December 5th, 2018

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Gardners, in partnership with All Media Supply in the USA are proud to be sponsoring The Bookshop Band on their US Tour from mid-January.

A sell-out tour across a number of states await The Bookshop Band, formed of Ben Please and Beth Porter. The band was originally formed by Ben after he was approached by his local bookseller Nic Bottomley, of Mr B’s Emporium of Reading Delights in Bath, to create songs inspired by the works of the bookshop’s guest authors and play these songs at the author events.

The tour will launch at Little City Books in Hoboken, New Jersey on 16th January and close at the WORD Bookstore in Brooklyn, New York on 3rd February. There are over a dozen stops in between and they are also paying a special visit to the ABA Winter Institute to play in a series of special performances.

Gardners are delighted to be sponsoring the tour and enabling this fantastic band to reach independent booksellers in the USA too.

**Nic Bottomley - Mr B’s Emporium of Reading Delights**

“The Bookshop Band made its debut at Mr B’s back in 2010 after Ben and I had dreamed up the zany concept of him creating a band to write songs about our guest author’s books. Ever since, book-loving music fans and music-loving book-nuts have heard them play their huge catalogue of catchy melodic insightful tunes, in venues ranging from one-room bookstores, to Glastonbury Festival.

Now, finally, thanks to the incredibly generous sponsorship of Gardners & AMS and the invitation of our friends at the American Booksellers Association, the band can head across the Atlantic to play their songs in American independent bookshops and at the Winter Institute.

Many of our peers in America have been itching to host The Bookshop Band and we at Mr B’s are so proud and excited to see them finally heading stateside. And on a personal level I am as excited as ever to see a genuinely creative industry collaboration come to fruition, thanks to the efforts of a very forward-thinking transatlantic wholesaler in Gardners, many American booksellers, a trade association, two musicians and, never forget, their two year old daughter who is in for a memorable first road trip!”

**Nigel Wyman– Gardners**

When Nic from Mr B’s first approached me with this opportunity, something clicked straight away and I knew we had to be part of this exciting US tour.  It did not take long before Jonathan Little, MD and owner of Gardners, agreed this was a great idea.

We at Gardners, alongside our US sister company All Media Supply (AMS), are very happy to be supporting The Bookshop Band’s US tour.  We feel a close kinship to this band with their close ties to the book selling community.  They offer something truly unique and entertaining, playing music and singing about the things we all love – books!

We really are looking forward to seeing them perform at the ABA Winter Institute in late January next year.  Gardners & AMS are also now stocking all of The Bookshops Band’s albums so all our bookshops, UK and stateside will be able to purchase their music and be a part of this fantastic transatlantic event!

**Todd Oenbrink- All Media Supply (AMS)**

When the team at Gardners told us that we had the opportunity to support this tour, we at AMS knew that it would be the perfect collaboration between books and music. AMS started out as a music distributor and has made a large push into books over the last year thanks to our connection to Gardners. There are few things better than a great song or a great book to take you to another place or bring you back to a moment in history that made a real impact in your life.

**Ben Please - The Bookshop Band**

For years people have been coming up to us after concerts saying that we’d go down really well in the US and so it’s always been a pipe dream of ours to organise a tour there, always postponed to the following year as the logistics and costs of such a tour were always too great for us to manage.

When Dwight Garner, the head literary critic of The New York Times came to Wigtown - Scotland’s Book Town to write an article on The Open Book - the bookshop anyone can run for a week through Air B’n’B, we performed for him and the result was a wonderful write up in The New York Times where he laid down the challenge to get us over to the US.

*“The Bookshop Band is not just good but achingly good*… *If America’s independent booksellers can’t figure a way to get these two, plus Molly, to tour America, they’re doing something wrong.”*

What followed was an invitation from the ABA to come and perform at their Winter Institute in January 2019, an amazing chance for us to play in front of all the independent booksellers of America. Everything was falling into place except that it is very hard and expensive for UK bands to perform in the US, the visa alone requires a month or two of work and it costs more than we could hope to earn.

The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when Gardners / AMS came forward to sponsor the tour, it just couldn’t have happened without them and it would have remained our US pipe dream, and we’re eternally grateful. We can’t believe it is actually happening! We’ve lined up concerts in 15 other bookshops and libraries, spanning New York, New Jersey, New Mexico and Colorado and we’re very proud to be taking over songs inspired by Mr B’s curation of 8 years of fantastic new literature, and hopefully bringing a bit of the flavour of what is happening in the UK’s literature scene over to the US.

**Tour Dates:**

16th January - Little City Books – Hoboken – New Jersey

17th January - Short Stories & Community Hub – Madison – New Jersey

18th January - Turn of the Corkscrew Books- Rockville Centre – New York

19th January - New York Public Library – New York

19th January - Book Culture – New York

20th January - Maria’s Bookstore – Durango – Colorado

**22nd – 25th January – American Booksellers Association Winter Institute – Albuquerque**

23rd January - Bookworks – Albuquerque – New Mexico

25th January - Title Wave Books - Albuquerque – New Mexico

27th January - OpCit Books - Santa Fe – New Mexico

27th January - The Collected Works - Santa Fe – New Mexico

28th January - OpCit Books – Taos – New Mexico

31st January - Denver Public Library - Denver - Colorado

31st January - Hearth Fire Books – Evergreen – Colorado

31st January - Denver Public Library - Colorado

1st February - Boulder Books – Boulder – Colorado

2nd February - Second Star to the Right – Denver – Colorado

2nd February - Tattered Cover – Denver – Colorado

3rd February - WORD Bookstore – Brooklyn – New York

\*Tour dates and locations subject to change.

You can visit [www.gardners.com/bookshopband](http://www.gardners.com/bookshopband) for more information on the band, and the tour.