

International Children's Literature

**HAY FESTIVAL**

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**AARHUS 39**

*celebrating the best emerging writers for  
young people from across wider Europe*

**Embargoed until 10:00 GMT on Wednesday 15 March 2017**

## **Hay Festival reveals Aarhus 39 selection: Europe's best emerging writers for young people**

**Wednesday 15 March 2017, London:** [Hay Festival](#) has today unveiled the Aarhus 39 selection – a group of 39 children's and YA writers from all over Europe, aged 40 and under, who will take part in an ambitious new project for European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017, comprising a festival and two new anthologies.

Writers were selected by a jury of three acclaimed contemporary children's authors – Kim Fupz Aakeson (Denmark), Ana Cristina Herreros (Spain) and Matt Haig (UK) – with eligibility encompassing authors of books for ages 8+ and teenagers.

Each author has been commissioned to write an original story to the theme of 'Journey', with two anthologies of the works edited by Daniel Hahn to be published in English by Alma Books and in Danish by Gyldendal later this year.

The anthologies will feature drawings from some of the world's leading illustrators, including Barroux, Britta Teckentrup, Dave McKean, Ella Okstad, Helen Stephens, Peter Bailey, Satoshi Kitamura, Anke Kuhl, Hanne Kvist, Isol, Joelle Jolivet, Jörg Mühle, Kitty Crowther, Mårdøn Smet, Ole Könnecke, Rotraut Susanne Berner, Sandrine Kao, Serge Bloch, Søren Jessen, Yvonne Kuschel, Adam Stower, Axel Scheffler, Benji Davies, Chris Riddell, Ian Beck, Joel Stewart, Neal Layton, Ross Collins, Tony Ross, Anna Höglund, Barbara Nascimbeni, Cato Thau-Jensen, Charlotte Pardi, Kamila Slocinska, Lilian Brøgger, Moni Port, and Philip Waechter.

The two English language anthologies – *Quest: Stories of journeys from around Europe from the Aarhus 39* (for children age 8+) and *Odyssey: Stories of journeys from around Europe from the Aarhus 39* (for young adults) – will be launched on Friday 26 May at Hay Festival in Wales.

The project will culminate at this year's inaugural **International Children's Literature Hay Festival in Aarhus, 25 – 29 October**. Commissioned by European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017, and programmed by Hay Festival, it will be a globally recognised children's literature festival, engaging young people across Europe in a fresh exchange of ideas and conversations. The 39 writers will be invited to spend four days in Aarhus visiting schools and take part in the festival programme alongside the very best of Europe's writers for young people.

The list was announced at The London Book Fair in a special event featuring two of the Aarhus 39 writers, Katherine Rundell and Sarah Crossan, plus Hay Festival children's director, Julia

Eccleshare, and editor of the upcoming Aarhus 39 anthologies Daniel Hahn. The group discussed the art of writing for children, and how reading stories of lives lived in other countries can influence a new generation with understanding and empathy.

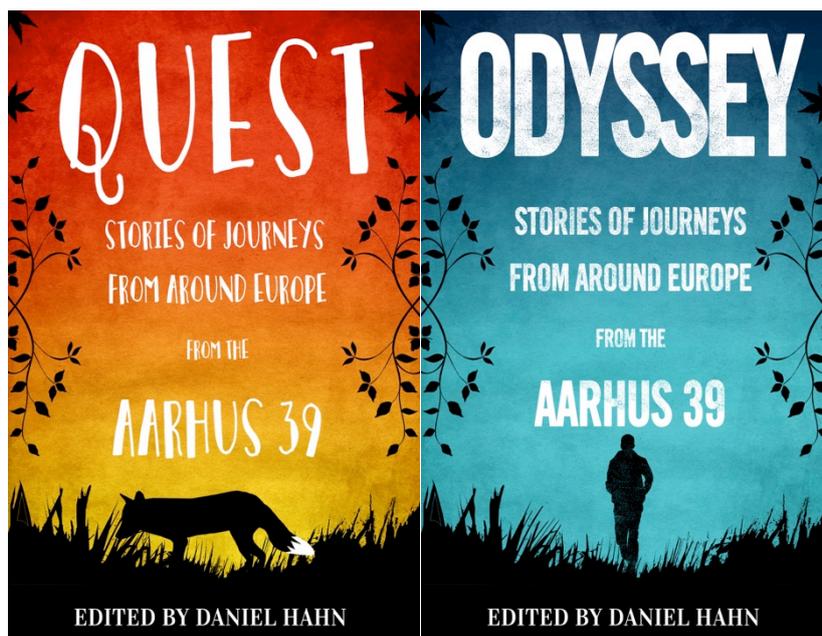
**Cristina Fuentes La Roche, International Director at Hay Festival, said:**

“Hans Christian Anderson, Charles Perrault, JK Rowling, Judith Kerr... Europe is home to some of the best writers for young people of all time. In a world that feels increasingly divided, these borderless shared stories unite us in empathy – encouraging us to experience lives lived in other countries and cultures in a way that nothing else can. Aarhus 39 is the next step in this journey – these emerging writers showcase the strength of children’s and YA literature today and we are thrilled to offer a new global platform for sharing their work.”

**Rachel Matthews, CEO of Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture, said:**

“Our European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 is about building bonds across the entire European region. By engaging young emerging writers from all over Europe and inviting them to Aarhus in October, we will celebrate the diversity in European children’s and YA literature. We are looking forward to sharing these new stories with Danish children and engaging them in discussions about a world of journeys. Aarhus 2017 is proud to join forces with Hay Festival on this European endeavor.”

The Aarhus 39 project builds on three similar festival campaigns Hay Festival has run with the UNESCO World Cities of Literature in Bogotá, Beirut and Port Harcourt, and the Mexico 20 project for The London Book Fair’s UK–Mexico Market Focus 2015. Each of these projects has generated new festivals, new publications and long-tail campaigns that are still supporting a new generation of writers from Latin America (Bogotá 39), the Arab diaspora (Beirut 39) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Africa 39).



**Aarhus 39 selection:**

1. Ævar Þór Benediktsson – Iceland
2. Alaine Agirre – Spain
3. Aline Sax - Belgium
4. Ana Pessoa - Portugal
5. Andri Antoniou - Cyprus
6. Anna Woltz - Netherlands
7. Annelise Heurtier - France
8. Annette Münch - Norway
9. B. R. Collins - UK
10. Cathy Clement - Luxembourg
11. Cornelia Travnicek - Austria
12. David Machado - Portugal
13. Dy Plambeck - Denmark
14. Elisabeth Steinkellner - Austria
15. Endre Lund Eriksen - Norway
16. Finn-Ole Heinrich - Germany
17. Frida Nilsson - Sweden
18. Gideon Samson - Netherlands
19. Inna Manakhova - Russia
20. Jana Šrámková - Czech Republic
21. Katherine Rundell - UK
22. Katherine Woodfine - UK
23. Laura Dockrill - UK
24. Laura Gallego - Spain
25. Ludovic Flamant - Belgium
26. Maria Parr - Norway
27. Maria Turtschaninoff - Finland
28. Michaela Holzinger - Austria
29. Nataly Elisabeth Savina - Germany
30. Nina Elisabeth Grøntvedt - Norway
31. Peder Frederik Jensen - Denmark
32. Salla Simukka - Finland
33. Sandrine Kao - France
34. Sanne Munk Jensen - Denmark
35. Sarah Crossan - Ireland/UK
36. Sarah Engell - Denmark
37. Stefan Bachmann - Switzerland
38. Stefanie de Velasco - Germany
39. Victor Dixen - France

Hay Festival brings readers and writers together in conversation in sustainable events around the world – sharing stories and ideas to inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be. This year marks the festival's 30th anniversary; dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay-on-Wye in 1987, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark.

Hay Festival Wales takes place Thursday 25 May – Sunday 4 June 2017. Visit [www.hayfestival.com](http://www.hayfestival.com) for more information.

International Children's Literature Hay Festival – Aarhus 39 takes place 25 – 29 October with the support of Literature Across Frontiers and the British Council. Visit [www.hayfestival.com/aarhus39](http://www.hayfestival.com/aarhus39) for more information.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

**For more information, please contact the festival's publicity director Christopher Bone via [Christopher@hayfestival.org](mailto:Christopher@hayfestival.org) / 07506 522540**

BIOGRAPHIES and HEADSHOTS of the Aarhus 39 writers are available [here](#)

Keep up to date with Hay Festival's news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow us on Twitter: @HayFestival, Facebook: HayFestival and Instagram: @HayFestival.

For IMAGES email [Christopher@hayfestival.org](mailto:Christopher@hayfestival.org) for the festival's media showroom login

For PRESS ACCREDITATION to the 2017 festival please complete our online form [here](#)

**About Hay Festival**, [www.hayfestival.com](http://www.hayfestival.com)

Hay Festival brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Nobel Prize-winners and novelists, scientists and politicians, historians and musicians talk with audiences in a dynamic exchange of ideas. The festival's global conversation shares the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live, in print and digitally. Hay Festival also runs wide programmes of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages.

In 1987 the festival was dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay. 30 years later, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark. The organisation now reaches a global audience of thousands every year and continues to grow and innovate, building partnerships and initiatives alongside some of the leading bodies in arts and the media, including global partners: the BBC, ACW, TATA, and the British Council; friends of Hay Festival: Visit Wales, Baillie Gifford, Oxfam, and Good Energy; and international partners: Wales Arts International and AC/E.

Acclaimed author, actor and writer **Stephen Fry** is President of the organisation; **Peter Florence** is Director; and **Caroline Michel**, CEO of leading literary and talent agency Peters Fraser and Dunlop, is Chair of the festival board.

#### 2017 festival dates:

- [Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias](#), Colombia (26 – 29 Jan)
- [Hay Festival Wales](#), UK (25 May – 4 Jun)
- [Hay Festival Queretaro](#), Mexico (7 – 10 Sep)
- [Hay Festival Segovia](#), Spain (22 – 24 Sep)
- [European Children's Literature Hay Festival Aarhus](#), Denmark (26 – 29 Oct)
- [Hay Festival Arequipa](#), Peru (9 – 12 Nov)
- [Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend](#), UK (24 – 26 Nov)

