



Media information

From Darwin to Discworld – an evening with Terry Pratchett

Legendary British author, Sir Terry Pratchett, is set to visit Cambridge for an entertaining evening of discussion, readings and insights from his book *The Science of Discworld III: Darwin's Watch*, which tells the story of evolution as it has never been told before.

The event takes place on **Tuesday 7 July at 7.30pm at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Lensfield Road, Cambridge (tickets £10).**

Terry Pratchett has sold more than 60 million books worldwide and his work is published in 37 languages. He is best known for his long-running *Discworld* series of 36 novels that combine humour and fantasy fiction. The *Science of Discworld III: Darwin's Watch* is the third in a companion series to the *Discworld* books.

Joining forces with Terry Pratchett on stage will be one of the book's two co-authors, Professor Jack Cohen, acclaimed reproductive biologist and author of *The Privileged Ape*, *Reproduction*, and *Living Embryos*.

The duo will discuss how different the world might have been if Charles Darwin had written *Theology of the Species* instead of *On the Origin of Species*. They turn the world on its head, portraying Darwin as an obscure country vicar whose bestselling title makes it impossible to refute the divine design of living creatures. By alternating between a *Discworld* story and serious discussion on the theory of evolution, their book also considers thoughts on time travel and how scientific theories happen and differ from other ways of thinking.

Miranda Gomperts, Darwin Festival director said, "It will be a great honour to welcome Terry Pratchett, one of our most original and inventive authors, to Cambridge as part of the Darwin Festival. Whether you are already one of the millions of *Discworld* fans or simply want to hear two brilliant thinkers talk about some of the biggest ideas of our time, it is sure to be an entertaining and thought-provoking evening."

This event is part of the Cambridge Darwin 2009 Festival, 5-10 July. For information and bookings, www.darwin2009festival.com / 01223 765440.

About the Darwin 2009 Festival, 5-10 July 2009

The Darwin 2009 Festival is a major international event hosted by the University of Cambridge to mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and 150 years since the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. During the week, more than 100 scientists, thinkers, authors, artists and performers will debate and celebrate Darwin's evolutionary theories. With more than 40 events, including a conference, performance, fringe and exhibitions, the Festival offers a fascinating insight into Darwin's influence on everything from religion, the arts and humanities to science, pandemics, biodiversity, genetics and eugenics. The events are open to all (subject to availability) and some are free of charge.
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Media information and photography:

Stuart Roberts: 01223 764982 / email stuart.j.roberts@admin.cam.ac.uk

Donna Semmens: +44 1353 669939 / email Donna.Semmens@myriadpr.com