



Edinburgh library partners with Craigroyston Community High School to spark conversation about identity and self-expression

Muirhouse Library to host Young Adult author Dean Atta for unique event

Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, has announced that Glasgow based-poet and young adult author Dean Atta will visit Muirhouse Library for Book Week Scotland 2019 on Monday 18 November, 11am – 12.30pm.

Book Week Scotland is a national celebration of reading and writing that runs from 18 November to 24 November. Taking inspiration from this year's Book Week theme 'Conversation', Muirhouse Library will invite S2 students from Craigroyston Community High School to join Dean Atta in conversation about 'What It Means To Be Who We Are'. Named one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday, Dean will discuss his latest book *The Black Flamingo* (Hodder), life and work fighting for LGBTQ rights. Organisers hope that the event will offer an open forum for conversation with the young people about issues that affect them on a personal level.

The event forms part of 'Pitch It', which invited groups and individuals all over Scotland to submit their dream event for one of four big names. In addition to covering the authors' fees, Scottish Book Trust has provided each successful host with £500 to help deliver their event.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: "We've been so impressed by the standard of pitches we received to host these authors. The energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by all applicants throughout this process is a great reflection on the health of book-loving communities all over Scotland. I hope that the opportunity to host one of our four fantastic authors will encourage and inspire conversation in communities the length and breadth of the country."

Initiated by the Scottish Government and supported by £200,000 from the National Lottery through Creative Scotland Targeted Funding and £26,000 from SLIC, Book Week Scotland 2019 will be delivered by Scottish Book Trust from 18 November – 24 November.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2019 and how you can get involved, visit www.bookweekscotland.com where you can find information about all the events taking place in your local area.

Dean Atta, said: "I'm really looking forward to taking part in Book Week Scotland and the opportunity to share my new book, *The Black Flamingo*. I'll talk about the process behind writing it and dig deeper into some of the issues raised in the book, such as racism, homophobia and self-acceptance. Poetry collections and novels have been companions to me at times when I needed to escape and have also helped me to understand myself better. I hope through hearing my work and process, the audience might find new appreciation for things they might not have considered before."

Tony Stewart, Muirhouse Library, said: "We are very excited to be hosting Dean Atta and the S2s from Craigroyston High School here at Muirhouse Library for a conversation about self-identity, gender and what it means to be me."



Event details

11.00am – 12.30pm, Muirhouse Library, Edinburgh (closed)

Notes to Editors

For all press queries, please contact:

Daisy Bartlett daisy.bartlett@scottishbooktrust.com or call 0131 524 0160

Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity changing lives through reading and writing. We inspire and support the people of Scotland to read and write for pleasure through programmes and outreach work that include:

- Gifting books to every child in Scotland to ensure families of all backgrounds can share the joy of books at home.
- Working with teachers to inspire children to develop a love of reading, creating innovative classroom activities, book awards and author events.
- Supporting Scotland's diverse writing community with our training, awards and writing opportunities.
- Funding a range of author events for the public to enjoy and promoting Scottish writing to people worldwide.

In addition to the funding we receive from the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, we need the constant support of trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

www.scottishbooktrust.com @scottishbktrust www.facebook.com/scottishbktrust

For more information about **Book Week Scotland**, visit www.bookweekscotland.com. Follow @Bookweekscot on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the Book Week Scotland Facebook page.

Dean Atta

Named as one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday and "one of poetry's greatest modern voices" by Gay Times, poet Dean Atta's work has appeared on BBC One, BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and Channel 4, often dealing with themes of gender, identity, race and growing up. Dean's debut poetry collection was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize. His latest book, *The Black Flamingo* (Hodder), follows a mixed-race gay teen as he spreads his wings at university as a drag performer, and has been nominated for both the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals,



A Year of Conversation 2019

A Year of Conversation 2019 is about us all celebrating, initiating and exploring conversation in our lives. There will be some events involving many people at places you might expect – festivals for example. But there will be many conversation events that are smaller and more intimate too. What is a 'conversation event'? It's simply something that's been planned – that you might have planned – in which conversation plays a significant part or which gives rise to conversation. So it may be a performance of some kind or it may be a group of people (you have) chosen for a special reason to share a meal. There will be information about events on the website, but there will also be space for you to reflect on your own experiences of conversation.