

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

### **Dundee Comics Day celebrates the genius of Grant Morrison**

One of the world's most successful comics writers, Grant Morrison, heads the stellar line-up of top industry talent appearing at this year's Dundee Comics Day.

The annual event, part of the Dundee Literary Festival, takes place on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October and this year's programme, entitled 'Invisible Symmetries: The Comics of Grant Morrison', celebrates the work of the Glasgow-born writer.

It will be preceded by two special events in the run-up to Comics Day – a screening of the documentary 'Grant Morrison: Talking With Gods' at Dundee Contemporary Arts on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, and a two-hour workshop on creating comics using Manga Studio on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. This workshop will be delivered by Dave Gibbons, the co-creator of *Watchmen* and one of the world's most respected comics artists.

Grant Morrison began his career at the famous Dundee publishers DC Thomson before going on to work for Marvel and DC Comics and write for many of the world's best-loved publications, including Superman, Batman and X-Men.

He will be discussing his approach to writing comics, his thoughts about superheroes (as expressed in his recent book *Supergods: Our World in the Age of the Superhero*), and his experience of working with some of the best comics artists in the world.

Joining him at the event will be several of his collaborators, including Frank Quietly, Peter Doherty, Rian Hughes, Frazer Irving and Cameron Stewart. They will talk about their experience of working with Grant Morrison, as well as discussing their wider careers and future projects.

Dr Chris Murray, event organiser and one of the UK's foremost authorities on the subject, said Grant Morrison's upcoming appearance was causing a great deal of excitement among comics fans.

"Grant Morrison is, quite simply, a legend in the world of comics," he said. "Having him come here is a real honour and we are absolutely delighted to be able to pay tribute to a truly great comics writer.

"The fact he is Scottish and began his career with DC Thomson is testament to the great comics tradition here. We have a fantastic line up of other artists and writers and this is an event no true comics fan should miss. We know that people are planning to travel considerable distances for this year's Dundee Comics Day so I'd advise people to get their tickets fast."

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, such as Dennis the Menace, Desperate Dan, and the Bash Street Kids.

Building on this local tradition and expertise, the University of Dundee is currently leading the way in this emerging academic field, with modules on comics at undergraduate level and the UK's first Masters course in Comics Studies.

The Scottish Centre for Comics Studies (SCCS) is based at the University, bringing together researchers, teachers, archivists, artists and writers, industry professionals, and others involved in the promotion of Comics Studies.

Comics Day has been held annually since 2007 and has attracted some of the biggest names in the industry, including artists, historians, scholars and writers, in that time. It is designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in comics, and will be accompanied by an exhibition of comic art work. Book signings, talks and the announcement of the Dundee Comics Prize winners will also take place.

The events will be held in the D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre and Baxter Suite, Tower Building, University of Dundee. More information about any of the events is available by contacting Dr Murray at [c.murray@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:c.murray@dundee.ac.uk).

To buy tickets, please visit [www.literarydundee.co.uk](http://www.literarydundee.co.uk). Tickets are also available from Literary Dundee, 6th floor, Tower Building, University of Dundee, tel 01382 384413.