

# HAY FESTIVAL

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**NEWS RELEASE: Monday 26 March 2018**

*“A place for listening, talking, thinking and making things happen”*

## **Hay Festival 2018 HAYDAYS and #HAYYA programmes unveiled**

*Appearances from* **Michael Morpurgo, Judith Kerr, David Walliams, Jacqueline Wilson, Lauren Child, Chelsea Clinton, Ed Vere, Beverley Naidoo, Cressida Cowell, Lucy Worsley, Katherine Rundell, Juno Dawson, Holly Bourne, Patrick Ness, Patrice Lawrence and Alex Wheatle**

Hay Festival has today announced the programme for its 31st edition, taking place 24 May to 3 June in Hay-on-Wye, Wales, including vibrant HAYDAYS and #HAYYA strands for families and young people.

**View the full programme at [hayfestival.org](http://hayfestival.org). Booking opens today to *Friends of Hay Festival* online or via 01497 822 629, public booking opens Thursday 29 March.**

Featuring over 600 of the world’s greatest writers, global policy makers, pioneers and innovators in 800 events across 11 days, the festival showcases the latest ideas in the arts, sciences and current affairs, alongside a rich schedule of music, comedy and entertainment for all ages. A galaxy of literary stars gather to launch new work, while the biggest ever HAYDAYS and #HAYYA programmes give young readers the opportunity to meet their heroes and get creative.

**Julia Eccleshare, Hay Festival HAYDAYS Director, said:** “This year’s HAYDAYS and #HAYYA programmes are brain-expanding feasts of amazing events. From rebel girls to robotics, from coding to creativity, from dinosaurs to drumming, from stargazing to skulduggery the programme is a perfect mixture of inspiration and fun. And there’s space in it for reflection on some of the major issues of the time, too. Hay Festival is a place for listening, talking, thinking and making things happen.”

**Aine Venables, Hay Festival Education Manager, said:** “Whatever you are interested in and however old you are, there is an activity just for you at Hay this year, whether it’s cooking on an open fire or animating and projection mapping. With so much going on, we invite everyone, young and old, to be adventurous and express their creativity by trying something new.”

The Festival site is free to enter, with ticketed events in 10 tented venues, plus a range of sites to explore, including the Festival Bookshop; the HAYDAYS courtyard; the Hay Festival Wild Garden; creative workshops in the Make and Take Tent, the Scribblers Hut, The Cube and the Mess Tent; and market stalls, cafés and restaurants.

In an age increasingly characterised by abbreviated content and algorithmic recommendation, Hay Festival promotes serendipitous discovery through the long-form, immersive experience, offering a platform for informed conversation and the chance for inspiration to take hold.

The Festival runs a wide programme of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages – Hay Festival Wales opens with two free Schools Days of programming, the Beacons Project gives students aged 16–18 the chance to learn from

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internationally acclaimed writers, students in tertiary education can get free tickets, and Hay Compass is a special space on site to learn and discover, with free access to inspiring speakers.

## PROGRAMME IN DEPTH

### HAYDAYS

For young people aged 3+ there are readings and performances from **Ed Vere** (*How to Be a Lion*); **Andy Stanton** (*Going to the Volcano*); **Rob Biddulph** (*Dinosaur Juniors: Happy Hatchday*); **Nick Sharratt** (*You Choose in Space*); **Zeb Soanes** and **James Mayhew** (*Gaspard the Fox*); **Bruce Ingman** (*My Worst Book Ever!*); **Nadia Shireen** (*Billy and the Beast*); **Atinuke** (*Baby Goes to Market*); while **Riverside Performing Arts** deliver a special performance inspired by *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*.

For young people aged 6+, **Michael Morpurgo** joins French illustrator **Barroux** to present *In the Mouth of the Wolf* in a special live-drawing event; **Judith Kerr** talks *Fifty years of The Tiger who Came to Tea*; **David Walliams** talks *Ten Years of Glorious Stories*; and **James Campbell** offers his hilarious *Stand up for Kids*; while bestselling writers present their new books, including: **Laura Dockrill** (*My Mum is Growing Down!*); **Beverley Naidoo** (*One Story, Many Voices* and *Cinderella of the Nile*); **Robert Winston** (*Science Squad*); **Greg James** and **Chris Smith** (*Kid Normal*); **Jon Klassen** and **Mac Barnett** (*Triangle*); **Josh Lacey** and **Garry Parsons** (*The Dragonsitter*); **Steven Butler** and **Steven Lenton** (*The Nothing To See Here Hotel*); **A. F. Harrold** (*Greta Zargo*); **Steve Lenton** and **Tracey Corderoy** (*Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam*); **Adam Frost** (*Animal Quiz*); **Nicola Davies** (*The First Book of the Sea*); **Jim Smith** (*Barry Loser is the best at football NOT*); **Steve Mould** (*The Bacteria Book: Gross Germs, Vile Viruses and Funky Fungi*); **Alex T. Smith** (*Claude and Mr Penguin*); **Nick Crumpton** (*The Amazing Animal Atlas*).

For young people aged 9+ **Jacqueline Wilson** presents *Rose Rivers*, the latest in her Hetty Feather Series; **Cressida Cowell** talks *The Wizards of Once* and *How to Train Your Dragon*; **Eoin Colfer**, **Andrew Donkin** and **Giovanni Rigano** talk *Illegal*, an epic and heart-breaking journey across continents; blockbuster *Fighting Fantasy* creators **Ian Livingstone** and **Steve Jackson** join long-time fan **Charlie Higson** to discuss the new gamebook adventure; and **BBC 4's** *The Sky at Night* presenter **Maggie Aderin-Pocock** showcases the wonders of the night sky, **Lucy Worsley** talks *Lady Mary*, and **Ben Lyttleton** presents *Football School Season*.

New books are celebrated by **Andy Stanton** (*Natboff!*); **M. G. Leonard** and **Max Barclay** (*Battle of the Beetles*); **Cathy Cassidy** (*Love from Lexie*); **Joe Berger** talks (*Lyttle Lies: The Pudding Problem* and *The Stinky Truth*); **Will Mabbitt** (*Embassy of the Dead*); **Andy Mulligan** (*Dog*); **Chris Bradford** (*Bodyguard: Fugitive*); **Ross Montgomery** (*Max and the Millions*); **Dave Shelton** (*The Book Case: An Emily Lime Mystery*); **Ali Sparkes** (*Night Speakers*); and **Janina Ramirez** (*Riddle of the Runes*).

Meanwhile, a range of discussions offers insights into the writers' process, including: **Robin Ince** (*The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day*) and **Christopher Edge** (*How to Build a Universe Part I*) talk science in stories; **Lauren Child** talks finding the time to dream; **Julia Green** (*To the End of the World*) and **Natasha Farrant** (*The Castle of Rock*) talk adventure stories; **Katherine Rundell** (*The Explorer*) and **Lauren St John** (*Kat Wolfe Investigates* and *The Snow Angel*) talk storytelling and the influence of childhood; **Francesca Simon**, **Steven Butler** and **Gwen Lowe** talk big characters and big adventures; **Yaba Badoe** (*A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars*), **Steve Tasane** (*Child 1*), **Ele**

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**Fountain** (*Boy 87*), and **Mitch Johnson** (*Kick*) discuss creating stories from world news; **Sophie Anderson** (*The House With Chicken Legs*), **Juliette Forrest** (*Twister*) and **James Nicol** (*A Witch Alone*) talk mysterious magic; **Emma Carroll** (*Skychasers*), **Kiran Millwood Hargrave** (*The Girl of Ink and Stars*), and **Jacob Sager Weinstein** (*The City of Secret Rivers*) talk imaginary worlds; **Kevin Crossley Holland** and **Francesca Simon** talk *Norse Myths: Tales of Thor, Loki and Odin* and *The Monstrous Child*; and a panel of international children's writers looks at the universality of childhood themes, featuring **Victor Dixen**, **Rutendo Tavengerwei** and **Jenny Valentine**.

## #HAYYA

Writing for young adults is celebrated through the festival's #HAYYA strand. **David Almond** talks *The Colour of the Sun*; **Ruta Sepetys** talks *Salt from the Sea*; **Frances Hardinge** discusses *A Skinful of Shadows*; **Sarah Crossan** talks *Moonrise*; **Derek Landy** talks *Skulduggery Pleasant 11*; plus there's a special event to celebrate the CILIP Carnegie Medal featuring **Kevin Crossley Holland**, **Beverley Naidoo**, **Will Hill** and **A. F. Harrold**. **Juno Dawson** presents *Clean*; **Patrick Ness** talks *Release*; **Cat Clarke** talks *Girlhood*; **Steven Camden** presents *Nobody Real*; **Gemma Cairney** (*Open Your Heart*) and **Laura Dockrill** (*Big Bones*) host a teen Q&A session; poet **Anthony Anaxagorou** talks *Heterogeneous* in an event with Bradford Literature Festival.

A series of events with *The Bookseller* YA Book Prize spotlights this year's #YA10 shortlist including **M.A. Bennett** (*S.T.A.G.S.*), **Will Hill** (*After the Fire*), **Emily Barr** (*The One Memory of Flora Banks*), **Holly Bourne** (*It Only Happens in the Movies*), **Sally Nicholls** (*Things a Bright Girl Can Do*), **Patrick Ness** (*Release*), **Patrice Lawrence** (*Indigo Donut*), and **Alex Wheatle** (*Straight Outta Crompton*) before the winner is announced in a live ceremony on stage.

## Workshops & performances

Workshops for different age ranges take place across the Festival site in The Cube, Scribblers Hut, Mess Tent and the Hay Festival Wild Garden. Every day begins with an Iyengar yoga session from Wye Valley Yoga; there are writing and storytelling workshops with **Jen Lunn**, **Steven Camden aka Polarbear** and **Anthony Anaxagorou**; illustration sessions are led by **Sophy Henn**, **Laura Carlin**, **Rosie Wellesley**, **Tobias Hickey**, **Stephen Fowler** and **House of Illustration**; from the **Discover Children's Story Centre** comes an imaginative storytelling event based around Maggie Tokuda-Hall and Benji Davies' book *Also an Octopus*; while traditional storytelling is merged with the latest technology as **Ambient Literature** presents *Words We Never Wrote*, a Hay Festival commission by **Tom Abba** and **Alyssia White**, exploring the meaning of writing, language and storytelling.

Drumming workshops are offered by Landing Mané; **Destino Dance Company** promotes Ethiopian traditional dance and culture by merging it with contemporary and West African dance; two performers from **Splatch**, a community-driven company from Cardiff, offer Circus workshops in association with Nofit State Circus; **MASH Cinema** lead a digital animation and video mapping workshop; **Celia Johnson** runs a series of life drawing sessions; and students and staff from the Textile Design Degree Course at Hereford College of Arts lead sessions with textiles.

**Stemettes** teach the basics of HTML coding; **Alison Eves** from the Royal Institution and **Charlie Gilderdale** from NRICH Cambridge offer a mathematics masterclass. Meanwhile,

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outdoors, **RSPB Cymru** take audiences on a wildlife safari and treasure hunt, and **Rooted Forest School** offers craft, fire and foraging in the Hay Festival Wild Garden.

A one-off **Schools Choir Event** sees hundreds of local primary school pupils create a fantastic concert; while Performing Arts degree students from Hereford College of Arts have interpreted *Little Black Fish*, a Persian story written by **Samad Behrangi**, for a one-off performance in collaboration with The Fetch Theatre Company, using puppets created especially by Contemporary Design Craft degree students.

## Hay Compass

Hay Festival Compass is a space for young adults to learn, be inspired and discover on the Festival site. This year the venue will feature a series of *How I Got Here* sessions in which festival speakers share advice and insight with young people from their careers to date.

Students in full-time Further Education are entitled to free tickets for up to five events. Call the Box Office on 01497 822 629 on or after 3 May to book. Find out more at [hayfestival.org/compass](http://hayfestival.org/compass).

## Schools Days

Blending live performance, workshops and storytelling, two specially curated days for schools open Hay Festival 2018 – Thursday 24 May (KS 2) and Friday 25 May (KS 3 and 4). Sessions are free for State schools and funded by the Welsh Government and Hay Festival Foundation. Last year's Schools Days saw 21,461 pupils attend from 105 primary schools and 78 secondary schools from across England and Wales. Schools can find out more and sign up at [hayfestival.org](http://hayfestival.org).

This year's programme features a stellar selection of internationally acclaimed scientists, historians, poets, novelists and entertainers, including authors **Julian Clary**, **Cressida Cowell**, **Laura Dockrill**, **Eoin Colfer**, **David Almond**, **Patrice Lawrence**; poets **Joe Coelho** and **Eric Ngalle Charles**, storyteller **Daniel Morden**; maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon**; BBC presenter **Katie Thistleton**; and broadcaster and teen ambassador **Gemma Cairney**.

## THE ADULT PROGRAMME IN BRIEF

Award-winning novelists discuss their work, including **Margaret Atwood**, **Ian McEwan**, **Alexander McCall Smith**, **Asne Seierstad**, **Anuradha Roy**, **Colm Tóibín**, **Jilly Cooper**, **Andre Aciman**, **Maggie O'Farrell**, **Rose Tremain**, **Deborah Levy**, **Salman Rushdie**, **Marian Keyes**, **Lionel Shriver**, **Kamila Shamsie**, **Alan Hollinghurst**, **Jojo Moyes**, **Rachel Cusk**, **Jack Zipes**, **Philip Pullman**, **Gail Honeyman**, **Ruth Jones**, **Simon Mayo**, **Juan Gabriel Vasquez** and **Javier Cercas**. Poets **Tishani Doshi**, **Owen Sheers** and **Mererid Hopwood** join **Margaret Atwood** in a special commemoration of Armistice 100.

Conversations around internationalism, democracy and peacekeeping feature world leaders, policy makers and award-winning journalists, including: political strategist **Donna Brazile**, General Secretary of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Maurice Gourdault Montagne**, *Fire and Fury* author **Michael Wolff**, **Sarah Churchwell**, **A. C. Grayling**, **Gordon Brown**, **David Miliband**, the British Army's **Adrian Bradshaw**, former Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud**

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**Barak, Shashi Tharoor** and peace builder **Scilla Elworthy**. Gender equality and race dominate conversations on Britain today that include **Akala, Afua Hirsch, Rose McGowan, James O'Brien, Laura Bates, Helen Pankhurst, Germaine Greer** and **Robert Webb**.

The past is reimagined by leading historians including **Anthony Beevor, Helen Rappaport, Sujit Sivasundaram, Alison Weir, Melvyn Bragg, David Olusoga, Simon Schama, Bettany Hughes, Emily Wilson** and **Amy Lamé**. Meanwhile, education is interrogated as **Amanda Spielman** discusses Ofsted and the future of education.

Health and wellbeing take centre stage in sessions with **Ruby Wax, Suzanne O'Sullivan, Johann Hari, Edmund de Waal, Daniel Davis**, Alzheimer's Society ambassador **Wendy Mitchell** and **Bryony Gordon**. Meanwhile, **Nigel Shadbolt, Ella McPherson, Philip Ball, Akram Khan, Marcus du Sautoy, Richard Dawkins, Elisa Passini** and **Anne-Marie Imafidon** showcase the latest ideas in STEM with talks.

**Hay on Earth** looks at innovations in sustainability and the future of farming, with Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs **Michael Gove** and Google's sustainability lead **Kate Brandt**. Meanwhile, nature and travel writers take audiences around the world, including **Monty Don, Horatio Clare, Patrick Barkham**, and adventurers **Bear Grylls, Ursula Martin, Andy Kirkpartick** and **Chris Bonnington**.

Stars of stage and screen appear including **Andrew Davies** (*Les Misérables*), actors **Jim Broadbent, Simon Russell Beale** and an all-star **Letters Live** cast. There's comedy from **Russell Kane, Shazia Mirza, David Baddiel, Dara O'Briain** and **Bridget Christie**, with music from **Jake Bugg, Laura Mvula, Les Amazones d'Afrique** and **Gabrielle Aplin**, while **Goldie** presents his memoir *All Things Remembered*.

The **BBC** will host a series of events, live broadcasts and recordings of flagship shows at this year's Hay Festival from the BBC Tent. The line-up for this is announced in April.

**Peter Florence, director of Hay Festival, said:** "We are facing alarming insecurities and crises. We need to approach the complexity of those challenges with all the hope and courage we can muster. We need to hear the wisest voices, not the loudest. And we need the gift that novelists and poets give – the ability to imagine the world from someone else's point of view. There has never been a time when we were in such urgent need of empathy. It's a time for serious thought and serious work, and so too, it's a time to laugh and a time to dance and a time to feast. Let's do it together."

Keep up to date with Hay Festival news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow:

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**ENDS**

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## Notes to editors

For IMAGES, INTERVIEWS, FURTHER INFORMATION or to apply for PRESS ACCREDITATION, please contact Hay Festival publicity director Christopher Bone at [christopher@hayfestival.org](mailto:christopher@hayfestival.org) or 07506 522540.

## About Hay Festival

[www.hayfestival.org](http://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 online. 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. Thirty-one years later, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena in Colombia to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark. The organisation now reaches a global audience of hundreds 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 the BBC, Welsh Government Department of Education, Visit Wales, ACW, the British Council, Oxfam, TATA, Friends of Hay Festival, Baillie Gifford, Good Energy, NERC and the National Trust.

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 + Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

## Coming up...

- Hay Festival Wales, UK (24 May-3 June 2018)
- Hay Festival Querétaro, Mexico (6-9 September 2018)
- Hay Festival Segovia, Spain (20-23 September 2018)
- Hay Festival Arequipa, Peru (8-11 November 2018)
- Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend, UK (22-25 November 2018)
- Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (31 January-3 February 2019)