



**UK International Radio Drama Festival 2019**

**Press Release**

**Acclaimed UK radio drama actor to chair 2019 jury**



We are delighted to announce that **Jonathan Keeble** will be chairing the jury for the fifth UK International Radio Drama Festival.

Jonathan combines his audio work with a busy theatre and TV career. He has featured in over 700 radio plays for the BBC appearing in everything from Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes to Dr Who as well as playing the evil Owen in The Archers. Much in demand for his voicework, this ranges from the Voice of God in the Sistine Chapel to The Angel of Death in the film Hellboy 2 with all stops in between. A multi award-winning narrator, Jonathan has recorded over 600 audio books.

Making the announcement today, the festival's Artistic Director, Jonathan Banatvala said *"I can think of nobody who better represents the breadth and depth of radio drama than Jonathan Keeble. It has been my privilege to work with him as an actor on a number of projects including our first bilingual piece and I know at first hand how fully Jonathan understands radio drama as an art form and how much he appreciates the limitless possibilities it offers. I am delighted that he will be joining us in this fifth anniversary year to chair our jury."*

## **Notes to editors**

The UK International Radio Drama Festival takes place in Canterbury from 18 – 22 March 2019. This will be the fifth anniversary event. This year's title; "The Greatest Admiration in the Universal World" reflects our theme – your best work.

The programme includes work from 18 different countries in 15 different languages. Entries range from short form works of just a few minutes to full length hour long pieces. Anyone is welcome to drop in to listen for as short or long a time as they wish or to follow the festival online via our website. We celebrate listening to entries as the average listener often does – in glorious mono – with a cup of tea and the ironing put to one side.

A jury – chaired by Jonathan Keeble – makes awards for the best full length and best short form entries. Anyone – creative or audience member - may apply to join the jury provided they can commit to listening to all the works at the collective listening sessions. In addition, an audience award is made reflecting votes in an online poll.

The festival showcases radio drama in a wide variety of genres, accepting entries from national broadcasters and independent producers alike. We are especially proud of our track record of making awards to emergent creatives who have gone on to achieve recognition at other festivals.

The festival is produced by International Arts Partnership, an independent award winning company specialising in international collaborative work. Current projects include a programme to rediscover the radio drama heritage of Egypt; work to promote the making of

radio drama amongst young people; an investigation of the plays denied a licence by the Lord Chamberlain.

### More information

[www.radiodramafestival.org.uk](http://www.radiodramafestival.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/RadioDramaFestival>

### Contact

Melanie Nock [mel@international-arts.eu](mailto:mel@international-arts.eu) (07903168891)

Nicholas McInerny [Nicholas.mcinerny@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholas.mcinerny@gmail.com) (07770943556)

