

20 October 2009 *For immediate release*

Catch the poetry wave that's sweeping the UK. Enter the National Poetry Competition now!



NPC image by Tori Flower.
www.toriflower.com

“The poetry competition every poet wants to win”



Daljit Nagra

This year's judges, Daljit Nagra, Ruth Padel and Neil Rollinson are waiting to read your poems. You have until 31 October to get your entries to them!

Poetry has taken an even stronger hold on public and media attention during 2009 with the appointment of a new Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy (a past winner of the National Poetry Competition, who at the time of her win was a relatively unknown poet), the BBC's popular poetry season, the Poetry Society's Centenary and more recently National Poetry Day.

Now, therefore, is a perfect time to get involved in poetry and the National Poetry Competition is the fantastic way to do it. Entering gives you the chance to be read by leading poets and to join a prestigious list of past winners – you may even go on to be the next Poet Laureate! Plus there is a first prize of £5000 – a welcome boost to any poet's coffers.



Ruth Padel
Photo: Jemimah Kuhfeld

One of this year's judges Neil Rollinson encourages anyone out there not to miss this opportunity. “The National Poetry Competition is the one all poets want to win, whether published or not. There's still time to get your entries in, so don't delay.”

And don't be deterred by the postal strike – enter online at www.poetrysociety.org.uk



Neil Rollinson

All entries are judged anonymously. Anyone out there could be the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition 2009 winner – all you have to do is enter before the closing date on 31 October 2009.

– ENDS –

See over

For further information

Telephone Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895
or Naomi Wood on 020 7420 9886
Email: marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk

The Poetry Society,
22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX
Tel: 020 7420 9880 Fax: 020 7240 4818
www.poetrysociety.org.uk

Page 1 of 2

For further information or to interview the National Poetry Competition judges, call Lisa Roberts on 0207 420 9895 or email marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Ruth Padel is a prize-winning poet, Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and Zoological Society of London, and first Resident Writer at Somerset House, London. Her poetry collections include *Rembrandt Would Have Loved You*, *Voodoo Shop* and *The Soho Leopard*, all shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. She has also published two much-loved books on reading contemporary poetry, *52 Ways of Looking at a Poem* and *The Poem and the Journey*, and a highly acclaimed nature book, *Tigers in Red Weather*, shortlisted in the US for the Kiriama Prize.
- Daljit Nagra was born and raised in West London and Sheffield. He comes from a Sikh Punjabi background and his poems reflect this both in their content and their innovative blend of Punjabi and English. His poem 'Look We Have Coming to Dover!' won the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem in 2004 and became the title poem for his first collection which won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, the South Bank Show Decibel Award and was nominated for several prizes such as The Costa Poetry Award and the Guardian First Book Award.
- Neil Rollinson has published three collections of poetry: *A Spillage of Mercury*, *Spanish Fly* and *Demolition*, all published by Jonathan Cape, and P.B.S. recommendations. In 1997 he won the National Poetry Competition. He is currently working with 57 Productions developing a series of virtual online creative writing workshops and the 'Poetry Jukebox'.
- The National Poetry Competition was founded in 1978. Prizes of £5000, £1000 and £500 are awarded to the first, second and third-prize winners respectively. The commended poems are awarded £50 each. The winners' poems will be published in the *Poetry Review* and the winners will read at the Ledbury Poetry Festival in Summer 2010.
- For postal entries send a stamped addressed envelope to Competition Organiser (PR), 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX.
- The Poetry Society was founded in 1909 to promote "a more general recognition and appreciation of poetry". Since then, it has grown into one of Britain's most dynamic arts organisations, representing poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has 3650 members around the world, publishes the leading poetry magazine *Poetry Review*, and has an extensive education programme. It has a long commitment to the commissioning of new work, and runs prestigious competitions including the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award and the National Poetry Competition. To find out more visit www.poetrysociety.org.uk

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