

Comedian to teach stand-up in schools for Book Week Scotland

Shetland comedian Marjolein Robertson embarks on tour of rural schools



Tour dates are included in this release. If you are interested in an interview with Marjolein Robertson or would like a reporter or photographer to attend one of the events please contact: Christopher Silver on christopher.silver@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0160.

Comedian, improviser and storyteller Marjolein Robertson will embark on a tour of rural secondary schools for Book Week Scotland 2018, offering senior students the chance to learn how to craft a stand-up comedy routine. Now in its seventh year, Book Week Scotland is run by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity transforming lives through reading and writing.

The tour, which runs from Monday 19 to Friday 23 of November, will visit ten schools in the Highlands, Argyll & Bute, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. Marjolein will perform a short set of material before leading a workshop on writing stand-up comedy. This will involve a discussion on comedy, breaking down some of the jokes from her set and explaining how she got into comedy. She will then show examples of her writing techniques before getting pupils to come up with an outline for their own stand-up routine on things they love and hate.

In addition to appearing at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Marjolein has been a regular contributor to BBC Scotland's award-winning digital platform for new talent *The Social* since 2016. She began performing in Amsterdam, before training in improvisation in New York and still spends most of her time on Shetland – where she is probably the only female comedian. At the crux of her comedy sketches and stand-up routines is a quirky and unique take on rural life as a young person.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:

“Scottish Book Trust is always looking for fresh new ways in which we can inspire young people all over Scotland to get writing. I am pleased to announce that we’ll be sending Marjolein to a range of schools in communities where it’s not always easy to attend stand-up comedy gigs. I hope these young people will get the chance to see some of their own experience reflected in her work and consider their own creative potential in turn.”



Marjolein Robertson said:

“Writing comedy is a fantastic way to inspire anyone to pick up a pen, type on a keyboard or even jot down ideas and jokes on their phones. It's quick and easy and over time can grow into a craft as you begin to stitch material together. I am very excited about the opportunity to share writing techniques with schools around Scotland and getting more voices from all over the country to give comedy a go. I also used to be the bairn in the classroom who was always scolded for constantly talking. So to get the opportunity to stand up and tell jokes in each school I visit and be allowed to, is like a dream come true.”

Tour Dates

Monday 19 November

11am – 12pm: Ardnamurchan High School, Lochaber

2pm – 3pm: Kinlochleven High School, Lochaber

Tuesday 20 November

9.30am – 10.30am: Rothesay Academy, Argyll and Bute

2pm – 3pm: St Matthews Academy, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire

Wednesday 21 November

1.15pm - 2.15pm: Marr College, Troon, South Ayrshire

Thursday 22 November

9am – 10am: Belmont Academy, Ayr, South Ayrshire

1.20pm – 2.20pm: Carrick Academy, Maybole, South Ayrshire

Friday 23 November

9am – 10am: Dalbeattie High School, Dumfries and Galloway

2pm – 3pm Moffat Academy, Dumfries and Galloway

For further details and to arrange a photo call or interview with Marjolein, please contact Christopher Silver on Christopher.Silver@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0160.



Notes to Editors

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 2018 will be delivered by Scottish Book Trust from 19 November – 25 November.

For more information about Book Week Scotland 2018 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.

For more information or images please contact Keara Donnachie, Press Officer, on Keara.Donnachie@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0184 or Christopher Silver, Press Officer (Temporary) on Christopher.Silver@scottishbooktrust.com or 0131 524 0160

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.

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For more information about **Book Week Scotland**, visit www.bookweekscotland.com. Follow [@Bookweekscot](https://twitter.com/Bookweekscot) on Twitter, check out #bookweekscotland or like the [Book Week Scotland Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BookWeekScotland) page.

In addition to general fundraising, Scottish Book Trust receives Creative Scotland support through Regular Funding.

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com. Follow us [@creativescots](https://twitter.com/creativescots) and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland.



The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) is the independent advisory body to the Scottish Government on library and information services. It leads the implementation of *Ambition and Opportunity: A strategy for public libraries in Scotland 2015–2020*, develops innovative projects like Film Education in Libraries and provides support for libraries in the form of advocacy, consultation and research. It administers Scottish Government funding for public libraries (Public Library Improvement Fund), for school libraries (School Libraries Improvement Fund) and funding for the wider library and information sector (Innovation and Development Fund). It supports public libraries to participate in Book Week Scotland by providing Scottish Book Trust with event funding for every public library service and Further Education College Libraries.