

Crime Scene

Bristol CrimeFest and the Crimes of Passion exhibition at the RWA are among the highlights of forthcoming events...



Above: Andrew Taylor (Photo: Caroline Silverwood Taylor), Håkan Nesser, Michael Connelly and Simon Brett (Photo: Christian Doyle).

The second outing of CrimeFest, Bristol's international crime fiction convention takes place from May 14-17. The four-day event is for people who like to read an occasional crime novel as well as for die-hard fanatics and has some internationally renowned authors as its featured guests: Simon Brett, Michael Connelly, Håkan Nesser and Andrew Taylor.

The international guest of honour is American Michael Connelly, one of the top writers of the genre. Best known for his Harry Bosch series, Connelly's novels have won multiple awards and topped the bestseller lists around the globe. Local author Andrew Taylor has just been announced as the recipient of the Crime Writers' Association's highly prestigious Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for sustained excellence in crime writing. His Roth trilogy was dramatised for ITV as *Fallen Angel* and *The American Boy* was featured in the Richard and Judy Book Club. Håkan Nesser, from Sweden, is one of the best authors from the current wave of Scandinavian crime writing, and he is best known for his celebrated Inspector Van Veeteren police procedurals. Simon Brett's varied career includes producing *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* and creating *After Henry*, but CrimeFest is honouring him for his Charles Paris, Mrs Pargeter and Fethering crime novels.

Besides interviews with the featured guest authors and gala toastmistress, Meg Gardiner (who counts Stephen

King as a huge fan of her Evan Delaney thrillers), CrimeFest will have panels on every crime-related topic imaginable. There will also be a crime writing workshop and a 'pitch-an-agent' strand for aspiring crime novelists, a pub quiz and a gala dinner that includes presentations of prestigious awards. The Last Laugh Award goes to the Best Humorous Crime Novel of 2008; and the Sounds of Crime Awards go to the Best Abridged and Unabridged Audio Crime Books of 2008.

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A Full CrimeFest Pass (£135) allows access to all the panels and publishers' parties from Thursday through Friday. There are also Day Passes for Friday and Saturday (£65). All pass holders receive a high quality canvas delegate bag containing the souvenir programme and a selection of books and other goodies. CrimeFest's other participating authors include M.C. Beaton (Hamish MacBeth and Agatha Raisin), Stephen Booth, Gyles Brandreth, John Harvey, Zoë Sharp and many more.

For further information on the convention visit www.crimefest.com or email info@crimefest.com ●

Crimes of Passion: Street Art in Bristol

The RWA hosts a major exhibition of Bristol urban art from March 22 to May 2. It's the first major exhibition of its type in Bristol since 1985 when Arnolfini put on the hugely influential Graffiti Art in Britain show.

The exhibition will feature work by around 45 of Bristol's most well known and notorious street artists, including internationally famous names. The curators have carefully selected artists whose work is of the highest quality in terms of realisation, design, execution or manufacture, which will show a real cross-section of the kind of work being made by street artists in Bristol today. Most of the artists featured in this exhibition continue to make work in the urban environment. And while some have faced prosecution from the law in the past for work which they have made on illegal sites, most are now seeking opportunities for making work in the public domain as their art becomes more acceptable.

BABE

The second Bristol Artists Book Event takes place at Arnolfini on April 4-5. The first BABE was held in 2007; it attracted 6,500 visitors and featured 50 stands of artists' books from 62 local, national and international artists.

Below: Many of the *Crimes of Passion* artists are featured in *Children of the Can: 25 Years of Bristol Graffiti* by Felix Braun (Tangent Books, £25 from www.tangentbooks.co.uk)

