

South West Poet Profile: Callum Mitchell



When he was a boy, Callum Mitchell dreamt of becoming a super sleuth in the mould of a certain Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street. It is perhaps not too surprising to discover that he is still waiting for this dream to materialise. However, in the meantime Callum has been carving out quite a career for himself as a writer and performance poet.

Music has always had a big influence on Callum's work, and it was through scribbling lyrics as a young teenager that he first discovered where his natural ability lay. Influenced by everyone from David Byrne to Nick Drake, and from Damon Albarn to Ol' Dirty Bastard, Callum would spend hours holed up in his bedroom crafting his own couplets, which he then began performing on stages throughout the south-West as part of several different music collectives. This soon led to bigger things, with slots at the Glastonbury, Port Eliot, Tip Of Your Tongue, Trovya and Tremeneheere festivals, lining up alongside the likes of Slam Champion Byron Vincent, 'million pound poet' Murray Lachlan Young, Kneehigh playwright Annamaria Murphy and more recently Sabrina Mahfouz, Francesca Beard and Aisle 16's John Osborne.

Keen to extend his storytelling further and explore the form of fiction writing and journalism, Callum graduated from University College Falmouth in October 2009 with a Masters in professional writing, receiving a distinction based on the beginnings of his debut novel, *A Certain Romance*. What made Callum's success even more remarkable is that he jumped straight into the Masters from GCSE level. He has had work published in various literary journals including *Pen Pusher*, *Scryfa*, *Radgepacket* and *Benzanoe*, and can currently be found reviewing music at For Folk's Sake. He is also in the process of finishing his novel, developing a comedy screenplay and penning his first solo stage show. For many years he has fantasised about fleeing to France to live the bohemian dream once described by Hemingway in *A Movable Feast*, or at least to track down and propose to the actress Audrey Tatou.

Visit Callum's website [here](#) and his blog [here](#).

Pic of Callum courtesy [Alastair Sopp](#)