



Bloody Scotland

Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival

2-11, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3JD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

BLOODY SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL CONFIRMS BEST YEAR EVER WITH TICKET SALES UP 50% ON LAST YEAR'S (BESTSELLING) FIGURES

Bloody Scotland proudly announces ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR IN TERMS OF TICKET SALES. Audience numbers grew by 30% reaching 8474 compared to 6537 in 2017.

Described by William McIlvanney as 'one of the friendliest festivals around', Bloody Scotland this year was marked by a Gala Reception at Stirling Castle; publication of the first Bloody Scotland book; Denise Mina becoming the first woman to win the McIlvanney Prize; a torchlight procession for over 500 people led by Val McDermid and Ian Rankin celebrating their 30th Anniversaries; the second ever live performance by 'Fun Lovin' Crime Writers' featuring Val, Mark Billingham, Luca Veste, Chris Brookmyre and Doug Johnstone complete with mosh pit and the perennially popular Scotland v England football match captained by Ian and Mark which was won by Scotland 6-3.

For the first time events were completely sold out, ranging from the Gala Opening at the Castle (500 capacity) to Ian Rankin and Ann Cleeves with Douglas Henshall (both 700 capacity), both plays and Crime at the Coo cabaret which sold out the first day tickets went on sale.

Next year the Bloody Scotland Festival will run from Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd September. Bob McDevitt will stay on as Director in 2018 supported by PR & Marketing team Fiona Brownlee and Tim Donald and digital supremo, Laura Jones (aka Publisher of 404 Ink), who was recently invited to join the board.

'Although Bloody Scotland 2107 has been the biggest yet in terms of authors attending and tickets sold it has retained an intimacy and genuine feeling of a group of friends gathering together for some quality banter. Everyone from big international names to debuts and self-published authors have come together for songs, readings, football, plays, questions, answers and lots and lots of laughs'
Bob McDevitt, Director

Visitors came from as far afield as the United States, India and New Zealand to meet Scottish and international crime writers in Stirling at the weekend. Every guest at every event was given a free book by sponsor Bookdonors and the sponsorship package was enhanced this year by Stirling Gin who had specially created Bloody Scotland cocktails on hand at the football match which Ian Rankin, who shared one with his team at half time, claimed was 'the secret to the Scottish win'

If you would like to talk to the Director of Bloody Scotland, Bob McDevitt, board members/crime writers Alex Gray, Lin Anderson, Craig Robertson or Gordon Brown or the winner of The McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year, Denise Mina please contact fiona@brownleedonald.com 07767 431846

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Pictures of the 2017 Bloody Scotland including everything mentioned in this release can be used free of charge with credit Paul Reich and found in the following dropbox:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ndd1upwsk3td59n/AAD0yVif0_sj9Gw3n-K6sVLra?dl=0



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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Bloody Scotland is Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival, unique in that it was set up by a group of Scottish crime writers in 2012. Full information at www.bloodyscotland.com

Bloody Scotland is supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland's Open Project Funding, Stirling Council, the Open University and Stirling University. Bookdonors have remained our title sponsor for a second year running and Waterstone's is once again our festival bookseller. We have also secured a number of new sponsors including: Shetland Distillery Company, National Library of Scotland, Faculty of Advocates and Stirling Gin

A Bloody Scotland book of short stories is published by HES and was launched at the opening reception at Stirling Castle. Six of the twelve authors featured in the book were longlisted for this year's McIlvanney Prize and three – Val McDermid, Denise Mina and Craig Robertson - made the final cut. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is the lead public body charged with caring for, protecting and promoting the historic environment.

To see what the public had to say about the Festival look up @bloodyscotland #bloodyscotland on Twitter

Free standby tickets were made available to the unemployed or those on a low income. A 10% discount was available to people residing in the Stirling Council area. Visit www.bloodyscotland.com/localdiscount for details