



**Embargoed until 20.30hrs on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Iconic reggae musician and poet, LINTON KWESI JOHNSON, Whitbread winner TASH AW, Man Booker nominated FIONA MOZLEY, Women's Prize shortlistee, JESSIE GREENGRASS and debut novelist**

**OMAR ROBERT HAMILTON amongst winners as 31 of the 'boldest' writers from across the world share the UK'S biggest literary fund.**

Writers and poets from across the globe were celebrating tonight (**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July**) as the **2018 Authors' Awards** were announced by the **Society of Authors** at a ceremony at RIBA. Hosted by Stephen Fry with an introduction by the President of the SoA, **Philip Pullman**, eight **awards** were presented to **31 writers** with a host of debut names joining recognised writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry to share a prize fund of **£98,000**.

This 'night of riches', uniquely judged *by writers for writers* saw over 400 guests from across the publishing industry come together as the winners of the **Betty Trask, McKitterick, Tom-Gallon Trust and Somerset Maugham** awards were announced in addition to the **Cholmondeley Awards** for outstanding contribution to poetry, the **Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography**, five **Travelling Scholarships** and the **Eric Gregory Award** for a collection of poems by poets under 30. The winners join an illustrious line of previous award winners including **Zadie Smith, Seamus Heaney, Helen Dunmore, Hari Kunzru, Carol Ann Duffy** and **Mark Haddon**.

**Speaking about the Authors' Awards Joanne Harris, judge for the Betty Trask Prize and Awards, and SoA Council and Management Committee Member, said:**

*"The Authors' Awards are among the most exciting and important literary awards around, and I'm honoured to be a part of them. Awarded to authors by authors, they're not designed to showcase celebrities or promote high-profile sponsors; just to honour writers and to bring their talent to the public's attention. This year we have an especially interesting and impressive group of shortlistees and winners, and as a judge of the Betty Trask Prize, I've always been impressed by the scope and diversity of the entrants."*

**David Donachie, Chair of the Society of Authors Management Committee says of the Awards:**

*"These awards are unique for being uncommercial, funded to the tune of nearly £100,000 by bequests from writers working in every form, judged by their present-day heirs and awarded to the best in each category. They celebrate, as well as promote, writers and writing and nothing else."*

The judges for each award, including **Joanne Harris, Samantha Shannon, Frances Fyfield, Abir Mukherjee, Irenosen Okojie, Sameer Rahim, Jen Campbell, Pascale Petit** and **Paul**

**Bailey**, were united in their praise for the ‘*compelling, challenging, original and emotionally charged*’ writing with every facet of human experience, both worldly and other-worldly, home-grown and international, explored.

## **THE WINNERS ARE:**

### **BETTY TRASK AWARD WINNERS – AWARDED £10,000**

#### **OMAR ROBERT HAMILTON FOR *THE CITY ALWAYS WINS* (FABER AND FABER)**

Omar Robert Hamilton is an award-winning filmmaker and writer. He has written for the *Guardian*, *the London Review of Books*, *Mada Masr* and *Guernica*. He is a co-founder of the Palestine Festival of Literature and the Mosireen media collective in Cairo. **OMAR LIVES IN CAIRO.**

**Ben Brooks, Betty Trask judge says:** "*A furious, frenetic novel that captures a pivotal moment in history. It conjures the whispers and screams, from the Cairo streets and the homes of a city unravelling, as its residents battle through their grief.*"

### **BETTY TRASK PRIZE WINNERS: - EACH AWARDED £3250**

#### **SARAH DAY SHORTLISTED FOR *MUSSOLINI'S ISLAND* (TINDER PRESS)**

Sarah Day is a writer and science communicator. With a background in the history and philosophy of science, she has also written non-fiction for publications including *The Guardian*, *The Vagenda* and the British Society for Literature and Science. She works as an Earth Science Communicator at the Geological Society of London. **SARAH LIVES IN LONDON.**

**Samantha Shannon, Betty Trask judge says:** "*A love story and a cry for justice, rendered in beautiful prose, Mussolini's Island offers an intimate and unflinching record of a little-known atrocity of Fascist Italy.*"

#### **CLARE FISHER FOR *ALL THE GOOD THINGS* (VIKING)**

Clare Fisher was born in Tooting, south London in 1987. After accidentally getting obsessed with writing fiction when she should have been studying for a BA in History at the University of Oxford, Clare completed an MA in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths College, University of London. An avid observer of the diverse area of south London in which she grew up, Clare's writing is inspired by her long-standing interest in social exclusion and the particular ways in which it affects vulnerable women and girls. **CLARE LIVES IN LEEDS, where she writes, teaches creative writing and works as a bookseller.**

**Samantha Shannon, Betty Trask judge says:** "*All the Good Things is not only a piercing reminder of how society continues to fail its most vulnerable people, but a celebration of love, endurance, and redemption in the most desperate of circumstances.*"

#### **ELI GOLDSTONE FOR *STRANGE HEART BEATING* (GRANTA)**

Eli Goldstone's debut novel *Strange Heart Beating* was published by Granta in 2017. She is a graduate of the City University Creative Writing (Novels) MA and her work has been featured in the *Guardian*, the *Irish Times*, *Buzzfeed*, *Granta Magazine* and *Ambit*, among others. She is the former prose editor of *Cadaverine* magazine and *Somesuch Stories'* sex columnist. She currently lives in Margate. **ELI LIVES IN MARGATE.**

**Ben Brooks, Betty Trask judge says:** "*Beautifully, unexpectedly written and tenderly funny, while navigating pain. A special, rare book.*"

### **LLOYD MARKHAM, SHORTLISTED FOR *BAD IDEAS\CHEMICALS* (PARTHIAN)**

Lloyd Markham was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, moving to and settling in Bridgend, South Wales when he was thirteen. He spent the rest of his teenage years miserable and strange and having bad nights out before undertaking a BA in Writing at Glamorgan followed by an MPhil. He enjoys noise music, Japanese animation and the documentaries of Adam Curtis. He operates synthesisers in a band called Deep Hum and has less bad nights out these days. **LLOYD LIVES IN CARDIFF.**

**Joanne Harris, Betty Trask Judge says:** *"A quirky, surreal and often very funny story by a talented new writer: Red Dwarf meets Trainspotting, narrated in a new, original voice."*

### **MASANDE NTSHANGA FOR *THE REACTIVE* (JACARANDA)**

Masande Ntshanga is the winner of the inaugural PEN International New Voices Award in 2013, and a finalist for the Caine Prize in 2015. He was born in East London in 1986 and graduated with a degree in Film and Media and an Honours degree in English Studies from UCT, where he became a creative writing fellow, completing his Masters in Creative Writing under the Mellon Mays Foundation. He received a Fulbright Award, an NRF Freestanding Masters scholarship, a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship and a Bundanon Trust Award. His work has appeared in *The White Review*, *Chimurenga*, *VICE* and *n + 1*. He has also written for *Rolling Stone magazine*. **MASANDE LIVES IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.**

**Ben Brooks, Betty Trask judge says:** *"Lindanathi's painful, hazy existence, is kept meaningful by friendships formed at an HIV support group. The friends tumble through days and meander through the streets of a South Africa that doesn't care. Wonderfully written and quietly devastating"*

**The Betty Trask Prize and Awards are presented for a first novel by a writer under 35. Past winners include Zadie Smith, David Szalay, Hari Kunzru and Sarah Waters.**

### **MCKITTERICK PRIZE WINNER – AWARDED £4,000**

#### **ANJETIE ISONG FOR *RADIO SUNRISE* (JACARANDA)**

Anietie Isong has worked as a journalist, speechwriter and public relations manager in the UK and abroad. His writing has received awards, including a Commonwealth Short Story Award and Remember Oluwale Writing Prize. Anietie holds an MA in Communications from the University of Leicester and completed a PhD in New Media and Writing at De Montfort University, Leicester. **ANJETIE LIVES IN LONDON.**

**Aamer Hussein, McKitterick judge says:** *"It's a particular pleasure to discover the original, intriguing voice of Anietie Isong. In his brief, deftly-told Radio Sunrise, the author depicts his often hapless protagonist's sexual mishaps and political travails on a journey to his hometown with a unique blend of humour and poignance. An intriguing and accomplished new novelist"*

### **MCKITTERICK PRIZE RUNNER-UP – AWARDED £1,250**

#### **FRANCES MAYNARD FOR *THE SEVEN IMPERFECT RULES OF ELVIRA CARR* (PAN MACMILLAN)**

Frances Maynard teaches English part-time to adults with learning difficulties, including Asperger's. She is married with one grown-up daughter and lives in Dorset. She also spends time in Blackheath south-east London. **FRANCES LIVES IN POOLE, DORSET.**

**Frances Fyfield, McKitterick judge says:** *"Explores the dilemma of a twenty seven year old autistic daughter after her powerfully protective mother dies. The daughter has to learn how to live, using"*

*her underrated intelligence and conspicuous honesty to form rules for her own existence... this is a quiet, informative and inspirational Journey into the unknown, with a fantastic narrator."*

**The McKitterick Prize is awarded to a first novel by a writer over 40. Past winners include Helen Dunmore, Mark Haddon and Petina Gappah.**

### **TOM-GALLON TRUST AWARD WINNER: AWARDED £1,000**

#### **CHRIS CONNOLLY FOR *THE SPEED OF LIGHT AND HOW IT CANNOT HELP US***

Chris Connolly was born in Dublin in 1983. His fiction and poetry has appeared in *the Irish Times*, *the Irish Independent*, *Southword*, *the Galway Review* and the *Hennessy Book of Irish Fiction*, among others, and has been broadcast on RTÉ Radio. His work has won numerous awards, including Best Emerging Fiction at the 2016 Hennessy Literary Awards, the RTÉ Francis McManus competition, the *Easy Street Magazine* 'Great American Sentence Contest' and the Over the Edge: New Writer of the Year award. He was highly commended in the Manchester Fiction Prize, and more recently runner-up in the Deborah Rogers Writing Award, and winner of the Ginosko Flash Fiction Competition.

**CHRIS LIVES IN DUBLIN.**

**Paul Bailey, Tom-Gallon Trust judge says:** *"The Speed of Light and How it Cannot Help Us' is a beautifully composed story about a harrowing matter. Years of doubt and grief pass by in a very few pages, bringing more incomprehension in their wake. Then a new and fragile piece of evidence in the murder case provides a slight cause for hope. Nothing is overstated here, nothing forced in the deliberately unsensational narrative."*

### **TOM-GALLON TRUST AWARD RUNNER-UP: AWARDED £575**

#### **BENJAMIN MYERS FOR *A THOUSAND ACRES OF ENGLISH SOIL***

Benjamin Myers was born in Durham, UK, in 1976. He is a journalist and award-winning author of six novels, translated into several languages. *The Gallows Pole* was the recipient of a SoA Authors' Foundation Roger Deakin Award in 2016 and won the 2018 Walter Scott Prize. His latest book, *Under The Rock*, was published in May. **BENJAMIN LIVES IN WEST YORKSHIRE.**

**Irenosen Okojie, Tom-Gallon judge says:** *"This is a profound, confident piece. Vividly written, juxtaposing old and new worlds, and the beauty and brutality in between."*

**The Tom-Gallon Trust Award is awarded for a short story by a writer who has had at least one short story accepted for publication. Previous winners include Lucy Wood, Grace Ingoldby and Claire Harman.**

### **SOMERSET MAUGHAM AWARD WINNERS: THREE WRITERS EACH AWARDED £5250**

#### **KAYO CHINGONYI FOR *KUMUKANDA (CHATTO & WINDUS)* - POETRY**

Kayo Chingonyi was born in Zambia in 1987, moving to the UK in 1993. He is a fellow of the Complete Works programme for diversity and quality in British Poetry and the author of two pamphlets, *Some Bright Elegance* (Salt, 2012) and *The Colour of James Brown's Scream* (Akashic, 2016). Kayo has been invited to read from his work around the world and his poems have been translated into Spanish, German, and Swedish. He was awarded the 2012 Geoffrey Dearmer Prize for his poem 'from calling a spade a spade' and served as Associate Poet at the Institute of Contemporary Arts from Autumn 2015 to Spring 2016. **KAYO LIVES IN LONDON.**

**Barney Norris, Somerset Maugham judge says:** *"This is a rich and sophisticated collection, full of wry insight and rewarding repeated readings. Chingonyi can write - but more excitingly and perhaps more rarely, he can think, and that's the real delight of this book, his compelling intelligence."*

#### **FIONA MOZLEY FOR *ELMET* (J M ORIGINALS) – NOVEL**

Fiona Mozley grew up in York and has lived in London, Cambridge and Buenos Aires. She is now writing a PhD thesis on the concept of decay in the later Middle Ages, as well as writing fiction. Fiona works part-time at The Little Apple Bookshop. **FIONA LIVES IN YORK.**

**Jen Campbell, Somerset Maugham judge says:** *"Reading this, I almost expected moss and bracken to sprout from the pages, so vivid is the setting of this outstanding novel, complete with weather-worn characters I'll struggle to forget. Mozley is a true craftsman."*

#### **MIRIAM NASH FOR *ALL THE PRAYERS IN THE HOUSE* (BLOODAXE BOOKS) - POETRY**

Miriam Nash is a poet, performer and educator who grew up in Scotland, England and Wales. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study poetry at Sarah Lawrence College in New York and graduated with an MFA in 2014. She has performed her work internationally, and brought poetry into schools, museums, mental health organisations and prisons in the UK, USA and Singapore. She was the first Writer in Residence at Greenway, Agatha Christie's summer home, as part of Writing Places with the National Trust, Literature Works and The Poetry Archive. Her poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and her pamphlet, *Small Change* (flipped eye), was published in 2013. She received an Eric Gregory award from the Society of Authors in 2015 and was runner-up for the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award in 2016. **MIRIAM LIVES IN LONDON.**

**Barney Norris, Somerset Maugham judge says:** *"An absorbing, dreamlike example of how writers can cut through to the spirit of a place and show you the heart of the worlds they have visited."*

**The Somerset Maugham Awards are for published works of fiction, non-fiction or poetry by writers under 35, to enable them to enrich their work by gaining experience of foreign countries. Past winners include Hari Kunzru, Helen Oyeyemi, Julian Barnes, Zadie Smith and Jonathan Freedland.**

#### **ERIC GREGORY AWARD WINNERS – SEVEN POETS EACH AWARDED £4050**

**Awarded for a collection of poems by a poet under 30:**

#### **ZOHAR AKTINS FOR *SYSTEM BABY***

**ZOHAR ATKINS** wrote *System Baby* over a seven-year period, while pursuing a doctorate in Theology at Oxford and rabbinic ordination in New York and Jerusalem. His poems have been featured in *Carcenet's New Poetries VII*, *PN Review*, *The Oxonian Review*, *The Glasgow Review of Books*, *Blackbox Manifold*, *Wave Composition*, *Tenebrae*, *Eborakon* (forthcoming), and elsewhere. His debut collection, *Nineveh* (*Carcenet*), is due in 2019. He won the 2012 *Oxonian Review Poetry Competition* and was a keynote poet at the University of York's 2018 *Poetics of Faith Conference*. He holds both BA and MA from Brown University (Phi Beta Kappa), a D.Phil from Oxford (Balliol), and rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. **ZOHAR GREW UP IN NEW JERSEY AND LIVES IN NEW YORK**

**Carol Rumens, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** *"The poems in System Baby take ancient clay and sculpt vigorously innovative shapes: how very refreshing to plunge into a collection which re-*

*thinks historical Jewish religion and culture with such subversive, witty originality. 'Revelatory' is not too strong a word."*

#### **VICTORIA ADUKWEI BULLEY FOR *GIRL BEING***

**VICTORIA ADUKWEI BULLEY** is a poet, writer and filmmaker. An alumna of the Barbican Young Poets, her work has featured in *The Poetry Review*, *Ambit* and *tonguejournal.org*, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4 *Woman's Hour*. She was shortlisted for the Brunel University African Poetry Prize 2016, and has held residencies internationally in the US and Brazil, alongside London's V&A Museum. Her debut pamphlet, *Girl B*, was part of the 2017 New-Generation African Poets chapbook series. Victoria is the director of MOTHER TONGUES, an intergenerational poetry, film and translation project supported by Arts Council England and Autograph ABP. She studied English and Drama at the University of Kent, graduating with first class honours. She then worked as a teaching assistant at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College, in New Cross. Victoria is currently the project manager of the Rebecca Swift Foundation, supporting the development of the inaugural Women Poets' Prize. **VICTORIA LIVES IN ESSEX.**

**Inua Ellams, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** *"In 'Girl Being' Victoria Adukwei Bulley's capturing of the young black female socio-political consciousness is by turns visceral, expansive deeply experimental, yet disarming, nuanced and celebratory."*

#### **JENNA CLAKE FOR *FORTUNE COOKIE* (EYEWEAR PUBLISHING)**

**JENNA CLAKE** is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Teesside University, having studied for a PhD and MA in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham, where she also gained a BA in English with Creative Writing. Her debut poetry collection, *Fortune Cookie*, won the 2016 Melita Hume Prize, and was subsequently published by Eyewear in 2017. She was awarded first prize in the 2017 BareFiction Poetry Competition. Her work has appeared in *Poetry Review*, *The Rialto*, and *Oxford Poetry*. **JENNA LIVES IN NEWCASTLE AND WAS ALSO SHORTLISTED FOR THE SOMERSET MAUGHAM AWARDS THIS YEAR.**

**Ahren Warner, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** *"'Fortune Cookie' is technically assured and original in its fusion of wit and sincerity into a lyricism that feels absolutely contemporary, whilst eschewing the glib."*

#### **JOSEPH EASTELL FOR *BLOSSOM BOY BETA TEST***

**JOSEPH EASTELL** is a poet from Keighley, West Yorkshire. His poems have appeared online in *3am*; *Streetcake*; *Ink Sweat & Tears*; *The Bohemyth*; *New Linear Perspectives*; & *Bare Hands* amongst others. He was included in the *Burning Eye* anthology *Rhyming Thunder – The Alternative Book of Young Poets*. He has been featured poet at the Bristol Spring Poetry Festival. He has self-published two limited edition pamphlets of poetry. **JOSEPH LIVES IN WEST YORKSHIRE.**

**Inua Ellams, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** *"Reconciling our technologically enhanced existence with the natural world is one of poetry's earliest concerns. In 'Blossom Boy Beta Test' Joseph Eastell engages and updates this tradition in startling masterful poems."*

#### **ANNIE KATCHINSKA FOR *SESAME POWDERS***

**ANNIE KATCHINSKA** was born in Moscow in 1990 and grew up in London. She won Foyle Young Poet of the Year Awards in 2006 and 2007 and her Faber *New Poets* pamphlet was published in 2010. Her poems have been published in a variety of magazines including *Poetry London*, *Ambit* and *Poetry Wales*. Her second pamphlet, *Natto*, was published by If a Leaf Falls Press in 2018. She studied

Classics at Cambridge University before spending two years working in Sapporo, Japan. She currently works in the SEN department of a secondary school in North London and is completing a postgraduate diploma in child and adolescent counselling. **ANNIE LIVES IN LONDON**

**Carol Rumens, Judge for the Eric Gregory Award says:** "*I admired so much in this collection: its warmth of tone, linguistic range, the global reach of its allusions, the varied characters, the bodily intelligence, the emotional richness of the presented 'self' and the way an anecdote might suddenly flame into impassioned prayer. A terrific dance of verbal and rhythmic energy, Sesame Powders sustains the pace from start to finish, but it's also a deep, refreshing well of human experience, and a demonstration of poetry speaking truth to the present moment.*"

### **ALI LEWIS FOR HOTEL**

**ALI LEWIS** was born in Nottingham in 1990. His poems have appeared in magazines including *The Poetry Review*, *Ambit*, *The Rialto*, and *Magma*. He has a degree in Politics from Cambridge, where he received the John Dunn and Precious Pearl Prizes, and an MA in Creative Writing from Goldsmiths College, where he was shortlisted for the Pat Kavanagh and Ivan Juritz Awards. He has also been shortlisted or commended in the Jane Martin, Poetry Book Fair, and PBS Student Poetry Competitions, and was selected for the 2016 TOAST Poet mentoring scheme. He works for the Poetry School where he runs the Poet Development projects and co-edits *Campus*, the Poetry School's online magazine. **ALI LIVES IN LONDON**

**Ahren Warner, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** "*'Hotel' is formally accomplished and offers a consistency of tone, of register and of ambition that succeeds in conveying a strong sense of both identity and project.*"

### **STEPHEN SEXTON FOR THE ANIMALS, MOON**

**STEPHEN SEXTON's** poems have appeared in *Granta*, *Poetry London*, and *Best British Poetry 2015*. His pamphlet, *Oils*, published by The Emma Press, was the Poetry Book Society's Winter Pamphlet Choice. He was the winner of the 2016 National Poetry Competition and the recipient of an ACES award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He lives in Belfast where he teaches at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University, where he completed a PhD in 2017. **STEPHEN LIVES IN BELFAST**

**Inua Ellams, Judge for the Eric Gregory Awards says:** "*The poems in Stephen Sexton's 'The animals, moon' would turn line after line, burrowing into themselves. Surprising and funny, they show Stephen Sexton's ability to construct resonant myth and narrative out of the everyday nothing.*"

## **THE CHOLMONDELEY AWARD WINNERS – FIVE POETS EACH AWARDED £1680**

**Presented for a body of work by a poet.**

### **VAHNI CAPILDEO:**

**VAHNI CAPILDEO** was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and now lives between Scotland and Trinidad. She read English Language and Literature at Christ Church, Oxford, winning an Overseas Student Research Award to continue to an MSt in Medieval studies and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue a doctorate in Old Norse literature and translation theory. Recent publications include her sixth full-length book of poems, *Venus as a Bear* (Carcanet, 2018); non-fiction for *The White Review*; and a selection of new poems in *The Irish Review*. Previous prizes include the Forward Poetry Prize's Best Collection Award and a T.S. Eliot Prize nomination for *Measures of Expatriation* (2016 Bocas Litfest). She has also worked outside academia: for the *Oxford English Dictionary*, for Commonwealth Writers, the cultural initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation, and as a volunteer

with the Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. She was poet in residence for the University of Canberra's Poetry on the Move festival (2017), and is the Douglas Caster Cultural Fellow in Poetry at the University of Leeds (2017-2019). **VAHNI LIVES IN EDINBURGH.**

**Pascale Petit, Judge for the Cholmondeley Award says:** *"When I read Vahni Capildeo's poems, I never know where I'll end up, or how. Her mercurial intellect makes each one challenging, exhilarating and game changing."*

#### **KATE CLANCHY:**

**KATE CLANCHY** was born and grew up in Scotland. She did an English degree and PGCE at Exeter College Oxford, and has since worked in schools and as a freelance writer. Her three award-winning collections of poems, all from Picador, have been gathered into a *Selected Poems*, and she also edited the *Picador Book of Birth*. She has won awards for her fiction and nonfiction, including the BBC National Short Story Award. Since 2009, she has been Writer in Residence in her local school, Oxford Spires Academy, where her work has resulted in a Radio Press shortlisting for a Ted Hughes Award (2015), an acclaimed essay, *The Very Quiet Foreign Girls' Poetry Group*, a popular Twitter account and most recently, an anthology, *England, Poems from a School*. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was made an MBE in 2018. **KATE LIVES IN OXFORD.**

**Paul Farley, Judge for the Cholmondeley Awards says:** *"Kate Clanchy has written some of the most moving and perceptive poetry of motherhood, and is also a terrific storyteller, while as a teacher who has worked with the silenced and traumatised she is a force for good in poetry."*

#### **LINTON KWESI JOHNSON:**

**LINTON KWESI JOHNSON** is a celebrated reggae poet and recording artist, with his own record label, launched in 1981. Among many awards, he has received a Silver Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica for 'Eminence in the field of poetry', has been the recipient of an Award from English PEN for a Lifetime's Achievement in Writing, and the Jamaican Government's Order of Distinction – Commander Class for achievements in poetry and popular music. He has been artist-in-residence at NYU's Institute of African American Affairs and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. **LINTON LIVES IN SOUTH LONDON.**

**Judges for the Cholmondeley Awards Pascale Petit says:** "We were surprised Linton Kwesi Johnson hadn't yet been awarded a Cholmondeley, he is an icon in British poetry and we're thrilled he is at last being garlanded." **Fellow Judge, Grace Nichols added:** *"In his fusion of poetry and reggae rhythms, his concern in chronicling the black experience, Linton Kwesi Johnson has established a distinctive and challenging voice that has gained him an iconic place on the Caribbean/British poetry map."*

#### **DALJIT NAGRA:**

**DALJIT NAGRA** is the author of *Look we Have Coming to Dover!*, *Tippoo Sultan's Incredible White-Man-Eating Tiger Toy Machine!!* and *Ramayana*. He received the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem 2004, Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2007, South Bank Show Decibel Award 2008, was twice nominated for the TS Eliot Prize, and once for the Costa Prize, Poetry Society New Generation Poet 2016. He was the Inaugural Poet in Residence for BBC Radios 4 and 4 Extra (2015) and won a Travelling Scholarship (2016). He was born to and raised by Sikh Punjabi parents in West London and Sheffield, and studied for a BA and an MA in English at Royal Holloway University of London. He trained as teacher of English and now teaches Creative Writing at Brunel. **DALJIT LIVES IN HARROW.**

**Grace Nichols, Judge for the Cholmondeley Award says:** *"With grit, tenderness and new rhythmic ways with words influenced by both his multicultural London environment and his Punjabi background, Daljit Nagra brings a fresh insight to contemporary British poetry."*

### **ZOË SKOULDING:**

**ZOË SKOULDING** is a poet, critic, translator and lecturer in creative writing. She read English at Exeter University, taught at an international school in India, and then worked as an English teacher in North Wales. Since gaining a PhD from Bangor University in 2005 she has taught creative writing there and is currently Reader in the School of English Literature. Her collections of poetry include *Remains of a Future City* (Seren, 2008), longlisted for Wales Book of the Year 2009; *The Museum of Disappearing Sounds* (Seren, 2013), shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2014; and *Teint: For the Bièvre* (Hafan Books, 2016). She directed the collaborative translation project *Metropoetica with Literature Across Frontiers 2009–11*, which linked women poets in several European cities. She often performs her work in cross-art-form contexts, collaborating with artists and musicians or combining vocal and electronic sound. She was the co-founder and artistic director of the North Wales International Poetry Festival 2012–17. She lives on the island of Anglesey. **ZOË LIVES IN ANGLESEY, NORTH WALES.**

**Rod Mengham, Judge for the Cholmondeley Awards says:** "*Zoë Skoulding is a truly international poet whose work is earthed into real places but tuned into rich and strange frequencies--it sends the language of the senses over frontiers where most poems stop short.*"

### **THE ELIZABETH LONGFORD PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY – AWARDED £5,000**

#### **GILES TREMLETT FOR ISABELLA OF CASTILE: EUROPE'S FIRST GREAT QUEEN BLOOMSBURY)**

**GILES TREMLETT** is Contributing Editor to the *Guardian* and Fellow of the Cañada Blanch Centre at the LSE. He was Madrid correspondent for the *Economist* until 2016 and before that for the *Guardian*. He has lived and written about Spain for the past twenty years and is the author of *Catherine of Aragon: The Spanish Queen of Henry VIII* and *Ghosts of Spain and Its Silent Past*. **GILES LIVES IN MADRID.**

**Roy Foster, Chair of Judges for the Elizabeth Longford Prize says:** "*The shortlist for this year's Elizabeth Longford Prize was formidable and varied. However, the judges decided that Giles Tremlett's 'Isabella of Castile' resoundingly struck all the notes which we look for in a historical biography...the impressive combination of scholarly authority and vivid accessibility establishes this biography firmly in the tradition of this Prize.*"

### **THE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS – FIVE WRITERS EACH AWARDED £1575**

**Awarded to British creative writers to enable them to keep in contact with writing colleagues abroad.**

### **JENN ASHWORTH:**

**JENN ASHWORTH** was born in 1982 in Preston, Lancashire. She studied English at Newnham College, Cambridge and Creative Writing at the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester. In 2009 her first novel, *A Kind of Intimacy*, won a Betty Trask Award. On the publication of her second novel, *Cold Light*, in 2011, she was featured on the BBC's Culture Show as one of the UK's 12 best new novelists. *The Friday Gospels* was published to resounding critical acclaim in 2013, and her fourth novel, *Fell*, was published by Sceptre in 2016. Jenn is a co-founder of Curious Tales – a publishing collective, with Emma Jane Unsworth and Richard Hirst. Curious Tales has published three illustrated anthologies and an enormous interactive novel in the shape of Preston Bus Station. She collaborated with Richard Hirst again in the writing of *The Night Visitors*, a horror novella published

by Dead Ink Books. Her short stories have been collected in 'best of' anthologies and broadcast on BBC Radios 3 and 4. She reviews fiction for the *Guardian*, lectures in Creative Writing at Lancaster University and also tutors regularly for Arvon. **JENN LIVES IN LANCASTER.**

**TASH AW:**

**TASH AW** was born in Taipei and grew up in Malaysia. He is the author of three novels – *The Harmony Silk Factory* (2005), *Map of the Invisible World* (2009) and *Five Star Billionaire* (2013), as well as a family memoir, *The Face: Strangers on a Pier* (2016). His work has won the Whitbread and Commonwealth Prizes, an O. Henry Prize, and appeared in *The New Yorker* and the landmark *Granta 10*. He is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*, the *London Review of Books* and the *Guardian*. **TASH LIVES IN LONDON.**

**JESSIE GREENGRASS:**

**JESSIE GREENGRASS** was born in 1982. She studied philosophy in Cambridge and London, where she now lives with her partner and their two children. Her collection of short stories, *An Account of the Decline of the Great Auk, According to One Who Saw It*, won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Edge Hill Prize in 2016 and was shortlisted for the 2016 Sunday Times/PF+D Young Writer of the Year Award. Her first novel, *Sight*, was published earlier this year and shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. **JESSIE LIVES IN LONDON.**

**JAMES HARPUR:**

**JAMES HARPUR** read Classics, then English, at Trinity College, Cambridge, and has had five poetry collections published by Anvil Press, including *A Vision of Comets* which was based on the poems that won him an Eric Gregory Award in 1985. He has taught English in Crete and worked as a lexicographer and a freelance editor in publishing. His new collection, *The White Silhouette* (Carcanet) was published last month. His work has won many awards and bursaries, including three Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon Literary awards, and has appeared in periodicals and national newspapers (including *The Irish Times*, the *Irish Examiner*, the *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, and the *Independent*), on national and local radio (including RTÉ Radio 1 and BBC Radio 4), and on public transport. He broadcasts regularly on RTÉ on the programmes *Sunday Miscellany* and *A Living Word*. **JAMES LIVES IN WEST CORK, IRELAND**

**SUDHIR HAZAREESINGH:**

**SUDHIR HAZAREESINGH** is a specialist in French political and cultural history. Born in Mauritius, where he received his primary and secondary education, he studied at Oxford, receiving his doctorate in 1990, since when he has been a tutor in Politics at Balliol College, Oxford. His most recent book, *How the French Think*, 2015, has been translated into French, Arabic, and Mandarin. He writes regularly for the *Times Literary Supplement*, and is a frequent commentator on French politics in the national press; he also contributes to various French media on political and cultural issues (such as the radio station France Culture, and also the news channel France 24). **SUDHIR LIVES IN OXFORD.**

**THE AUTHORS' AWARDS** is a unique evening of celebration with each award chosen *by* authors *for* authors and judged by celebrated authors, writers and poets, many former winners themselves. Supporting and empowering writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry and giving them time and resources to enable creativity is a key part of the Society of Authors' ethos and during the evening two new Awards were announced; **The Paul Torday Memorial Prize for Debut Novelists over 60** created in honour of Paul and with a prize fund of £1,000 to be awarded in 2019 and **The Queen's Knickers Award**, a new prize funded by author of

'The Queen's Knickers', Nicholas Allan, for an outstanding children's picture book (for ages 0-11). Created to recognise books that strike a quirky, new note and grab the attention of a child, the winner of this ground-breaking new award will receive £5,000, and a runner-up £1,000. It will be awarded for the first time in 2020.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- **ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS' AWARDS:** The Society of Authors' Awards is the UK's biggest literary prize fund and has, since 1943, grown to celebrate poetry, fiction and non-fiction. A collection of eight prizes, uniquely run by authors for authors and shared each year between more than 20 writers, the Authors' Awards reward, empower and bring recognition to writers at every stage of their careers. They are also, uniquely, gifted by patrons – often writers giving back to an industry they love – and have been created to honour and celebrate the craft and diversity of exceptional writing, with awards going both to established and emerging writers.
- **ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS:** The UK trade union for all types of writers, scriptwriters, illustrators and literary translators, at all stages of their careers. They have more than 10,000 members and have been advising individuals and speaking out for the profession for more than a century. In 2018, they will award more than £600,000 in prizes and grants (for fiction, non-fiction, poetry and translation), and administer the Women's Prize for Fiction and The Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. [www.societyofauthors.org](http://www.societyofauthors.org)
- **FOLLOW:** The Society of Authors' Awards via twitter [@Soc\\_of\\_Authors](https://twitter.com/Soc_of_Authors) #AuthorsAwards
- **IMAGES:** For photographic images of the shortlisted writers follow this link [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j5NwuGhgzn4F28LI5ME8jrgP\\_vMYUxZQ](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j5NwuGhgzn4F28LI5ME8jrgP_vMYUxZQ)

For further information on the Authors' Awards please contact  
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