

NOTTINGHAM POETRY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

24 March 2021

Nottingham Poetry Festival announces next festival dates and new Creative Director



The Nottingham Poetry Festival will return for its sixth outing in 2021, under the direction of newly appointed Creative Director Anne Holloway (pictured).

Running from **12-21 November 2021**, the festival will offer a blend of online and live events and will continue to celebrate and champion Nottingham's thriving creative and literary scene.

Creative Director Anne Holloway is a Nottingham-based poet and performer and founding editor at Big White Shed publishing. An experienced performer and practitioner, her first poetry collection, *There Are No Photographs*, was published in 2018.

Anne picks up the festival baton from outgoing Director Georgina Wilding whose term as Director has drawn to a close.

NOTTINGHAM POETRY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

Festival founders Henry Normal and Craig Chettle MBE comment:

"We are delighted to have Anne as Creative Director of our great team and we look forward to seeing how the festival evolves under her guidance. She'll join Bridie Squires, Manjit Sahota, Tommy Rosley and all those unsung heroes who get involved in helping to bring the Nottingham Poetry Festival together. Anne's extensive insight into the local poetry scene, her drive, energy and commitment should be key to the success of the 6th NPF in November".

"Our special thanks go to Georgina, who has helped deliver two successful iterations of the festival, most recently in 2020 in the most challenging of circumstances. Despite the pandemic, audiences were treated to live streams and online performances from Lemn Sissay, Vanessa Kisuule, Anthony Anaxagorou and Panya Banjoko, and workshops with Sean Hewitt, Ruth Padel and Dr Jack McGowan, amongst others. We know Georgina is especially proud of the education work developed under her leadership".

Anne Holloway comments:

"I am thrilled to be taking up this opportunity. I can't wait to get involved with planning for the next festival and share my passion for the power of poetry with as many people as possible. I found 'my tribe' in the creative community here, and the Nottingham Poetry Festival is part of that support network, as a space where new and emerging poets can share the stage with more established artists and develop their careers in whatever direction they choose. But without our readers and our audiences, we poets would be pretty lonely, so as well as working hard to support everyone within the poetry community to get involved, I'll be working equally hard to reach new audiences. I believe we are all poets, at heart".

Georgina Wilding comments:

"I am so excited to see that Anne will be taking on the festival, and I can't wait to see what she adds to the mix! Anne has a long-standing legacy in Nottingham and has helped so many of the poets performing today to become the writers that they are, this is so well deserved and I know she'll bring her magic to this next term of the festival. Roll on November eh? See you there everyone!".

The festival will once again be supported by Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature. Director Sandeep Mahal comments:

"I am absolutely delighted that Anne will spearhead Nottingham Poetry Festival. Anne's vision, talent and energy will be a huge asset for the festival. At Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature, we're thrilled to work with partners like the poetry festival, who share our

NOTTINGHAM POETRY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

mission of building a better world with words. I am sure that Anne will build on the impressive work that Georgina Wilding and her team have done over the past two years”.

The Nottingham Poetry Festival is a popular event in Nottingham’s cultural calendar. In 2020, the festival adapted its plans in line with coronavirus restrictions and moved online, making every event free to watch. Audiences were able to see renowned acts direct from their living rooms, creating a sense of intimacy and opening the festival up to new audiences. Capitalising on that success and to keep the momentum going until November, the festival has recently launched a new partnership with Nottingham venue Metronome and the New Poetry Society, broadcasting a series of free online poetry events, fronted by Henry Normal.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Nottingham Poetry Festival was launched in April 2015 by Nottingham-born poet, TV & Film Producer Henry Normal and Craig Chettle MBE, Founder and Chief Executive of the Confetti Media Group and is now an integral part of Nottingham’s cultural offer, attracting audiences from all over the country. Festival line-ups have included Lemn Sissay MBE, Carol Ann Duffy, Luke Wright, John Cooper Clarke, John Hegley & Roger McGough together with many local poets Tony Kirk, Georgina Wilding, Panya Banjoko & Gregory Woods.

The festival is grateful to supporters and funders past and present. These include Arts Council England, Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Councils, UNESCO City of Literature, Confetti Media Group, Nottingham Trent University, Castle Rock Brewery and Inspire. And to Nottinghamshire’s thriving literary community who all work together to champion the power of poetry.

Visit the Nottingham Poetry Festival website [here](#) and follow [Facebook](#) updates.

Contact press@confettimediagroup.com