

HAY FESTIVAL

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NEWS RELEASE

World leaders, writers and thinkers join Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias

Freedom of the press, post-truth politics, and global drugs policy, to be debated alongside arts programme
For the full programme, visit www.hayfestival.org/cartagena



[Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias](http://www.hayfestival.org/cartagena) (26 – 29 January, 2017) arrives in Colombia later this month, with over 100 events featuring an eclectic multi-disciplinary line up of over 180 artists, thinkers and leaders from around the world, including **Andrea Wulf**, **Simon Sebag Montefiore**, **Philippe Sands**, **Hisham Matar**, **Phil Manzanera**, **Cesar Aira**, **Carmen Aristegui**, **Fernando Aramburu**, **Joël Dicker**, **Henry Marsh**, **James Rhodes**, **Liniers**, **Leonardo Padura**, **Maylis de Kerangal**, **Ana María Machado** and former Latin American presidents **Felipe Calderón**, **César Gaviria** and **Ricardo Lagos**.

Now in its twelfth year, the festival is one of the annual highlights of Colombia's cultural calendar, part of a year-round series of Hay Festival events that bring readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world.

Attracting an audience of over 50,000 people, the festival enjoys wider cultural impact across Latin America thanks to local media partnerships with RCN TV and Radio, El Tiempo, Arcadia and an international partnership with [BBC Mundo](http://www.bbc.com).

The twelfth edition of the festival boasts a strong backbone of literary excellence, with a breadth of writers appearing to discuss their latest works, including Libyan-British **Hisham Matar**, Spain's **Fernando Aramburu** and **Luisgé Martín**, Brazilians **Ana María Machado** and **Joao Pablo Cuenca**, Chile's **Alberto Fuguet**, French writer and winner of the Grand Prix RTL-Lire **Maylis de Kerangal**, Cuban winner of the 2015 Princess of Asturias Awards **Leonardo Padura**, American **Jonathan Shaw**, and Swiss writer **Joël Dicker** who discusses his bestselling novel *The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair* for BBC World Book Club.

This year, the festival offers a platform for challenging conversations and debates, with three former Latin American presidents - **Felipe Calderón** (Mexico), **César Gaviria** (Colombia) and **Ricardo Lagos** (Chile) - discussing the life and impact of Hugo Chávez; French-British lawyer and human rights activist **Philippe Sands** debating the justice of peace alongside Colombian legal theorist **Rodrigo Uprimny**; Colombian Minister for Health **Alejandro Gaviria** discussing drug policies; and British writer and journalist **Misha Glenny** on organized crime.

Issues of the moment are brought to focus. Just months after Colombia's Constitutional Court legalised same-sex marriage, Dutch activist **Boris Dittrich** discusses his efforts to lead the NGO

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Human Rights Watch in defending rights of LGBTQ people around the world, while the director of BBC Mundo **Hernando Álvarez** chairs a discussion on journalism in a post-truth age.

History is placed in a new context and the latest developments in health and science are interrogated. Leading British historians **Simon Sebag Montefiore** (*The Romanovs: 1613-1918*) and **Andrea Wulf** (*The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt*) discuss their latest books, while British neurosurgeon **Henry Marsh** (*Do No Harm*), appears with Wellcome Book Prize 2016 winner **Suzanne O'Sullivan** (*It's All in Your Head*) to talk about neuroscience.

A vibrant music and spoken word programme includes salsa star **Yuri Buenaventura**, who will deliver the opening concert, British pianist **James Rhodes** talks about his remarkable autobiography *Instrumental*, before delivering a one-off concert, and the festival's popular annual poetry gala returns.

The visual arts have a prominent place, as Argentine cartoonist **Liniers** joins his Chilean colleague **Alberto Montt** in performing an illustrated stand-up alongside caricaturists **Matador** and **Vladdo. Bonil** from Ecuador, **Rayma Suprani** from Venezuela and **Ann Telnaes** from the United States, talk about political caricature, while the great Peruvian painter **Fernando de Szyslo** will discuss his memoirs.

The festival will be complemented by the activities of the **Hay Festival Comunitario**, which brings events to the most vulnerable communities in Cartagena and surrounding municipalities like Pozón, Membrillal, Bayunca, Tierra Baja and Puerto Rey. Meanwhile, **Hay Festivalito** – the children's programme – will see community events take place across Riohacha, Membrillal, El Pozón, and La Boquilla, plus a series of student master classes – **Hay Joven** – will take over the universities of Cartagena.

Director of Hay Festival Americas, Cristina Fuentes, said: “Hay Festival Cartagena is a great melting pot of ideas and a celebration of great literature and the power of sharing conversations. It is very exciting to be in Colombia where they are making their own history, and reimagining a future with audacity and hope.”

Founded around a kitchen table in Wales in 1987, Hay Festival has grown to become a global literary event brand and one of the great highlights of the publishing year all around the world. All eyes will be on the organisation in 2017 as it celebrates its 30th year with festivals and special projects around the world, culminating in Hay-on-Wye from 25 May to 4 June.

For more information on Hay Festival, please visit hayfestival.org. Keep up to date with the festival's news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow them on Twitter: [@HayFestival](#) and Facebook: [HayFestival](#).

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Notes to editors

For more information, please contact the festival's publicity director Christopher Bone via Christopher@hayfestival.org / 07506 522540

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Interviews with guests are possible, please submit requests to Christopher@hayfestival.org who can connect you with the relevant people in Colombia. A live festival news stream will post regular updates from events in Spanish and English. Visit [here](#).

Free to use images are available - email Christopher@hayfestival.org for the festival's media showroom login.

About Hay Festival

www.hayfestival.org

Hay Festival brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Nobel Prize-winners and novelists, scientists and politicians, historians and musicians talk with audiences in a dynamic exchange of ideas. The festival's global conversation shares the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live, in print and digitally. Hay Festival also runs wide programmes of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages.

In 1987 the festival was dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay. 30 years later, the marriage of exacting conversations and party pleasure has travelled to 30 locations, from the beaches of Cartagena de Indias to the heart of the cities of Beirut and Mumbai. The organisation now reaches a global audience of thousands every year and continues to grow and innovate, building partnerships and initiatives alongside some of the leading bodies in arts and the media, including global partners: the BBC, ACW, TATA, British Council and LSE; friends of Hay Festival: Visit Wales, Baillie Gifford, Oxfam, and Good Energy; and international partners: Wales Arts International, AC/E, Embassy of Chile, Embassy of Colombia, and the Embassy of Mexico.

Acclaimed author, actor and writer **Stephen Fry** is President of the organisation; **Peter Florence** is Director; and **Caroline Michel**, CEO of leading literary and talent agency Peters Fraser and Dunlop, is Chair of the festival board.

International festival dates:

- Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, **Colombia** / 26 – 29 January 2017
- Hay Festival Wales, **UK** / 25 May – 4 June 2017
- Hay Festival Queretaro, **Mexico** / 7 – 10 September 2017
- Hay Festival Segovia, **Spain** / 22 – 24 September 2017
- Hay Festival Aarhus, **Denmark** / 26 – 29 October 2017
- Hay Festival Arequipa, **Peru** / 9 – 12 November 2017
- Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend, **UK** / 1 – 3 December 2017