

## Chalke History Festival 2026 - Printable Talks Programme

### MONDAY, 22 JUNE

GUILDHALL TENT	MOOT TENT	FORUM TENT	HENGE TENT
<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 1. The Road to War: 1920s & 30s <i>James Holland &amp; Anthony Scaramucci</i>		<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 2. Marie Antoinette: The Original Cultural Influencer <i>Alexander Armstrong, Sarah Grant &amp; Catriona Seth w. Tim Richardson</i>	
	<b>18.45 - 19.45</b> 3. The House of Boleyn  <i>Tracy Borman</i>		<b>18.45 - 19.45</b> 3b. Bloody Dangerous: The Last First-hand Account from WW2  <i>Colin Bell w. Fiona Thomas</i>
<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 4. The Road to War: One Hundred Years On  <i>Nick Carter &amp; Tom Tugendhat w. James Holland</i>		<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 5. Antonia: Behind the Myth of Marie Antoinette  <i>Liberata Collective</i>	

### TUESDAY, 23 JUNE

GUILDHALL TENT	MOOT TENT	FORUM TENT	HENGE TENT
<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 6. America 250: The Continuing Revolution: What Next for American Democracy  <i>Anne Applebaum, Sarah Churchwell, Nick Guyatt &amp; James Naughtie w. Claire Langhamer</i>		<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 7. Behind the Curtain: Stagecraft in the Age of Shakespeare  <i>Daniel Swift &amp; Will Tosh w. Breeze Barrington</i>	
	<b>18.45 - 19.45</b> 8. Churchill & De Gaulle: Allies and Rivals  <i>Tim Bouverie</i>		<b>18.45 - 19.30</b> 9. The Cardinal's Spies: Wolsey, Henry VIII and the Race to Save Christendom  <i>Charlotte Gauthier</i>
<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 10. America 250: The Continuing Revolution: Who Gets to Be American  <i>Anne Applebaum, Sarah Churchwell, Nick Guyatt &amp; James Naughtie w. Lucy Noakes</i>		<b>20.00 - 21.30</b> 11. The Tragedie of Macbeth  <i>On Cue Theatre Company</i>	

**WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE**

<b>GUILDHALL TENT</b>	<b>MOOT TENT</b>	<b>FORUM TENT</b>	<b>HENGE TENT</b>
<p><b>10.00 - 11.00</b></p> <p>12. Collapse: A Global History of the Second World War, 1931-1941</p> <p><i>Jonathan Fennell</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 11.00</b></p> <p>13. Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife: The Extraordinary Lives of Medieval Women</p> <p><i>Hetta Howes &amp; Eleanor Janega</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 11.15</b></p> <p>14. The Story of Smallpox: From Vaccination to Eradication - <i>Gareth Williams</i></p> <p>16. Healthy Scepticism: Tales of Doubt, Dissent and Distrust in Medicine - <i>Caitjan Gainty</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 10.45</b></p> <p>15. We Have Come to Be Destroyed: Growing Up in Cold War Britain</p> <p><i>Laura Tisdall w. Jackson van Uden</i></p>
<p><b>11.30 - 12.30</b></p> <p>18. Assassins and Templars: A Battle in Myth and Blood</p> <p><i>Steve Tibble w. Jackson van Uden</i></p>	<p><b>11.30 - 12.30</b></p> <p>17. The Mirror of Great Britain: A Life of James VI &amp; I</p> <p><i>Clare Jackson</i></p>	<p><b>11.30 - 12.30</b></p> <p>19. Epidemics: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future</p> <p><i>Caitjan Gainty, Peter Openshaw &amp; Gareth Williams w. Dorian Haskard</i></p>	<p><b>11.30 - 12.15</b></p> <p>20. The Long Death of Adolf Hitler</p> <p><i>Caroline Sharples</i></p>
		<p><b>12.45 - 13.45</b></p> <p>21. How Cricket Changed My Life</p> <p><i>Annie Chave &amp; Roland Butcher w. Daniel Norcross</i></p>	<p><b>12.45 - 13.30</b></p> <p>22. The Great Resistance: The 400 Year Fight to End Slavery in the Americas</p> <p><i>Carrie Gibson</i></p>
<p><b>14.00 - 15.00</b></p> <p>23. A Thousand Miracles: From Surviving the Holocaust to Judging Genocide</p> <p><i>Theodor Meron w. Zoe Flood</i></p>	<p><b>14.00 - 15.00</b></p> <p>24. The Tudor Heart: Love, Ambition and Dynastic Hope</p> <p><i>Rachel King</i></p>	<p><b>14.15 - 15.15</b></p> <p>25. The Revolutionists: The Story of the Extremists Who Hijacked the 1970s</p> <p><i>Jason Burke w. Jackson van Uden</i></p>	<p><b>14.30 - 15.15</b></p> <p>26. Georgian Gout: A 21st Century Comeback</p> <p><i>Dorian Haskard</i></p>
<p><b>15.45 - 16.45</b></p> <p>27. The Cricket Captains of England 1979 - 2025</p> <p><i>Vic Marks w. Tom Holland, Simon Hughes &amp; Daniel Norcross</i></p>	<p><b>15.45 - 16.45</b></p> <p>28. Heiresses: Marriage, Inheritance and Caribbean Slavery</p> <p><i>Miranda Kaufmann</i></p>	<p><b>16.00 - 17.00</b></p> <p>29. Samurai: Myth, Memory and the Making of a Warrior Legend</p> <p><i>Oleg Benesch &amp; Rosina Buckland</i></p>	<p><b>16.00 - 16.45</b></p> <p>30. The Impossible Bomb: The Hidden History of British Scientists' Race to Create an Atomic Weapon</p> <p><i>Gareth Williams</i></p>
<p><b>17.30 - 18.30</b></p> <p>31. On Strategists and Strategy</p> <p><i>Lawrence Freedman w. Peter Caddick-Adams</i></p>	<p><b>17.30 - 18.30</b></p> <p>32. Pericles: Statesman, Demagogue, Eccentric</p> <p><i>Paul Cartledge w. Tom Holland</i></p>	<p><b>17.30 - 18.30</b></p> <p>33. Key Changes: Radio 3's Essential History of Music</p> <p><i>Michael Wood &amp; Gillian Moore</i></p>	<p><b>17.15 - 18.00</b></p> <p>34. The Book of Revelations: Women and Their Secrets From the 1950s to the Present Day</p> <p><i>Juliet Nicholson w. Laura Bailey</i></p>
		<p><b>18.45 - 19.45</b></p> <p>35. Beyond the Charmed Circle: A History of Sexuality and Deviancy</p> <p><i>Eleanor Janega &amp; Kate Lister</i></p>	<p><b>18.45 - 20.00</b></p> <p>36. Sense and Musicality</p> <p><i>The Little Song Party</i></p>
<p><b>20.00 - 21.00</b></p> <p>37. A Family Affair: Understanding Our Ancestors</p> <p><i>Mary Beard &amp; Raphael Cormack w. Trevor Dolby</i></p>	<p><b>20.00 - 21.00</b></p> <p>38. Stalin's Apostles: The Cambridge Five and the Making of the Soviet Empire</p> <p><i>Antonia Senior w. Charles Cumming</i></p>	<p><b>20.00 - 21.00</b></p> <p>39. Mitchell: Father of the Spitfire</p> <p><i>Paul Beaver</i></p>	<p><b>20.30 - 21.30</b></p> <p>40. King Alfred in His Own Words</p> <p><i>Michael Wood &amp; Steve Pollington</i></p>

**THURSDAY, 25 JUNE**

<b>GUILDHALL TENT</b>	<b>MOOT TENT</b>	<b>FORUM TENT</b>	<b>HENGE TENT</b>
<p><b>10.00 - 11.45</b></p> <p>41. 2WW at Sea: Overview of the Maritime War - <i>James Holland &amp; Stephen Prince</i></p> <p>45. Wolfpack: Inside Hitler's U-Boat War - <i>Roger Moorhouse</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 11.00</b></p> <p>42. Vanbrugh at 300: The Rockstar of the English Baroque</p> <p><i>Charles Saumarez Smith, Ophelia Field w. Rory Fraser &amp; Geoffrey Heath-Taylor</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 10.45</b></p> <p>43. Eleanor: A 200-Mile Walk in Search of England's Lost Queen</p> <p><i>Alice Loxton</i></p>	<p><b>10.00 - 10.45</b></p> <p>44. The Surgeon, The Midwife, The Quack: How to Stay Alive in Renaissance England</p> <p><i>Alanna Skuse</i></p>
<p><b>12.00 - 12.45</b></p> <p>49. 2WW at Sea: Convoys</p> <p><i>Chris Gatenby</i></p>	<p><b>11.45 - 12.45</b></p> <p>46. Self Help from the Middle Ages</p> <p><i>Peter Jones w. Helen Carr</i></p>	<p><b>11.30 - 12.15</b></p> <p>47. The American Revolution Through a British Lens</p> <p><i>Sean Cunningham &amp; Graham Moore</i></p>	<p><b>11.30 - 12.15</b></p> <p>48. Bringing History to Life: From Heritage Crafts to Reenactment</p> <p><i>Caroline Nicolay</i></p>
<p><b>12.45 - 13.45</b></p> <p>50. Royal Navy Exhibition of 2WW Artefacts</p>		<p><b>13.00 - 13.45</b></p> <p>51. Servus: How Slavery Made the Roman Empire</p> <p><i>Emma Southon w. Becky Wragg Sykes</i></p>	<p><b>13.00 - 13.45</b></p> <p>52. Hinterlands: Journeys through Europe's Unfinished Frontiers</p> <p><i>Hannah Lucinda Smith w. Jackson van Uden</i></p>
<p><b>14.00 - 15.00</b></p> <p>53. Radar, Huff-Duff and Cables: British Naval War 1940-42</p> <p><i>N.A.M. Rodger</i></p>	<p><b>14.00 - 15.00</b></p> <p>54. Regina: A New History of Women and Power</p> <p><i>Kate Williams</i></p>	<p><b>14.15 - 15.00</b></p> <p>55. Craftland: A Journey Through Britain's Lost Arts and Vanishing Trades</p> <p><i>James Fox w. Amy Jeffs</i></p>	<p><b>14.30 - 15.15</b></p> <p>56. Henry VII: Treason and Trust</p> <p><i>Sean Cunningham</i></p>
<p><b>16.00 - 17.00</b></p> <p>58. Adam Smith, Trade, Trump and the Future of Capitalism</p> <p><i>Jesse Norman &amp; Andrew Haldane</i></p>	<p><b>16.00 - 17.00</b></p> <p>57. Advance Britannia: How the Second World War Was Won, 1942-1945</p> <p><i>Alan Allport w. Peter Caddick-Adams</i></p>	<p><b>15.45 - 16.30</b></p> <p>59. Mythica: A New History of Homer's World, Through the Women Written Out of It</p> <p><i>Emily Hauser</i></p>	<p><b>16.00 - 16.45</b></p> <p>60. Wilderlands: The Human History of Wild Britain</p> <p><i>Eloise Kane w. Rebecca Wragg Sykes</i></p>
<p><b>17.30 - 18.30</b></p> <p>61. How to Unseat a Dictator</p> <p><i>Bob Wine &amp; Tendai Biti w. Greg Mills</i></p>	<p><b>17.30 - 18.30</b></p> <p>62. Story of a Murder: The Wives, The Mistress and Dr Crippen</p> <p><i>Hallie Rubenhold w. Annabel Venning</i></p>	<p><b>17.15 - 18.15</b></p> <p>63. HMS Urge: The Submarine That Vanished</p> <p><i>Timmy Gambin</i></p>	<p><b>17.30 - 18.15</b></p> <p>64. Understanding the Celts</p> <p><i>Rachel Pope</i></p>
		<p><b>19:00-20:15</b></p> <p>65. Barn Dance</p> <p><i>Black Sheep</i></p>	<p><b>18.45 - 19.30</b></p> <p>66. Tank Command: How the Tank Changed the Face of Battle</p> <p><i>Hamish de Bretton-Gordon w. James Holland</i></p>
<p><b>20.00 - 21.00</b></p>	<p><b>20.00 - 21.00</b></p>	<p><b>21:00-22:30</b></p>	<p><b>20.30 - 22.00</b></p>

67. The Inaugural Tom Stoppard Conversation  <i>David Hare w. Kirsty Lang</i>	68. Assassins  <i>Paul Beaver &amp; Nigel West</i>	70. The Trouble Notes	69. Old Songs: Britain's Traditional Ballads and Their History  <i>Natalie Brice, Gwen Burns &amp; Amy Jeffs</i>
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**FRIDAY, 26 JUNE**

<b>GUILDHALL TENT</b>	<b>MOOT TENT</b>	<b>FORUM TENT</b>	<b>HENGE TENT</b>
<b>10.00 - 11.00</b> 71. Tunisgrad: Victory in Africa  <i>Saul David</i>	<b>10.15 - 11.15</b> 72. Two Hundred Years War: The Bloody Wars of England and France  <i>Michael Livingston w. Dan Jones</i>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b> 73. Turner & Constable: Art, Life and Landscape  <i>Nicola Moorby w. Joanne Ooi</i>	<b>10.15. 11.15</b> 74. Now Your Torcing: Iron Age Identity and Power  <i>Melanie Giles &amp; Rachel Pope w. Rebecca Wraqq Sykes</i>
<b>11.45 - 12.45</b> 75. Ukraine: The Latest  <i>2 serving Ukrainian soldiers w. Francis Dearnley, Dominic Nicholls &amp; Adelie Pojzman-Pontay</i>	<b>11.45 - 12.45</b> 76. Indignity: A Life Reimagined  <i>Lea Ypi</i>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b> 77. Racing Through History: The Story of Salisbury Racecourse  <i>Martin Dwyer, Jeremy Martin &amp; Marcus Tregoning w. Mike Cattermole</i>	<b>11.45 - 12.30</b> 78. Hannibal and the Second Punic War  <i>Ben Kane</i>
		<b>13.00 - 14.00</b> 79. The Secret History of Chemical Weapons: Salisbury, Spies and Deadly Poisons  <i>Gordon Corera &amp; John Tregoning</i>	<b>13.00 - 13.45</b> 80. Members Behaving Badly: A History of Britain in 52 Parliamentary Rogues  <i>Debbie Kilroy &amp; Kate Vigurs</i>
<b>14.00 - 15.00</b> 81. Thatcher Then and Now  <i>Charles Moore w. Helen Thompson</i>	<b>14.15 - 15.15</b> 82. Weimar: Life on the Edge of Catastrophe  <i>Katja Hoyer w. Peter Caddick-Adams</i>	<b>14.30 - 15.30</b> 83. The Princes in the Tower: Murder, Mystery or Myth  <i>Nathan Amin, Matt Lewis &amp; Nicola Tallis</i>	<b>14.30 - 15.15</b> 84. When We Ruled: The Rise and Fall of Twelve African Queens and Warriors  <i>Paula Akpan w. Luke Pepera</i>
<b>15.45 - 16.45</b> 85. The Indo-Pacific Power Struggle and it's Global Impact  <i>Franco Algeri, Ben Hodges, Mick Ryan &amp; Tomonori Yoshizaki w. Julian Lindley-French</i>	<b>16.00 - 17.00</b> 86. The Black Death: A Global History  <i>Thomas Asbridge</i>	<b>16.00 - 17.00</b> 87. Women Warriors Through the Ages  <i>Eleanor Janega, Estelle Paranque, Luke Pepera &amp; Zack White</i>	<b>16.00 - 16.45</b> 88. Bog Bodies: Face to Face with the Past  <i>Melanie Giles</i>
<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 89. "Happy are the Painters": Discovering Churchill  <i>Philip Mould w. James Holland</i>	<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 90. Harvest  <i>Minette Batters w. Alex Langlands</i>	<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 91. Truth or Dare? Shakespeare's Story on Screen  <i>Luke Boneham, Alice Boorman, Ewan Fernie &amp; Emma Smith</i>	<b>17.30 - 18.15</b> 92. The Arab Hall: Frederic Leighton, Traveller and Collector  <i>Melanie Gibson</i>
		<b>18.45 - 19.45</b> 93. The African Kingdom of Gold: Britain and the Asante Treasure  <i>Afua Hirsch &amp; Barnaby Phillips w. Lindsey Hilsum</i>	<b>18.45 - 19.45</b> 94. Monumental: Great Buildings of the World Through the Hands and Eyes of a Stonemason  <i>Simon Warrack w. Andrew Ziminski</i>

<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 95. Histrionics <i>Verity Babbs, George Fouracres, James Holland, Al Murray w. Charlie Higson</i>	<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 96. Shifting Sands: Iran, the US and the Politics of Oil <i>Ali Ansari, Ben Hodges &amp; Helen Thompson</i>	<b>21:00-22:30</b> 97. Abba's Angels	<b>20.00 - 21.00</b> 94b. An Archaeologists' Guide to Chariots <i>Melanie Giles &amp; Peter Hommel w. Alex Langlands</i>
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**SATURDAY, 27 June**

<b>GUILDHALL TENT</b>	<b>MOOT TENT</b>	<b>FORUM TENT</b>	<b>HENGE TENT</b>
<b>10.00 - 11.15</b> 99. The Generals Review <i>Rob Bertholee, Ben Hodges, David Richards, Mick Ryan &amp; Richard Shirreff w. James Holland</i>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b> 100. The Hitler Years: Holocaust, 1933 - 45 <i>Frank McDonough &amp; Paul McGann</i>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b> 101. The Bayeux Tapestry: A Visitors' Guide <i>Amy Jeffs, Natasha Hodgson, David Musgrove &amp; Andrew Ziminski</i>	<b>10.00 - 10.45</b> 102. C, H, A, L, K, E: The History of the English Language in Six Letters <i>Danny Bate</i>
<b>11.45 - 12.45</b> 104. A Short History of America: From Tea Party to Trump <i>Simon Jenkins</i>	<b>12.00 - 13.00</b> 103. How to Invent a Country <i>Misha Glenny &amp; Miles Warde</i>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b> 129. Into the Wild: The Making of an Explorer <i>Lucy Shepherd w. Alex Bescoby</i>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b> 106. Feasting in the Georgian Era <i>Amy Boyington w. Peter Ross</i>
	<b>13.15 - 13.45</b> Rebel Heart: An Exciting Adventure for all the Family <i>Ally Sherrick w. Paula Kitching</i>	<b>13.15 - 14.00</b> 107. Boudicca's Daughter <i>Elodie Harper w. Duncan Mackay</i>	<b>13.15 - 14.00</b> 108. Hidden in History: Disability in Antiquity <i>Kyle Lewis Jordan w. Steph Black</i>
<b>14.00 - 15.00</b> 109. The Traitors Circle: The Rebels Against the Nazis and the Spy Who Betrayed Them <i>Jonathan Freedland w. Charles Cumming</i>	<b>14.15 - 15.15</b> 110. Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War <i>Lyndal Roper w. Afua Hirsch</i>	<b>14.30 - 15.15</b> 111. The Curious History of London's Monopoly Streets <i>Nicholas Boys Smith w. Simon Jenkins</i>	<b>14.30 - 15.15</b> 112. The Story of Tudor Art: A History of Tudor England Through its Art and Objects <i>Christina Faraday</i>
<b>15.30 - 16.30</b> 113. Rasputin and the Downfall of the Romanovs <i>Antony Beevor</i>	<b>16.00 - 17.00</b> 114. The Traveller: The Revolutionary Life of George Forster and his Search for Humanity <i>Andrea Wulf</i>	<b>15.45 - 16.30</b> 115. This Little World: A New History of Tudor and Stuart England <i>Nandini Das w. Shalina Patel</i>	<b>15.45 - 16.30</b> 116. The Queer Thing About Sin: Why the West Came to Hate Queer Love <i>Harry Tanner</i>
<b>17.45 - 18.45</b> 118. The Beatles: A Special <i>Samira Ahmed &amp; Ian Leslie w. Tom Holland</i>	<b>17.30 - 18.30</b> 117. From Mariupol to the White House Via the Oscars: A Filmmaker's Journey <i>Mstyslav Chernov w. Fred Casella</i>	<b>17.15 - 18.00</b> 119. The Lost Voices of Pompeii: The Final Day in Seven Lives <i>Jess Venner</i>	<b>17.15 - 18.00</b> 120. The History of Art in One Sentence: 500 Years of Art But Funny <i>Verity Babbs</i>
		<b>19.00 - 20.00</b>	<b>19:00-20:00</b>

		121. Alice and Her History friends <i>Alice Loxton w. Georgiana Davies, Ruby Gray &amp; Rebecca Marks</i>	122. Divorced, Beheaded, Died: An Audience with King Henry VIII <i>Select Society</i>
<b>20.15 - 21.15</b> 123. The Pub Landlord <i>Al Murray</i>	<b>20.15 - 21.15</b> 124. TBC	<b>21:00-22:15</b> 125. The Brass Funkeys	

**SUNDAY, 28 JUNE**

<b>GUILDHALL TENT</b>	<b>MOOT TENT</b>	<b>FORUM TENT</b>	<b>HENGE TENT</b>
<b>10.00 - 11.00</b>  127. Hood vs. Bismark  <i>James Holland &amp; Al Murray</i>	<b>10.00 - 11.00</b>  128. Fashioning the Crown: A Story of Power, Conflict and Couture  <i>Justine Picardie</i>	<b>10.00 - 10.45</b>  143. The Essence of Success: Sporting Greatness  <i>Sarah Winkless &amp; Emanuele Pirro w. Greg Mills</i>	<b>10.00 - 10.45</b>  130. The Tudor Book Club  <i>Kate McCaffrey</i>
<b>11.30 - 12.30</b>  131. The House of Wolf  <i>Tony Robinson w. Claire Langhamer</i>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b>  132. 100 Years of The National Garden Scheme  <i>Arit Anderson, Emma Bridgewater &amp; Alan Titchmarsh w. George Plumptre</i>	<b>11.15 - 12.15</b>  133. Where Power Lies: Intimacy and Intrigue at Court  <i>Kate McCaffrey, Estelle Paranque &amp; Gabby Storey w. Shalina Patel</i>	<b>11.15 - 12.00</b>  134. A Simple Question That Brings History to Life  <i>Charlie Eve w. Jackson van Uden</i>
<b>12.45 - 13.15</b>  135a. An Exhibition of Royal Navy Documents and Artefacts from May 1941	<b>12.45 - 13.15</b>  135. Mythical Mayhem For All the Family  <i>Maz Evans</i>	<b>12.45 - 13.30</b>  136. Willie, Willie, Harry, Stee: The Epicly Short History of Our Kings and Queens  <i>Charlie Higson w. Estelle Paranque</i>	<b>12.45 - 13.30</b>  137. Operation Pimento: My Great Grandfather's Escape  <i>Adam Hart w. Jackson van Uden</i>
<b>13.45 - 14.45</b>  138. Never Again: Is Britain's Remembrance Culture Working?  <i>Angela Findlay &amp; Henry Montgomery w. James Holland</i>	<b>13.45 - 14.45</b>  139. Visible Women  <i>Harriet Walter &amp; Lucy Sewill w. Annabel Venning</i>	<b>14.00 - 14.45</b>  140. A History of England in 25 Poems  <i>Catherine Clarke w. Claire Langhamer</i>	<b>14.00 - 14.45</b>  141. Haunted Histories: The Gothic Explained  <i>Rebecca Marks</i>
<b>15.15 - 16.15</b>  142. SAS: Great Escapes and an Extraordinary Mission  <i>Damien Lewis</i>	<b>15.30 - 16.30</b>  105. Mallory Reimagined: Climbing Back in Time  <i>Ross &amp; Hugo Turner w. Alex Bescoby</i>	<b>15.15 - 16.45</b>  145. The Tragedie of Macbeth  <i>On Cue Theatre Company</i>	<b>15.15 - 16.15</b>  144. Clothing: Past, Present, Practical  <i>Bernadette Banner &amp; Jimmy Johnson w. Luke Tomes</i>