

# HAY FESTIVAL

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**NEWS RELEASE: Tuesday 24 April 2018**

## **Lit lessons! Hay Festival offers free streaming to schools**

[Hay Festival Wales](#) will be streamed live into schools UK-wide on Thursday 24 May (KS 2) and Friday 25 May (KS 3 and 4), in a new project to widen access to festival events, funded by the Welsh Government and Hay Festival Foundation.

Blending live performance, workshops and storytelling, Hay Festival Schools Days feature specially curated KS 2, 3 and 4 sessions with **Julian Clary, Cressida Cowell, Laura Dockrill, Eoin Colfer, David Almond, Patrice Lawrence**; poets **Joe Coelho** and **Eric Ngalle Charles**, storyteller **Daniel Morden**; maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon**; BBC presenter **Katie Thistleton**; and broadcaster and teen ambassador **Gemma Cairney**.

Twelve sessions will be streamed free, live each day, for schools unable to attend in person. This UK-wide live stream follows a successful Wales-only pilot last year.

Funded by the Welsh Government and Hay Festival Foundation, Hay Festival Schools Days are also free for state schools to attend in person. Last year 7,140 pupils participated from 105 primary schools and 78 secondary schools.

**Teachers can view the full streaming schedule, download teaching resources and sign up for the free live streams at [hayfestival.org/livestream](http://hayfestival.org/livestream).**

**Aine Venables, Hay Festival Education Manager, said:** “Opening up inspiring opportunities for young people is a core part of our mission here and around the world. We will be welcoming thousands of pupils and students of all ages to Hay Festival 2018, giving them the chance to meet and engage with writers, performers and scientists for free. Expanding this opportunity online will allow even more young people to engage in the magic of Hay.”

**Education Secretary Kirsty Williams said:** “I want all our young people to be able to appreciate the power, beauty and resonance of words. The Hay Festival Schools Days programme will give learners from across Wales access to some of the most talented and inspirational writers and performers. These events stir the imagination and I’m thrilled that the Welsh Government is able to help the Festival build on what has proven to be a very successful programme. I would urge all schools to see if they can get involved and help learners take part in what I’m sure will be a truly magical two days.”

Hay Festival (24 May – 3 June) showcases the latest ideas in the arts, sciences and current affairs, alongside a rich schedule of music, comedy and entertainment for all ages, featuring over 600 of the world’s greatest writers, global policy makers, pioneers and innovators in 800 events across 11 days. A galaxy of literary stars gathers 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

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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 Schools Days Programme overview

**On Thursday 24 May – Key Stage 2 day – the programme includes comedy, storytelling, adventure, history and a celebration of STEM.**

Laughter will shake the tents as **Andy Stanton** talks about his multi award-winning *Mr Gum* series and *Natboff! One Million Years of Stupidity*; while comedian, entertainer and writer **Julian Clary** joins illustrator **David Roberts** to introduce their best-selling adventure series *The Bolds*.

There's storytelling and workshops as poet **Joe Coelho** entertains with *The sad Tale of the Fly.....Splatt!* mixing poems from his Carnegie Prize-nominated poetry anthology *Overheard in a Tower Block* with activities from his debut non-fiction book *How To Write Poems*; last year's recipient of the Hay Festival Medal for Drama, **Daniel Morden**, presents *Secret Tales from Wales* with passionate retellings of ancient stories; storyteller and author **Richard R. O'Neill** offers up an interactive 'ordinary to extraordinary' storywriting workshop.

There's adventure as **Cressida Cowell** launches the paperback of her new, best-selling book, *The Wizards of Once* in a special event; author **David Solomons** talks all things superheroes and villains as he presents *My Brother is a Superhero* and *My Evil Twin is a Supervillain*; and illustrator **Tony De Saulles** talks about *Bee Boy: Clash of the Killer Queens*.

STEM takes centre stage as maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon** joins her fellow STEMettes to inspire young women into science, technology, engineering and maths; while authors **Alex Frith**, **Alice James** and **Jerome Martin** offer *100 Things To Know About Space*.

BBC presenter **Katie Thistleton** talks about mental health and growing up, offering insight and anecdotes from her own life and **Kate Pankhurst** talks *Fantastically Great Women Who Made History* from suffragette leader Flora Drummond to pirate queen, Sayidda Al-Hurra.

**On Friday 25 May – Key Stages 3 and 4 – the programme includes inspiring real-life stories, empowering workshops, history and new fiction.**

There's empowerment for young people as poet, author and artist **Laura Dockrill** champions freedom of self-expression when she talks about her new book *Big Bones*; broadcaster and teen

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ambassador **Gemma Cairney** presents her inspiring new book *Open Your Heart, Learn to Love Your Life and Love Yourself*; and war correspondent **Sue Turton** teaches how to disrupt the system, force change and devise world-changing campaigns with the help of her own political toolkit.

Stories of real-life experiences aim to inspire audiences as poet, author and playwright **Eric Ngalle Charles** tells his uplifting story of how literature and creative writing helped him to overcome human trafficking and living on the streets, while the team behind the *Artemis Fowl* graphic novels – authors **Eoin Colfer**, **Andrew Donkin** and illustrator **Giovanni Rigano** – offer an epic, heart-breaking journey across continents with *Illegal*.

Maths prodigy **Anne-Marie Imafidon** returns with the rest of her fellow STEMettes to inspire young women into science, technology, engineering and maths.

History is explored as **Sally Nicholls** marks 100 years since the Representation of the People Act of 1918, documenting the suffrage movement from the point of view of three young women of the time, and costume historian **Lucy Adlington** talks fashion, fabrics and home-sewing in the context of the Second World War, to celebrate publication of her new novel *The Red Ribbon*.

**Bali Rai**, author of *Tales From India* and *Web of Darkness*, asks whether empathy in modern Britain is on the wane; multi-award-winning author of *Skellig*, **David Almond**, introduces his magical new novel *The Colour of the Sun*; award-winning author **Patrice Lawrence** presents her new novel *Indigo Donut*; and Welsh poet-rapper **Aneirin Karadog** invites the audience to play its part in a multi-lingual, multi-form performance of rap and poetry.

## Hay Festival 2018 Main 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**.

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.

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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*.

Free BBC TENT sessions feature live recordings of flagship BBC TV and radio shows featuring **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**. Plus, extra events offer a look at the latest dramas and documentaries, including tips from some of our leading filmmakers, presenters and producers.

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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**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

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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 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)

