

Media Diary

SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST

On your marks ...

The 11th World Athletics Championships start in Osaka, with coverage on BBC1 and BBC2, led by Sue Barker and Colin Jackson. *Athletics* by Peter Matthews (SportBooks) is the international track and field annual, and A&C Black publishes a Know the Game title on athletics.

SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST

Making a pig's ear

Jimmy Doherty is back on small screens, as BBC2 returns to his pig farm with "Crisis on Jimmy's Farm", in four hour-long episodes. In the opening programme, it looks as if disaster has struck his Suffolk farm. Doherty's *A Taste of the Country* (Penguin) is published in paperback in September.

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST

Mrs Landman

Tanya Landman makes an appearance at Waterstone's Harrods to sign copies of her latest novel, *Apache* (Walker Books).

TUESDAY 28TH AUGUST

Waterstone's deal with the devil

Peter Robinson signs copies of his new DCI Alan Banks novel, *Friend of the Devil* (Hodder), at Waterstone's Peterboro Bridge.

WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST

Best of the summer

The winner of the online vote for "Richard & Judy" best Summer Read is revealed on the husband-and-wife team's Channel 4 programme. The titles featured this year are: *The Savage Garden* by Mark Mills (Harper); *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* by Paul Torday (Weidenfeld); *The Other Side of the Bridge* by Mary Lawson (Vintage); *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards (Penguin); *Relentless* by Simon Kernick (Corgi); *The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton (Pan); *Getting Rid of Matthew* by Jane Fallon (Penguin); and *How to Talk to a Widower* by Jonathan Tropper (Orion).

Building on Egyptian bestseller

"The Yacoubian Building", an adaptation of Alaa Al Aswany's novel (Fourth Estate) and the most expensive Egyptian film ever made, is screened at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London as part of English PEN's events schedule.

THURSDAY 30TH AUGUST

Dressing it right

The new "What Not to Wear", fronted by Mica Paris and Lisa Butcher rather than Trinny Woodall and Susannah Constantine, is back for a second series. Paris' take on life and beauty is published in *Beautiful Within* (Simon & Schuster) in October.



Paris left and Butcher

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST

"People's Princess" remembered

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Princess Diana. Books coinciding with the anniversary year include Tina Brown's *The Diana Chronicles* (Century) and *Diana: The Last Days* by Martyn Gregory (Virgin), while events marking the occasion include a new display of "Diana, Princess of Wales" portraits at the National Portrait Gallery.

Big screen high jinks

Based on a book by Peter Jinks, feature film "Hallam Foe" opens in the UK this week. It stars Jamie "Billy Elliott" Bell and Sophia Myles, and the original book is published in a tie-in edition by Headline Review.

# No limits for Sky Arts

Anna Richardson



Sky digital channel Sky Arts has recommissioned a third, extended series of its literary programme "The Books Show", as part of an ongoing commitment to literary content. Episodes of the new series, which returns for a six-month run on 18th October, will increase from 30 minutes to one hour in length.

John Cassy, Sky Arts channel manager, said that extending its flagship literary programme reflects the channel's dedication to serious books programming, which in the past year has included a sponsorship deal with the Hay Literary Festival—with daily live broadcasts—and a smaller partnership with Althorp Literary Festival.

"The terrestrial channels aren't covering books the way our viewers would perhaps like them to be," Cassy said. "Books [are] something we are really serious about, and we've shown that in the past year by launching a weekly book show and

by doing a really significant deal with Hay."

Sky Arts has an "increasingly loyal following",

Cassy said, with its website playing a large part in drumming up interest. A viewer competition to win a collection of books recommended by "The Book Show" guests attracted 25,000 entries, and the website saw a "significant spike" in usage during the Hay festival. The channel also forms an ever more visible part of Sky promotions, and is currently looking at ways to provide more book-related services such as book clubs on its website.

Other literary content this autumn includes guests on the weekly "Friday Night Highjack" such as Germaine Greer, Howard Marks and Benjamin Zephaniah; and Clive James returns with a second series of his chat show "Clive James: Talking in the Library" on 5th September, with Stephen Fry, Claire Tomalin, Nick Hornby and John Carey in the programme line-up.

# Crime festival born in Bristol

A new crime writing convention is coming to the UK next year, courtesy of Myles Allfrey and Adrian Muller, who brought the US' Left Coast Crime festival to Bristol in 2006.

Sponsored by Blackwell, the biennial CrimeFest will launch in Bristol from 5th to 8th June 2008. It has already signed up Ian Rankin, Lee Child and Scandinavian Karin Fossum as featured guest authors, and will follow an American-style convention format, shunning an "invitation only" approach and offering every delegate author a panel appearance.

It will also revive the Last Laugh Award for comedy crime novels, and feature a crime writing workshop, tutored by Peter Guttridge and Janet Laurence, with attendees offered the option to enter the Crime Writers' Association's Début Dagger competition.

Blackwell, as sponsor of CrimeFest, will stock books by all leading participants, as well as promoting the festival and the Last Laugh

winner on its website and in flagship stores. The festival will take place in Bristol for the foreseeable future, on the first weekend of June or the last in May.

According to Muller, the new convention fits well into the existing international schedule of crime festivals, and is not in direct competition with such UK events as the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival. The decision to schedule CrimeFest biennially was to ensure the event does not "dilute delegates in the UK [and] to make it affordable for delegates from abroad", he said.

Muller added: "We want an international feel to CrimeFest. Most of our delegates will be British but, unlike other UK conventions, we will be trying to attract crime fans and authors from the States and mainland Europe as well." Promotion for CrimeFest will start in earnest in September, when Muller and Allfrey travel to Boucheron in Alaska to spread the word.



For more media information, see pages 34-35