

**EMBARGOED UNTIL**  
**Thursday 11 June 2009**

## **RBS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME**

### **A WORLD OF DISCOVERY AWAITS KIDS OF ALL AGES AT EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL**

Exploration, adventure and discovery are at the heart of the 2009 RBS Children's Programme of the Edinburgh International Book Festival which was launched today. Interactive events and activities celebrating mankind's greatest scientific achievements allow all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers, to blast off into outer space, tramp through the land of the dinosaurs, solve forensic mysteries or explore the far reaches of our planet. The programme will run as an integral part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival in Charlotte Square Gardens from 15 to 31 August.

Highlights of the programme this year include exclusive peeks at new books from Nick Butterworth, Jeremy Strong, Julia Donaldson, Steve Cole, Michelle Paver and Jenny Nimmo. Ian Rankin will launch his latest venture – *Dark Entries* – his first graphic novel and will be joined by *Sandman* author, Neil Gaiman. Jacqueline Wilson returns as do Terry Deary, Michael Morpurgo, Michael Rosen and Darren Shan, while the Festival welcomes for the first time John Burningham, Oliver Jeffers, Patrick Ness, and Judith Kerr.

2009 sees the inaugural Illustrator in Residence join the Book Festival. Catherine Rayner, a Scottish illustrator, nominated twice for the Greenaway Award and winner of the Best New Illustrator, will be involved in a wide range of events throughout the programme, and chair a series of illustration masterclasses. She will also be launching her new book, *Ernest*. She said "I am delighted to be appointed Illustrator in Residence at this year's Book Festival. I see this post as a great opportunity to raise the profile of illustrators (and to emphasise the value of quality illustration) by celebrating the role of children's books, and the visual arts, within literature."

Sara Grady, Director of the RBS Children's Programme said "Voyages and adventures of all sorts will take place in the heart of Edinburgh this summer. Children will trek across the globe, travel back in time and lose themselves in outstanding stories at this year's Book Festival. Families can discover a vast array of exceptional international, UK and Scottish children's authors and illustrators. Whether it's football or forensics, poetry or graphic novels, we are committed to celebrating stories and ideas with children of all ages. We'll soon be announcing a very special competition in our RBS Children's Programme, so watch this space. Edinburgh is undoubtedly the place for families this August."

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