

## Derby Book Festival: headline authors announced

The final line up for Derby's first Book Festival will be revealed next Thursday, 23 April but three headline authors are announced today. The Festival will include best-selling writers David Nicholls, Sarah Waters and Katie Fforde who join an already impressive programme including Michael Morpurgo, Simon Armitage and Dame Penelope Lively.

David Nicholls was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2014 for his latest novel, *Us*, which is released in paperback in May. David is probably best known for *One Day*, which sold over 5 million copies, was translated into 40 languages and filmed in 2011 with Anne Hathaway in the lead role. He is also a highly successful screenwriter and has adapted Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* for film and TV. David will be appearing at the Festival on Wednesday, 3 June at 7.30pm in QUAD in conversation with Katy Guest, Literary Editor of The Independent on Sunday.

Sarah Waters is best known for *Tipping the Velvet*, *The Night Watch* and her Man Booker shortlisted novel *Fingersmith*, all of which were turned into successful television series. Her most recent novel *The Paying Guests* has received universal praise and will be released in paperback during the Festival. She will be appearing in conversation with television and radio presenter, writer and performer, Amy Lamé on Saturday 6 June in QUAD.

Katie Fforde, best-selling author of contemporary, humorous romances, will be appearing at QUAD on Friday, 5 June. Her two latest novels, *A Vintage Wedding* and *The Perfect Match* both recently topped the best seller lists. She has a huge following and is one of the most popular authors borrowed from Derby City libraries.

Liz Fothergill, Chair of Derby Book Festival said; "We are thrilled to have secured three authors of such popularity and renown and believe it shows the city our ambition to deliver a festival of the highest quality to match the city's other successful Festivals programme. We hope Derby Book Festival will become a firm fixture in the city's calendar".

The Festival programme will be available from venues including arts centres, libraries, cafes and tourist centres from Thursday, 23 April, when it will be launched at a special event on World Book Day. The Festival box office opens in QUAD on the same day and all events can be booked online at: [www.derbybookfestival.co.uk](http://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk)

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### For further information contact:

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### Notes to Editors

The first Derby Book Festival will be held from 31 May – 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 and workshops for budding writers, to a children's book trail, games, 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!