

PRESS RELEASE - 16 AUGUST 2011

Born to be Queen – Daisy Solomons’ memoir reveals the other side of the Bohemian 50s and 60s.

The remarkable memoir of Daisy Solomons *Born to be Queen* is launched on Thursday 8th September from 6.30-8.30pm at the Old Fire Station, Mayton Street, London N7 6QT.

Born to be Queen is the story of a girl who refuses to be cowed by the appalling Victorian orphanage to which her mother sent her and her sister. Daisy, born Penny Wardman 1944 in Liverpool, should have been born in Holloway but Hitler had other ideas. Her mother ran a boarding house in St George’s Avenue, N7 and when the man called Daddy died in the first floor back bedroom, two year old Penny simply thought that another lodger had left. When she learned that she shared a birthday with the new Queen Elizabeth II who always looked very grumpy, Penny was certain that she could do the job better. If she were Queen, she would “smile like anything.”

While at the Italia Conti Stage School in Soho she entered a world of con-men, fringe theatre playwrights and jazz clubs and became stupendously promiscuous. *Born to be Queen* traces the early years of Penny’s life, from her birth to 1963 when, aged just 19, her baby daughter was taken from her. Simple, intelligent writing and self-mocking humour make this memoir impossible to put down.

About Daisy Solomons

Born Penny Wardman in Liverpool, in 1944, after Reedham Orphanage, Daisy went to the Italia Conti Stage School in Soho from 1959-61. After a few years of sex and drugs and rock’n’roll, she returned to education aged 36, and gained a BA in English and History from London University (Goldsmiths). She recently retired from running a guesthouse with her husband in Crouch End London to concentrate on writing. In 2001, Discover Islington published her guide *The Urban Guesthouse*. Her memoir *Born to be Queen* will be released on 8th September 2011.

Born to be Queen will be launched by Michéle Roberts, Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, and Booker shortlisted, on Thursday 8th September from 6.30-8.30pm at the Old Fire Station, Mayton Street, London N7 6QT. Michéle, who has mentored Daisy will make a speech at the book launch. Michéle says: “Daisy’s writing is characterised by wit, humour, elegance and intelligence. She tells a riveting and fascinating story of the other side of the bohemian fifties and sixties, writing about horrific details of hardship and abuse with a darkly comic panache that makes her work very appealing.”

For more information about *Born to be Queen*, please visit www.daisysolomons.com

Copies of *Born to be Queen* can be ordered via the website, priced at £9.99 + P&P.