

Award winning WRITER, POET & FILM MAKER

## JOHN DAVIES

### POETRY

John published his first collection *The Nutter in the Shrubbery* in 2002. In the same year he won an *Archi-texts Award* for his first residency as *Shedman*. He has also received an Arts Council England personal development award. His poetry has been published in magazines and anthologies and he has read his work at events and festivals in the UK, Ireland and Europe. In 2003 he was one of the poets commissioned by THE SOUTH to contribute a poem to *Project poetry!* on the theme *place of birth*. His full collection *Shedman* was published in January 2008.

### FICTION

*The Lichfield Mysteries*

John is working on a series of detective novels set in the late eighteenth century.

*Short stories*

His stories *White Dog* and *Ghost of a Chance* have been broadcast on BBC local radio.

As John McConnell, John wrote *Dangerous Territory*, an audio book for children.

### AWARD WINNING FILM, VIDEO & DIGITAL MEDIA

John recently completed a music video for the HMV Choice online magazine for the *Young Coppers* – the next generation of the folk-singing Sussex family. In association with the Clinical Media Centre at Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust, John scripted and directed the DVD about the new *Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital* in Brighton working with the hospital's Children's and Young People's Board and *STOMP!* The video won Gold Award and Elmer Friman Best of Show Award at the *USA Health & Science Communications Awards 2008* at Yale University, and Gold Award as best in class and the Platinum Award for best overall entry at the *UK IMI Awards 2007*. His film *Iron Men* about motocross received UK cinema distribution. *The Quest*, an innovative motor racing film he wrote and directed for BMW, compared modern racing drivers to medieval knights and featured sequences of his poetry. He has won several awards for his documentary work, including a *BISFA Silver Award* for a film about urban renewal projects in Birmingham and a *World Travel Film Festival Award of Merit* for *The Mojacar Experience* about Almeria in southern Spain.

### WORKSHOPS

John has run creative writing workshops in shops, schools, galleries, museums, churches, libraries, hospitals, youth centres and prisons. John has also developed highly successful workshops combining creative writing with other media. For ASAP/Pevensey Community Festival, Bognor Regis in 2005 he developed *Spy Game* – a series of creative missions for young people based around spy fiction and ran the World's Shortest Spy Story text messaging competition. John set up Arundel Writers Group and from 2004-5 ran very successful creative writing workshops for older people culminating in publication. In 2006, 2007 & 2008 he ran workshops as part of Runnymede International Literary Festival.

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[www.shedman.net](http://www.shedman.net)

The original Shedman, John's alter ego is inspired by all kinds of sheds – garden sheds and aircraft hangars, shed antlers or skins, shedding tears or shedding light. He creates workshops and events that explore the place of the shed - and literature - in everyone's hearts, using sheds as the focus for a unique interaction with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. He was recently featured in the book *Shedmen* published by New Holland Press and on BBC 2's *Gardeners' World*.

Shedman has set up his shed at *The Big Weekend* in Cambridge; *Appledore Visual Arts Festival* on the quay at Appledore in Devon; the *Redbridge Show*, Ilford; the *Weald WoodFair* at Bentley in East Sussex; Chichester University for the conference of the *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*; Charleston for the *Small Wonder Short Story Festival*; *Royal Holloway, London University* as part of Runnymede International Literary Festival, and at hospitals in Eastbourne and Hastings as part of the Arts in Healthcare project *Outside In - Navigating the Hospital*. He's run workshops for many primary and secondary schools, including a special project for the Kent High Weald Unit and for Creative Partnerships in Hackney. Shedman was poet in residence at the *Cuisle International Poetry Festival* in Limerick, Ireland in October 2005, returning to show the documentary *Shedman in Limerick* in 2006 and to run a creative writing and video workshop for *Poetry Ireland* in 2007. In 2008 Shedman featured at Ledbury Poetry Festival in July and Havant Literary Festival in September.

"A refreshingly different approach to an arts residency...a memorable mixed media installation with a very human face...His residency was a motivating and energising process for all involved... I can recommend him unhesitatingly..."

John Cooper Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton

**THE SOUTH.**

[www.thesouth.org.uk](http://www.thesouth.org.uk)

John co-founded THE SOUTH in 2002. He was its Director until March 2008 and continues as a member of the main board. THE SOUTH is the organisation that enables, supports and develops writing in the region.



[www.pighog.co.uk](http://www.pighog.co.uk)

John set up this award-winning not for profit small press in 2002. In 2006 he attended the International Publishers' Meeting in Dane Slovenia. Pighog's second publication, Lorna Thorpe's *Dancing to Motown*, was the Poetry Book Society Choice for Autumn 2006.

John was born in Birmingham, England. He studied Comparative Religion & English at Lancaster University. He's a member of *English PEN*, *The Poetry Society*, 26, *The Johnson Society* of London and *The Society for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. He's a director of Brighton Children's Book Festival, John Davies & Co. Ltd, Pighog Press, THE SOUTH Writers Network Ltd and Univiva Ltd.

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