

News release: Sunday 4 June 2017

Hay Festival donates archive to the British Library in largest single donation of literary recordings

Hay Festival has announced the largest single donation of literary recordings in the British Library's history, as its 30-year audio-visual archive is acquired, ensuring the unique collection of conversations will be available at the British Library for the study of writers and the public in years to come.

Founder and Director of Hay Festival Peter Florence announced the news at the 30th Festival's closing reception in front of an audience of guests including US Senator Bernie Sanders.

The donation, made on behalf of Hay Festival Foundation, and the Festival's growing partnership with the British Library is an extension of the Festival's support for libraries locally and nationally, which also includes a partnership with The Reading Agency, and participation in HOWLS, the Hay-on-Wye Library Supporters campaigning group.

Founded in 1987 around a kitchen table in Wales, Hay Festival seeks to inspire, examine and entertain audiences of all ages, inviting them to imagine the world as it is and as it might be. The Festivals offer a unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment, showcasing the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live and digitally, with a global reach of thousands every year. In 2017 there are Hay Festival editions in Colombia, Spain, Peru, Mexico and, for the first time, Denmark.

From Nobel Prize-winners and global policy makers, to award-winning novelists and transcendent entertainers, speakers who have appeared at Hay Festival over the years have included: Arthur Miller, Maya Angelou, Bill Clinton, Toni Morrison, Arundhati Roy, Naomi Klein, Edward Said, Alice Walker, Hugh Masekela, Jimmy Carter, Seamus Heaney, Zadie Smith, Tom Stoppard, Nadine Gordimer, Martin Amis, Paul McCartney, Desmond Tutu and Al Gore.

Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary and Creative Recordings at the British Library, said: "The Hay Festival audio-visual archive will be the largest single collection of literary recordings ever acquired by the British Library. The collection will prove an invaluable resource for the study of writers and the public, and will trace how Hay Festival grew from relatively modest beginnings 30 years ago to become a national and international phenomenon."

Peter Florence, Founder and Director of Hay Festival, said: "We are delighted to donate our 30-year archive to the British Library. Good libraries are doorways to the past and to the future, to wonder and joy, and lives lived in other shoes. They are part of how we understand other people. We all have a responsibility to support them. That our collection of literary treasures from our work here and around the world will find a home in the British Library is an honour."

The donation is the final project to be announced in celebration of the Festival's 30th anniversary; others include the #HAYTREES project, which will see a Hay Festival Wood planted with

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the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, and the publication of *Hay Festival Conversations*, a unique collection of 30 edited transcripts of captivating discussions from the past 30 years.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival's news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow it on Twitter: [@HayFestival](#); Facebook: [HayFestival](#) and Instagram: [@HayFestival](#).

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Notes to editors

Hay Festival contact: Christopher Bone Christopher@hayfestival.org /07506 522540
For IMAGES 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 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 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, the Woodland Trust 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 and Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

2017 festival dates:

- [Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias](#), Colombia (26–29 Jan)
- [Hay Festival Wales](#), UK (25 May–4 Jun)
- [Hay Festival Queretaro](#), Mexico (7– 10 Sep)
- [Hay Festival Segovia](#), Spain (16–24 Sep)
- [European Children's Literature Hay Festival Aarhus](#), Denmark (26–29 Oct)

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- [Hay Festival Arequipa](#), Peru (9–12 Nov)
- [Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend](#), UK (24 – 26 Nov)

About the British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries. It provides world class information services to the academic, business, research and scientific communities and offers unparalleled access to the world's largest and most comprehensive research collection. The Library's collection has developed over 250 years and exceeds 150 million separate items representing every age of written civilisation and includes books, journals, manuscripts, maps, stamps, music, patents, photographs, newspapers and sound recordings in all written and spoken languages. Up to 10 million people visit the British Library website - www.bl.uk - every year where they can view up to 4 million digitised collection items and over 40 million pages. www.bl.uk