**NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday 7 November 2018**

**Hay Festival Scribblers****Tour takes inspirational writers roadshow to pupils across Wales**

[Hay Festival Scribblers Tour](https://www.hayfestival.com/scribblers/the-scribblers-tour.aspx?skinid=1&localesetting=en-GB) will take five award-winning YA writers direct to thousands of school pupils across Wales throughout February 2019, in inspiring free events hosted at five Welsh universities: University of South Wales, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Wrexham Glyndwr University.

Running 4-8 February and 11-15 February, the Scribblers Tour aims to engage and encourage the next generation in storytelling and conversation, inspiring empathy and creativity. Now in its eighth year, the tour gives pupils a chance to visit their nearest university and experience a taste of life on campus.

YA star **Jenny Valentine** will compère the events and run writing workshops for the pupils, creating new stories in the university settings using augmented reality technology. Year 7 and Year 8 sessions will then feature conversations and activities with Hip Hop artist, poet and writer **Karl Nova** and journalist and historical fiction writer **Emma Carroll**, while Year 9 and Year 10 sessions will feature war correspondent **Sue Turton** and award-winning novelist **Alex Wheatle**.

**Aine Venables, Education Manager at Hay Festival, said:** “Every May in Hay-on-Wye thousands of young people join us to meet their favourite writers, and now we’re bringing Hay to them. In these free festival days we will be sharing stories, debating questions and celebrating the power of writing and reading for pleasure. We want to start conversations with young people, hear their voices and inspire their creative identities.”

Hay Festival Scribblers Tour is funded by the Welsh Government and is part of Hay Festival Foundation’s wider outreach and education work that includes free Schools Days, [Hay Academy](https://www.hayfestival.com/discover/hay-academy.aspx?skinid=1), [Hay Compass](https://www.hayfestival.com/compass/), The Beacons Project, School Exchanges, and the [Hay Levels](https://www.hayfestival.com/discover/hay-levels.aspx?skinid=1), a series of free educational videos.

**Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams said:** “I’m delighted that the Welsh Government is able to support the fantastic Scribblers Tour at Hay Festival, which is now in its 8th year. Hay festival is renowned throughout the world, and the Scribblers Tour offers our pupils a fantastic opportunity to learn more about literature and creative writing, and listen to amazing inspirational speakers and authors that are masters of their craft. By giving our pupils access to these fantastic experiences, we’re helping to stir their imagination and develop their creative skills, inspiring a new wave of Welsh authors, poets, and playwrights.”

**For more information visit hayfestival.org/scribblers/the-scribblers-tour.aspx**

**About the speakers**

**Jenny Valentine** is an award-winning YA novelist from Hay-on-Wye. Her debut novel, *Finding Violet Park*, won the prestigious *Guardian* Children’s Fiction Prize. Her other books include *The Ant Colony*, *The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight*, and the *Iggy & Me* series.She was Hay Festival Creative Wales International Fellow 2017-18.

**Emma Carroll** is a secondary school English teacher and writer of historical fiction. She has also worked as a news reporter, an avocado picker and the person who punches holes into Filofax paper. She recently graduated with distinction from Bath Spa University’s MA in Writing for Young People. T*he Girl Who Walked on Air* is Emma’s second novel. She lives in the Somerset hills with her husband and two terriers.

**Karl Nova** is a Hip Hop artist, author and poet. He was the winner of the 2018 CLiPPA ((Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award) for *Rhythm and Poetry*, his first published collection. Born and raised in London as well as Lagos, Karl is a social commentator, creative writing workshop facilitator, broadcaster and cultural critic.

**Sue Turton** is a war correspondent who has been breaking exclusives and dodging gunfire all over the world for 28 years. Her new book *This Book Will (help you) Change The World* offers guidelines on how to disrupt the system and force change with the help of her own political toolkit and powerhouse guide to activism.

**Alex Wheatle MBE** is an author and playwright from Brixton. His first novel,*Brixton Rock* was published in 1999 and tells the story of a 16-year-old boy of mixed race, in 1980s Brixton.  Its sequel, *Brenton Brown*, was published in 2011. His other works include *East of Acre Lane*, *Island Songs*, *Dirty South*, *The Seven Sisters* and *Checkers*. In 2010, he wrote and toured the one-man autobiographical performance, *Uprising*. His play, *Shame & Scandal*, debuted in 2015.

Hay Festival Winter Weekend is the next edition to take place in Hay-on-Wye (22-25 November). 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 are on sale now at hayfestival.org/wwe or on 01497 822 629.

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hayfestival.org

#ScribblersTour

**Sessions in Spanish and English can be rediscovered anywhere in the world on Hay Player at [hayfestival.org/hayplayer](http://hayfestival.org/hayplayer%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) via a newly launched subscription service offering the world’s greatest writers on film and audio for £10/€10 per year. Students can sign up for free at hayfestival.org/compass.**

**ENDS**

**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.

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 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)

Hay Festival Querétaro, **Mexico** (September 2019)

Hay Festival Segovia, **Spain** (September 2019)