



Dundee is one of the great powerhouses of comics production, not just in the UK, but internationally. The publisher DC Thomson is at the heart of the city, with its long running comics, *The Beano* and *The Dandy*, and a host of beloved characters, including Dennis the Menace, Desperate Dan, the Bash Street Kids, and hundreds more. Dundee Comics Day exist to draw attention to Dundee's important role in the history of comics, and to bring together artists, writers and other professionals involved in the comics industry to celebrate the comics medium in all its forms.

The core of the Comics Day is a series of talks by writers and artists. Since 2007 the University of Dundee has hosted this conference, which is organised by Dr Chris Murray, a researcher in comics, and lecturer at the University of Dundee's English Department. In recent years themes have included the history of British comics, and how comics represent time. Past Comics Days have included talks from such prominent figures as Warren Ellis (*Planetary*, *Transmetropolitan*), Bryan Talbot (*The Adventures of Luthor Arkwright*, *Alice in Sunderland*). Alan Grant (Judge Dredd, Batman), Gary Erskine (*The Filth*, *Dan Dare*), Hunt Emerson (Little Plum, Ratz), Metaphrog (*Strange Weather Lately*, *Louis*), Keith Robson (*Starblazer*), Ilya (*Mammoth Book of Best New Manga*), Emma Vieceli (Manga Shakespeare), comics editors Morris Heggie, Bill McLoughlin (both DC Thomson), and David Bishop (*2000AD*). It has also featured contributions from leading comics scholars and historians such as Roger Sabin, Paul Gravett, Julia Round, Billy Grove, Mel Gibson, Peter Hughes Jachimiak, and Ian Hague. The 2010 Comics Day considers the process of creating a comic and will feature talks by Alan Davis, Pat Mills, Dez Skinn, Rian Hughes, and Nana Li.

The Comics Day is part of the Dundee Literary Festival, and includes workshops on comics from leading professionals, as well as signings of books. The Comics Days are always accompanied by exhibitions of comics artwork. In recent years these have featured the work of Hunt Emerson, have provided retrospectives on *Starblazer*, and have celebrated the 70th birthday of *The Beano*. The 2010 exhibition will focus on the career of late DC Thomson artist Bill Ritchie (*The Beezer*, *Baby Crockett*).

