

# Korean Cuisine Meets Storytelling: Da-Hae West Celebrates the Launch of *Balli Balli* in London

On Tuesday, 20 May 2025, the Korean Cultural Centre UK hosted a special literary talk dedicated to the vibrant world of Korean cuisine. The event marked the UK release of *Balli Balli*, a new cookbook by chef and writer Da-Hae West, who was joined in conversation by cultural content creator Becky Lee Smith, known as HANHUK HAPA.



*Balli Balli*—meaning “hurry hurry” in Korean—is a celebration of quick, flavourful, and approachable Korean recipes designed for busy modern lifestyles. From beloved classics like *tteokbokki* and kimchi bacon fried rice to inventive twists such as kimchi grilled cheese and strawberry *bingsu*, the book presents a wide-ranging and imaginative take on Korean home cooking.



During the talk, Da-Hae West shared the inspirations behind her recipes, along with her journey of making Korean flavours accessible to a global audience. More than a cookbook, *Balli Balli* reflects a way of life—one that embraces culture, memory, and everyday joy through food. The discussion also explored Da-Hae’s personal culinary philosophy, her multicultural background, and her experiences sharing Korean food stories with readers around the world.

Beyond recipes, the evening provided an honest and heartfelt exploration of how Korean cuisine connects with daily life. For food lovers and those curious about Korean culture alike, the event offered a meaningful cultural encounter—bridging taste, identity, and storytelling.

Dr. Seunghye Sun, Director of the Korean Cultural Centre UK, reflected on the broader significance of the event: “As a landmark of our ‘K-Culture Now!’ campaign, literature continues to shape the cultural legacy of a new era. Sharing Korean stories—whether on the page or on the plate—here in the UK is a deeply rewarding endeavour. Our narratives are becoming the cultural epics of our time.”

The Korean Cultural Centre UK continues to illuminate Korean culture in its many forms, fostering deeper appreciation for the stories—and flavours—that define Korea today.

For more details about 'Balli Balli: Da-Hae West in conversation with HANGUK HAPA, please visit [kccuk.org.uk](http://kccuk.org.uk)

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A selection of press images is available from [LINK](#).

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#### **About Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK)**

The Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) was opened by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in January 2008 under the aegis of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The role of the KCCUK is to further enhance friendship, amity, and understanding between Korea and the UK through cultural and educational activities. From the KCCUK's central London location, near Trafalgar Square, its dedicated cultural team work to further develop cultural projects, introduce new opportunities to expand their Korean events programme in the UK, and encourage cultural exchange.