



Bloody Scotland

Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival

2-11, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3JD

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STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 1.30PM 1 JUNE 2016

PROGRAMME LAUNCH OF 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL (9-11 September 2016)

Now in its 5th year the Bloody Scotland Festival will run from the 9-11 September in historic Stirling. We've got a fabulous line up of authors including some of the very biggest names in the business. As ever events take place in a number of venues including the **Golden Lion hotel as festival hub for the first time this year**

This year's festival is the first since the passing of the great William McIlvanney, the man who more than anyone, established the tradition of Scottish detective fiction. Bloody Scotland 2016 is dedicated in his honour and so too is the **Scottish Crime Book of the Year, the winner of which will now be awarded The McIlvanney Prize on the opening night of the Festival.**

All festivals need their box office delivering stalwarts and we have those in spades. **Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Ian Rankin, Nicci French, Mark Billingham, Martina Cole** and the unstoppable **MC Beaton** (hosted by Fred McAulay) are all appearing this year.

Festivals, and indeed publishing in general would be nowhere without new blood. This year Bloody Scotland will be featuring a number of debut crime writers; **Theresa Talbot** (better known as that informative voice on the radio), **Abir Mukherjee** (winner of the Telegraph Harvill Secker crime writing prize), **Martin Cathcart Froden** (winner of the Dundee International Book Prize with *Devil Take the Hindmost*) and an intriguing debut from **Brooke Magnanti**, better known to the world as **Belle de Jour**, who will be discussing where crime and sex collide on-line

Finally it wouldn't be Bloody Scotland without a few quirky events. We have the return of the **Scotland v England writers football match**, the **late night lock-in 'Crime at the Coo'** at The Curly Coo, a unique event with festival favourite **Mark Billingham** as he is joined by country duo **My Darling Clementine** for their show *The Other Half* and a **pop up Escape Room** created in conjunction with **Val McDermid** in Stirling's Thistles Shopping Centre

COMMENT

'Lust, murder, crime and punishment. Isn't that everyone's idea of weekend well spent? We're delighted that Bloody Scotland has been collecting evidence for five years and urge everyone to get along for the big whodunit in Stirling'
Aly Barr, Acting Head of Literature, Languages and Publishing, Creative Scotland

'Bookdonors is very excited to be this year's title sponsor of Bloody Scotland. In my opinion Bloody Scotland is one of the friendliest book festivals I've ever attended. That sometimes strikes me as quite odd, with all those very knowledgeable authors roaming about, dreaming up their next murderous plot.'

Tom Murdoch-Kenny, Managing Director, Bookdonors

'We're delighted to be hosting the Bloody Scotland festival in Stirling again. The Festival goes from strength to strength each year and is fantastic for Stirling, both for our cultural scene and tourism and the local economy. I know that this year's programme will be outstanding and I look forward to welcoming authors and visitors from across the country and overseas to all the great events lined up for September'

Johanna Boyd, Council leader, Stirling Council

'I'm really looking forward to my first Bloody Scotland as part of the team - it's a great programme, with something for crime writing fans of every persuasion and Stirling once again will be buzzing with the electric Bloody Scotland atmosphere'

Bob McDevitt, Interim Director, Bloody Scotland

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Bloody Scotland is Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival, providing a showcase for the best crime writing from Scotland and the world, unique in that it was set up by a group of Scottish crime writers in 2012. The festival

The Caledonian Crime Writing Festival, Scottish Company No. SC404578. Registered office: Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8HE
The Caledonian Crime Writing Festival is a Scottish Registered Charity, known as Bloody Scotland: Charity No SC042615



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uses a number of atmospheric, historic venues in Stirling's Old Town, setting it apart from other literary festivals. Full information at www.bloodyscotland.com

TICKETS

Tickets priced at £9.50 (£8.50) for events at the Albert Halls and £7.50 (£6.50) for all others, are on sale from 2pm on Wednesday 1 June, from www.bloodyscotland.com or at the Box Office in the Tolbooth Stirling (Tue-Sat 10am-6pm) or in the Albert Halls (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). **Free standby tickets are available to the unemployed or those on a low income**, on the day of the event if there is good availability. Proof of eligibility is required and tickets are limited to one person. Visit www.bloodyscotland.com/standby for full details. **A 10% discount is available to people residing in the Stirling Council area.** You must give your address at the time of booking. Visit www.bloodyscotland.com/localdiscount for details

FEATURE IDEAS

Two leading forensic pathologists Dr James Grieve and Dr Marjory Turner talk about how crime writers get the forensics right in their novels

Four Scottish crime writers each make their pitch as to why their own piece of the map is the perfect place for murder – featuring Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Galloway

Former prisoner Erwin James talks about his extraordinary memoir *Redeemable* in which he talks about his extraordinary journey from criminal to *Guardian* columnist

Forensic soil scientist Lorna Dawson discusses analysing soil to track criminals

Dr Margaret McCartney (Radio 4 contributor) and Dr Al Dowie (senior teacher in ethics at Glasgow University) in discussion about the complex issue of end of life planning

To celebrate the 5th Anniversary you could ask 5 authors who have had events at all 5 festivals (Chris Brookmyre, Caro Ramsay, Lin Anderson, Craig Robertson, Alex Gray) to come up with lists of 5 specifically for your publication – 5 favourite crime novels / 5 favourite authors / 5 favourite plot twists / 5 tracks to inspire crime fiction or the more buzz-feedy things like 5 things you always see on a crime cover / 5 unusual deaths / 5 dogs in crime novels / 5 murder weapons

To mark the launch of the 5th Anniversary programme a team of 5 Bloody Scotland crime writers led by Chris Brookmyre and including Doug Johnstone, Matt Bendoris, G J Brown and Craig Robertson will be taking part in the Caledonian Challenge. A 24 mile hike through the scene of the original Scottish crime – the Glencoe Massacre – on Saturday 11 June. The previous evening, Friday 10 June, there will be a pop up Bloody Scotland event at Fort William library featuring signings from all 5 writers for local residents and Challenge participants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT FIONA BROWNLEE

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