

**Press release**Unna, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**„Mord am Hellweg“ is pleased to announce:  
Simon Beckett and Arne Dahl are the winners of the  
European Crime Fiction Star Award 2018/2019**

For the first time two authors are honoured with the international award as co-winners. Simon Beckett and Arne Dahl will accept the award, which is endowed with 11.111 Euros, in person on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Unna.

**Unna.** Around 10.000 crime fiction fans and festival-goers of “Mord am Hellweg” have cast their ballots: Simon Beckett and Arne Dahl will both be honoured with this year’s European Crime Fiction Star Award. Two winners – a first in the history of the award. The two European crime fiction stars were neck and neck right until the end of the public voting period on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2018. And surprisingly they tied, which is why the festival management decided to split the prize and honour both Simon Beckett and Arne Dahl.

The co-winning authors will accept the award at a ceremony in the city hall of Unna on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019, where German actor Joe Bausch will also read from both of their newest novels. The highlight for crime fiction fans: Simon Beckett will present the brand new instalment of his renowned “David Hunter”-series, “Die ewigen Toten” (“The Scent of Death”) as a world premiere. The journalists Matthias Bongard and Günter Keil will moderate the event; music will be provided by the big band of the Landespolizei-Orchester NRW, conducted by Hans Steinmeier.

The European Crime Fiction Star Award was advertised for the sixth time in the course of Europe’s biggest international crime story festival **Mord am Hellweg IX** and is endowed with 11.111 Euros. The accolade honours an author whose works express a particular sense of responsibility for the advancement of crime fiction in Europe, who has significantly influenced the reception of the genre and/or develops it in new and exciting ways. Past recipients include Henning Mankell (2008/2009), Håkan Nesser (2010/2011), Fred Vargas (2012/2013), Jussi Adler-Olsen (2014/2015) and Sebastian Fitzek (2016/2017).

The selection process has been a long and rigorous one. First, there was the initial call for suggestions, which elicited an overwhelming response from publishing houses, editors, agents, authors, journalists and various literary institutions. Festival directors Sigrun Krauß and Dr Herbert Knorr, together with the author Jürgen Alberts, then drew up a longlist, which was submitted to a jury of seven internationally acclaimed crime writers for further consideration. This jury included Sebastian Fitzek (Germany), Nina George (Germany), Christine Brand (Switzerland), Bernhard Aichner (Austria), Cilla and Rolf Börjind (Sweden), Mark Billingham (UK) and Roberto Costantini (Italy). It was their task to decide upon a shortlist of four nominees, which also included Ingrid Noll (Germany) and Val McDermid (Scotland). The winner of the European Crime Fiction Star Award is traditionally elected by public vote, either by postcard or online.

Ein Projekt der  
Kulturregion Hellweg

Festivalleitung



Westfälisches Literaturbüro  
in Unna e.V.  
Dr. Herbert Knorr  
Nicolaistraße 3, 59423 Unna  
Fon: (02303) 96 38 50  
Fax: (02303) 96 38 51  
post@wlb.de  
www.wlb.de



Kulturbetriebe Unna  
Bereich Kultur  
Sigrun Krauß M.A.  
Lindenplatz 1, 59423 Unna  
Fon: (02303) 10 37 20  
Fax: (02303) 10 37 99  
sigrun.krauss@stadt-unna.de  
www.unna.de



**The winners:**

**Simon Beckett:** Born 1960 in Sheffield (UK), Simon Beckett is one of the most successful English crime authors. He worked as a freelance journalist, writing for national British newspapers and magazines. Some of his more memorable assignments included going on police drugs raids, touring brothels with a vice unit and trying to learn how to win a gun fight in Nevada. It was a visit to the Body Farm in Tennessee in 2002 that was the inspiration behind the internationally bestselling David Hunter crime thrillers. The series has been translated into 29 languages, and Simon's novels have now sold over 10 million copies worldwide. His books have been phenomenally successful in Germany, where the five David Hunter volumes all reached No.1 in either the hardback or paperback charts. He is also the author of several standalone thrillers, among them "Animals", "Owning Jacob" and "Stone Bruises". In February 2019 the sixth novel of his David Hunter series will be published in Germany.

**Arne Dahl:** The Swedish award-winning author, critic and editor is regarded as one of the finest literary crime writers of Scandinavia. Dahl is the creator of the bestselling Intercrime series, a series of novels about a fictional group of Swedish crime investigators, called "A Gruppen" in Swedish and "the Intercrime Group" in the first English translation. In 2011 Arne Dahl started on the Opcop quartet. His highly praised books have sold more than 4 million copies, and been translated into 32 languages. For his eminent authorship, Dahl has been awarded the premier crime writing awards of Germany, Denmark and Sweden. In 2016 he began his new series about detectives Sam Berger and Molly Blom. The first two novels were half a year in the top 10 of the German bestselling charts. The third novel was published in Germany in fall 2018 to great critical acclaim.

MON 28/02/2019, 7.00 pm – **European Crime Fiction Star Award:**

**Simon Beckett & Arne Dahl – Reading, Interview, Music and Award Ceremony**

*Venue: Erich Göpfert Stadthalle, Parkstraße 44, Unna*

*Advance Booking: 22,90 € / 19,90 € – Box Office: 27,00 € / 23,00 €*

*Ticket sales (starting on December 7<sup>th</sup>): [www.mordamhellweg.de](http://www.mordamhellweg.de), i-Punkt Unna +49 2303 10 37 77, Westf. Literaturbüro in Unna e.V. +49 2303 96 38 50 and at all HellwegTicket sales points.*

Ein Projekt der  
Kulturregion Hellweg

**Legal notice**

"Mord am Hellweg IX" is a project of the Kulturregion Hellweg (Cultural Region Hellweg).

**Festival management**

Kreisstadt Unna, Bereich Kultur, Sigrun Krauß M.A., Lindenplatz 1, 59423 Unna, Fon: +49 (0)2303 10 37 20, Fax: +49 (0)2303 10 37 99, E-Mail: [sigrun.krauss@stadt-unna.de](mailto:sigrun.krauss@stadt-unna.de), Website: [www.stadt-unna.de](http://www.stadt-unna.de)

Westfälisches Literaturbüro in Unna e.V., Dr. Herbert Knorr, Nicolaistraße 3, 59423 Unna, Fon: +49 (0)2303 96 38 50, Fax: +49 (0)2303 96 38 51, E-Mail: [post@wlb.de](mailto:post@wlb.de), Website: [www.wlb.de](http://www.wlb.de)

**Sponsors/Media partners:** Land NRW, Sparkasse UnnaKamen, Westfalen-Initiative, Regionalverband Ruhr / WDR 5, WELT am SONNTAG

Festivalleitung



Westfälisches Literaturbüro  
in Unna e.V.  
Dr. Herbert Knorr  
Nicolaistraße 3, 59423 Unna  
Fon: (02303) 96 38 50  
Fax: (02303) 96 38 51  
[post@wlb.de](mailto:post@wlb.de)  
[www.wlb.de](http://www.wlb.de)



Kulturbetriebe Unna  
Bereich Kultur  
Sigrun Krauß M.A.  
Lindenplatz 1, 59423 Unna  
Fon: (02303) 10 37 20  
Fax: (02303) 10 37 99  
[sigrun.krauss@stadt-unna.de](mailto:sigrun.krauss@stadt-unna.de)  
[www.unna.de](http://www.unna.de)

