Rachel McCarthy

I'm a poet, broadcaster and producer of multi-media theatre. I'm former Director of the Exeter Poetry Festival and founder of ExCite Poetry, the Devon arm of the Poetry Society and largest such group in the UK. I'm particularly interested in the cross-over between poetry and other disciplines, particularly science, and the use of digital content in performance.

In 2015 I won the inaugural Laureate's Choice Award from Carol Ann Duffy for my first pamphlet *Element*. In 2016 I developed *Element* into a multi-media performance *Alphabet of Our Universe*. This was picked as one to watch in the *Guardian* and toured the UK and France.

I'm media-trained and have worked with television, print-media and BBC Radio 4. I also co-hosted a live arts-review show on Phonic FM, hailed by the Sunday Times as 'providing some of the most inspiring broadcasting in the country'.

I've extensive experience working at Executive level on the development of strategy and business plans for large organisations and have worked as an advisor to UK Ministers and Secretaries of State and the European Commission in my career as a climate scientist. I'm the most rapidly promoted scientist in the 160-year history of the Met Office and worked alongside Chief Scientist Prof Dame Julia Slingo FRS OBE before becoming the first Expert in Communications for the Office.

I have joined the PSWG committee to ensure that artists are being valued as professionals, to raise the profile of the importance of their work to society and push for fair pay. I believe my background in Government, communications, planning and media-interaction could help steer the committee in protecting and promoting artists' work and to highlight issues affecting them.

Shazea Quraishi

I am a Pakistani-born poet, translator and facilitator of poetry and translation workshops, with a special interest in working with isolated and vulnerable groups to promote inclusion and diversity.

My poems have been published widely in the UK and US in publications including the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times*, *Poetry Review* and *Modern Poetry in Translation* and I am the author of a Bloodaxe collection, *The Art of Scratching* (2015) and a chapbook, *The Courtesans Reply* (flipped eye publishing, 2012), which I am adapting as a play for stage. In 2015 I was the recipient of a Brooklease Grant from the Royal Society of Literature, and an Artists International Development Fund award.

Since 2010, I have worked with English PEN's outreach programme, as a creative writing facilitator in prisons, refugee centres and schools, and I am currently a trustee on their Board. I also teach with the Poetry School and Translators in Schools and I am an artist in residence with Living Words, an arts and dementia charity.

shazea.wordpress.com

Jacqueline Saphra

I'm a working poet and a teacher in adult education, have published two chapbooks and two collections and I teach in a number of different settings including The Poetry School. I have a degree in drama, a diploma in playwriting, I'm a graduate in scriptwriting from The National Film School, and have an MPhil in Creative Writing.

I've organised a number of successful large-scale poetry events including the first ever fundraising Poem-A-Thon in aid of Medecins Sans Frontieres. I've been on the editorial board of *Magma Poetry*, been Poet in Residence for *Good Housekeeping Magazine* and for Transport for London. I was one of the founders of The Shuffle, a monthly reading event that helped to raise the profile of many early career poets, and I also co-founded 'Somewhere in Particular', an organisation creating site-specific poetry events.

I'm particularly interested in widening audiences for poetry. My background is in theatre and film and I'm passionate about cross-genre collaborations and live literature. I have collaborated with visual artists, musicians and other poets and enjoy performing with others.

I've been at the sharp end of many readings, not sure how much money to accept or ask for, whether to agree to no fee and under what circumstances. I have given my services free sometimes, and at other times refused to. I've joined the committee because I believe we can raise the profile of poetry beyond poets themselves, that we should clarify issues around remuneration and expectations and consider how poetry and poets are valued (or not), and to consider in fact how we value ourselves and our expertise.