



News release – Monday 4 November 2019

HAY FESTIVAL SCRIBBLERS TOUR TO TAKE YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS WALES ON A CREATIVE JOURNEY

[Hay Festival Scribblers Tour](#) will take five award-winning YA writers direct to thousands of school pupils across Wales throughout February 2020, 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 3-7 February and 10-14 February, the Scribblers Tour aims to engage and encourage the next generation in storytelling and conversation, inspiring empathy and creativity. Now in its ninth year, the tour gives pupils a chance to visit their nearest university and experience a taste of life on campus.

Compèred by YA star Jenny Valentine, Year 7 and Year 8 sessions will feature interactive activities with author of the bestselling series *The Shapeshifter*, Ali Sparkes and Welsh poet Aneirin Karadog, while Year 9 and Year 10 sessions will star writers Brian Conaghan and Patrice Lawrence. Each author will take the pupils on a creative journey to produce their own dynamic and inventive writing, be it dialogue, character development or Welsh poetic kung-fu, known as *Cynghanedd*.

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 Festival to them. In these red festival days we will be taking them on a creative journey to share stories, develop dialogue and celebrate 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 the free Programme for Schools, [Hay Academy](#), [Hay Compass](#), The Beacons Project, School Exchanges, and the [Hay Levels](#) series of free educational videos.

Education Minister Kirsty Williams said: "The Scribblers Tour captures the creativity synonymous with the Hay Festival and uses it to inspire learners across Wales. I am pleased to confirm the Welsh Government is again supporting this amazing project that gives children and young people the opportunity to learn about literature and creative writing from expert speakers and authors. Unique experiences like these are an exciting part of the learning experience and support the new curriculum which places creativity at its core."

For more information visit hayfestival.org/scribblers/the-scribblers-tour.aspx. And to support Hay Festival Foundation by becoming a Hay Festival Friend, Patron or Benefactor, visit hayfestival.org/foundation.

About the speakers

Brian Conaghan was born and raised in the Scottish town of Coatbridge but now lives in Dublin. He has a Master of Letters in Creative Writing from the University of Glasgow. For many years Brian worked as a teacher and taught in Scotland, Italy and Ireland. His first YA novel for Bloomsbury, *When Mr Dog Bites*, was shortlisted for the 2015 Carnegie Medal, and his second, *The Bombs That Brought Us Together*, won the 2016 Costa Children's Book Award. *We Come Apart*, a verse novel co-authored with Carnegie Medal winner Sarah Crossan, won the 2018 UKLA Book Award, and his fourth novel, *The Weight of a Thousand Feathers*, won the 2018 Irish Book Award for Teen & YA Book of the Year.



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Aneirin Karadog is a poet, broadcaster, performer and linguist. He won the chair at the National Eisteddfod in Monmouthshire in 2016. He has been a presenter on *Heno* on S4C and was the Children's Poet of Wales. He was a rapper and a member of the bands Genod Droog and Diwygiad. He was brought up in Pontypridd but now lives in Pontyberem in the Gwendraeth Valley with his wife Laura and their children Sisial and Erwan. <https://twitter.com/neikaradog>

Patrice Lawrence is an award-winning writer whose debut novel, *Orangeboy*, won *The Bookseller* YA Prize and the Waterstones Prize for Older Children's Fiction. *Indigo Donut*, her second book, was Book of the Week in *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and the *Observer*, and both books were nominated for the Carnegie Award. Her latest, *Rose, Interrupted*, was published in July 2019. Lawrence now lives in East London with her daughter, partner and Stormageddon, the tabby.

Ali Sparkes is a journalist, BBC broadcaster and writer of novels for young people, including her bestselling series *The Shapeshifter*. Her first stand-alone novel, *Frozen in Time*, won the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award in 2010 and her subsequent children's adventure, *Wishful Thinking*, was longlisted for the Carnegie. *Unleashed: A Life & Death Job* was shortlisted for the Northern Ireland Children's Book Award and the West Virginia Children's Book Award. She lives with her husband and two sons in Southampton. www.alisparkes.com

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.

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Hay Festival 2020 takes place 21-31 May. Thursday 21 May and Friday 22 May will once again be devoted to free programming for schools. Keep up to date with Hay Festival news by signing up to the newsletter or follow the action live on:

hayfestival.org
Twitter: @hayfestival / @hayfestival_esp
Facebook: hayfestival / hayfestivalimaginaelmundo
Instagram: @hayfestival / @hayfestival_esp
#ScribblersTour

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Notes to editors

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-two 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



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and Croatia. 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.

Coming up...

- Hay Forum Moquegua, Peru (6-7 November 2019)
- Hay Festival Arequipa, Peru (7-10 November 2019)
- Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye Winter Weekend, Wales (28 November-1 December 2019)
- Hay Festival Medellín, Colombia (29-31 January 2020)
- Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (30 January-2 February 2020)
- Hay Festival Abu Dhabi, UAE (24-27 February 2020)
- Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye, Wales (21-31 May 2020)
- Hay Festival Europa28, Croatia (3-5 June 2020)
- Hay Festival Querétaro, Mexico (September 2020)
- Hay Festival Segovia, Spain (September 2020)



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