

edinburgh people's festival

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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL PRESENTS FIRST **HAMISH HENDERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE**

The Edinburgh People's Festival presents the first annual Hamish Henderson Memorial Lecture tomorrow night [Wed 13th August] at the 'Out of the Blue' Arts Centre in Leith.

The lecture, delivered by Hamish Henderson's biographer Mr Timothy Neat, marks the midpoint in this years Edinburgh People's Festival programme of events.

Hamish Henderson, the Scots folk musician, writer and intellectual died in Edinburgh in 2002. Peoples Festival Chairman Colin Fox, himself an admirer of Henderson believes it is important his life and work is remembered.

'Hamish Henderson played a hugely important part in Scottish culture for more than 40 years. He was the founder of the Edinburgh People's Festival for one thing. We will recall how he shaped the cultural fabric of Scottish life for almost half a century. His contribution to folk music alone stands as a towering achievement. He was a writer and lyricist who has left us many significant pieces of work, uppermost perhaps his beautiful and inspiring ballad 'Freedom Come All Ye'. Hamish was a working class intellectual. He was the first person to translate the work of the Italian cultural giant Antonio Gramsci into English.'

'It has taken far too long for this memorial to Hamish to come to fruition, I admit, but then again its better late then never. We are delighted that Timothy Neat, Hamish's official biographer has accepted our invitation to deliver this the first memorial lecture and to speak about the man, his work and his legacy. The lecture starts at 7pm. Entrance is free but people are strongly encouraged to get there early as it will be packed'.

Full details of all the People's Festival events can be found at: www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org

The 2008 Edinburgh People's Festival runs until Sat 16th August.

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