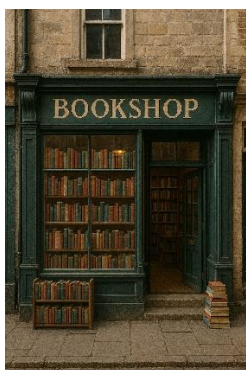


The Booksellers Association Welcomes Books and Looks Bookshop Opening In Southend-on-Sea



11 February 2025, Southend-On-Sea

The Booksellers Association is delighted to welcome to its membership Books and Looks, an eclectic boutique offering the latest releases and best of vintage fashion, opening in Southend-on-Sea's Victoria Plaza shopping centre at the end of January.

Founded by former H&M Visual Merchandiser Ezra Young and located in the premises of former high street staple Topshop, Books and Looks aims to delight readers and fashionistas alike with a finely curated mix of bestsellers, modern classics and underground debuts complemented by a collection of bold and vibrant vintage clothing and accessories.

The Booksellers Association is a membership organisation for all booksellers in the UK and Ireland, representing over 95% of bookshops (including independents and chains such as Waterstones and WHSmith), and which exists to celebrate, advocate for and support its members.

Ezra Young, owner of Books and Looks said: 'Growing up, my dual passions were always books and clothes; throughout my career in Visual Merchandising I always celebrated the completion of a particularly difficult arrangement by popping down the road to my local bookshop and browsing for my next read. Therefore, it is a dream come true to open a business that celebrates and combines these two things; and I hope many like me will savour the chance to find both that perfect 'going out' outfit for Friday night and the perfect read to curl up with the Saturday morning after.'

Pippa Halpin, Membership Manager at the Booksellers Association said: 'Booksellers are unrivalled in their ability to think creatively and outside of the box in order to best serve consumers who may not yet know what they want from a bookshop. Ezra's trendsetting bookshop combines the best of vintage fashion and modern literature and is a perfect example of innovative entrepreneurship. Books and Looks is the ideal business to bring back independent bookselling to Southend-on-Sea's high street.'

For media enquiries, please contact: Ezra@booksandlooksshop.co.uk

Note To Editors:

The Booksellers Association is the membership organisation for booksellers in the UK & Ireland, and represents over 95% of booksellers. The BA exists to support, advise and work with its members to provide business-critical products and services for booksellers. These include National Book Tokens, our gift card which prompts increased footfall and keeps gift spending in the book trade; Batchline and Batch, our award-winning EPOS, stock management and payments service, which saves time, money and hassle when settling invoices and organising returns; a full range of money-saving affinity deals; a free Business Support Helpline; Booktime magazine; government lobbying and representation work across the nations and regions; networking opportunities and events; and Books Are My Bag, our range of consumer-facing activity and campaigns, which include Indie Book of the Month, Independent Bookshop Week, Bookshop Day, Irish Book Week, the Books Are My Bag Readers Awards, Christmas Books and Summer Books catalogues and more.