

# **Your Own Steve Larkin poetry adventure**

- a multi-media poetry book published by Burning Eye

## **PRESS PACK**



### **The Changing Face of Literature**

*"The resurrection of the oral tradition in the technological age is advanced in the capable hands of Steve Larkin" - Kate Tempest*

*"The closest you'll get to being at a brilliant poetry gig - by reading a brilliant poetry book!" - Rob Auton*

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## 1. About 'Your own Steve Larkin Poetry Adventure'

A debut collection of poetry and lyrics set out like a choose your adventure novel complete with QR codes and links to online material 'Your Own Steve Larkin Poetry Adventure' (or 'Own Steve Larkin' for short) is an innovative way to present poetry, connecting the reader to a breathtaking range of styles from thoughtful introspective pieces of writing to comical, musical, or visceral pieces of spoken word or song, and to some visually stimulating pieces of street art or film poetry.

Having refused publication for many years for fear of misrepresentation of his work, Larkin, who had been at the forefront of the new wave of spoken word or performance poetry for some time decided to take advantage of technological advances that could help bring the essence of his work to audiences.

Larkin said of the project: "When people asked me in the past why I hadn't published my work in a book I said that I thought putting what I do in a written form was like ventriloquism on the radio - it's the wrong medium Grommit! But now that the technology exists and is widespread enough for people to quickly scan a code and experience a piece close to it's true form - the way it was given birth, I'm all in".

Having been successful with an approach to Arts Council England with a proposal for funding to capture and produce audio and video of performances to create material to link to in the book Steve set out on a process that would take the best part of three years. Firstly he reviewed and edited a lifetime of writing. He then sought the opinion of a large group of 'critical friends' such as Carcanet poet Alison Brackenbury, comics/poets Rob Gee, Luke Wright, and Elvis McGonagall, and award-winning feature writer and journalist Tom Parry to establish the value of a large number of pieces on the page or otherwise. Then came the plotting of various routes through the book that Steve envisaged would satisfy people coming to the collection with a variety of outlooks on the presentation of poetry and lyrics.

Innovative, award-winning publisher Burning Eye, who predominately specialise in promoting spoken word artists took on the book and helped to produce a beautifully designed product. Reaction to the book pre-publication from those invited to give testimonials was extremely positive:

"Anarchic, sparkingly brilliant and at times very rude." - Hugh Warwick

"The resurrection of the oral tradition in the technological age is advanced in the capable hands of Steve Larkin" - Kate Tempest

"The closest you'll get to being at a brilliant poetry gig - by reading a brilliant poetry book!" - Rob Auton

"With this delightful book, we are treated to the many facets of the poetic, comedic and musical beast that is Steve Larkin." - Rob Gee

## 2. About Steve Larkin

Steve Larkin is a poet, singer song-writer, storyteller, theatre maker, comedic host and impresario renowned for his highly original and entertaining live work.

A former International Poetry Slam Champion and Oxford Professor of Poetry nominee Steve is the founder and chief of Hammer & Tongue - the UK's leading poetry slam organisation that has led the charge of poetry back to the Royal Albert Hall. Steve is the creator of two critically acclaimed spoken word theatre shows: N.O.N.C.E. and TES, the front to 'world-folk-punk-skiffle' band Inflatable Buddha, a musician in his own right, and a poet whose career has spanned three decades and involved performing world-over in diverse venues to diverse audiences, from convicted violent criminals in a high security prison to MPs at the Houses of Parliament.

Press Clippings:

*"Steve Larkin is a poet-philosopher disguised as a club entertainer. Lacing profundity with profanities, deep tracks with cheap gags, he weaves comedy, politics and style to leave audiences laughing thoughtful and infected."*

Jim Thomas

*"Electrifying fusion of music and the spoken word...affability and quick, biting wit with the social conscience of Pete Seeger"*

\*\*\*\*\*Victoria Times Colonist

*"Superb spoken-word - essential viewing"*

\*\*\*\*\*Fringe Guru

*"Prepare to be stunned and inspired by the power of Larkin's spoken word."*

\*\*\*\*\* Edmonton Sun, Canada

*"Part philosophy, part hysterically funny humour"*

Nightshift Magazine

*"Steve Larkin, has the facial expressions of Vic Reeves, and often, the blunt quick-wittedness of Frankie Boyle."*

Spiral Earth

*"Revolutionary, elocutionary genius"*

\*\*\*\*\* See Magazine

*"The spoken word guru"*

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

More details of Steve can be found on his website:

[www.stevelarkin.com](http://www.stevelarkin.com)

### 3. Launch

The book will first be available from Steve as he hosts the National Slam Final at the Royal Albert Hall on **1st of June** - 1:30 - 10:30pm.

[www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2019/national-slam-final-2019/](http://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2019/national-slam-final-2019/)



With an official launch event - the first full audience-led Steve Larkin adventure, with support from two fantastic solo musician friends Susanna Starling and Matt Sage on **3rd of June** - 8 - 10:30pm  
North Wall - Oxford



[www.thenorthwall.com/whats-on/steve-larkin-own/](http://www.thenorthwall.com/whats-on/steve-larkin-own/)

Which will be followed by a tour performing from the book:

June 4th - Hammer & Tongue Hackney, Book Club

June 5th - Hammer & Tongue Bristol, Loko Club

June 6th - Hammer & Tongue Brighton, Komedia

June 11th - Hammer & Tongue Oxford, Od Fire Station

June 12th - Hammer & Tongue Solent, Art House

June 14th - Hammer & Tongue Cambridge, Junction

details: [www.hammerandtongue.com](http://www.hammerandtongue.com)

June 27th - 20:30, 29th - 16:30, June 30th - 15:00 - Golden Lion Tap,  
Barnstaple Fringe - <https://bit.ly/2YJ3TMJ>

July 25th-28th - WOMAD Festival - Hip Yak Poetry Shack

More dates to follow - see [www.stevelarkin.com](http://www.stevelarkin.com) for details

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#### 4. Notes to Editors

1. Steve is available for interview – email [steve@stevelarkin.com](mailto:steve@stevelarkin.com) or +44(0)7906885069
2. Print quality photos/images are available at [stevelarkin.com/press](http://stevelarkin.com/press) or upon request.
3. More details about the book and Steve Larkin can be found at [stevelarkin.com/Own.html](http://stevelarkin.com/Own.html) or [stevelarkin.com/own](http://stevelarkin.com/own)
4. Steve Larkin is not unaccustomed to the application of technology to enhance the literary experience, having previously run the first trans-Atlantic video linked poetry slam - <https://oxfordmarketing.uk/tag/transatlantic-slam/>
5. Cover design #squashua- - [instagram.com/ squashua.artist/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/squashua.artist/?hl=en)
6. Buy the book through Burning Eye - <https://burningeye.bigcartel.com/product/your-own-steve-larkin-poetry-adventure>