



NEWS RELEASE: Monday 16 April 2018

## Live at Hay: BBC announces Hay Festival 2018 programming

The BBC has today unveiled the full BBC Tent line-up for the 31st Hay Festival (24 May to 3 June). The line-up includes events with: **Mary Beard**, **David Olusoga**, **Marian Keyes**, **Åsne Seierstad**, **Anuradha Roy**, **Kamila Shamsie**, **Sarah Churchwell**, **Colm Tóibín**, **Brian Hill**, **Akala**, **Dan Cruickshank**, **Don McCullin**, **Emily Wilson**, **David Christian**, **Jonathan D Quick**, **Simon Russell Beale**, **Javier Cercas**, **Juan Gabriel Vasquez**, **Dr Rowan Williams**, and **Helen Mort**.

Across TV and Radio, 38 BBC shows will be recorded on site, from BBC World News' *Talking Books*, *HardTalk* and *Click*, to BBC Two's *Front Row Late*, BBC Radio 4's *Today*, *Start the Week*, and *Beyond Belief*, BBC Radio 3, BBC Wales, and BBC Hereford and Worcester.

Online, BBC iPlayer will carry selected sessions while BBC Arts Digital will offer festival highlights throughout the week.

Additional events in the BBC Tent offer an inside look at the latest dramas and documentaries, including tips from some of our leading filmmakers, presenters and producers.

**Jonty Claypole, director of BBC Arts, said:** "The greatest writers in the world go to the Hay Festival and the BBC broadcasts them back to the world. Our BBC Tent has an action-packed programme with a wide array of writers from poet Helen Mort to novelists Colm Tóibín and Marian Keyes and the verbal dexterity of Manchester's Young Identity. And we'll be out and about throughout the festival too, bringing the very best events to audiences everywhere."

**Peter Florence, director of Hay Festival, said:** "It's a joy to work with the BBC to amplify the conversations in this Welsh field and bring the festival to the world."

**BBC World News** records four editions of *Talking Books* in front of a live audience as **Martha Kearney** talks to bestselling Irish novelist **Marian Keyes**, while **Gavin Esler** meets Norwegian journalist and author **Åsne Seierstad** and Indian writer and publisher **Anuradha Roy**. BBC Culture report live from the festival throughout the week, while a panel of writers including **Kamila Shamsie**, **Sarah Churchwell** and **Colm Tóibín** debate their new *Stories that Shaped the World* project. Meanwhile, **Spencer Kelly** presents the BBC's flagship science and technology TV show *Click*, offering mind-bending live demos and tales of AI and virtual reality.

**BBC Two** presents a live broadcast of its flagship arts show *Front Row Late* with classicist **Mary Beard**, while new documentaries are previewed: filmmaker **Clare Beavan** offers an exclusive preview of her new film about Germaine Greer; chief executive of the Royal Academy **Charles Saumarez Smith** joins producer **Martin Rosenbaum** and director **Adam Low** to talk about their new film *The Private Life of The Royal Academy*; historian **David Olusoga** talks about his contribution to the BBC's landmark art series *Civilisations*; film maker **Teresa Griffiths** and academic and writer Dr **Tim Kendall** discuss the challenges of making a new film about Sylvia Plath's iconic novel, *The Bell Jar*; and there's the UK premiers of *The Life After* a moving poetic response to the Troubles.



**BBC Four** previews a documentary about the ice skater John Curry – *The Ice King* followed by a Q&A with the director **James Erskine**; hip-hop artist and writer **Akala** talks to the BBC's Director of Arts **Jonty Claypole** about his recent documentary on Homer's *Odyssey Akala's Odyssey*; presenter **Kirsty Wark** and film maker **Morag Tinto** discuss the challenges of making *The Many Primes of Muriel Spark*; and historian **Dan Cruickshank** and legendary photographer **Don McCullin** talk to director **Adrian Sibley** about *The Road to Palmyra*.

**BBC Radio 4's** flagship news show *The Today Programme* will broadcast two editions live in front of a festival audience. **Tom Sutcliffe** presents a live recording of *Start the Week* with guests **Emily Wilson**, **David Christian** and **Jonathan D Quick**. **Adam Rutherford** returns with *Inside Science*; and *Beyond Belief* asks how far comedians can go with religion and humour. Meanwhile, there's a behind-the-scenes look at key Radio 4 dramas as editor **Susan Roberts** talks to **Simon Russell Beale** about the challenges of playing Satan in the latest adaptation of *Paradise Lost*; Head of Audio Drama **Alison Hindell** talks about *Home Front* and *The Archers*; and presenter Martha Kearney and editor Sarah Sands discuss the day to day running of the *Today* programme.

**BBC Radio 3** presents two live recordings of *Free Thinking* with guests including **Javier Cercas**, **Juan Gabriel Vasquez** and **Dr Rowan Williams**. Five leading writers choose their favourite fictional female characters for two sessions of *The Essay*. Poet **Helen Mort** weaves poetry and music to take audiences on a journey to the Lake District with *Between the Ears: Give Me Space Below My Feet*. **Ian McMillan** presents a live recording of the 'cabaret of the word' *The Verb*, featuring *The Last Poets*. A live recording of *The Listening Service* explores how to write for children, while a series of Lunchtime Recitals from St Mary's Church run throughout the week featuring **Sophie Daneman** (soprano), **Simon Lepper** (piano), **Tom Poster** (piano), **Ildiko Szabo** (cello), **Roman Robinovich** (piano), and **the Albion Quartet**.

**BBC Radio Wales** broadcasts a new daily show from the festival site presented by *GQ* Editor **Dylan Jones**. *Tonight at Hay* will offer a roundup of festival highlights each day and conversations with star guests. Meanwhile, **Tom Price** returns with guests from the world of comedy and entertainment to review the week's biggest stories in a recording of *The Leak*, and **BBC Hereford and Worcester** showcase the region's best new music in live sessions.

**BBC Masterclasses** offer industry insights and tips from media greats as researchers and producers from radio, television and online talk *how to break into the media*; music hitmakers **Alan McGee** and **Jim Eliot** talk *how to write a hit record*; and BBC commissioning editor **Rhian Roberts** looks at the art of podcasts with *Fortunately's* **Georgia Catt** and *Blue Planet II's* **Becky Ripley**.

**BBC Asian Network** comes to Hay Festival for the first time to present a live broadcast of *Asian Network's Big Debate*, discussing the big issues affecting British Asians today. Plus, the BBC's new poetry and spoken word festival **Contains Strong Language** celebrates the UK's vibrant spoken word scene in an event led by Manchester-based poetry collective *Young Identity*.

**Tickets for BBC Tent sessions are free and are available online now at [hayfestival.org](http://hayfestival.org) or by calling 01497 822 629.**



Outside of the BBC Tent there are sessions featuring a range of BBC stars including **Dan Saladino, Russell Kane, Amol Rajan, Gemma Cairney, Katya Adler, Simon Schama, Rachel Parris, Ruth Jones, Jules Hudson, Fergal Keane, Clemency Burton-Hill, Alex Jones, Jon Sopel, Jim Naughtie, Amy Lamé, Maggie Aderin-Pocock**, and **Robin Ince**, while screenwriter **Andrew Davies** joins script editor **Laura Lankester** and producer **Faith Penhale** to talk about their upcoming adaptation of *Les Misérables*.

## BBC Arts

The BBC is the biggest creator of arts content and is Britain's creative partner – a stage for the nation to experience the very best arts; when they want, how they want.

- **The nation's stage:** access to arts and culture programming for all through the licence fee – we create and showcase more arts and culture than any other broadcaster
- **An Innovator:** constantly finding new ways to bring the best quality culture to audiences; working with the arts sector as partner and acting as a hot house for new talent
- **Britain's creative partner:** a bold force in the UK creative sector as creator and commissioner, also a platform for new talent
- **An investor in quality:** we only present the highest quality arts and culture programming, crafted by skilled production teams and shared with all audiences
- **Bringing the nation together:** like no other we create and amplify moments in arts and culture, cutting through with a broad audience

To learn more, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts>.

## Hay Festival 2018

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.

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 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.

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

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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, 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

*imagine the world*

- 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)