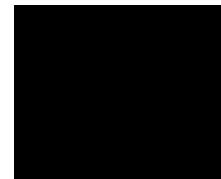


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**National  
Portrait  
Gallery**



## Media Release

### Britain's finest literary talents pictured in Southampton

This exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery celebrates some of Britain's finest literary talents. *Writers of Influence: Shakespeare to JK Rowling* features many important British writers and lyricists including William Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer, George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, Virginia Woolf, Agatha Christie, John Lennon and Jarvis Cocker. The exhibition includes artwork by Vanessa Bell, Bill Brandt, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Man Ray, Patrick Heron and Lord Snowdon.

One of the National Portrait Gallery's most important possessions - the 'Chandos' portrait of William Shakespeare will be the centrepiece of the exhibition, displayed alongside 60 of the National Portrait Gallery's most important literary portraits. Opening in Southampton on 23 July, the exhibition will travel on to Plymouth and Sunderland later in the year.

The exhibition's learning activities have been developed with young people from Southampton City Art Gallery's Youth Forum.

The exhibition is supported by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)/Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Strategic Commissioning Programme.

Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, London, says: 'The "Chandos" portrait is an iconic image and the founding image for the National Portrait Gallery. So this is an exciting opportunity for it to be shared with visitors around Britain. I am grateful for our partners and funders who are making this possible'.

**For further press information please contact:** Esta, Southampton City Art Gallery. Tel: 023 xxxx xxxx Email [xxx@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:xxx@southampton.gov.uk)

**For press images please visit the press website:** [www.npg.org.uk/press](http://www.npg.org.uk/press)

**Southampton City Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LP Opening hours:**

Monday-Friday: 10am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday: 11am - 6pm **Recorded information:** 02380 832277 **General information:** 02380 834536 **Website:** [www.southampton.gov.uk/art](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/art)

### NOTES FOR EDITORS

**Southampton dates: 23 July – 26 September 2010**

The sitters of the 61 portraits are: Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, John Milton, John Donne, Olaudah Equiano, Jane Austen, John Keats, George Gordon Byron, Aphra Behn, William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, Robert Louis Stephenson, Virginia Woolf, A A Milne, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Kenneth Grahame, Aldous Huxley, James Joyce, H G Wells, George Bernard Shaw, C S Lewis, George Orwell, Enid Blyton, T S Eliot, Agatha Christie, Ian Lancaster Fleming, John Lennon, William Golding, Robert Graves, Ted Hughes, J R R Tolkien, David Bowie, Jean Rhys, Ian Curtis, Kate Bush, Angela Carter, Johnny Rotten, Morrissey, Douglas Adams, Catherine Cookson, Roald Dahl, Carol Ann Duffy, John Le Carre, Salman Rushdie, Jarvis Cocker, Benjamin Zephaniah, Simon Armitage, Zadie Smith, Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman, Monica Ali, Seamus Heaney, JK Rowling, Amy Winehouse and Dizzee Rascal.