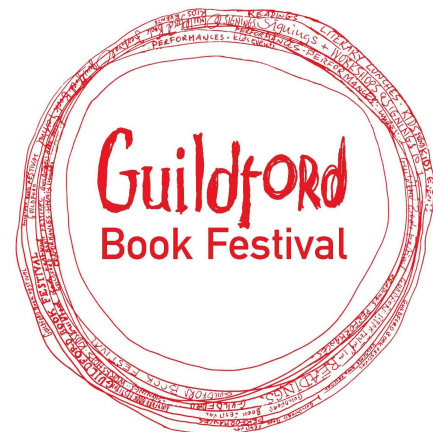


PRESS RELEASE



Guildford Book Festival

15 – 27 October 2007

The annual Guildford Book Festival presents an exciting line-up of Britain's best writers and personalities in a wide-ranging celebration of the written word.

Fiction is a major theme this year and the line up features some of today's bestselling novelists including **Bernard Cornwell**, **Michael Dobbs**, **Lesley Pearse**, **Adele Parks** and **Tony Parsons**. Events of particular interest include a panel discussion with **Patricia Duncker**, The Independent's **John Walsh** and **Paul Blezard** on the novels that define the 20th Century. This is followed by a discussion on the 'Richard & Judy' phenomenon with **Victoria Hislop**, **Martin Davies**, **Kate Mosse**, **Alison Penton-Harper** and special guest **Amanda Ross**, executive producer of *Richard & Judy* and dubbed the most powerful woman in publishing today.

To mark the centenary of **Daphne du Maurier's** birth, **Helen Taylor**, **Natasha Cooper** and **Elizabeth Buchan** will be discussing her work and her influence on fiction. This event will be followed by a screening of *Don't Look Now* (1973) directed Nicolas Roeg and starring Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland, based on the short story by Du Maurier of the same name.

Wendy Perriam, **Patrick Gale** and **Alison MacLeod** will be discussing the short story as a genre followed by a performance of *Wig*, a short story by Patrick Gale. Fantasy writing also features in the programme and will be discussed by **Juliet E. McKenna**, **Mike Carey** and **Paul Magrs**.

Girls' Night is now a firm Festival favourite, and this year, special guest **Julian Clary** talks to **Jane Wenham-Jones** in Part I. In Part II **Mil Millington** is joined on the sofa by **Helen Lederer** and **Lucy Mangan**. The literary **Quiz Night** is also back by popular demand.

Crime writing is celebrated once again this year with four special events. Broadcaster **Gyles Brandreth** will be talking about his latest book - *Oscar Wilde and the Candlelight Murders* featuring the celebrated poet, wit and playwright in the new role of detective. There is also a leading crime panel comprising celebrated crime writers **Mark Billingham**, **John Harvey** and **John Connolly** and chaired by **Andrew Male** from MOJO magazine. They will discuss **Detectives and their Music** and the event will be interspersed with selected musical extracts. Author of the Inspector Morse Books **Colin Dexter** will be reading from his own work, alongside actor **Gabriel Woolf** who

will be reading Dexter's favourite passages from Hardy, Dickens and Brontë. There is also an opportunity for budding crime writers to take part in a crime writing workshop with **Natasha Cooper**.

The Festival celebrates travel writing as it brings together **Bruce Fogle, Polly Evans** and **Henry Hemming** with tall tales about everything from misadventure in the Middle East to travels around Argentina on a horse!

Other highlights include biographers **Simon Sebag Montefiore** and **Andrew Lycett**. In his book *Young Stalin*, Montefiore unveils the shadowy, but extraordinary journey of the Georgian cobbler's son who became the Red Tsar; **Andrew Lycett** will talk about the life of Sherlock Holmes' creator, Conan Doyle. **Douglas Hurd** also appears at the Festival to talk about Sir Robert Peel, one of the most controversial and successful British Prime Ministers of the 19th Century.

Britain's best loved comedian and writer **Barry Cryer** will be looking back over his life and career in conversation with Paul Blezard; former England and Chelsea footballer **Graeme Le Saux** will be also be talking about his career as well as commenting on the major issues in football – on the pitch and beyond.

A packed children's programme coincides with half-term and features **The Big Draw** as well as many interactive events such as **The Hungry Caterpillar** and workshops including one on **Manga** and **How to Write Detective Stories**. There are lots of **storytelling sessions** at Waterstone's too, and events for older children such as **Grace Dent's Diary of a Chav** will definitely add more fun and colour to the Festival. Much loved authors **Jacqueline Wilson** and Children's Laureate **Michael Rosen** will also be making appearances this year.

Once again the Festival encourages and supports new writing with the **Jelf Group First Novel Award**. Chairing the judging panel this year is **Kate Mosse**, founder of the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction. She will announce the winner at a **Presentation Dinner** during the Festival.

The **Guildford Book Festival Short Story Competition** in association with BBC Southern Counties Radio will be judged by bestselling author **Adele Parks**. The winning stories, on the theme of *Up Your Street*, will then be broadcast.

New for 2007 is a **Playwriting Festival** in partnership with Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, where winning playwrights will be given a rare chance to have their scripts read at a public rehearsed reading. There is also a **Playwriting Workshop** and panel discussion on adapting for screen with **Jed Mercurio, Ben Richards** and **Michael Marshall**.

Good advice for budding writers is also on offer from **Jane Wenham-Jones**, author *Wannabe a Writer?*, a hilarious and informative guide which takes you through the minefield of publishing with hints and tips on everything from how to face the 'daily grind' to what to wear at the launch party.

History also features in the programme – **Roy Strong** presents a talk on the history of English country churches while ex-politician **Roy Hattersley** focuses on life in Britain between the wars. In the 60th anniversary year of India's independence, **Peter Clarke** talks about the last thousand days of the British empire in the sub-continent, and on a lighter note, journalist and broadcaster **John O'Farrell** presents *An Utterly Impartial History of Britain or 2000 Years of Upper Class Idiots in Charge* - a laugh out loud whistle-stop tour through what has made Britain Great.

Flower arranging, fishing and astronomy are just some of the other subjects covered in the programme. The line up features florist **Michael Kemp** who will be giving a demonstration on arrangements based on a literary theme; The Times' **Brian Clarke**, one of the UK's leading fly fishermen and ex- Blue Peter astronomer **Anton Vamplew**. Cartographer **Mick Ashworth** will be talking about the history of Times Atlases, mapping what can be learned from studying maps over time including the effects of global warming.

Discerning restaurant and TV critic **AA Gill** presents *Table Talk*, a brilliant collection of his writing on food, restaurants and the culture of eating; while **Louis de Bernieres** accompanied by the **Antonius Players** is set to add music to the mix.

There are many more events - log on to the website www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk to view the full programme, book tickets or order your own copy of the Festival brochure.

Tickets can be obtained by calling the **Box Offices** on **01483 444334** or **01483 444789**. Brochures are now available from Waterstone's branches, Guildford Tourist Information Centre, libraries, The Electric Theatre and other points around Guildford.

Box Offices: 01483 444334 or 01484 444789 www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk

To request author interviews, press passes for events or the Festival brochure, please contact

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