

12 JUNE 2010

SCIENCE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR AWARDED OBE IN BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

He's walked on water, and across hot coals all in the name of science, and now Dr Simon Gage, Director of the Edinburgh International Science Festival, has been made an OBE in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 'Services to Science Communication.'

Gage, who has been Director of the Science Festival for 15 years, is committed to establishing an interactive, energetic and entertaining style of science communication. Over his tenure, the Science Festival has grown in stature and international reputation, and is now an annual event which in 2010 welcomed over 80,000 visitors to 170 events in 26 venues across the City.

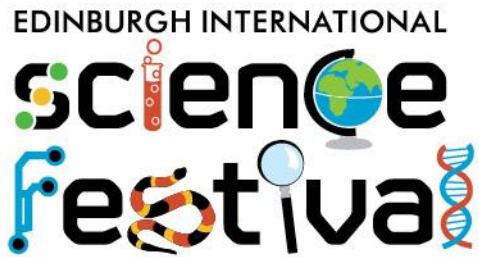
He is passionate about evolving science communication as part of the popular culture, and established the highly successful schools touring programme for the Festival, Generation Science. Last year, this programme toured to 600 schools throughout Scotland giving over 65,000 children the opportunity to engage in an international science and technology show and workshop.

In response to the OBE, Simon Gage said "I am, of course, delighted to be awarded an OBE. However, I see this primarily as recognition of the pioneering work that the Edinburgh International Science Festival, and its great many partner organisations across the city have done over the last twenty years to show the world a new way of communicating science. We shouldn't forget that Edinburgh is the birth place of the modern science festival movement and what has happened here has played a role in spawning hundreds of similar festivals across the world. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of these exciting developments."

Gage's personal vision of how to make science engaging to a wide audience, particularly children and families, has earned him an international recognition and he is regularly asked to address conferences and seminars. This summer he has been invited to give the keynote addresses to the City Marketing Departments at Karlsruhe and Odenburg in Germany, who are exploring the options for setting up their own science festivals. He will also be chairing the UK Science Festivals Network 2010 Conference, and sitting on the organising committee for the European Science

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Events Association. He is a member of the Science Advisory Board of Our Dynamic Earth and is a grant referee for the Wellcome Trust.

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For further information, and to interview Dr Simon Gage

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