



DICKENS 2012



PENGUIN ANNOUNCED AS OFFICIAL PUBLISHING PARTNER FOR DICKENS 2012

Penguin Books is delighted to announce it has been selected as the official publishing partner of Dickens 2012, an international celebration of the cultural and educational significance of the life and work of Charles Dickens to mark the bicentenary of his birth.

Dr Florian Schweizer, Project Director of Dickens 2012, said: "Dickens 2012 welcomes the support from Penguin in engaging existing and new audiences, sharing our vision that Dickens's stories are as enjoyable, inspiring and relevant today as when they were first published over 140 years ago."

Dickens literary fever will start at Penguin on 6th October with the publication of Claire Tomalin's long-awaited biography *Charles Dickens: A Life*, already hailed as "one of the non-fiction highlights of the whole autumn" (Caroline Sanderson, *The Bookseller*), as well as exciting new publishing from Penguin Classics.

Penguin Classics will release two further clothbound editions (*Bleak House* and *Hard Times*) by acclaimed designer Coralie Bickford-Smith, to complete a set of six which will be released as a special-edition boxed set, entitled *Major Works of Charles Dickens*. In addition, a boxed set of Black Classics – *Great Novels of Charles Dickens* – will also be released.

Puffin Classics meanwhile will publish *David Copperfield* for the first time, thereby adding to their collection of abridged titles, which include introductions from the likes of Roddy Doyle, Anthony Horowitz and Garth Nix.

Dr Florian Schweizer continued: "The enjoyment of Charles Dickens's writings is at the heart of the Dickens 2012 campaign, and no publishing house over the last 50 years has done more to circulate his works worldwide than Penguin Books. We look forward to celebrating Dickens's achievements as one of the world's greatest storytellers with Penguin readers and authors alike, whether this will take place in libraries, online reading groups, at literary festivals or simply at home."

Adam Freudenheim, Penguin Classics Publisher, said:

"At Penguin Classics we are delighted to be the official publishing partner of Dickens 2012. As the world's leading Classics publisher we have long published a wide range of works by Charles Dickens, and we look forward to working closely with Dickens 2012 to remind people what a great writer he was and introduce him to a whole new generation."

As part of the celebrations, Penguin will be supporting city reads of *Oliver Twist* in Portsmouth and London, two significant locations in Dickens's life. Portsmouth's City Read will run from Saturday 11th February until Saturday 7th April, and will conclude with a party in the city's Guildhall Square with sing-a-long *Oliver!* on the BBC Big Screen. City Read London, a London Libraries initiative – the first of its kind in the capital – will run for a month from 2nd April, and will include a series of special events across London and online.

Co-ordinated by the Charles Dickens Museum, London and Film London, in association with the Dickens Fellowship, Dickens 2012 will see a huge range of activity taking place all over the world under the banner of Dickens 2012. Other partners include Barbican, BBC, BFI, British Council, Booktrust, British Library and the Museum of London.

**For further information please contact Anwen Hooson at Riot Communications on
020 3174 0118 / 07899 798885 / anwen@riotcommunications.com**

or

**Colette Geraghty at Film London on
020 7613 7680 / 07917 437 699 / colette.geraghty@filmlondon.org.uk**

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

Penguin Classics

- The *Major Works of Charles Dickens* boxed set (priced £100) will include the following titles: *Bleak House*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Hard Times*, *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Tale of Two Cities*.
- The *Great Novels of Charles Dickens* boxed set (priced £65) will include the following titles: *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *Little Dorritt*, *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *David Copperfield*.

Puffin Classics

- Puffin Classic editions already published: *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*.

Claire Tomalin

- Claire Tomalin was literary editor of the *New Statesman* then the *Sunday Times* before leaving to become a full-time writer. Her first book, *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, won the Whitbread First Book Award, and she has since written a number of highly acclaimed and bestselling biographies. *The Invisible Woman*, a definitive account of Dickens' relationship with the actress Ellen Ternan, won three major literary awards, and *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self* was Whitbread Book of the Year in 2002.

Dickens 2012

- Dickens 2012 is an international celebration of the cultural and educational significance of the life and work of Charles Dickens to mark the bicentenary of his birth. Dickens-related activity will take place all over the world under the Dickens 2012 banner to celebrate one of the world's most inspiring authors and provide a legacy for future generations.
- Dickens 2012 has an expanding list of supporters, which includes names such as Simon Callow CBE, Sir Derek Jacobi, Sir Cameron Mackintosh and Peter Ackroyd CBE, and is backed by the Mayor of London as a cultural highlight in 2012.
- Dickens 2012 is co-ordinated by the Charles Dickens Museum and Film London in association with the Dickens Fellowship.
- For further information, please visit: www.dickens2012.org