

Thursday 12 June 2008

RBS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

FROM KIPPER TO DISCWORLD A PACKED PROGRAMME FROM TODDLERS TO TEENAGERS

The RBS Children's Programme of the Edinburgh International Book Festival launched today with a comprehensive programme offering events, workshops and discussions for every age-group from toddlers to teenagers. The programme will run as an integral part of the International Book Festival in Charlotte Square Gardens from 9 to 25 August.

Highlights of the programme this year include *Good Night Mister Tom* author Michelle Magorian's first book for ten years, and exclusive peeks at new books from Eoin Colfer, Julia Donaldson, Michael Morpurgo, Andy Stanton and Jonathan Stroud. James Jauncey's first book has just been nominated for the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book of the Year, and he will be reading from his new novel *The Reckoning* while Francesca Simon will be joined by the voice of Horrid Henry - award-winning actress Miranda Richardson.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and there are many other birthdays on offer in the RBS Children's Programme. Kipper turns 18, Terry Pratchett's Discworld is 25, The Beano celebrates 70 years, and the Ian Fleming Centenary closes the Festival. Our series of Bond-related events includes the launch of the newest, and last, Young Bond adventure from Charlie Higson.

'Stories from Around the World' brings a strong international theme to the RBS Children's Programme this year. Over twenty inspiring children's authors from every continent will be in attendance. Authors from Hong Kong, Australia, Senegal, Mexico and Poland will visit Charlotte Square Gardens to share the literature, fables, myths and folklore of cultures past and present.

Sara Grady, Director of the RBS Children's Programme said "Our 2008 programme for children, teenagers and young people promises a summer of action, adventure and exploration. In our 25th year, we are delighted to celebrate a great tradition of Scottish, British and international children's literature and encourage readers of all ages to explore words, discover stories and experiment with new ideas.

"We have expanded our children's programme to include a vast array of events for all ages, tastes and talents in 2008. Insatiable fact finders can join us on a hunt for dinosaurs, missing treasure, lost civilisations, and explore the natural world with events on science, maths, history, archaeology, outer space, magic and more. Our inaugural art & design strand features some of the greatest illustrators, graphic novelists and innovative filmmakers working today, while a raft of new faces in children's and young adult literature peppered throughout the programme are ripe for discovery. So join us this August and celebrate a cornucopia of books, stories, words and ideas that lift the spirit and open the mind."

OLDER TEENAGERS & YOUNGER ADULTS

Following the success of the events suitable for older teenagers and younger adults in the 2007 programme, the series has been expanded this year to include events on graphic novels featuring Posy Simmonds, Dave McKean and Paul Gravett, Paul Kieve, master magician and Physical Magical Consultant on the Harry Potter films, will take his audience on a tour of great magicians past and present and Roddy Wooble will present the first live performance of his new album. Events for young people (16 – 25) are highlighted within the adult programme and are searchable on the website.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:

frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481 / Fax: 0131 226 5335