

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Wednesday 26 July 2017

Contact: Naomi French, naomi.french@southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 7921 0678

UK EXCLUSIVE: TOM HANKS JOINS 2017 LONDON LITERATURE FESTIVAL LINE-UP



Tom Hanks - 2013 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. All Rights reserved / Austin Hargrave

In a UK-exclusive event, Southbank Centre's *London Literature Festival*, in collaboration with Penguin Live, presents **Tom Hanks** in conversation about his first collection of fiction, with live readings from the author, on **Wednesday 1 November 2017**.

Making his Royal Festival Hall debut and his only UK appearance to discuss his new book, Tom Hanks introduces *Uncommon Type*, a collection of short stories which explores the human condition and all its foibles, with each story connected by the recurring motif of a typewriter.

Published by William Heinemann, Penguin Random House on Tuesday 17 October, *Uncommon Type* includes stories about a man immigrating to New York City after fleeing a civil war; a woman adjusting to her post-divorce life; an actor enduring a whirlwind press junket; and an eccentric billionaire and his faithful assistant on the hunt for something larger in America.

Although familiar as an actor to millions of fans, this event introduces another artistic dimension to Tom Hanks, as he speaks candidly about his writing process and inspiration, and the worlds his stories reflect.

Tom Hanks, said: *"I am delighted to be presenting my first collection of short stories at London Literature Festival and am looking forward to reading a sample to the audience in Royal Festival Hall. It's a privilege to be a part of a festival that features a line-up of living literary greats, and in London, a city that I find inspiring with its own rich history of storytelling."*

Ted Hodgkinson, Senior Programmer, Literature and Spoken Word, Southbank Centre, said: *"Beloved for his wit and sensitivity as an actor, Tom Hanks brings these characteristics to his first collection of short stories, Uncommon Type. We're thrilled he's chosen to present them at Southbank Centre's London Literature Festival, which has long championed the art of the short story, and given a platform to writers as varied in their backgrounds as they are in their literary styles. To hear these stories read live for the very first time by the unmistakable voice of their author, and hear what drew this remarkable storyteller to write fiction, will be a rare literary experience."*

The event marks the finale to Southbank Centre's 2017 *London Literature Festival* which runs from **Friday 13 October to Wednesday 1 November** and features twenty days of live readings, performance, talks, debates, visual displays, workshops and music across Southbank Centre's 17 acre site. Tom Hanks joins a stellar festival line-up including **Anne Carson, Tracy Chevalier, Goldie, Karl Ove Knausgård, Annie Leibovitz, David Mitchell, Philip Pullman, Claudia Rankine, Sjón** and more.

Press release for 2017 London Literature Festival [HERE](#).

Tickets are on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 1 August and to the general public on Wednesday 2 August.

For more information or to buy tickets please visit the Southbank Centre website [HERE](#) or call 0203 879 9555.

London Literature Festival is part of *Nordic Matters*, Southbank Centre's year-long programme celebrating the best of Nordic arts and culture.

#ENDS#

Notes to Editors

Tom Hanks in conversation about Uncommon Type

Wednesday 1 November 2017, 8.30pm, Royal Festival Hall Auditorium, £70, £55 and £45 including a copy of the book

In a UK-exclusive event, *London Literature Festival* in collaboration with Penguin Live presents the first collection of fiction by Tom Hanks, *Uncommon Type*, with live reading and conversation with the author. Each ticket includes a hardback edition of *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks (RRP £16.99).

Tom Hanks has been an actor, screenwriter, director and, through Playtone, a producer. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*.

For further press information please contact:

Louise Gilbert, Press Manager: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 7921 0780

Naomi French, Press Officer: naomi.french@southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 7921 0678

Join the Conversation:

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#LDNLitFest #UncommonType

Please find a link to press images [here](#)

Press release with full listings for *London Literature Festival* [HERE](#)

***Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks is out 17 October 2017**

(William Heinemann | Hardback | £16.99 | Ebook | £9.99 | Audiobook | £10)

For more information about the book please contact:

Francesca Russell, Deputy Publicity Director at Cornerstone: frussell@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk / 020 7840 8611

Kate McQuaid, Publicity Director at William Heinemann: kmcquaid@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk / 020 7840 8293

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk

About Nordic Matters

Nordic Matters is a year-long programme of Nordic art and culture in 2017 at London's Southbank Centre, featuring music, dance, theatre, visual arts, participation, talks and debates, and gastronomy. Chosen from a number of international applicants, Southbank Centre is the sole recipient of a grant from The Nordic Council of Ministers for a new festival celebrating the very best of Nordic art and culture throughout 2017 – one of the biggest cultural-political partnerships of its kind. A particular emphasis will be placed on the idea of play fostering curiosity and creativity, for people of all ages but especially children and young people. Moving beyond popular perceptions of 'Nordic Noir' the programme is designed to embed Nordic culture and artists in Southbank Centre's year-long artistic offer and offer a platform to some of the more 'hidden voices' from Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands. www.southbankcentre.co.uk/nordicmatters