

THE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 20 JUNE 2017 8PM



The 2017 Travelling Scholarships have been awarded to **AMY LIPROT**, **ROSS RAISIN** and **JAMES SHEARD**. Each author receives £2,500 towards foreign travel. The prizes were presented by Ben Okri at the Society of Authors' Authors' Awards, held at the Army & Navy Club on 20 June.

The assessors this year were Claire Armistead, Adam O'Riordan, Sameer Rahim and Jane Ridley.

WINNERS



AMY LIPROT grew up in Orkney, Scotland. Her memoir, *The Outrun*, was published in 2016 by Canongate Books and was named a top ten bestseller by *The Sunday Times*, and also Radio 4's book of the week. It won the Wainwright Book Prize 2016 for nature and travel writing and was shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize 2016 and the RSL Ondaatje Prize 2017. She has been a writer in residence at Gladstone's Library and is a NCTJ trained journalist and lifelong

diarist.

Amy Liptrot's work is moving out into a form that applies her honesty and rawness to the natural world in a truly original and thought-provoking way.

ROSS RAISIN is the author of three novels: *A Natural* (2017), *Waterline* (2011) and *God's Own Country* (2008). In 2013 he was named as one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists, and he has been the recipient of several awards, including the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award (2009) and a Betty Trask Award (2008). Ross teaches creative writing at Goldsmiths University and as part of the UEA/Guardian Masterclasses programme, and is a writer-in-residence for the education charity First Story.

Raisin has found a home for this gripping, well-written and moving story, which should interest anyone curious about an enclosed world and hidden lives.



JAMES SHEARD is Senior Lecturer and Programme Director of Creative writing at Keele University. His pamphlet *Hotel Mastbosch* won the Ictus Prize at Sheffield Hallam University, and went on to be the Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice for Autumn 2004. Sheard's first full collection, *Scattering Eva*, was shortlisted for the 2005 Forward Prize for Best First Collection, and the Glen Dimplex Award for Poetry. His current collection, *The Abandoned Settlements*, is currently the PBS Choice.

Sheard's elusive, oblique work, even as it unfolds a narrative seems to double-back on itself, to question the terms in which that narrative is conducted.

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ABOUT THE AWARD

The Travelling Scholarships enable authors to travel and to keep in touch with colleagues abroad. They were established in 1944 by an anonymous sponsor.

Previous winners include: V.S. Pritchett, Dylan Thomas, Stevie Smith, Margaret Drabble, Jenny Diski, Robert Nye and Robert Macfarlane.

For more previous winners please see

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/Prizes/Fiction/Travelling-Scholarships/Past-winners>

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