

Dan Simpson

WRITER · PERFORMER · EDUCATOR

07703 013 052 · hello@dansimpsonwords.co.uk · www.dansimpsonwords.co.uk · [@dansimpsonwords](https://twitter.com/dansimpsonwords)

Dan is a writer, performer, and educator with over 15 years of experience in the arts and creative industries, education sector, science and heritage settings, and with charities and businesses. He writes and performs new work for people and places, including in museums, scientific institutions, festivals, and at conferences. Dan designs and facilitates workshops that get people of all ages writing. He is also an emerging theatre-maker, currently developing a show with Chichester Festival Theatre.

Residencies

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Poet-in-Residence, National Memorial Arboretum | 2023–25 |
| Writing and performing poems; workshops for the public and schools; working with veterans and serving personnel on the Talent in the Ranks artist development programme. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Imperial College London | 2020–22 |
| Collaborating with researchers to create new work; new poems; social media takeovers; crowdsourcing poetry from the public; hosting public events; working with elder and youth groups; professional development for staff. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, St Albans Cathedral | 2020–21 |
| Commissioned poems; hosting public events; community and school workshops; social media output; up-skilling staff. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Glastonbury Festival | 2020–21 |
| Writing and performing commissioned poems; creating videos for social media platforms. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Stowe's Grecian Valley — National Trust | 2019–20 |
| Responsive poetry for a walking tour and book; public, mental health, and school workshops; hosting events; social media output; up-skilling staff. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Knole House — National Trust / Spread the Word | |
| Leading the youth engagement scheme; workshops for young people; commissioned and crowdsourced poems; hosting public events. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Canterbury Roman Museum — University of Kent | 2015 |
| A five-day documented walk from London to Canterbury; workshops; a downloadable audio tour; commissioned poems for a tour and book; launch events. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Waterloo Station — Transport for London / M&C Saatchi | 2013 |
| Pop-up performances; site-specific poetry installations; new poems for social media. | |
| Poet-in-Residence, Laxfield Low House — Inn Crowd | 2020 |
| A collection of poetry based on the pub and its history; workshops for local people; crowdsourced poetry and social media engagement; media duties. | |

Major projects

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Future Theatre Makers — Chichester Festival Theatre | 2025–27 |
| A 20-month artist development programme researching, writing and showing a new piece of theatre; mentoring and planning for a creative career in theatre. | |
| A Poem for Your Club — National Literacy Trust / Palace for Life Foundation | 2025 |
| Community workshops for Crystal Palace FC; writing an original poem; performing on a matchday. | |
| On the Cotton — Arts Council England Project Grant | 2022–23 |
| Pairing poets and cab drivers to write and perform original work on London's black cab history. Winning £15,000 funding; producing the project; managing artistic collaborations; mentoring emerging poets; hosting performances. Supported by the London Transport Museum and The Poetry Society. | |
| Experimental Words — Arts Council England / Dr Illingworth & Mr Simpson | 2016–21 |
| Twice Project Grant-funded: pairing poets and scientists to devise live performances and a spoken word album. Producer: facilitating workshops; commissioning artists; hosting events. Editions in Manchester, Edinburgh, London, Canterbury, and Chicago. | |
| Make Waves Creative Career Training Programme — Ideas Test | 2023–25 |
| Supporting emerging creative practitioners aged 18–25 in Medway; designing and facilitating professional development workshops; one-to-one mentoring through projects and work placements. | |
| Canterbury Laureate — Canterbury Festival | 2013–14 |
| School and community workshops; judging a school poetry competition; editing an anthology; hosting events and writing commissioned poems. | |
| Kielder Narratives — Kielder Observatory and Dark Sky Reserve | 2023 |
| Researching and writing text inspired by astrophysics, the landscape, and its people for a multimedia showcase; co-delivering a workshop for scientists and the public. | |

Staffordshire Hoard Reimagined — Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

2022

Research and writing on the largest Anglo-Saxon find in the UK; school workshops; After Hours performances; social media engagement.

23 Submarines — Icon Theatre / Medway Council

2015

Project manager and budget holder; commissioned poet; workshop facilitator; event host.

Conferences and events

Keynote and crowdsourced poems written live from delegates' words; hosting and facilitation. For the European Commission, Imperial College London, the University of Kent, and the National Museum of Scotland.

Education and community work

Dan works independently and with education providers in schools and community settings. He regularly delivers sessions with The Poetry Society and Apples and Snakes in primary and secondary schools, and has led a primary school writing programme and teacher CPD for Arvon. He currently works with RSHE provider Split Banana, and previously with rethinking-masculinities charity Beyond Equality, Future First, and First Give.

Writer-in-Residence, Charter School Bermondsey — First Story / independent

Creative writing workshops; hosting assemblies; creating a school anthology.

Poet-in-Residence, Greenleaf Primary School — Barbican Centre

Facilitating workshops; preparing students for a whole-school assembly.

Artist-in-Residence, SPINE Libraries — Apples and Snakes

Poetry and performance workshops for schools; hosting public events.

Poet-in-Residence, Bexley Libraries — Bexley Library Service

School and community workshops across multiple libraries; engaging participants.

Cook Club Book Club — Inter-Action MK

Designing and delivering workshops; interviewing for online events; creating a scrapbook with isolated and vulnerable people, focused on food and cooking.

Beyond the Art — own course

Designing and leading a course in creative facilitation for artists and practitioners.

Spoken Word Power — Eastside Arts

Writing and performance training for emerging spoken word artists.

Being With Me — A New Direction

Writing and presenting a film resource on permission and consent for relationships education and PSHE.

Publications

Poetry Prescription: Wild Remedy

Macmillan, 2025 · anthology, contributor

Masculinity: An Anthology of Modern Voices

Broken Sleep Books, 2024 · anthology, contributor

How To Write A Love Poem

Psyche Magazine, 2023 · article, author

National Trust Book of Nature Poems

National Trust, 2023 · anthology, contributor

Nature Guide to London

Voice for Nature, 2023 · guidebook, contributor

Totally Cultured

Burning Eye Books, 2020 · poetry collection, author

Under the Hawthorn

National Trust, 2019 · poetry collection, author

I Bet I Can Make You Laugh

Bloomsbury, 2018 · anthology, contributor

A Change of Climate

Independently published, 2017 · anthology, co-editor

The Best Poetry Book in the World

Burning Eye Books, 2017 · anthology, contributor

Weatherfronts: Climate Change and the Stories We Tell

Cambria Books, 2017 · anthology, contributor

Applied Mathematics

Burning Eye Books, 2014 · poetry collection, author