

International Børnelitteraturfestival

HAY FESTIVAL

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AARHUS 2017

NEWS RELEASE

**Programme announced for first International Children's Literature
Hay Festival Aarhus 2017**

Appearances from: **Michael Morpurgo, Meg Rosoff, Cressida Cowell, Chris Riddell, Eoin Colfer, Oliver Jeffers, Kim Fupz Aakeson, Endre Lund Eriksen, Stian Hole, Jan Blake and Janne Teller, alongside the Aarhus 39 selection of Europe's best new writers, featuring Sarah Crossan, Katherine Rundell, and Laura Dockrill**

[Hay Festival](#) has today announced the full programme for the inaugural International Children's Literature Hay Festival Aarhus 2017 taking place in Denmark (26 – 29 October) in collaboration with European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017.

Free to attend, and with events in French, English, Danish and Spanish, the festival will be a global celebration of writing for young people – the first Hay Festival exclusively for writers of children's and young adult literature.

Talks, workshops and performances will offer a memorable look at the world of books for young people, parents and teachers, with leading writers and illustrators from around the world: **Cressida Cowell, Meg Rosoff, Chris Riddell, Oliver Jeffers, Eoin Colfer, Anna Woltz, Arne Svingen, Kim Fupz Aakeson, Endre Lund Eriksen, Stian Hole, Jan Blake, Janne Teller,** and the Aarhus 39 selection of Europe's best new writers, featuring **Ævar Þór Benediktsson, Ana Pessoa, B. R. Collins, Katherine Rundell, Katherine Woodfine, Laura Dockrill, Maria Turtschaninoff, Sandrine Kao, and Sarah Crossan.**

The festival will take place in Dokk1 public library – one of Aarhus' exciting new development projects and winner of the best library of 2016.

Tickets can be booked online now at www.hayfestival.org/aarhus.

Cristina Fuentes La Roche, International Director at Hay Festival, said:

“A truly international children's festival, Hay Festival in Aarhus will encourage new ways of engaging with children's and YA literature, highlighting the importance of reading about lives lived in other cultures in promoting empathy. In a world in which it's easy to feel isolated, this borderless programme aims to engage young people across Europe in a fresh exchange of ideas and conversation.”

Rebecca Matthews, Managing Director, European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017:

“Stories open the hearts, minds and imagination in children. Stories take young people on journeys of discovery, challenge and place them in the centre of thoughts through the actions and adventures of characters. In Denmark, which has its own wonderful history of literature, stories for children also encounter darkness, magic and the contemporary dilemmas that make up life. We are thrilled to be partnering with Hay Festival on this amazing inauguration of international literature to bring wonderment and engagement to thousands of children and to launch the writing of many young authors from all over Europe.”

Talks from leading writers and illustrators from around the world will inspire a new generation of readers, with appearances from leading lights of children’s literature **Cressida Cowell, Eoin Colfer, Anna Woltz, Arne Svingen, Kim Fupz Aakeson, Cecilie Eken and Endre Lund Eriksen**; acclaimed illustrators **Chris Riddell, Oliver Jeffers, Stian Hole, and Andrew Donkin**; storyteller **Jan Blake**; YA stars **Meg Rosoff and Janne Teller**, and **Salla Simukka**; and the **Aarhus 39** selection of Europe’s best new writers, which includes **Ævar Þór Benediktsson, Ana Pessoa, B. R. Collins, Katherine Rundell, Katherine Woodfine, Laura Dockrill, Maria Turtschaninoff, Sandrine Kao, and Sarah Crossan**.

Hay Festival International Fellow 2017/18, the award winning YA writer **Jenny Valentine**, will continue her project to build a global picture of adolescent experience, which will be documented digitally and in a final manifesto next year.

Creative workshops led by leaders in their fields will offer young people a chance to turn their hand at something new, with sessions on story telling, writing, book binding, stop motion animation, illustration, poetry, and even a Harry Potter Minecraft.

Dokk1 library will be taken over by pop-up activities, including film screenings, readings and performances, including a special concert with **Michael Morpurgo**.

About the Aarhus 39

A selection of the best children’s and YA writers from all over Europe, aged 40 and under, these 39 writers for young people feature in the two Aarhus39 anthologies and will join us in events at the festival:

Ævar Þór Benediktsson, Iceland; **Alaine Agirre**, Spain; **Aline Sax**, Belgium; **Ana Pessoa**, Portugal; **Andri Antoniou**, Cyprus; **Anna Woltz**, Netherlands; **Annelise Heurtier**, France; **Annette Münch**, Norway; **B. R. Collins**, UK; **Cathy Clement**, Luxembourg; **Cornelia Travnicek**, Austria; **David Machado**, Portugal; **Dy Plambeck**, Denmark; **Elisabeth Steinkellner**, Austria; **Endre Lund Eriksen**, Norway; **Finn-Ole Heinrich**, Germany; **Frida Nilsson**, Sweden; **Gideon Samson**, Netherlands; **Inna Manakhova**, Russia; **Jana Šrámková**, Czech Republic; **Katherine Rundell**, UK; **Katherine Woodfine**, UK; **Laura Dockrill**, UK; **Laura Gallego**, Spain; **Ludovic Flamant**, Belgium; **Maria Parr**, Norway; **Maria Turtschaninoff**, Finland; **Michaela Holzinger**, Austria; **Nataly Elisabeth Savina**, Germany; **Nina Elisabeth Grøntvedt**, Norway; **Peder Frederik Jensen**, Denmark; **Salla Simukka**, Finland; **Sandrine Kao**, France; **Sanne Munk Jensen**, Denmark; **Sarah Crossan**, Ireland; **Sarah Engell**, Denmark; **Stefan Bachmann**, Switzerland; **Stefanie de Velasco**, Germany; and **Victor Dixen**, France.

Each of these writers wrote an original story on the theme of “journey”. These new stories, together with the specially commissioned illustrations, are available in two new anthologies out now: *Quest* (9-11) and *Odyssey* (12+).

Writers were selected by a jury of three acclaimed contemporary children’s authors – Kim Fupz Aakeson (Denmark), Ana Cristina Herreros (Spain) and Matt Haig (UK) – with eligibility encompassing authors of books for ages 8+ and teenagers.

The Aarhus 39 project builds on three similar festival campaigns Hay Festival has run with the UNESCO World Cities of Literature in Bogotá, Beirut and Port Harcourt, and the Mexico 20 project for The London Book Fair’s UK–Mexico Market Focus 2015. Each of these projects has generated new festivals, new publications and long-tail campaigns that are still supporting a new generation of writers from Latin America (Bogotá 39), the Arab diaspora (Beirut 39) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Africa 39).

About Aarhus, Denmark

Denmark’s second largest city on the east coast of the Jutland peninsula boasts some of the country’s finest museums - the artmuseum ARoS, MoMu and the Michelin awarded open air museum Den Gamle By - plus a vibrant music scene. In 2017, the city marks its European Capital of Culture status with a year filled with events, culture, new experiences and collaborations across culture, cities and people. For more information, visit www.aarhus2017.dk.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival’s news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow them on:

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#Aarhus39

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Notes to editors

For IMAGES, INTERVIEWS or FURTHER INFORMATION, contact Hay Festival publicity director Christopher Bone at christopher@hayfestival.org or 00-44-7506 522540.

About Hay Festival

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 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, the Woodland Trust 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 and Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

Upcoming festival dates:

- [Hay Festival Queretaro](#), Mexico (7– 10 Sep 2017)
- [Hay Festival Segovia](#), Spain (16–24 Sep 2017)
- [International Children’s Literature Hay Festival Aarhus](#), Denmark (26–29 Oct 2017)
- [Hay Festival Arequipa](#), Peru (9–12 Nov 2017)
- [Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend](#), UK (24 – 26 Nov 2017)
- [Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias](#), Colombia (25–28 Jan 2018)
- Hay Festival Wales, UK (24 May – 4 June 2018)