



## Elif Shafak, Lucy Hughes-Hallett and Andrew Holgate to judge The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award 2017

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**12 May, 2017** – The award-winning novelist and political commentator **Elif Shafak** and the acclaimed cultural historian and biographer **Lucy Hughes-Hallett** will join **Andrew Holgate** on the judging panel of The Sunday Times / Peter Frasers + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award. Now run in association with the University of Warwick, the prize rewards the best work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry by a British or Irish author aged between 18 and 35.

Having rewarded two exceptional writers of their generation in the two years since its return in 2015 – the debut poet Sarah Howe for her first collection, *Loop of Jade* (Chatto & Windus), and Max Porter for his genre-bending debut *Grief Is the Thing With Feathers* (Faber & Faber) – the prize has established itself as a widely regarded source for identifying the best young writing talent.

**Elif Shafak** is one of today's most influential international writers and intellectuals who straddles East and West. She is the acclaimed author of ten novels including *The Architect's Apprentice*, *The Bastard of Istanbul* and most recently *Three Daughters of Eve* (Penguin, February 2017) and is the most widely read female writer in Turkey. Her work has been translated into over forty languages and she has been awarded the prestigious Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. She is also a cultural commentator, a political scientist and an inspirational public speaker.

**Lucy Hughes-Hallett's** first novel, *Peculiar Ground*, will be published on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Her previous book, *The Pike* (2013), a biography of Gabriele D'Annunzio, won all three of this country's most prestigious non-fiction prizes: the Samuel Johnson Prize, the Duff Cooper Prize, and the Costa Biography of the Year Award. She is a widely respected critic and reviewer, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

**Andrew Holgate** has been the Literary Editor of The Sunday Times for eight years, and before that was the Deputy Literary Editor for nine. He has worked in bookselling, publishing and literary journalism, and has judged many other prizes, including the Samuel Johnson Award and the Somerset Maugham.

**Elif Shafak said:**

*"It is an immense pleasure and privilege to join the judging panel of The Sunday Times/Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award. This is a very special and truly uplifting award for writers at a relatively early stage of their long literary journeys. What a joy will it be to discover, accompany and celebrate the most amazing young talents who will shape the future of world literature."*

**Lucy Hughes-Hallett said:**

*"I'm looking forward to reading the work of the next generation of great British and Irish writers, and it's exciting to be able to give them a boost early in their careers."*

**Andrew Holgate said:**

*"I'm so delighted that two such powerful literary voices are able to join me this year, to bring their expertise and experience to bear on the judging process, and to continue the exponential growth of the prize since its rebirth via the kind sponsorship of Peters Fraser + Dunlop, and now associate sponsorship of the University of Warwick. Our two most recent award winners, Sarah Howe and Max Porter, continue a line of excellence that stretches back 26 years, taking their place alongside now preeminent writers such as Robert Macfarlane, Zadie Smith, Sarah Waters and Simon Armitage. All this convinces me further of the prize's value in identifying and championing the best new talent, and I'm very, very excited by what 2017 will bring."*

From 2017, the award is running in association with the **University of Warwick**, who are offering a bespoke 10-week residency for the award's winner, a day festival of events, and a year-round programme of on-campus and digital support for award alumni and the year's shortlist. The university is home to the acclaimed Warwick Writing Programme, the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in Europe, which includes renowned authors including Will Eaves, Maureen Freely, Michael Hulse, A.L. Kennedy, Tim Leach, David Morley, Sarah Moss, Ian Sansom, Jonathan Skinner, and David Vann.

To be eligible for The Sunday Times Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award books must have been first published in the UK and/or the Republic of Ireland, in the English language, between 2 May 2016 and 2 June 2017. This year, self-published authors in particular are being encouraged to apply.

Submissions close on **Sunday 2 June, 2017**. The shortlist of four books will be announced on **5 November**, followed by the winner on **7 December**.

The award has a reputation for spotting the literary stars of tomorrow, boasting an incredible line up of past winners, including: **Ross Raisin**, *God's Own Country* (2009); **Adam Foulds**, *The Truth About These Strange Times* (2008); **Naomi Alderman**, *Disobedience* (2007), **Robert Macfarlane**, *Mountains of the Mind: a History of a Fascination* (2004); **William Fiennes**, *The Snow Geese* (2003); **Zadie Smith**, *White Teeth* (2001); **Sarah Waters**, *Affinity* (2000); **Paul Farley**, *The Boy from the Chemist is Here to See You* (1999); **Patrick French**, *Liberty or Death: India's Journey to Independence and Division* (1998); **Francis Spufford**, *I May Be Some Time: Ice and the English Imagination* (1997); **Katherine Pierpoint**, *Truffle Beds* (1996); **Andrew Cowan**, *Pig* (1995); **William Dalrymple**, *City of Djinn: A Year in Delhi* (1994); **Simon Armitage**, *Kid* (1993); **Caryl Phillips**, *Cambridge* (1992); and **Helen Simpson**, *Four Bare Legs in a Bed and Other Stories* (1991).

For further information and submission details, including full terms and conditions, please visit **the new website of the award** at: [youngwriteraward.com](http://youngwriteraward.com).

Keep up to date with the award and join the conversation, via:

[youngwriteraward.com](http://youngwriteraward.com) | [twitter.com/youngwriteryear](https://twitter.com/youngwriteryear) | [facebook.com/youngwriteraward](https://facebook.com/youngwriteraward)

**ENDS**

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## Notes to Editors

### About The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award in association with the University of Warwick:



Twenty-seven years old this year, the award recognises the best literary work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry by a British or Irish writer of 35 and under. £5,000 is given to the winner, and £500 to each of the three runners-up. The award was suspended in 2008, but now, in generous partnership with Peters Fraser + Dunlop, the award has been revitalised, while building on this remarkable past, offering two significant and exciting innovations: extending its reach by including writers from Ireland and including self-published works as well as those from publishers – putting the prize in tune with the changing landscape of British publishing.

### About Peters Fraser + Dunlop:



Peters Fraser + Dunlop is one of the oldest and most established literary and talent agencies in London. We are proud to represent authors, journalists, broadcasters, speakers and estates with specialist expertise in the fields of literature, film, television and radio, public speaking, digital platforms and journalism. We offer our clients the best people to work with and the expertise to develop long-term value in their work across all media while protecting their rights in today's changing market. Our business is about creativity, enhancement, innovation and service.

### About the University of Warwick:



The University of Warwick offers a bespoke 10-week winner residency, a festival of events, and a year-round programme of on-campus and digital support for alumni and the shortlist. The University of Warwick is consistently ranked in the top 10 universities in the UK and top 100 in the world. It is one of the UK's leading universities, with an acknowledged reputation for excellence in research, teaching and innovation alongside pioneering links with business and industry. It is home to the acclaimed Warwick Writing

Programme, the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in Europe, which is currently home to renowned authors such as: Will Eaves, Maureen Freely, Michael Hulse, A.L. Kennedy, Tim Leach, David Morley, Sarah Moss, Ian Sansom, Jonathan Skinner, and David Vann.

### About The Society of Authors:



The Society of Authors (SoA) administers The Sunday Times / Peters, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award. A professional organisation representing over 9,000 authors, The SoA was founded in 1884, it supports individual authors with services including contract vetting and acts as an advocate for the profession as a whole. The SoA also administers a wide

range of prizes, as well as the Authors' Foundation, which is one of the very few bodies making grants to help with work in progress for established writers.

**About the Sunday Times:**

*The Sunday Times* is the UK's largest circulation quality Sunday newspaper with a circulation of 789,557. Over 413,600 people subscribe to the digital and/or print editions of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*. Renowned for its technological innovation, *The Sunday Times* is available for download on all platforms and devices including Android, Amazon Kindle and iOS. *The Sunday Times* has a reputation for award-winning, courageous and campaigning investigative journalism, breaking many major world exclusives. With 8 sections every week, *The Sunday Times* offers great value to readers and it is recognised not only for breaking news but for its unrivalled coverage of sports, business, the arts and entertainment.