



PUBLICITY NEWS

28th August 2009

Edinburgh Festival Special



The past week has seen a bumper crop of RHCBA authors at the **Edinburgh International Book Festival**. Our authors braved the Scottish rain to give events in Charlotte Square in central Edinburgh to packed audiences.

Friday 21st August

Mini Grey held an intimate 'master-class' at the festival on Friday for 20 aspiring artists. Mini talked about how she started in illustration and children's books showing early sketch books of her work, as well as discussing her different techniques and upcoming projects. There was lots of interest in Mini's latest book **JIM**, especially when it came to making pop-ups. The audience also enjoyed hearing about Mini's experimental techniques, which includes an obsession with varnishing things!



Theresa Breslin did a great event based on **The Nostradamus Prophecy** and by the end of it she had the whole audience believing his predictions.

Saturday 22nd August

Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell answered some technical questions about the power of Stormphrax in their brilliant End of the Edge event, and signed for 2 hours afterwards.

Malorie Blackman did a fantastic event at the festival, speaking to an audience of over 150 people about her latest book **Double Cross**. The book trailer was shown at the beginning of the event and was followed by Malorie giving two suspense-filled readings from the book which definitely left the crowd wanting more. A massive signing queue gathered after the event.



Sunday 23rd August

Jacqueline Wilson spoke about her teenage years in a **My Secret Diary** sell-out event, before meeting 100 members of the audience for a limited book signing.

Steve Cole was full of energy and enthusiasm, and gave yet another hilarious performance. He had the children and parents in fits of laughter as he talked about **Astrosaurus**, **Cows in Action** and his latest book **Z-Rex**. There were lots of Steve Cole super fans in the audience with brilliant questions for him and they all waited patiently to get their books signed afterwards.



Lucy Hawking took the audience on a journey through the cosmos with George and his friends. Lucy cleverly answered the many questions about science the kids asked her, but she was slightly stumped when asked how fast a comet travels (for information, we have found out that it's 20,000 miles per hour).



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Bali Rai spoke about his **Soccer Squad** series at a public event on Sunday and really got the audience excited about writing around subjects you enjoy - there will be lots of budding authors out there after listening to Bali. One child got lots of attention as Bali thought he was a dead ringer for Wayne Rooney!

Anne Fine did a very funny event talking about **Eating Things on Sticks**; while **Jonathan Stroud** and **Adele Geras** got to grips with mythology and the influence legend and myth have had on their books in a panel event.



Monday 24th August

Monday was a day full of school events by **Bali Rai**, **Lucy Hawking** and **Jonathan Stroud**.

Tuesday 25th August

Finally the sun came up on Tuesday for **Joe Delaney** who delivered a fantastically spooky event for a schools audience. Joe read from a couple of his *Wardstone Chronicles*, told ghost stories and answered heaps of questions, including a very original one "have you ever been a taxi driver?"!

Wednesday 26th August

Keith Gray spoke to over 200 school children in the main tent on Wednesday; he had teenagers laughing at his jokes and stories of his pet cockatiel *Baxter*. He also spoke about being a writer, and how it helps to be a good liar to tell good stories.



It's been a fantastic Edinburgh Festival for RHCBC, with strong book sales, happy audiences and contented authors. With two events still to come; a Laureate event from Anthony Browne this weekend and a school event by Debi Gloiri next Tuesday, it's almost time to say a fond farewell to Edinburgh for another year. Fingers crossed for better weather next year...

Tamarind news

Last weekend, **Tamarind** attended a Notting Hill Carnival costume preview. Verna Wilkins was invited to judge the flamboyant and beautiful masquerades. The themes were diverse, ranging from ecology to fantasy. One band danced as emblems of the UK: swans, whirling cups of tea and even Trafalgar Square. Tamarind sold books from a stand and introduced the list to many parents, giving away over 100 catalogues. It was a great opportunity to meet an enthusiastic audience and network with carnival artists.





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Reviews

Here are just a couple of super reviews that have come in for *City of Ghosts* by Bali Rai over the summer period:

“*City of Ghosts* was captivating and superbly written...A beautiful story of just a few citizens caught up in the strife that gripped Amritsar in 1919. Through telling the story of these young people, the story of the city itself is also told. A rich, vibrant city so well portrayed you can almost taste it. This is a masterful tale of love and loss, of falling, failing and dying, but also of hope.”

<http://aboutbooksforteens.blogspot.com/>

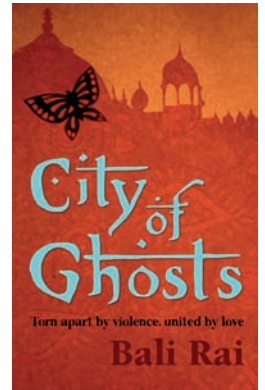
“Bali has written a very Indian story from almost a century ago. You can smell the place, and you can see all the colours. You can taste the food, and you can almost feel what happened on that fateful day in April in Amritsar. There is a ghostly element, which although impossible to explain, fits in perfectly with the plot.

It's very romantic, and it's very sad and very violent.

It's a story that needed telling.

It's a story you need to read.”

<http://bookwitch.wordpress.com/2009/08/05/city-of-ghosts/>



The Stone Menagerie by Anne Fine received a great review in the *Irish Examiner* “A compelling book for early teens.”

If I Stay by Gayle Forman has been reviewed in *Woman's Way, Eire*: “*If I Stay* is a beautifully-crafted, heartbreaking look at love and loss, and the difficult decisions we have to make.”

Daddy Lost His Head by Andre Bouchard, illustrated by Quentin Blake is reviewed in *The Times* by Amanda Craig, “*Daddy Lost His Head* is a surreal joke, wittily illustrated by Quentin Blake. Andre Bouchard's tale is a funny and poignant fable about how a small child might react to a father losing his head in a sense sadly all too familiar to divorced parents.”

Gayle Forman has been interviewed by *authorsunleashed* for their blog, read it here.

<http://authorsunleashed.blogspot.com/2009/08/interview-with-gayle-forman.html>

Authors in the media

Tune into *Cbeebies Bedtime Hour* on Tuesday 1st September as the wonderful *Knight Time* is being read by Jake Wood of *Eastenders* fame, he plays Max Branning.