

TONY WALSH | POET, WRITER, PERFORMER, EDUCATOR, SPEAKER, EVENT HOST | BIOGRAPHY

Manchester's Tony Walsh (aka Longfella) is one of the UK's leading spoken word poets. A former Poet in Residence for Glastonbury Festival and a regular on tv and radio, Tony's powerful poems regularly reach six and seven figure audiences online. His work has been commissioned by the Imperial War Museum, Lake District National Park, The Observer, The Guardian, Channel 4 News, and many times by the BBC. An electrifying performer, Tony's poem to mark the 60th anniversary of the iconic Blue Peter earned a standing ovation at the 2018 BAFTA Children's Awards. Tony's recent commissions include writing for Socceraid, live on ITV1, live from Abbey Road for the final of the Great British Menu on BBC2, and for the launch of the 2021 Rugby League World Cup.



A popular keynote speaker, after dinner speaker and workshop leader at a wide variety of conferences and dinners, Tony has hosted events, performed and/or spoken at venues including Old Trafford, the Etihad Stadium, St James' Palace, Lambeth Place and The Grosvenor, Park Lane.

"Sex & Love & Rock&Roll", his acclaimed debut collection, will be followed in 2021 by "Work/Life/Balance", with new titles for younger audiences also in the pipeline with a major publisher. In 2017 his poem "This Is The Place" made headlines worldwide in the aftermath of the Manchester Arena bomb, subsequently raising around £200k for Manchester charities. Tony is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an Ambassador for National Poetry Day UK and was awarded an honorary doctorate by The University of Salford in 2018.

In a former life, Tony worked in the public sector for 22 years between 1989 and 2011: including 10 years with Manchester City Council and 8 with Salford City Council. Progressing from the role of inner city Housing Officer and Team Leader, Tony worked as a Social Inclusion Manager, Community Regeneration Co-ordinator and Neighbourhood Manager in both inner city and semi-rural settings, and is an experienced leader on a wide range of service delivery and partnership agendas.

Tony continues to combine both elements of his unique, twin track cv and has led acclaimed projects with offenders, refugees and asylum seekers, adults with experience of homelessness, addiction and mental ill health, in youth settings, in schools and colleges from Keswick to Kazakhstan and with a wide variety of local authorities, charities, third sector organisations, companies and broadcasters.

For project ideas, event bookings, commission enquiries etc, please contact Tony at:

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