

# HAY FESTIVAL

*imagine the world*

NEWS RELEASE | Monday 5 March 2018

## Hay Festival unveils 2018 Schools Days line-up

[Hay Festival Wales](#) (24 May – 3 June) has today unveiled the 2018 schools programme featuring 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**.

Blending live performance, workshops and storytelling, the two specially curated days - Thursday 24 May (KS 2) and Friday 25 May (KS 3 and 4) - 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.

*Priority booking opens for Welsh State schools today (Monday 5 March), before spaces go on wide release from Monday 19 March. Find out more at [hayfestival.org](#).*

Today also marks the opening of applications for the Hay Festival Beacons Project. A free workshop residency for 16-18-year-olds interested in writing, it offers 20 students from across Wales the chance to meet and work with professional writers, broadcasters and journalists at the festival and develop their creative writing skills. Details on how to apply at [hayfestival.org](#).

Hay Festival Schools Days and the Beacons Project are part of the festival's wider education work and commitment to young people that also includes Hay Compass, Hay Academy, Hay Levels, free tickets for students in tertiary education, and Hay Festival Scribblers Tour, which takes writers direct to young people all over Wales throughout the year.

**Aine Venables, Hay Festival Education Manager, said:** "Opening up inspiring opportunities for young people is a core part of our mission here and around the world. We will be welcoming thousands of pupils and students of all ages to Hay Festival 2018, giving them the chance to meet and engage with writers, performers and scientists for free. Schools will also have the opportunity to explore topics from equality, positive self-esteem, discovery and empathy, through to Space, the importance of campaigning, and STEM."

**Education Secretary Kirsty Williams said:** "I want all our young people to be able to appreciate the power, beauty and resonance of words. The Hay Festival Schools Days programme will give learners from across Wales access to some of the most talented and inspirational writers and performers. These events stir the imagination and I'm thrilled that the Welsh Government is able to help the festival build on what has proven to be a very successful programme. I would urge all schools to see if they can get involved and help learners take part in what I'm sure will be a truly magical two days."

The full Hay Festival 2018 programme will be announced on Monday 26 March, but a handful of early bird events have already been released including: **Margaret Atwood, Sarah Churchwell, Hannah Critchlow, Rowan Williams, Philip Pullman, Marina Warner, and Jack Zipes**; comedy from **Shazia Mirza, Bridget Christie, and Dara O Briain**; and music from **Jake Bugg, Trio HLK and Evelyn Glennie, Les Amazones d'Afrique, and Sam Lee**.

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**Hay Festival Schools Days programme overview:**

**On Thursday 24 May – Key Stage 2 day – the programme includes comedy, storytelling, adventure, history and a celebration of STEM.**

Laughter will shake the tents as **Andy Stanton** talks about his multi award-winning *Mr Gum* series and *Natboff! One Million Years of Stupidity*; while comedian, entertainer and writer **Julian Clary** joins illustrator **David Roberts** to introduce their best-selling adventure series *The Bolds*

There's storytelling and workshops as poet **Joe Coelho** entertains with *The Sad Tale of the Fly.....Splatt!* mixing poems from his Carnegie Prize-nominated poetry anthology *Overheard in a Tower Block* with activities from his debut non-fiction book *How To Write Poems*; last year's recipient of the Hay Festival Medal for Drama, **Daniel Morden**, presents *Secret Tales from Wales* with passionate retellings of ancient stories; storyteller and author **Richard R. O'Neill** offers up an interactive 'ordinary to extraordinary' storywriting workshop.

There's adventure as **Cressida Cowell** launches the paperback of her new, best-selling book, *The Wizards of Once* in a special event; author **David Solomons** talks all things superheroes and villains as he presents *My Brother is a Superhero* and *My Evil Twin is a Supervillain*; and illustrator **Tony De Saulles** talks about *Bee Boy: Clash of the Killer Queens*.

STEM takes centre stage as maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon** joins her fellow STEMettes to inspire young women into science, technology, engineering and maths; while authors **Alex Frith**, **Alice James** and **Jerome Martin** offer *100 Things To Know About Space*.

BBC presenter **Katie Thistleton** talks about mental health and growing up, offering insight and anecdotes from her own life and **Kate Pankhurst** talks *Fantastically Great Women Who Made History* from suffragette leader Flora Drummond to pirate queen, Sayidda Al-Hurra.

**On Friday 25 May – Key Stages 3 and 4 – the programme includes inspiring real-life stories, empowering workshops, history and new fiction.**

There's empowerment for young people as poet, author and artist **Laura Dockrill** champions freedom of self-expression when she talks about her new book *Big Bones*; broadcaster and teen ambassador **Gemma Cairney** presents her inspiring new book *Open Your Heart, Learn to Love Your Life and Love Yourself*; and war correspondent **Sue Turton** teaches how to disrupt the system, force change and devise world-changing campaigns with the help of her own political toolkit.

Stories of real-life experiences aim to inspire audiences as poet, author and playwright **Eric Ngalle Charles** tells his uplifting story of how literature and creative writing helped him to overcome human trafficking and living on the streets, while the team behind the *Artemis Fowl* graphic novels – authors **Eoin Colfer**, **Andrew Donkin** and illustrator **Giovanni Rigano** – offer an epic, heart-breaking journey across continents with *Illegal*.

Maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon** returns with the rest of her fellow STEMettes to inspire young women into science, technology, engineering and maths.

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History is explored as **Sally Nicholls** marks 100 years since the Representation of the People Act of 1918, documenting the suffrage movement from the point of view of three young women of the time, and costume historian **Lucy Adlington** talks fashion, fabrics and home-sewing in the context of the Second World War, to celebrate publication of her new novel *The Red Ribbon*

**Bali Rai**, author of *Tales From India* and *Web of Darkness*, asks whether empathy in modern Britain is on the wane; multi-award-winning author of *Skellig*, **David Almond**, introduces his magical new novel *The Colour of the Sun*; award-winning author **Patrice Lawrence** presents her new novel *Indigo Donut*; and Welsh poet-rapper **Aneirin Karadog** invites the audience to play its part in a multi-lingual, multi-form performance of rap and poetry.

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[www.hayfestival.org](http://www.hayfestival.org)

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## ENDS

### 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, and the National Trust.

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From Nobel Prize-winners and global policy makers, to award winning novelists and transcendent entertainers; speakers and performers at festivals over the years have included: Arthur Miller, Maya Angelou, Bill Clinton, Toni Morrison, Jimmy Carter, Seamus Heaney, Zadie Smith, Tom Stoppard, Carrie Fisher, Nadine Gordimer, Martin Amis, Paul McCartney, Desmond Tutu, Jane Fonda, Bob Geldof, Salman Rushdie, Doris Lessing, Jacqueline Wilson, Judith Kerr, Julia Donaldson, William Golding, Jane Smiley, Penelope Fitzgerald, Ralph Fiennes, Martin Amis, Ian McEwan, Harold Pinter, Stephen Hawking, Gore Vidal, Christopher Hitchens, Macy Gray, Philip Pullman, Edward Said, John Updike, Peter Carey, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Vanessa Redgrave, Jung Chang, Judi Dench, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jude Law, Kazuo Ishiguro, Germaine Greer, Sam Mendes and Al Gore.

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 (January 2019)

