

KEVIN MACNEIL – NOVELIST, POET, SCREENWRITER & TUTOR

"There are so many people in the world that the chances of someone breathing in absolute unison with you right now are very high indeed. Feel synchronised." - Kevin MacNeil



ABOUT

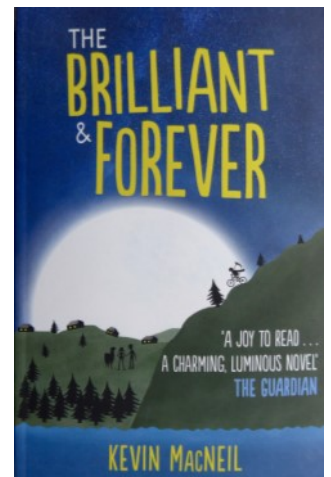
"I am a novelist, poet, playwright, journalist and writing tutor born and raised in the Outer Hebrides, now living in London. My novels, [A Method Actor's Guide to Jekyll and Hyde](#) (Polygon) and bestselling debut, [The Stornoway Way](#) (Penguin), were both published to widespread critical acclaim. My first book, [Love and Zen in the Outer Hebrides](#) (Canongate), won the Tivoli Europa Giovani International Poetry Prize for best poetry collection published in Europe by a writer under 35. I am also the author of [Be Wise Be Otherwise](#) (Canongate) and plays [The Callanish Stoned](#) (Theatre Hebrides) and [Sweetness](#), an adaptation of a novel by Swedish author Torgny Lindgren. My short stories have been published extensively.

My latest poetry anthology, [Struileag: Shore to Shore](#), a collection celebrating the Gaelic diaspora, will be published in March 2015. [These Islands, We Sing](#), a collection of poetry from the Scottish islands, was published by Polygon in 2011."

Kevin MacNeil was born and raised on the Isle of Lewis. He has taught creative writing at the universities of Uppsala, Edinburgh and Kingston and has performed his work internationally. He was the inaugural Iain Crichton Smith Bilingual Writing Fellow and he has recently become an honorary writer in residence at Kingston University. Among his awards are the Tivoli Europa Giovani International Poetry Prize and a JB Priestley award. MacNeil's books include novels, poetry collections and anthologies. He is also a lyricist, screenwriter, Buddhist and a keen cyclist.

His latest novel is *The Brilliant & Forever* – "This is a novel like no other; a whip-cracking, energetic, laugh-out-loud satire on what we value in culture, and in our lives. And yet, written with exquisite warmth and empathy, *The Brilliant & Forever* is also a moving exploration of integrity, friendship and belonging. It'll split your sides and break your heart."

Kevin often collaborates with visual artists and musicians. The album *Kevin MacNeil and Willie Campbell Are Visible From Space* (An Lanntair) [5] was released to acclaim in 2011. A single taken from the album, *Local Man Ruins Everything* (Fantastic Plastic) was formerly Single of the Week in *The Guardian*, [6] in *The List* and on Steve Lamacq's BBC Radio 6 show.



Kevin will be presenting two workshops at the **THREE LOCHS BOOK and ARTS FESTIVAL** :
"How to write great dialogue" - 11.45 - 12.45

Novels, films, plays and short stories often utilise captivating dialogue. Many writers feel intimidated by dialogue, but once the author understands the roles dialogue plays in a piece of work writing dialogue becomes an easier, more enjoyable, skill to master. This workshop will ask (and answer) such questions as: what is dialogue for? How does it relate to plot and characterisation? How do I know if my dialogue is working? Do people really mean what they say? Or say what they mean?

"A better person, a better writer" - 16.00—17.00

'Literature is the better part of life. To this it seems invariably necessary to add, provided life is the better part of literature.' So said American poet, Wallace Stevens. This relaxed, informal workshop looks at the interaction between life and literature and shows that many of the skills that make us better authors - such as awareness, empathy, being able to give and take criticism - can make us better people. Writing is not therefore a mere 'indulgence'; it can offer us beneficial roles within wider society, make us more employable, and help us understand the bigger questions in life.

www.kevinmacneil.com