

HAY FESTIVAL

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Swansea University to host series of events at Hay Festival 2018

Swansea University will host five events at this year's Hay Festival in Wales, 24 May to 3 June, as part of their ongoing partnership with the global arts festival. Spanning politics, the environment, poetry and Welsh literature, the events feature a range of internationally acclaimed writers and thinkers from across Wales. For the first time, Welsh language events, with simultaneous translation, will be among the events hosted by the University at Hay Festival.

View the full Hay Festival programme at hayfestival.org; book online or on 01497 822 629.

Featuring over 600 of the world's greatest writers, global policy makers, pioneers and innovators in 800 events across 11 days, Hay 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.

Five events will run throughout the festival in partnership with Swansea University:

- Winner of the 2018 International Dylan Thomas Prize joins chair of judges Dai Smith to talk about their work. The shortlist for the prize comprises, Kayo Chingonyi, Carmen Maria Machado, Gwendoline Riley, Sally Rooney, Emily Ruskovich and Gabriel Tallent.
- Wales after Brexit is debated by a blockbuster panel chaired by Welsh internationalist, actor and activist Michael Sheen (also an honorary fellow of Swansea University), and featuring Simon Brooks, Angharad Closs Stephens, Jasmine Donahaye and Daniel G Williams.
- Rob Penhallurick, author of *Studying Dialect*, takes the audience on an absorbing journey down the everyday *drangways* of the English language, analysing why dialect fascinates us so much.
- As Wales marks the centenary of the end of the Great War, author of the Oscar-nominated film *Hedd Wyn*, and a number of volumes on the Welsh literature of the Great War, Professor Alan Llwyd of Academi Hywel Teifi and Dr Aled Eirug of the Morgan Academy discuss the Welsh response to the call to arms and the effect of the War on the calls for peace in a discussion chaired by poet, broadcaster and leading member of the campaign for a Wales Peace Academy, Professor Mererid Hopwood.
- A world leading expert in climate change, Professor Siwan Davies, discusses her groundbreaking documentary series *Her yr Hinsawdd* (Climate Challenge) with the programme's producer, Elin Rhys, and considers the importance and the challenges of engaging the public with scientific research.

Professor John Spurr, Head of the College of Arts and Humanities at Swansea University, said: "Our exciting and ongoing partnership with the Hay Festival gives us the opportunity to

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showcase the work of a number of Swansea experts across a range of topics including politics, literature and the environment. We are also once again delighted that the winner of the Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize, the world's largest prize for young writers, will be talking about their work at Hay. This year, Michael Sheen, an honorary fellow and great friend of the University, will be talking about Wales after Brexit with a panel of Swansea academics – an event which is bound to attract widespread interest.”

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.”

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.

HAY FESTIVAL 2018 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, 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 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**.

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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 Bonington**.

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*.

HAYDAYS and #HAYYA events feature **Ed Vere, Michael Morpurgo, Judith Kerr, David Walliams, Beverley Naidoo, Jacqueline Wilson, Cressida Cowell, Lucy Worsley, Lauren Child, Katherine Rundell, Juno Dawson, Holly Bourne, Patrick Ness, Patrice Lawrence** and **Alex Wheatle**. Workshops blend creative writing, illustration, textiles, coding, dance, drumming and animation, while RSPB Cymru and Rooted Forest School take young people outdoors.

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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 or 07506 522540.

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About Swansea University

www.swansea.ac.uk

Swansea University is a world-class, research-led, dual campus university. The University was established in 1920 and was the first campus university in the UK. It currently offers around 350 undergraduate courses and 350 postgraduate courses to circa 20,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University's 46-acre Singleton Park Campus is located in beautiful parkland with views across Swansea Bay. The University's 65-acre science and innovation Bay Campus, which opened in September 2015, is located a few miles away on the eastern approach to the city. It has the distinction of having direct access to a beach and its own seafront promenade. Both campuses are close to the Gower Peninsula, the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Swansea was named 'Welsh University of the Year' in *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017*. The University is in the top 300 best universities in the world, ranked in the 251-300 group in *The Times Higher Education World University rankings 2018*.

The results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 showed the University has achieved its ambition to be a top 30 research University, soaring up the league table to 26th in the UK, with the 'biggest leap among research-intensive institutions' (Times Higher Education, December 2014) in the UK.

The University has ambitious expansion plans as it moves towards its centenary in 2020, as it continues to extend its global reach and realising its domestic and international ambitions.

Swansea University is a registered charity. No.1138342.

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-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.

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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)