

HAY FESTIVAL

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NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday 10 October 2018

Comedy, candle-lit storytelling, and the cosmos: full programme unveiled for Hay Festival Winter Weekend

Appearances from: campaigners Ziauddin Yousafzai and Gina Miller, writers Rose Tremain, Horatio Clare and Jeanette Winterson; space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock; broadcaster Kate Humble; "Queen of Shops" Mary Portas; journalists James O'Brien, Oliver Bullough, and Mark Urban; bestselling historians Helen Parr, Andrew Roberts, Tracy Borman, Andrew Green and Simon Jenkins; performers Marcus Brigstocke, Gwyenth Glyn, Mid-Wales Opera, and Fiona Evans and choir; alongside workshops and woodland walks.



Hay Festival has today announced the full line-up of writers, thinkers and entertainers appearing at Hay Festival Winter Weekend in Hay-on-Wye, 22-25 November 2018, alongside a rich strand of workshops, woodland walks, and town festivities.

Blending politics and global affairs with the finest fiction, nature writing, comedy, music and workshops for all ages, the festival offers four days of family fun within the stunning surrounds of the town's independent bookshops, cafés and markets, and the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Tickets go on sale to *Friends of Hay Festival* at 8am today (Wednesday 10 October) at hayfestival.org or 01497 822 629 and go on general sale 8am Saturday 13 October.

Peter Florence, Director of Hay Festival, said: "Hay offers a festive welcome like nowhere else. We'll be throwing our arms open to writers and readers from around the world to experience Hay as never before. The town is decked in Christmas lights and glistening with winter cheer. We've great writers, inspiring thinkers, moving musicians, and a thrilling bazaar of local crafts, foods and curiosities. Join us."

Novelist Jeanette Winterson said: "It's the time of year we need some internal sunshine and that's what this is. It's a place where there's light and there's warmth and a lot of fun."

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Now in its 19th year, this year's programme is the most ambitious yet, blending literary conversation, immersive performances and family workshops. Building on the success of last year's record-breaking edition, this year's festival incorporates a new 500-seater marquee in the Cattle Market and a pop-up bookshop space, while using The School Hall and St Mary's Church for additional events.

Programme overview:

Real-life stories of entrepreneurship and justice against the odds inspire: **Ziauddin Yousafzai**, father of the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Malala, talks *Let Her Fly: A Father's Journey and the Fight for Equality*; campaigner **Gina Miller** presents *Rise!*; and 'Queen of Shops' **Mary Portas** offers her thoughts on improving workplaces, *Work Like a Woman*.

Nature and the outdoors are explored as **Isabella Tree** talks *Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm*; **Horatio Clare** offers his extraordinary travelogue *Something of his Art: Walking to Lübeck with J.S. Bach*; and broadcaster **Kate Humble** presents her reflections on a year spent walking, *Thinking on my Feet*. And, following last autumn's planting of the first plot of Hay Festival's 30th Anniversary Wood, the Woodland Trust returns with a series of Tree ID walks and woodland explorations, ahead of further public plantings in 2019.

World affairs are drawn into focus: BBC *Newsnight*'s diplomatic editor **Mark Urban** discusses the explosive story of the poisoning of Sergei Skripal in *The Skripal Files*; investigative reporter **Oliver Bullough** presents his study of the lawless, stateless super-rich, *Moneyland*; broadcaster **James O'Brien** presents his new guide on talking to people with different opinions, *How to Be Right*; and a special *What do we do now?* session sees a festival panel discuss Brexit and the American Mid-Term elections over strong coffee.

History is revisited as Hennessy Award-winning historian **Helen Parr** talks to Lieutenant General Sir **Cedric Delves** about his memoir *Across an Angry Sea, The SAS in The Falklands War* and her new book *Our Boys: The Story of a Paratrooper*; **Andrew Roberts** presents *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*; bestselling writer **Tracy Borman** talks *Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him*; former National Librarian of Wales **Andrew Green** presents *Wales in 100 Objects*; and **Simon Jenkins** delivers his short history of Europe, *From Pericles to Putin*.

Great fiction is celebrated as award-winning writer **Rose Tremain** revisits her 2008 novel *The Road Home*; while **Jeanette Winterson** offers an evening of candlelit storytelling from her *Christmas Stories* collection of evocative festive shorts.

Cosmic adventures are led by lunar expert and space scientist **Maggie Aderin-Pocock**, who takes audiences to the moon and back with *The Sky at Night: Book of the Moon*, while workshops for young people include the Mechanics of Drawing at The Table, Indian Cookery and Bollywood dance classes.

Comedy, music and performances kick the evenings off in style. There's Friday night comedy from **Marcus Brigstocke**, whose new *Devil May Care* show aims to establish, for once and for all, what is good and what is bad about the world today; Saturday night entertainment from writer, poet and musician **Gwyenth Glyn**, who performs from her new album, *Tro*, in Welsh and English.

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St Mary's Church hosts **Mid-Wales Opera's** L'heure Espagnole by Ravel; organist, composer and vicar of St Mary's Church **Father Richard Williams** performs his live accompaniment to the silent Dracula movie *Nosferatu* using the church's Bevington Organ; and the festival closes with a now traditional Sunday evening choir concert, from **Fiona Evans and choir**.

Meanwhile, the town's iconic market square remains a focus of festivities with the **Hay Christmas lights** switch-on event on Friday 23 November; **Hay Food Festival** on Saturday 24 November; and **Hay Does Vintage** fair on Sunday 25 November.

The festival has also issued a public call to nominate the **Hay Festival Book of the Year 2018** – the one book readers couldn't put down, haven't stopped thinking about, or couldn't wait to recommend to friends, won in 2017 by Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane for *The Lost Words*. Visit hayfestival.org/book-of-the-year/ for details. The winner will be revealed at the event.

Following on from the 31st Hay Festival in Wales (24 May-3 June); Querétaro, Mexico (6-9 September); a special offshoot event in Dallas TX, USA (8 September); Segovia, Spain (20-23 September); and Arequipa, Peru (8-11 November); Hay Festival Winter Weekend is the festival's final edition of 2018.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival news by signing up to the newsletter or follow on:

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Facebook: hayfestival / hayfestivalimaginaelmundo

Instagram: @hayfestival

hayfestival.org/winterweekend

#HayWinterWeekend

Sessions in Spanish and English can be rediscovered anywhere in the world on Hay Player at hayfestival.org/hayplayer via a newly launched subscription service offering the world's greatest writers on film and audio for £10/€10 per year.

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Notes to editors

About Hay Festival

www.hayfestival.org

Hay Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that 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.

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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.

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.

About Hay Festival Foundation

hayfestival.com/hay-festival-foundation

Hay Festival Foundation is a registered charity created to support the aims of Hay Festival in the UK and internationally. The Foundation brings people of all ages together to support educational initiatives and opportunities. It is committed to access, inclusion and to the pursuit of excellence. The Foundation is supported through philanthropy and charitable grants with donations welcomed at hayfestival.org/wales/patrons-and-benefactors.

Dylan Jones, editor of *GQ*, is Chair of the Hay Festival Foundation and works alongside trustees **Rosie Boycott**, **Caroline Michel**, **Maurice Saatchi**, and **Alice Sherwood**.

Coming up:

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)

Hay Festival Wales, **UK** (23 May-2 June 2019)