

O U N D L E

FESTIVAL  LITERATURE

2009 Extended Programme – Summer Events

The Oundle Festival of Literature is proud to announce that Kate Adie and Will Self will be speaking in Oundle in the first week of June and that Rupert Shortt will also be speaking at an event co-hosted by the Festival and Oundle School. The Festival will also have a presence at the re-launched Oundle Carnival on 20 June in the form of highly acclaimed storyteller Shonaleigh, as well as a presence at the Wellingborough Party in the Park on 5 July with performance poet Rob Gee. These events form part of the Festival's 2009 extended programme following on from the successful festival fortnight in March.

Kate Adie, who has undoubtedly found herself in some uncomfortably tight spots, has long been fascinated by those who live in these tight spots with relative comfort and ease. *Into Danger* is the fascinating result of her worldwide research into these individuals and explores their motives in choosing jobs that could put them directly into danger or even jeopardise their lives. From missionaries to gangsters, all Kate's subjects are striking individuals with an inner strength and conviction that makes them inherently interesting. Grippingly told and with the wit, insatiable curiosity and sharp insight which are the hallmarks of Kate Adie's writing, *Into Danger* is a fearless exploration of the furthest reaches of human capability.

Kate Adie is the presenter of the BBC's long-running programme, *From Our Own Correspondent* on Radio 4, and is the author of three previous books. She grew up in Sunderland, read Swedish at Newcastle University and started her broadcasting career in local radio in Durham, later becoming the BBC's Chief News Correspondent. She has twice been named 'Reporter of the Year' by the Royal Television Society and won awards for her coverage of the US bombing of Tripoli and the brutal end of the Chinese students' demonstration in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

She has reported on conflicts from the invasion of Iraq to four years of war in the Balkans and the first Gulf War, as well as the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster at Zeebrugge and the massacre at Dunblane. She presents factual documentaries on radio and television, has served as a trustee for the Imperial War Museum and has also judged the Whitbread, Orange and Costa literary prizes.

Will Self's latest novel, *The Butt*, is an uncomfortable and disturbing allegory of the liberal West in the post-9/11 era. When Tom Brodzinski finally decides to give up smoking during a family holiday in a weird, unnamed land, a moment's inattention becomes his undoing. Flipping the butt of his last cigarette off the balcony of the holiday apartment, it lands on the head of the elderly Reggie Lincoln, and burns him.

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Despite Brodzinski's liberal attitudes and good intentions, the local authorities treat his action as an assault. Soon the full weight of the courts and tribal custom is brought to bear. What follows is a journey through a fantastically distorted world, a country that is part Australia, part Iraq and entirely the heart of distinctively modern darkness.

'Self writes here with an adroit impersonation of coarse exuberance that makes *The Butt* as readable as a blokeish airport novel (though with a fuddlingly large vocabulary). But just beneath the brash surface shimmer the unmistakable apparitions of Self's masters: Swift, Voltaire and Lewis Carroll are all partly responsible for the ingenious, mephitic invention that is *The Butt*.' *The Daily Telegraph*

Will Self is the author of eight collections of short stories (the first of which, *The Quantity Theory of Insanity*, won the 1992 Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award), seven novels (one of which, *How the Dead Live*, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel of the Year in 2002), and six non-fiction works. He is a regular broadcaster on television and radio and as a journalist a contributor to a plethora of publications.

This event (Will Self) is sponsored by Julie Buck from Mater (www.mater.co.uk)

In Rowan's Rule, Rupert Shortt has written an authoritative biography of the Archbishop of Canterbury that presents both the public and the private man. Written with Rowan's cooperation, this book elucidates his ideas and paints a compelling portrait of a private and surprisingly vulnerable man at a time when church affairs are making headlines.

'This excellent biography of the Primate of all England is theologically heavyweight, psychologically perceptive and sometimes strikingly critical.' *The Sunday Times*

Rupert Shortt is Religion Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*. His other books are *Rowan Williams: An Introduction*, *God's Advocates: Christian Thinkers in Conversation* and *Benedict XVI*

This event (Rupert Shortt) is co-hosted by Oundle School.

Kate Adie will be speaking on Monday 1 June at 7.30pm in the Oundle School Chapel and tickets will be priced at £10.

Will Self will be speaking on Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Oundle and tickets will be priced at £8 (£7 concessions).

Rupert Shortt will be speaking on Thursday 11 June at 7.45pm in the Great Hall, Oundle and tickets will be priced at £4.

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All tickets are available from Oundle Tourist Information Centre (tel: 01832 274333).

The Oundle Carnival is a free event taking place from 12 noon on Saturday 20 June through the streets of Oundle and on to the Oundle Rugby Club. See www.oundlecarnival.co.uk for further details.

The Wellingborough Party in the Park is a free event taking place from 12 noon on Sunday 5 July in Croyland Park, Wellingborough. See www.wellingborough.gov.uk for further details.

For further information please contact:

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Background Information

- Alexander McCall Smith, John Simpson, John Bird, Clive Aslet, Simon Hoggart, Patrick Gale, Mavis Cheek, Paul Torday, Kate Summerscale, Steve Cole, Lucy Hawking and Bel Mooney are some of the authors who have already appeared in Oundle in 2009. William Nicholson, AC Grayling, Anne Fine, Alain de Botton, Libby Purves, Simon Brett, Colin Dexter, Anthony Thwaite, Chris Tutton, Christopher Matthew, Jonathan Bate, Babette Cole, Anthony Browne, Clare Morrall, Hilary Mantel, D.J. Taylor, John Sergeant, Jasper Fforde, Penny Vincenzi, Michael Morpurgo, Julia Donaldson, Michael Holroyd, Margaret Drabble, Roger McGough, Victoria Hislop, Rageh Omaar, Alison Weir, Tony Ross, Fred Pearce, Melvin Burgess, Katie Fforde, Hugh Lupton, Brian Patten, Nick Sharratt, Pie Corbett, Brian Jacques, George Alagiah, P D James, Sir Roy Strong, Nick Arnold, Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Louis de Bernieres, Wendy Cope, Joanna Trollope, Jeremy Strong, Ian Beck are just some of the writers, illustrators and poets who have spoken at previous festivals.
- The Oundle Festival of Literature, now a limited company, comprises directors who juggle a variety of careers with an enthusiasm for bringing literature to the community. The board includes teachers, writers, a solicitor, a publicity officer, a Councillor, an accountant, an actor and librarians. Nick Turnbull, Festival Chairman, is a teacher with direct involvement with Community Action projects. Leigh Giurlando, Programme Director, has an English degree and is a qualified librarian specialising in school and youth libraries. Paula Prince, Community Events Director, works for Oundle Town Library.
- The Oundle Festival of Literature is benefitting from an Arts Council England Grants for the Arts award, enabling it to employ the services of Emma Stephens-Dunn, Literature Development Officer for Northamptonshire County Council. Emma is focusing on developing the Festival's programme of all year round events and extending the Festival's activities into areas of the county beyond Oundle.



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