

HAY FESTIVAL

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NEWS RELEASE

Caroline Michel to Chair Hay Festival board

Friday 25 September, 2015: Hay Festival is pleased to announce that Caroline Michel, CEO of leading literary and talent agency Peters Fraser + Dunlop, will succeed Revel Guest as the new Chair of the festival board on Monday 19 October. Michel has been a Trustee of the Hay Festival Trust since 2007, is a Trustee of Somerset House, and Chair of the BFI Trust.

Lord Burns (Terry Burns) will become Vice-Chair of the festival. He is Chair of Channel 4 and has recently been Chair of Santander and The Royal Academy of Music.

Stephen Fry continues his role as festival President.

Founded around a kitchen table 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. This year's event in Hay-on-Wye (21-31 May 2015) saw record numbers of attendees flock to be inspired and entertained by the leading figures from literature, politics, religion, sport, fashion, art, TV, comedy and film.

Caroline Michel, CEO of PFD and newly-appointed Chair of the Hay Festival board said:

“Under the astute and brilliant direction of Chair Revel Guest and Director Peter Florence, Hay Festival has become one of the pre-eminent Arts Festivals in the world. Terry Burns and I are delighted and excited to be building on the innovative work and ambition for Hay Festival established so successfully over the last 28 years.

“Hay has developed an extraordinary capacity for introducing the breaking stars of the book world and academia to a wider readership and we will continue to build on our key book trade partnerships to leverage Hay's impact in the UK even more. We are working with writers to develop new ways of deepening the relationship with readers and reimagining the festival experience. We want to strengthen these capabilities, while pursuing new adventures and ambitions.”

Outgoing Chair of the Hay Festival board, Revel Guest, said:

“I am tremendously proud of our work at Hay as it has developed in Wales and as it has reached out across the world. It has been one of the joys of my life and I look forward to helping the festival grow in my new role as President Emeritus. I am delighted that Caroline Michel will succeed me as Chair, with Terry Burns as her Vice-Chair. They are a formidable combination and I am thrilled that they will work with Peter and our fabulous team to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary in 2017 and to pursue the festival's newest adventures.”

For more information on Hay Festival, please visit hayfestival.org.

www.hayfestival.org

For tickets, call the box office on 01497 822629 or email boxoffice@hayfestival.org