

words 2008

■ Lucy Adams
■ Susan Kemp
■ Fiona Rintoul

P R E S S R E L E A S E

WORDS 2008, A UNIQUE, CUTTING-EDGE EVENT FEATURING ACCLAIMED WRITERS ANNE DONOVAN, TOM LEONARD AND KEI MILLER, WILL LAUNCH AT THE MITCHELL LIBRARY ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2008

GLASGOW, 22 August 2008:

words 2008, a new interactive writing exhibition that explores the magic of words, launches on 9 September in Glasgow. Based on new writing from the renowned Creative Writing MLitt programme at Glasgow University – launchpad for the careers of some of the UK's most exciting contemporary writers, including Booker-nominated Rachel Seiffert and multi award-winning Louise Welsh – **words 2008** takes the normally solitary process of writing out into the public domain.

This exciting new event will run from 9-13 September, is **FREE TO ALL** and includes:

- FREE daily prose and poetry workshops for members of the public
- A documentary film about writers on the Glasgow MLitt made by former BBC producer Susan Kemp
- A panel discussion on Thursday 11 September on the craft of writing, hosted by Keith Bruce, Arts Editor of *The Herald*, and featuring Tom Leonard, Anne Donovan, Michael Schmidt, Cynthia Rogerson, Alan Riach and Kei Miller
- An art installation by the acclaimed public artist Nicola Atkinson based on new writing from the Glasgow programme
- On-site writers-in-residence composing as you watch – plus daily readings of new work generated by the writers-in-residence and workshop participants

BOOKING LINES ARE NOW OPEN FOR WORDS 2008

All events are free, but workshop places are limited and must be booked in advance. Bookings can be made by calling the Mitchell Library booking line on 0141 287 2999

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words 2008 aims both to promote new literary talent in Scotland, and to engage as many people as possible with contemporary writing and the writing process.

“What comes across very strongly in the film is how much all the writers got out of the Glasgow Creative Writing programme,” says Fiona Rintoul, co-organiser of the exhibition. “One of the main aims of **words 2008** is to share that benefit with the wider community.”

words 2008 has been made possible by the generous support of BNP Paribas Securities Services, BBC Scotland, T. Rowe Price, Glasgow Community Planning Partnership, the Mitchell Library, Freight Design and the University of Glasgow. *The Herald* newspaper is acting as media partner.

“We are thoroughly delighted and proud to support the **words 2008** exhibition,” comments Todd Ruppert, President & CEO, T. Rowe Price Global Investment Services Ltd. “We strongly believe in the importance of creative writing to help expand the intellectual thought process.”

He adds: “We trust that this event will encourage more people to embrace the power and stimulation of creative writing. We hope this is the first of many such events in the future, and commend the **words 2008** team for making this a reality.”

words 2008 is organised by *Herald* journalist Lucy Adams, former BBC producer Susan Kemp and freelance writer Fiona Rintoul – all currently students on the Glasgow University Creative Writing MLitt programme.

words 2008 will take place in the Moir Room in the main foyer of the Mitchell Library opposite the café. The Thursday panel discussion will take place in the Blythswood Suite on the library’s fifth floor at 6.30pm. Entry to this event is free and tickets are not required.

More information about **words 2008**, including a schedule for workshops and events, is available at www.words2008.com

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Media enquiries to:

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Notes for Editors:

words 2008 organisers

Susan Kemp

For the last ten years Susan Kemp has been producing and directing factual programmes for the BBC. Her most recent successes include *Reported Scotland*, a 50-year history of news on television and *Deadline*, the warts and all story of the Scottish Press. Prior to her television career Susan worked in the low-budget film world. She produced the award-winning short film *Pan-Fried* and wrote and directed *Hill of Beans*. She is currently working on her first novel.

Fiona Rintoul

Fiona Rintoul is a freelance writer, editor and translator. She was the launch editor of *Funds Europe* magazine and she writes regularly for the *Financial Times*. Her fiction has been published in magazines and anthologies including *Mslaxia*, *Poetry Scotland*, *Hammicks Real Writers Anthology* and *The Research Club*. She has been short-listed for the Fish short story prize and in 2007 her novel-in-progress was short-listed for the *Daily Telegraph* novel-in-a-year competition. In 2008, she won the first Gillian Purvis Award for New Writing.

For more information, please visit www.weepress.co.uk

Lucy Adams

Lucy is chief reporter at *The Herald* newspaper. She has worked in Scotland as a journalist for the past nine years and spent four years at *The Sunday Times* in Glasgow covering education and home affairs. In 2007 she won both the Amnesty International UK and Scottish Nations and Regions media award for her coverage of post civil war Liberia. In 2008 she won a One World Media Award for her coverage of communities in Northern Uganda. She is currently working on her first novel.

Nicola Atkinson Does Fly

Nicola Atkinson has won numerous awards including the prestigious Nesta prize in 2001. She currently divides her time between Glasgow and Sweden. She has undertaken public artworks in, Scotland, England, New York, Los Angeles, Karachi, Dublin, Havana, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany and across the UK and recently in Lidköping Sweden.

For more information, please visit: www.nadfly.com

words 2008 sponsors

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Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership (GCPP) brings key public, private, community and voluntary representatives together with the aim of delivering better public services in the city. It is the bridge that links every resident with the organisations that provide services and helps to make their lives better.

Through the city's ten local community planning areas, GCPP listens, helps and works for residents. GCPP believes every section of our community must be encouraged that they can play a part in Glasgow's success story.

For more information, please visit: www.gcpl.org.uk

Freight Design

Freight Design, based in Glasgow, is one of Scotland's leading design consultancies, working across identity, literature, exhibitions, packaging and new media. Freight regularly collaborates with artists and publishes books under its own imprint.

