

**MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2009**

**ALISTAIR MACLEOD AND MICHAEL BUCKLEY  
EXCITING NEW ADDITIONS TO BOOK FESTIVAL PROGRAMME**

The Edinburgh International Book Festival announced today that one of the world's foremost novelists and short story writers, Alistair MacLeod, will be appearing in Charlotte Square in a new addition to the 2009 programme. Author of *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* and *No Great Mischief*, the Canadian writer will be exploring exile, ancestry and the ties that bind across generations and geographies, as he discusses his work, his life and the importance of his Scottish heritage. MacLeod will be appearing at the Book Festival on Friday 28 August at 6.30pm.

In the Children's Programme, US author Michael Buckley will be appearing in an exclusive visit to Edinburgh. Formerly a punk rock star and a stand up comedian, Buckley will be talking about his internationally bestselling *Sisters Grimm*, a quirky mystery series full of fairytale heroes and villains, to an audience of 8 – 12 year olds on Saturday 15 August at 6.30pm. He is also expected to give a sneak preview of his new series *N.E.R.D.S (National Espionage, Rescue and Defence Society)*.

Tickets for two topical political debates became available today. Rebuilding Trust: Britain in the Aftermath of the Crash on Sunday 23 August at 1.30pm welcomes Roy Hattersley, Michael Gove and Vince Cable to discuss the future of Britain's political system. On Saturday 29 August at 3.00pm Menzies Campbell, Fiona Hyslop, George Foulkes and Michael Forsyth will consider Scotland's Future.

Audiences now have another opportunity to hear Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, speak at the Book Festival. Following the early sell-out of her first event, a second has been added to the programme on Tuesday 18 August at 6.30pm offering a magical celebration of her poetry accompanied by the music of John Sampson. Writer and broadcaster Libby Purves is another addition to the programme, talking about her new novel, *Shadow Child*, which centres on a couple trying to come to terms with the loss of their only child, on Thursday 27 August at 4.30pm.

Tickets for all the above events are now available on [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk) or by calling the box office on 0845 373 5888. The Edinburgh International Book Festival runs from Saturday 15 to Monday 31 August in Charlotte Square Gardens.

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for further information please contact:  
Frances Sutton, Press Manager  
[frances@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:frances@edbookfest.co.uk) or tel: 0131 718 5654

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:**

**[frances@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:frances@edbookfest.co.uk) / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481 / Fax: 0131 226 5335**