

Nottingham Poetry Festival reveals 2019 dates and new Creative Director.

Nottingham Poetry Festival will once again shine a spotlight on the city's thriving literary scene for the fourth time this spring. Running from **26 April – 5 May 2019**, the festival will present an eclectic line-up of acclaimed national and local poets and performers. Nottingham's first Young Poet Laureate **Georgina Wilding**, founder of Mud Press, is announced as the festival's new **Creative Director** and will lead the event through ten days of word jams, poetry slams, performances, songs and readings from some of the most renowned poets in the country.

Georgina will work closely with the festival's founders Henry Normal and Craig Chettle, alongside festival coordinator and promoter Tommy Rosley. In addition, the festival is supported creatively by its partners – Nottingham Trent's University's Curated & Created Programme, Confetti Media Group, UNESCO City of Literature, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Libraries, Mud Press, Big White Shed, Left Lion, Waterstones and Five Leaves.

Once again, sponsorship has been gratefully received from Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and Castle Rock Brewery. For the first time the festival is thrilled to have been awarded National Lottery Funding by Arts Council England (ACE). The ACE award will help the festival expand its delivery and reach.

The 2019 line-up features a dazzling array of talent - national names Ian McMillan, Caroline Bird, Andrew McMillan, Lorraine Mariner, Patience Agbabi, John Hegley, Roger McGough, Paul Cookson, Val Bloom, together with many local poets including Christopher Lanyon, Akor Apaluwah, Jamie Thrasivoulou, Leanne Moden, Stephen Thomas and Jai Verma.

The full line-up will be revealed on the Poetry Festival website over the coming weeks.

Festival Founder Henry Normal comments:

"Thanks to the people of Nottingham we have together built a Poetry Festival worthy of a UNESCO City of Literature. It's now back for a fourth year, bigger, better, broader and more beautiful than before.

With Georgina as our new Creative Director I'm sure the whole city will be engaged in what proves to be an exciting ten days".

Creative Director Georgina Wilding comments:

"It is an absolute honour to be invited to take on this role. I've been lucky enough to see the brilliance of the festival grow and grow over the last few years, and I'm excited to see what I will be able to bring into the mix".

Sandeep Mahal, Director Nottingham City of Literature adds:

“We are delighted that Georgina Wilding has been appointed Creative Director of Nottingham Poetry Festival. She is a fantastic talent, a brilliant advocate for poetry and an excellent ambassador for Nottingham as a UNESCO Creative City of Literature. Georgina embraced her tenure as Nottingham’s Young Poet Laureate with such grace and acuity. She has exceeded our wildest expectations reaching a vast range of audiences locally, nationally and internationally. She has produced commissioned work of the highest quality, and performed alongside such established poets as Roger McGough, Henry Normal, and the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. She has become - deservedly so - the face of Nottingham’s young and vibrant poetry scene. As her laureateship comes to an end, we look forward to seeing the Poetry Festival flourish under her leadership ”.

Events will take place across the city and county and for the first time, Nottingham’s new venue [Metronome](#) will feature as the festival’s official hub.

CEO of Confetti Media Group and festival co-founder Craig Chettle comments:

“Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, in partnership with Nottingham Trent University, opened Metronome in October 2018. It has very quickly become an essential part of the cultural fabric of the city, showcasing some incredible talent. We are looking forward to the poetry takeover in April”.

Ends

Keep up to date with festival activity via the [website](#) and [facebook](#) page

Notes to Editors

Nottingham Poetry Festival was launched in April 2015 by Nottingham-born poet, TV & Film Producer Henry Normal and Craig Chettle – CEO Confetti Media Group and has already become an integral part of Nottingham’s cultural offer, attracting audiences from all over the country. 30 artists performed at 11 venues growing last year to 50 events, 148 poets, 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.

About Georgina Wilding

Georgina Wilding is a born and bred Nottinghamite who, after studying Creative and Professional Writing, went on to set up poetry publishing house, [Mud Press](#). She has performed her poetry both nationally and internationally at events such as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and Off Milosz festival in Poland. As well as this, she has been commissioned by organisations such as The Royal Shakespeare Company and BBC Radio Nottingham to write and perform, and has been invited to teach poetry for programmes such as the City Art's Refugee Forum collaboration, and Redhill Academy's specialisms week. In 2017 she was proudly crowned Nottingham's first Young Poet Laureate.

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Images: Festival Creative Director Georgina Wilding