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Award winning poet Simon Armitage in Derby

Award-winning poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist and broadcaster, Simon Armitage will be appearing at Déda on Thursday 4 June as part of the first Derby Book Festival, which will be held in the city from 1 to 7 June 2015.

Simon, who comes from Yorkshire, will read from *Paper Aeroplane* - a selection which marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of his ground-breaking first poetry collection *Zoom!* - and also from new work. Simon has published over a dozen collections of poetry including *Seeing Stars* and his acclaimed translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

His poems have been part of GCSE and A level exams for nearly two decades, and this summer sees publication of *Walking Away*, the follow up to his best-selling memoir *Walking Home* which feature Simon's journey along the Pennine Way, walking south from Scotland to Derbyshire, giving poetry readings along the way often in exchange for food or accommodation.

The event at Déda will begin with the announcement of the winner of a poetry competition with the winning poem being read on stage before Simon's performance. Following this, Déda's monthly Open Mic poetry session, which meets each month, will take place.

Stephen Munn, Director of Déda, said: "When we were approached to be a partner in Derby Book Festival, Simon's name was the first one we suggested as we have been keen to host him at Déda for a long time.

"His poetry is highly engaging, thought provoking and fun and we are sure he will be hugely popular at the festival."

Liz Fothergill, Chair of Derby Book Festival said: "We are delighted that Déda are such great partners and supporters of the Festival and will host a wide range of events, including author talks and theatre performances. Securing the involvement of Simon Armitage shows the ambition we have to attract the very best writers in the country to Derby Book Festival."

Simon Armitage's performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are now on sale from Déda at £12 each.

<http://www.deda.uk.com/whats-on/simon-armitage/>

E N D S

For further information contact:

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Note to Editors:

Derby Book Festival

The first Derby Book Festival will be held from 1 – 7 June 2015 in venues across the city with a programme packed with book related activities and events for all ages and interests. Derby Book Festival is a registered charity.

The Festival will celebrate the joy of books and reading, from author talks, discussions, live performances, films, quizzes and workshops for budding writers, to children's book trails, storytelling, theatre performances and 'Make It' sessions.

The Festival will include internationally acclaimed writers, as well as those with a Derby connection, covering a range of interests, including cycling, railways, football, cricket, climbing and photography. There's something for everyone! For more information visit: www.derbybookfestival.co.uk

Déda

Déda (formerly known as Derby Dance) is a unique venue located in Derby city centre offering a dance, movement and circus-focussed arts programme. The building houses two performance spaces, three professionally equipped dance studios, conferencing facilities and the CUBE café|bar. Déda is also home to the University of Derby's BA (Hons) Dance degree.

With a class curriculum of almost 50 classes a week and an extensive community development programme Déda is one of the key cultural organisations in the city. Déda receives funding from Arts Council England and Derby City Council.

About Arts Council England

The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, we will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk



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