

**Press Release**

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**The Hellweg becomes target for “notorious” crime fiction stars**

*For the 10<sup>th</sup> time, numerous national as well as international crime fiction authors will write short stories for Europe’s largest crime festival “Mord am Hellweg”. During the next months, they will take research trips to 23 towns in the cultural region. The anniversary anthology will be published right at the start of the festival in autumn 2020.*

Once again Europe’s largest international crime fiction festival „Mord am Hellweg” is sending world class crime writers to the Hellweg region, starting in late summer. After nine previous extremely successful Hellweg anthologies with more than 200 short crime thrillers and more than 500 murders, another round of research trips is just about to begin. Participating are among others Ben Aaronovitch, Bernhard Aichner, Doris Gercke, Andreas Gruber, Elisabeth Herrmann, Jens Henrik Jensen, Edith Kneifl, Volker Kutscher and Antti Tuomainen – a „criminal group“ worth seeing.

Founded in 2002, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial „Mord am Hellweg” will take place in the Hellweg region from September 19<sup>th</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with more than 200 events and over 400 writers. Various preparations are already underway. To turn the involved cities and communes into literary crime scenes, the festival management traditionally invites famous crime fiction award winners and bestseller authors to do some research in the region, long before the start of the festival. At least one murder is obligatory in Dortmund, Hagen, Unna, Lünen, Schwerte, Soest and the other cities and communes in the region.

Which crime phantasies are brought to life through the illustrious guests’ research trips, will be uncovered in September 2020, when the popular “Mord am Hellweg” anthology will be published for the 10<sup>th</sup> time right at the start of the festival by Grafit Verlag (Emons Cologne). Just as murderers who

Ein Projekt der  
Kulturregion Hellweg

Festivalleitung



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return to the crime scene, the writers will go back to their cities to present themselves and their short stories in a reading.

Nearly every important crime fiction writer from the German-speaking countries, as well as international guests, have already written for a “Mord am Hellweg” anthology. As usual, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition will be published and edited by crime-writer and publisher H.P. Karr and the festival management of “Mord am Hellweg”, Herbert Knorr (artistic director of the Westphalian Office for Literature in Unna e.V.) and Sigrun Krauß (director of the cultural office in Unna). These 23 crime fiction authors are going to travel in the region during the next months to write for the anniversary anthology:

Austria’s most successful female crime-writer **Edith Kneifl** (“Todesreigen in der Hofreitschule”) hits the road to Ahlen (Westf) and bestseller author **Gisa Pauly** (“Sturmflut”) travels to Bad Sassendorf. Wilsberg-creator **Jürgen Kehrer** (“Wilsberg – Ein bisschen Mord muss sein“) has a look around Bergkamen and **Benedikt Gollhardt** visits Bönen. Before his thriller debut, he made a name for himself as screen writer for series like “Danni Lowinski” and “Turkish for Beginners”. Dortmund will become the setting for **Volker Kutscher’s** short story. His famous Gereon Rath novels are currently televised among others by ARD/Sky under the title of “Babylon Berlin”.

The Grande Dame of German crime and Bella Block inventor **Doris Gercke** gets her inspiration from Erwitte and the Düsseldorf-based **KRIMICOPS**, who reached almost cult status, search for crime scenes in Fröndenberg/Ruhr. Glauser Award winner and Austrian star author **Bernhard Aichner**, who will publish his new thriller “Der Fund” in September, travels to Gelsenkirchen. **Katja Bohnet** („Krähentod“) will paint the town in Hagen and the multi-award-winning Viennese, **Andreas Gruber**, who usually makes the quirky profiler **Maarten S. Sneijder** investigate, visits Hamm.

Glauser Award winner **Horst Eckert** (“Der Preis des Todes“) goes on a research trip to Holzwickede and **Krischan Koch** (“Mörder mögen keine Matjes“), who is well known for his witty crime stories from the coast, leaves the North Sea for “Mord am Hellweg” to hit the road to Iserlohn. Finnish author and Clue Award winner **Antti Tuomainen** (“Palm Beach Finland“) makes Kamen the scene of the crime and the German fun crime king, **Ralf Kramp** (“Aus heiterem Himmel“), is up to mischief in Lüdenscheid. Perhaps the most important female German crime fiction writer, **Elisabeth Herrmann** (“Joachim Vernau series“) travels to Lünen and the British author **Ben Aaronovitch**, whose series

around London-based police officer Peter Grant (“Rivers of London series”) is topping international bestseller lists, will write for Schwerte.

In her thriller „Im Jahr der Finsternis“, Italian-born **I. L. Callis** brings chaos to all of Europe; in autumn she plans to do the same to Selm. The culinary crime expert **Carsten Sebastian Henn** (“Der letzte Caffè”) is looking for crimes in Soest and one of the best German crime writers, **Jan Costin Wagner** (“Kimmo Joentaa series”), searches for crimes in and for the district of Unna. **Jens Henrik Jensen**, author of the OXEN trilogy about the severely traumatized elite soldier Niels Oxen, is looking for a setting for his short story in Unna. Inspiration for the great German crime master **Friedrich Ani** (“Tabor Süden series”) is Werl and **Sven Stricker** (“Sörensen fängt Feuer”), who also made a name for himself as radio drama director of Henning Mankell’s novels, travels to Wickede. **Melanie Raabe** (“Der Schatten”), who won the first prize at the German crime short story award and has been for several years one of the most important German crime writers, writes for Witten.

A few research appointments are already fixed: **Benedikt Gollhardt** will visit Bönen from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>. The press conference will be on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00h in the restaurant Böinghoff in Bönen-Flierich. **Jens Henrik Jensen** will do local research for his crime story from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Legal Notice

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#### **Mord am Hellweg X is a project of the Kulturregion Hellweg (Cultural Region Hellweg)**

with or in the districts, cities and municipalities Ahlen, Bad Sassendorf, Bergkamen, Bönen, Dortmund, Erwitte, Fröndenberg, Gelsenkirchen, Hagen, Hamm, Holzwickede, Iserlohn, Kamen, Lüdenscheid, Lünen, Schwerte, Selm, Soest, Unna, Unna (Kreis), Werl, Wickede (Ruhr), Witten and in cooperation with HanseTourist Unna, Rohrmeisterei Schwerte, conference and congress center Bad Sassendorf and MELANGE (Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Salon- und Kaffeehauskultur e.V).

#### **Festival Management**

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