



The National Archives

Press release

22 October 2009

GOTHIC NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES WITH AUTHOR MIKE CAREY

Are you thinking of spooky things to do this Halloween? Are you dying for a good party? Then why not join Mike Carey, author of *'The Devil You Know'*, the first novel in the Felix Castor series, for a night of strangeness and mystery at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA).

As part of the Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com, an ongoing celebration of archive treasures in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, some of the more intriguing and eerie materials held at LMA will be 'dug up' for the night.

Mike Carey will bring his book to life by reading excerpts from passages. As some of the novel's spooky action is set in an archive just like the LMA, it may all seem oddly familiar.

Mike has worked for both DC Comics and Marvel Comics, writing storylines for some of the world's most iconic characters, including *X-Men*, *Fantastic Four*, *Lucifer* and *Hellblazer*. He currently has a movie, *Trinity*, in development with Slingshot Pictures. Mike has also adapted Neil Gaiman's acclaimed *Neverwhere* into comics.

The evening will include an introduction to some fascinating items from LMA collections. Additionally there will be readings and renditions from the work of some of LMA spookiest London authors, plus a behind the scenes tour of the archive. For those who want to be more hands on, there will be plenty of captivating gothic activities such as sideshow acts and games to join in with.

Specially invited guests on the night are *Greatantimacassars* who will be bringing their own special style of Gothic performance to the event, complete with accordion!

Mike Carey, Author said:

"The Castor novels are all about finding the strange and unsettling in the everyday sights and scenes of London - and to my mind, there's nothing stranger than the mesmerizing stories that come out of archives. Archives throw up a million stories of every kind, for every mood. Come along on the 30th and let me show you..."

Jan Pimblett, Principal Interpretation Officer, London Metropolitan Archives said:

"We're buzzing about this site...there will be some genuinely unnerving moments to be found in our document installations. If you want to sign away your soul, come and meet the gravedigger from Spa Fields and be startled by an unexpected performance."

Paul Sherreard, Interpretation Officer said;

"The bizarre stony face antics of the *Greatantimacassars* should have visitors in stitches. Hopefully, they will also find humour in the gravedigger's story of limbs, chimneys and ancient books! However, if people need to soothe their nerves there will be plenty of wine to gulp and lots of 'fiendish' nibbles to feast on."

Anyone wishing to attend Gothic Night, Friday 30 October 2009 7pm-10pm, which costs £7.50 / £5 concessions, including refreshments, can book by calling 020 7332 385.

-Ends-

For further details, spokespeople or images on the Archive Awareness Campaign, please contact **Angela Owusu** on **0208 392 5237** or email

Angela.Owusu@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Notes to Editors:

Mike Carey www.mike-carey.co.uk is available for media interviews before the event. Please contact Jan Pimblett for more details (see below).

- Anyone wishing to attend the event, which costs £7.50 / £5 concessions including a glass of wine, can book by calling on 020 7332 3851, emailing ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk or sending a cheque payable to the City of London to Interpretation (Bookings), LMA, 40, Northampton Road, London, EC1R 0HB.
- Jan Pimblett, Principal Interpretation Officer, London Metropolitan Archives, telephone 020 7332 3893, jan.pimblett@cityoflondon.gov.uk
- **Antimacassar** is the little cloth people always used to, and sometimes today, put on the backs of settees to stop greased up heads marking the furniture.
- **The City of London Corporation:** The City of London Corporation, which provides local government services for the Square Mile, the financial and commercial heart of Britain, works nationally and internationally to maintain and enhance the City as a world-leading international financial and business centre. Its other special responsibilities and services to London and the wider UK include the Barbican Arts Centre, London Metropolitan Archives, the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey, 10,000 acres of open space including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest, three wholesale food markets, two inner-London City Academies, the City Bridge Trust, economic regeneration programmes in neighbouring boroughs and acting as London's Port Health Authority. The Lord Mayor of the City of London (currently, Ian Luder), works extensively at home and abroad to promote the City.
- Archive Awareness is spearheaded by the National Council on Archives (www.ncaonline.org.uk) and funded by The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (www.mla.gov.uk).
- Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures. It celebrates and promotes local and national archives. Throughout the year archives across the country open their doors to showcase history, hold open days and present workshops to help the public discover a piece of their own history.