SCOTLAND’S INTERNATIONAL CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL

17–19 SEPTEMBER 2021

STEPHEN KING — KATHY REICHS — IAN RANKIN — VAL MCDERMID — LEE CHILD
KARIN SLAUGHTER — CHRIS BROOKMYRE — JEANINE CUMMINS — LINWOOD BARCLAY
GUILLERMO ARRIAGA — LOUISE CANDLISH — ROBERT PESTON — PAULA HAWKINS
ALAN JOHNSON — KIA ABDULLAH — STUART MACBRIDE — DENISE MINA
MARK BILLINGHAM — ELLY GRIFFITHS — MICK HERRON

Stirling
Alive with Scotland

17–19 SEPTEMBER 2021
YOU WRITE THE BOOKS.
AND LEAVE US TO KEEP THEM.

HW Fisher is a top 25 chartered accountancy firm which has been advising authors and journalists for many years, helping them to manage their finances.

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Bloody Scotland receives vital funding from Creative Scotland, Stirling Council, EventScotland, part of Visit Scotland, and the Culture & Business Fund Scotland. We are also grateful to our sponsors The Glencairn Glass, H W Fisher, Open University Scotland, Go Forth Stirling and Finnish Literature Exchange.

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My

THE WORLD’S FAVOURITE WHISKY GLASS

Proud to sponsor
the McIlvanney Prize for the Scottish Crime Book of the Year and
Bloody Scotland Debut Crime Book of the Year.
Welcome back, we’ve missed you!

In 2020, we held a digital version of Bloody Scotland that was a roaring success and took us across the world. Now, in an ever-changing landscape, we’re able to open our doors again and welcome the world back to Stirling. But we’re also leaving that door ajar for those who can’t get here.

For 2021, we’re live in Stirling and we’re live online.

All our live events will also be broadcast digitally, and all our digital shows will be in front of a live audience. We’re even offering a catch-up service so you can watch at your leisure. So, whether you’re in Stirling or in front of your laptop in London, Los Angeles or Lahore, you can watch every one of our 33 events. We believe it’s a best-of-both-worlds approach that’s the right one for 2021.

Not all authors are ready to travel and that’s a sensible decision which we respect. Many readers too are more comfortable not venturing into crowds just yet. So, for those who are staying at home, we’ll bring the festival to you.

For those who are coming to Stirling, we promise you a great weekend in a safe environment.


Bloody Scotland receives vital funding from Creative Scotland, Stirling Council, EventScotland, part of Visit Scotland, and the Culture & Business Fund Scotland. We are also grateful to our sponsors The Glencairn Glass, H W Fisher, Open University Scotland and Go Forth Stirling.

While you’re in Stirling, our priority is your safety and the safety of those around you.

Our venues are operating at reduced capacity to allow everyone to have more space for social distancing. Hand sanitisers will be readily available. We expect you will be double vaccinated before coming to the festival and we ask that you do a test before you arrive to avoid risk of spreading infection. Please don’t attend if you’re showing any symptoms of Covid. We will of course continue to assess the situation, react to any changes and keep you fully informed.

Come to Stirling healthy, enjoy seeing your favourite authors, then go home healthy. Those are our principal goals for the weekend.

We’re delighted to be able to welcome back old friends and meet new ones. It’s been far too long!
EXPLORE STIRLING

Discover the sights and sounds of Stirling with the Explore Stirling APP including our film location trail.

Guided by locals who know the area best through narrated walking, cycling and driving routes.

For updates and information about more events in Stirling visit www.stirlingevents.org and for more inspiration to help you explore Stirling, visit www.yourstirling.com or follow us on twitter @StirlingAWS and Instagram @stirlingalive.
TICKETS
You can choose to watch events live in Stirling or online, or even a combination of both. If you’re watching online, you can purchase tickets for individual events or a digital pass. There are ticket options to suit all. Most events will be available to watch on catch-up until 30 September 2021.

In-person events
- Albert Halls: £10 per ticket
- Live video link events at Albert Halls: £8 per ticket
- Golden Lion: £8 per ticket

Online events
- Single event: £5
- Digital Pass bought before midnight on 16 September: £35
- Digital Pass bought from 17 – 30 September: £45

Best of Both Worlds package
If you buy five tickets for live events, then you can purchase a digital pass at half price.

Masterclass
- Online only: £35

Buy tickets online at bloodyscotland.com/events or see page 31 for Box Office information.

CRIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Bloody Scotland is continuing its drive to support new authors by letting them share a stage with the biggest names in the business.

Before many of our events, emerging writers will have the chance to read from their work. Spotlight authors have gone on to great things, not least Graeme Macrae Burnet who ‘opened’ for Ian Rankin before being shortlisted for the 2016 Man Booker Prize.

Sponsored by
The Open University Scotland
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Masterclass Workshops: Liam McIlvanney and ES Thomson

FRI 17 SEPTEMBER
9.30AM—11.45AM

Whether you’re starting out on your crime writing journey or polishing off a final draft, these workshops will offer invaluable insight from authors who know their craft inside out.

Plotting a Thriller
People mainly read crime novels for the story so you better make sure it’s in shape. Award-winning crime novelist Liam McIlvanney takes you through the process of plotting: explaining how to generate suspense; why the three-act structure is your friend; and what strategies will carry you through from inciting incident to finale.

Poisons to Die For
ES Thomson has a PhD in the history of medicine and is a university lecturer as well as being one of our leading historical novelists. What poison might suit your time and place? Why is research so important and how can we get creative with it? Can poisons offer more than murder?

Masterclass Industry Panel

FRI 17 SEPTEMBER
12PM—1PM

The bad news is that writing a pacy, enthralling, studiously plotted crime novel is only half the battle. You still have to negotiate the ever-changing demands of the marketplace, the quest to find an agent, and the fight to get to the top of the slush pile.

The good news is that we have leading industry experts to guide you through that potentially twisty process. They’ve been there, done it, and wrote the blurb for the t-shirt. They’re here to offer golden advice and answer your questions about what’s hot and what’s not in crime fiction, and what you should do next.

The panel consists of: Finn Cotton, commissioning editor at HQ; Kate Burke, literary agent at Blake Friedmann; and Emad Akhtar, publisher, Orion Fiction.

The panel will be chaired by Dr Gill Tasker, lecturer in publishing at Stirling University.

Keynote Address – Steve Cavanagh

FRI 17 SEPTEMBER
1.30PM—2.30PM

Join us as we spend an hour in the company of an author whose talent has seen him leap to the top table of crime writing in the space of just a few books.

Steve Cavanagh has already won the two major awards in UK crime fiction. He won the CWA Gold Dagger for The Liar, the third book in his phenomenally successful Eddie Flynn series, and followed that up by winning the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year for his runaway bestselling hit Thirteen.

His new book, The Devil’s Advocate, continues his sequence of powerful and pacy courtroom dramas, all marked by meticulous plotting and twists galore. If you want to know how it’s done, this is the man to listen to.

Steve Cavanagh will be introduced by Bloody Scotland Director, Bob McDevitt, who will also pass your questions to him.

Ticket price: £35 (includes access to both Workshops, Industry Panel, Keynote and Jo Nesbo)
CRIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FRI 17 SEPTEMBER

Patricia Marques
The Colours of Death
4PM

JO NESBO – THE JEALOUSY MAN

Tariq Ashkanani
Welcome to Cooper
7.15PM

IAN RANKIN – THE DARK REMAINS

Stuart Johnstone
Out in the Cold
9PM

KATHY REICHS – THE BONE CODE

Bloody Scotland Debut Prize Panel

FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 2.30PM–3.30PM
GOLDEN LION

Meet the next generation of Scottish crime writers. The four finalists battling to be crowned as best debut of 2021 appear together, just hours before the award is made as they hope to follow in the footsteps of previous winners Claire Askew and Deborah Masson.

Emma Christie’s acclaimed first novel, the suspenseful The Silent Daughter explores family secrets in the age of social media. Alistair Liddle’s thrilling debut No Harm Done tells of murder and conspiracy on the dangerous streets of Tbilisi, Georgia. Waking the Tiger by Mark Wightman is a darkly evocative tale set in pre-war Singapore. Robbie Morrison takes us back to 1930s gangland Glasgow for his visceral and mesmerising debut Edge of The Grave.

This event will be chaired by radio presenter Janice Forsyth.
Jo Nesbo – The Jealousy Man
FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 4PM—5PM
ONLINE ONLY

The undisputed king of Nordic Noir, the multi-talented and multi-million selling Jo Nesbo has done it all. The creator of the iconic Harry Hole has sold an incredible 50 million books worldwide and is translated into 50 languages. That’s before you get into his career as a stockbroker, professional footballer, chart-topping rock star and expert rock climber.

Nesbo has thrilled readers with a succession of global bestsellers including *The Snowman*, *The Leopard*, *Phantom*, and *The Kingdom*, all set in his native Norway.

His latest work, *The Jealousy Man*, is a riveting collection of short stories, each of which is guaranteed to have you on the edge of your seat. He will appear by video link in front of a live audience.

Jo Nesbo will be in conversation with literary agent and former chair of the Bloody Scotland board, Jenny Brown. This session will be pre-recorded and available online only.

Crimes of Many Colours
FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 4PM—5PM
GOLDEN LION

As if proof were needed that Scottish crime fiction is indeed a broad church (even though it doesn’t include Broadchurch…) then these four authors deliver said proof in spades. And axes and knives and chibs.

Ewan Morrison’s brilliant dystopian thriller *How to Survive Everything* tells of a teenage girl seeking to navigate a world ravaged by an even deadlier pandemic. *The April Dead* is the latest in Alan Parks’ acclaimed Harry McCoy series set on the mean streets of 60s Glasgow. William McIntyre’s popular series about defence lawyer Robbie Munro continues with *Bad Debt* in which Munro himself is charged with murder. Sharon Bairden’s debut offering is the much talked about *Sins of the Father*, a haunting tale of secrets and revenge.

This event will be chaired by reviewer and journalist Louise Fairbairn.
The Bloody Scotland Prizes  
FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 5.15PM—6.15PM  
ALBERT HALLS

Now in its ninth year, the McIlvanney Prize for crime novel of the year has established itself as the most prestigious and coveted award for Scottish crime fiction. Named in honour of the late, great William McIlvanney, it already has a stellar roster of winners: Charles Cumming; Malcolm Mackay; Peter May; Chris Brookmyre; Denise Mina; Manda Scott; Liam McIlvanney; and Francine Toon.

The ceremony will also include awarding the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize, an accolade won last year by Deborah Masson for Hold Your Tongue. We will also be presenting the world premiere of a specially commissioned short film celebrating Scottish crime fiction.

This event is FREE but ticketed

The McIlvanney Prize and the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize are sponsored by Glencairn Glass Limited with matched funding support from the Culture & Business Fund Scotland.

Ian Rankin – The Dark Remains  
FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 7PM—8PM  
ALBERT HALLS

It might be the most talked about Scottish crime novel in a decade. An epic, generation-spanning collaboration between two giants of the genre – the man who started it all and the man who took it on.

William McIlvanney had the beginnings of a new Laidlaw novel, something the crime fiction world had been waiting decades for. His sad death in 2015, left a book undone, a story untold. There were notes; chapters here and sheets of paper there. The seeds of a novel, something great, had been sown.

Thankfully, Ian Rankin had not only the skills but also the courage to take on the undoubtedly daunting task of finishing what the master had started.

Ian will discuss the process of this formidable assignment with interviewer Jenny Brown and will be joined by Francis Bickmore of publishers Canongate.
**FRI 17 SEPTEMBER**

**WHAT’S ON**

**Shocking Twists and Big Reveals – Kia Abdullah, Louise Candlish, Alex Knight, Stuart Neville**

**FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 7PM—8PM**
**GOLDEN LION**

The crime writer’s art is often like a magician’s misdirection, drawing attention to one thing to distract from another. Rather than a rabbit in a hat, the result might be a body in a freezer, a mystery assailant or an explosion.

Four wizards of words will reveal (almost) all the tricks of their trade. Kia Abdullah’s *Next Of Kin* is a pulsating legal thriller that doubles as an engrossing human drama. Louise Candlish had a number one smash with *Our House* and is twisting our emotions into knots once again with *The Heights*. Alex Knight is a master of the unexpected and in the riveting *Darkness Falls* he leaves readers on the edge of their seats. The brilliant Stuart Neville showcases all his skills of deception in his outstanding short story collection *The Traveller*.

This event will be chaired by Elaine Downs.

**Kathy Reichs – The Bone Code**

**FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 8.30PM—9.30PM**
**ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)**

Joining us from the United States, in front of a live Albert Halls audience, is one of the most popular and biggest selling crime writers of the 21st century. Kathy Reichs is the creator of the Temperance Brennan series, which now numbers 22 books and has been translated into over 30 languages.

A professor of forensic anthropology, Dr Reichs has taught FBI agents how to detect human remains, travelled to Rwanda to testify at the UN tribunal on genocide, helped exhume a mass grave in Guatemala, and helped recover body parts at the World Trade Center after 9/11. This incredible wealth of experience has made Kathy the Queen of forensic crime.

In *The Bone Code*, a haunting cold case resurfaces along with the outbreak of a horrifying disease.

Kathy Reichs will be interviewed by author Alex Gray who will be live on stage in the Albert Halls.
**Murder, Polis**  
**FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 8.30PM—9.30PM**  
**GOLDEN LION**

The police procedural continues to take no prisoners (and um, takes prisoners) as it outsells other forms of crime fiction. To prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, we have four formidable exponents of the art.

Marion Todd has brought fictional terror to the streets and beaches of St Andrews and wreaks further havoc as DI Clare Mackay returns in *What They Knew*. Former police detective Neil Lancaster has brought his real-life experience to the much-praised *Dead Man’s Grave*, featuring DS Max Craigie. *In The Blood* is the third in Margaret Kirk’s riveting DI Lukas Mahler series set in Inverness. There are now 11 books in James Oswald’s outstanding and bestselling Inspector McLean series, the latest of which is *What Will Burn*.

Crime writer Douglas Skelton will police proceedings from the chair.

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**The Fun Lovin’ Crime Writers**  
**FRI 17 SEPTEMBER | 10PM—11.45PM**  
**ALBERT HALLS**

The boys (and Val) are back in town!

The world’s number one crime writing super band have dusted down the drum kit, shaken the cobwebs from their chords and spruced up their inner Springsteen in readiness to take to the stage for the first time in over 18 months. Val McDermid, Mark Billingham, Chris Brookmyre, Stuart Neville, Doug Johnstone and Luca Veste will be murdering songs for fun like they’ve never been away.

They’ve rocked Reykjavik, noised up Newcastle, brought the house down in Belfast, and even gigged at Glastonbury (they may have mentioned it) but they’ll be supreme in Stirling. It will be like the Elvis Comeback Special, Simon & Garfunkel in Central Park, and Chas ‘N’ Dave at the Railway Tavern, Crouch End, all rolled into one. Rock on!
Forensic Investigations
– Lin Anderson and Elly Griffiths

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 10AM—11AM
ALBERT HALLS

Meet the creative geniuses behind two of the most enduring and popular female characters in crime fiction. Lin Anderson’s much-loved forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod has featured in 16 acclaimed novels, while Elly Griffith’s iconic forensic archaeologist Dr Ruth Galloway has entertained readers through 13 outstanding outings.

In Lin’s *The Killing Tide*, three bodies are found on a mysterious cargo ship which has swept ashore in the Orkney Isles. Rhona MacLeod’s investigation leads her to suspect a dangerous game was being played on board. In Elly’s *The Night Hawks*, a group of metal detectorists are searching for buried treasure when they find a body on a Norfolk beach. Ruth Galloway’s excavations at Black Dog Farm reveal an even greater horror.

This event will be chaired by clinical psychologist and author Chris Merritt.
The Alanna Knight Historical Panel – SG McLean, ES Thomson, Douglas Watt

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 10AM–11AM
GOLDEN LION

In memory of the sadly missed Alanna Knight, a great friend of the festival, this event celebrates the best of historical Scottish crime fiction. Rich in legend, brimming with atmosphere, and dipped in delicious detail, it has delighted readers since the days of Robert Louis Stevenson and beyond.

SG McLean is the creator of the Seeker novels set in Cromwell’s London. The gripping conclusion to this lauded series is *The House of Lamentations*. ES Thomson’s Jem Flockhart books have entranced an army of fans with its mid-19th century tales of apothecaries and murder, the latest of which is the dazzling *Nightshade*. Douglas Watt’s fifth novel, *A Killing in Van Diemen’s Land* is set in 17th century Edinburgh where a wealthy merchant has been viciously murdered.

This event will be chaired by Jenny Brown.

The Body Politic – Alan Johnson & Robert Peston

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 11.45AM–12.45PM
ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)

People being stabbed in the back, character assassinations, corruption, lies and double dealing, and those who know where the bodies are buried. Anyway, enough about Westminster and Holyrood, let’s talk about crime novels.

Two leading figures in the political arena have elected to make an honest living and have turned their hands to crime. Former Labour Home Secretary Alan Johnson’s debut novel, *The Late Train to Gypsy Hill*, tells of a chance commuter encounter which leads to a thrilling tangle of conspiracy and espionage. Robert Peston is the political editor for ITV News and his debut, *The Whistleblower* is an explosive tale of murder, hidden interests and secrets at the heart of government.

The BBC’s Scotland Editor, Sarah Smith, will chair the event from live inside the Albert Halls.
Searching For a Home – Sarah Hilary, Imran Mahmood and Trevor Wood

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 11.45AM—12.45PM
GOLDEN LION

Meet three authors who force us to question our preconceptions of those who’ve fallen through society’s cracks as they tackle one of society’s most pressing yet overlooked problems – homelessness.

Sarah Hilary’s darkly unsettling new novel *Fragile* tells of runaway Nell Ballard who is in search of a roof over her head, but her new lodgings turn out not to be the safe haven she’d hoped for. In the intelligent and thought provoking *What I Saw*, the latest from Imran Mahmood, a former banker now living on the streets is witness to a vicious murder but is told what he saw is impossible. Trevor Wood’s award-winning debut *The Man on the Street* introduced us to homeless veteran Jimmy Mullen, and he makes a triumphant return in the harrowing *One Way Street*.

This event will be chaired by Zoe Venditozzi.

Secrets and Spies – Mick Herron, Charlotte Philby and Simon Conway

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 1.30PM—2.30PM
ALBERT HALLS

Modern espionage writers have conspired to bring readers some of the best crime novels of recent years, showing great skill to adapt to ever-changing international dynamics and deliver intrigue and thrills in equal measure. Here, we have three of the best, proving that undercover is the place to be.

Mick Herron’s much lauded and loved Jackson Lamb novels are in production for TV, starring Oscar-winner Gary Oldman, and his latest novel *Slough House* is a brilliant addition to an unrivalled series. Charlotte Philby – famously the granddaughter of double agent Kim Philby – has released her third page-turning thriller, the deeply unnerving *The Second Woman*. Simon Conway’s suspenseful thriller *The Saboteur* is a follow-up to his award-winning novel *The Stranger* featuring MI-6 operative Jude Lyon.

This event will be chaired by Jacky Collins.
**Alex Gray's New Crimes**

**SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 1.30PM—2.30PM**

**GOLDEN LION**

Discover Alex Gray’s pick of the best crime debuts of the year.

Rahul Raina’s *How To Kidnap the Rich*, a riotous satire of modern India wrapped up in a thrilling crime caper, has been hailed as a magnificent rollercoaster of a book. *The Long, Long Afternoon* by Inga Vesper is a beguiling and atmospheric mystery set in 1950s California – a tale of bloodstains, inequality and broken dreams.

In Lara Thompson’s enthralling *One Night, New York* two women wait atop the Empire State Building, set on revenge against the man who wronged them, while below them the city heaves with change. Bernard O’Keefe’s *The Final Round* is an intriguing first case for DI Garibaldi as he investigates a murder victim found by the Thames on the morning after the Boat Race.

**Around the World in 80 Deaths** – Claudia Piñeiro, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Sergei Lebedev and Femi Kayode

**SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 3.15PM—4.15PM**

**ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)**

We bring you four outstanding crime writers from around the world who are breaking new ground as they tell stories that need to be told.

Claudia Piñeiro is the author of 13 crime novels, all of which have been bestsellers in her native Argentina and across Latin America. David Heska Wanbli Weiden, an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota nation, is the author of the multi award-winning debut *Winter Counts*. Sergei Lebedev is one of Russia’s bravest and most brilliant novelists. In *Untraceable*, he takes on Putin, power and poisons. Femi Kayode’s powerful debut *Lightseekers* is set in his native Nigeria and centres on the brutal murders of three young students.

The panel will be chaired by New Zealander Craig Sisterson, who will be live in the Albert Halls.
And Then There Were Three – Elle Connel, Susi Holliday and CL Taylor
SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 3.15PM—4.15PM
GOLDEN LION

Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None* is the bestselling murder mystery of all time. Little wonder then that it has served as a blueprint for generations of writers whose casts of characters slowly dwindle. These three authors, however, have put a fresh spin on a timeless trope.

In Elle Connel’s *Down By the Water*, seven friends gather at a castle in the Scottish Borders but it turns into the weekend trip from hell. *The Last Resort* by Susi Holliday is classic Christie with a cyber twist as seven guests on a mysterious private island become six, then five... There are seven guests and seven secrets in C.L. Taylor’s *Sleep*, but there’s not seven for long.

This event will be chaired by Lee Randall. But who will be the last woman standing?

Killer B’s – Mark Billingham and Chris Brookmyre
SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 5PM—6PM
ALBERT HALLS

Individually, they’re two of the best crime writers in the business. Together, they’re trouble. Expect the unexpected and expect to be entertained as Mark Billingham and Chris Brookmyre talk books and whatever comes up next.

*Rabbit Hole* is the latest masterpiece to leap from the Billingham imagination. When a patient is murdered on a psychiatric ward, DC Alice Armitage is on the trail of the killer. The only problem is that Alice is a patient too.

Brookmyre’s new novel *The Cut* has been hailed as one of his best, and that’s saying something. Special effects make-up artist Millie and troubled film student Jerry team up to investigate the truth behind a murder 25 years earlier which is not what it seemed.
The Science of Murder – Jim Fraser and Richard Taylor

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 5PM—6PM
GOLDEN LION

Spend an hour in the company of two men who have spent their working lives investigating the darkest of crimes, albeit from different perspectives. For Jim Fraser it’s all about whodunnit, for Richard Taylor it’s all about why.

Forensic scientist and cold case reviewer Fraser has been at the forefront of forensic science in the UK for decades. In his compelling and chilling memoir *Murder Under the Microscope* he details some of the most notable cases he’s worked on.

Taylor is a forensic psychiatrist who has spent 26 years in the field, working on well over a hundred murder cases. His grimly fascinating memoir, *The Mind of a Murderer*, is an astonishing exploration of the psyche of killers.

This event will be chaired by author Lin Anderson.

Val McDermid – 1979

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 6.45PM—7.45PM
ALBERT HALLS

When the Queen of Crime embarks on a new series, you know that you’ll sign up for the entire journey and that it will be quite a trip!

Consider that her previous series include the *Wire in the Blood* novels featuring Carol Jordan and Tony Hill as well as the bestselling and award-winning series showcasing Karen Pirie, Kate Brannigan and Lindsay Gordon, *1979* has tough acts to follow. Luckily, as maiden voyages go, it is right up there with the best.

*1979* is an explosive, enthralling novel, full of trademark McDermid punches to the gut. In it, Val introduces us to Allie Burns, a young journalist chasing her first scoop. Set against the background of the Winter of Discontent, Allie sets out to expose the criminal underbelly of respectable Scotland but has to put her own life on the line in pursuit of the story.

Val will talk about her trip back in time to 1979 in the company of the rising man, the supremely talented Abir Mukherjee.
Pitch Black Humour  
– Doug Johnstone, JD Kirk and Antti Tuomainen

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 6.45PM—7.45PM  
GOLDEN LION

Being funny isn’t easy. Being funny when your subject matter is deadly serious is a tricky business, and a skill that few writers can deliver. These three authors are masters at puncturing the darkness of their work with gallows humour that leaves their readers thoroughly entertained.

Doug Johnstone’s outstanding Skelf trilogy concludes with The Great Silence, a novel that contains all the Johnstone hallmarks of empathy and darkly comedic undercurrents. JD Kirk’s highlands-set DCI Jack Logan series, the latest of which is Colder Than the Grave, has a growing army of fans addicted to its black humour. Finnish author Antti Tuomainen has created a series of brilliantly hilarious yet thrilling novels, two of which are currently in production as movies, including his latest bestseller The Rabbit Factor.

This event will be chaired by Jane Hamilton of the Daily Record.

Stephen King and Linwood Barclay

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 8.30PM—9.30PM  
ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)

Yes, THAT Stephen King. The man regarded by many as the world’s greatest living storyteller will appear before a live Albert Halls audience alongside his friend, the outstanding Canadian crime writer Linwood Barclay.

King, the author of iconic novels such as Misery, The Shining, Carrie, Mr Mercedes and The Green Mile, has written 63 books, an incredible 50 of which have been made into movies. His latest bestseller is the lauded crime novel Billy Summers, a tale of the best hit man in the business who faces one final job.

Linwood Barclay is a master of psychological suspense and the international bestselling author of 21 novels including No Time For Goodbye, Broken Promise and Elevator Pitch. In his latest book, Find You First, the heirs of a tech millionaire are mysteriously being eliminated, one by one.

Author Craig Robertson will introduce this event live from the Albert Halls.
**Nordic Noir – Eva Björg Ægisdóttir, Heidi Amsinck and Lilja Sigurðardóttir**

**SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 8.30PM—9.30PM
GOLDEN LION**

The spectacular rise of crime fiction from the Nordic nations shows no sign of stopping as ever more authors emerge to international acclaim. These three ice queens are leading the exciting next generation of writers delivering chills, thrills and social commentary.

Heidi Amsinck’s debut *My Name is Jensen* is a compelling and atmospheric novel which tells of a homeless man stabbed on the wintry streets of her native Copenhagen. The twisty *Girls Who Lie* is the second in the Forbidden Iceland series by Eva Björg Ægisdóttir, in which the discovery of the body of an alcoholic single mother leads to secrets being unveiled. In the course of four novels, Lilja Sigurðardóttir has established herself at the forefront of the new Nordic revolution. The fifth, *Cold as Hell*, sees Áróra return to Iceland in search of her missing sister.

This event will be chaired by Anna Day.

**The Quiz Lovin’ Crime Writers**

(with a bit of Crime at the Coo)

**SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 10.15PM—11.30PM
ALBERT HALLS**

This time it’s deadly serious. Well, not really. Just a bit. It’s our crimetastic quiz where two teams of authors battle each other in pursuit of glory. We’ll test their knowledge of everything from theme tunes to knitting mysteries, from the colour of Poirot’s pyjamas to the name of Rebus’s dog.

In the blue corner, we have Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre and Doug Johnstone. In the red, we have Mark Billingham, Luca Veste and Stuart Neville. Craig Robertson will be the quizmaster with all the questions and hopefully most of the answers.

Sadly, there is no Crime at the Coo for 2021 because of Covid restrictions but instead, our quizzers will each perform a song for your delectation and delight. Hit me baby one more time!
The Red Hot Chilli Writers and Guests

SAT 18 SEPTEMBER | 10.15PM—11.30PM
GOLDEN LION

It’s one of the hottest podcasts in the business, packed with interviews with top crime writers, and now it’s coming live to Bloody Scotland. The show is the brainchild of British Asian authors Abir Mukherjee and Vaseem Khan and their insightful, funny interviews are guaranteed to spice up your life.

Abir and Vaseem have a suitably red-hot line-up for us. The ever-entertaining Denise Mina is a perennial Bloody Scotland favourite; Lilja Sigurðardóttir is an award-winning Icelandic author and screenwriter; Robert Goddard is the acclaimed author of over 20 bestselling novels; and Stuart Turton is the genius behind The Devil and the Dark Water.

If this event was being measured on the Scoville Scale (google it) then it would surely come in around 2 million SHU like a Carolina Reaper (google that too).
Meet two authors at the peak of their powers who have perfected the skill of toying with our emotions and torturing our imaginations.

In the course of four award-winning novels, Liz Nugent has become one of the most distinctive voices in crime fiction. Her beautifully written psychological thrillers come with a fearsome punch. *Our Little Cruelties* begins at the funeral of one of three dysfunctional brothers. But which brother died, and which brother killed him?

Stuart MacBride’s *The Coffinmaker’s Garden* is trademark MacBride. Inventive and macabre, darkly humorous, deftly plotted and with dialogue that crackles. When a colossal storm batters the Scottish coast, a house is in danger of falling into the sea. But the house is where the bodies are buried...

This event will be chaired by journalist and reviewer Craig Sisterson.
Pitch Perfect

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 11AM—12PM**

**ONLINE ONLY**

It’s a dream chance and a nightmare ordeal rolled into. The opportunity to stand up in front of a panel of industry experts and pitch your novel to them in the hope of securing a publishing deal.

Sounds terrifying? It is. The chance of a lifetime? It’s that too. The likes of Joseph Knox, Steph Broadribb, Matt Wesolowski, Alison Belsham and Lisa Gray have made Pitch Perfect their first step on the ladder to the bestseller charts. Some nervous novelists are ready to follow in their footsteps.

This year’s panel ready to offer constructive criticism and golden advice is: Jade Chandler, head of crime and thriller imprint Baskerville; literary agent Louise Lamont; Francis Bickmore, publishing director at Canongate; and former Bloody Scotland chair, Jenny Brown.

Bloody Scottish History

**– Denise Mina, Ambrose Parry and Craig Russell**

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 12.45PM—1.45PM**

**ALBERT HALLS**

Scotland’s rich and bloody history is a macabre treasure trove waiting to be ransacked. In this event, three authors of consummate storytelling skill and a dedication to research will explain how they twist it to their advantage and ours.

Denise Mina’s *Rizzio* is a breathtaking account of the brutal murder of the private secretary of Mary Queen of Scots. A tale of sex, power and secrets, it is history under a modern lens.

Ambrose Parry has delivered three powerful tales of medicine and murder in Victorian Edinburgh and the latest, *A Corruption of Blood*, is an enthralling and meticulously researched addition to this brilliantly gruesome canon.

Craig Russell has bravely taken on the task of reimagining a classic tale in the deliciously dark *Hyde*. Russell however is a master of the Gothic and Stevenson’s creation is in skilled hands.
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**The A–Z of Crime**

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 1PM–5PM**

**ONLINE ONLY**

Get ready for a rolling cast of 26 brilliant authors, plus another four as your hosts. Four writers will be chatting on your screen then one will drop off, a new one will appear, and we all cross our fingers that the Wi-Fi works.

Our incredible array of crime-writing talent is: Megan Abbott; DV Bishop; Ajay Chowdhury; Sharon Dempsey; Fiona Erskine; Mick Finlay; Ryan Gattis; Mari Hannah; Matthew Iden; Ed James; Erin Kelly; Gytha Lodge; Saima Mir; Charlotte Norhtedge; Stephen O’Rourke; Christoffer Petersen; Matthew Quirke; Rod Reynolds; Trisha Sakhlecha; Russ Thomas; Lisa Unger; Sarah Vaughan; Chris Whittaker; X; Susie Yang; and Anne Zouroudi.

Every good plot needs a secret and a twist in the tail. Who amongst you can guess the identity of our 24th guest, the mysterious X?

Your hosts for this marathon event will be the four crime writing members of the Bloody Scotland board. They are – in alphabetical order of course – Lin Anderson, Morgan Cry, Abir Mukherjee, and Craig Robertson.

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**Slow Burning Secrets**

**– Paula Hawkins, Lisa Jewell and SJ Watson**

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 2.30PM–3.30PM**

**ALBERT HALLS**

Storytelling is an art. Great authors have an ability to make you wait, have you dangling on their hook, then reel you in when they are good and ready. These three writers are masters of that dark art.

Paula Hawkins, author of the phenomenon that was *Girl on the Train*, has roared back to her brilliant best with her explosive and startling new novel *A Slow Fire Burning*. The latest in Lisa Jewell’s incredibly impressive body of work is the immersive and gripping psychological thriller *The Night She Disappeared*. SJ Watson set the bar high for himself with the multi-million selling *Before I Go To Sleep* but has surpassed himself with his expertly-crafted and menacing new novel *Final Cut*.

**This event will be chaired by author Jonathan Whitelaw.**
A Mexican Stand Off – Guillermo Arriaga and Jeanine Cummins

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 4PM—5PM**
**ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)**

Guillermo Arriaga is a Mexican author, screenwriter, director and producer whose novels have been translated into 18 languages. The epic and enthralling *Untameable* is set in 1960s Mexico City, a time and place where justice was sold to the highest bidder. Arriaga is also an Oscar-nominated and Bafta-winning screenwriter for the drama *Babel*.

Jeanine Cummins is the author of one of the most talked about and controversial books of 2020, the extraordinary *American Dirt* which sold over two million copies worldwide. Set in Acapulco, a city in the grip of a drug cartel, it vividly tells of the astonishing lengths a mother will go to save her son.

This event will be chaired by author and Mexico City native Oscar de Muriel who will be live in the Albert Halls.

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A Brother and Child Reunion – Andrew Child and Lee Child

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 5.30PM—6.30PM**
**ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)**

What do you do if you want to slip quietly away from arguably the most successful thriller series in decades but have no desire to see your iconic character follow you into retirement? You keep it in the family.

Lee Child’s Jack Reacher novels are a phenomenon. They number 25 novels, 100 million books sold in 49 languages and 101 territories, and they are relentlessly outstanding. Lee’s younger brother Andrew, himself a successful thriller writer, has taken up the Reacher baton and together they have written the explosive *Better Off Dead* which sees Jack face down a town with secrets people will kill to protect.

Lee and Andrew will join us live from the United States. The event will be chaired by author Morgan Cry who will be live in the Albert Halls.

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*Sponsored by The Open University Scotland*
Karin Slaughter

**SUN 19 SEPTEMBER | 7PM—8PM**

**ALBERT HALLS (LIVE VIDEO LINK-UP)**

Every thriller needs a fitting finish and Bloody Scotland 2021 will be no different as we're joined live from the USA by one of the world's most popular storytellers, Karin Slaughter.

Published in 120 countries, Karin has sold an incredible 35 million books across the globe. She is the creator of two exceptional series, the Grant County books and the Will Trent novels, as well as a number of bestselling standalones.

Her latest novel, the engrossing *False Witness*, displays the range of Slaughter's ability to keep us turning pages. As a long-held secret emerges from the darkness, the lives of sisters Leigh and Callie begin to unravel with devastating consequences.

**Karin Slaughter will be interviewed by bestselling author Louise Welsh who will be live in the Albert Halls.**
Stirling is a vibrant Scottish city within an hour of both Glasgow and Edinburgh. With so much to see and do in Stirling, it’s hard to know where to start so we recommend visiting yourstirling.com to plan your trip and itinerary.

**BY RAIL**
Stirling is about 35 minutes from Glasgow (Queen Street Station) and 50 minutes from Edinburgh (Haymarket and Waverley stations). Please note: due to industrial action there is currently just one train on Sunday between Stirling and each of Glasgow/Edinburgh.

There are also direct services to London, Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness.

For timetables and travel updates go to travelinescotland.com or call Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

**BY AIR**
Most travellers arrive at Edinburgh or Glasgow airports which all have branches of leading car hire operators and taxi services. You can take a tram from Edinburgh Airport to Edinburgh Park and change there to take a train to Stirling. Edinburgh Trams run services from every seven minutes from the airport to Edinburgh city centre with a journey time of 25 minutes.

Glasgow Airport has a quarter hourly bus service taking around 25 minutes to Glasgow city centre. It leaves from outside the terminal and stops at Buchanan Street Bus Station for direct services to Stirling. Queen Street Railway Station is a five-minute walk.

For full information visit: edinburghairport.com glasgowairport.com

**BY ROAD**
Stirling is linked to Scotland’s motorway and trunk road network including the M9/A9 to Edinburgh, Perth and Inverness and the M80 to Glasgow. The Thistles shopping centre has city centre parking facilities. For full information: thistlesstirling.com/car-park/
ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION
We are committed to making Bloody Scotland an accessible festival. Please note: The Golden Lion Hotel has a wheelchair lift at its front entrance on King Street and Bloody Scotland is providing a taxi service between the two venues for those that need it.

Full venue accessibility information is available on our website or email: info@bloodyscotland.com to inform us of any access needs. BSL interpretation is available at events on request. Email: info@bloodyscotland.com to request this free service.

SEATING
Seating at all events is unreserved. Please advise the box office at the time of booking if you require a wheelchair space or have any specific needs and we will do our best to accommodate them.

STIRLING DISCOUNT
A 10% discount is available to people residing in the Stirling Council area on tickets for events in Stirling. This is available across all sales channels and you must give your address at the time of booking. Visit bloodyscotland.com/localdiscount for details.

FREE STANDBY TICKETS
We don’t want the price to be prohibitive to you coming to Bloody Scotland and while we can’t help with travel or accommodation costs, we can offer you a free standby ticket on the day of the event if there is good availability*. These tickets are available to the unemployed or those on a low income, on the day of the event and limited to one per person. *Good availability is defined as over 10 tickets available for sale. Visit bloodyscotland.com/standby for details.

BOX OFFICE
ONLINE
24 hour booking at bloodyscotland.com

IN PERSON
The Albert Halls box office will be open during the festival weekend but will not be open before the festival. The box office at the Tolbooth will be open in advance of the festival.

Full details and opening times: stirlingevents.org/tolbooth-event/
We will have another box office located in the Golden Lion Hotel reception area which will be open on the Friday and Saturday of the festival weekend.
Opening times: Fri: 2pm–9pm and Sat: 9.30am –10.15pm

Please allow time to pick up your tickets before the event begins. We do not charge any booking or transaction fees.

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If the truth’s in the shadows, get out of the light

William McIlvanney

Ian Rankin

‘A triumph’

Mick Herron

‘[A] dream come true’

Mark Billingham

‘Like witnessing Scottish noir’s Big Bang creation in the company of its greatest living exponent’

Lee Child

#TheDarkRemains