillan Children's Books) in "50 Years of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

DRACULA

10 p.m., Monday 20th, BBC4

Christopher Lee stars as Bram Stoker's infamous bloodsucking Count in this 1958 film adaptation, while the vampire's origins are explored on the big screen in "Dracula Untold" (showing at UK cinemas now).

WE
LOVE
THIS
BOOK

Set in 1959, this book follows the day-to-day experiences of those who courageously fought for civil rights and those who so relentlessly resisted it. A mesmerising and necessary reminder of recent history and a unique insight that you miss in textbooks. This book focuses on the children who were (sometimes unwillingly) involved in the physical act of integration and the fight for civil rights. It is set in the '50s but is so current in today's political climate, with the legalisation of same-sex marriages and where race and gender equality is very much still a prevalent topic.

ROBIN TALLEY
LIES WE TELL
OURSELVES
Mira Ink, £7.99,
9781848452923

REVIEW BY MEGAN BROWN
FOR WELOVETHISBOOK.COM

Fixabook

