

7 March 2011 *For immediate release*

The National Poetry Competition 2011 is open for entries

First prize £5,000. Deadline 31 October 2011



ABOVE: National Poetry Competition 2011 brochure with artwork by Andrew Baker

LEFT: National Poetry Competition judges 2011 (from left): Colette Bryce (photo: Phyllis Christopher); John Glenday and Jackie Kay (photo: Mary McCartney)

The National Poetry Competition 2011 is now open for entries. The judges this year are Colette Bryce, John Glenday and Jackie Kay.

One of the most prestigious competitions of its kind, the **National Poetry Competition** attracts around 12,000 entries each year, from around the UK and beyond.

Judged anonymously, the competition puts established and emerging writers on a level playing field. Winning the competition has been an important milestone in the careers of some of today's leading poets such as Philip Gross, Carol Ann Duffy, Tony Harrison and Jo Shapcott.

Last year's competition was won by newcomer, **Paul Adrian** who acknowledges the competition's value: -

"The National Poetry Competition is wonderful in its democracy: open to all, professionals and amateurs alike, and judged anonymously, it focuses solely on the strength of the poetry...Winning it is a bewildering, terrifying honour, and a tremendously flattering endorsement."

- ENDS -

Continues over

For further information

Telephone Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895
or Alan Ward 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

TO ENTEREnter online at www.poetrysociety.org.uk**Deadline for entries:**

31 October 2011

Request an entry form by writing to:
(please enclose an SAE)NPC (Press)
22 Betterton Street
London
WC2H 9BX

For further information and/or to interview judges Colette Bryce, John Glenday and Jackie Kay or last year's winner Paul Adrian, contact Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895

Notes to Editors**JUDGES**

- **Colette Bryce** has published three collections with Picador, *The Heel of Bernadette* (2000), *The Full Indian Rope Trick* (2004) and *Self-Portrait in the Dark* (2008). Originally from Derry, N. Ireland, she lived in London for many years before moving north to Scotland and then to Newcastle upon Tyne where she held the North East Literary Fellowship 2005-2007. She is poetry editor at *Poetry London*. She received the Cholmondeley Award in 2010.
- **John Glenday** was born in Broughty Ferry in 1952. His first collection, *The Apple Ghost* won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award and his second, *Undark*, was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. His most recent collection, *Grain* (Picador, 2009) is also a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and was shortlisted for both the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry and the Griffin Poetry Prize. He lives in Drumnadrochit, Scotland, and works for NHS Highland as an addictions counsellor.
- **Jackie Kay** is a poet, novelist and playwright. She was born and brought up in Scotland, and lives in Manchester. Her many poetry collections include *The Adoption Papers*, *Off Colour* and *Darling*. Her novel *Trumpet* won the Guardian Fiction Prize and her Children's collection, *Red, Cherry Red* won the CLPE Poetry Award. She is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle. Her latest books are *Red Dust Road*, a memoir about finding her Nigerian father, and a new poetry collection, *Fiere*.
- **Paul Adrian** was born in Leeds in 1984. He studied Music Technology at Leeds Metropolitan University. He was recently the Books Editor of *Leeds Guide Magazine*, and still writes a regular politics column for them. He currently works for Waterstone's, Leeds.

• THE NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

The National Poetry Competition was founded in 1978. The prize money this year totals £8,700. The top three prize winners' poems will be published in the *Poetry Review*, Britain's leading poetry magazine. Previous winning and commended poems can be read on the Poetry Society website at www.poetrysociety.org.uk. The Ledbury Poetry Festival features an event with National Poetry Competition winners and judges every year. To enter the National Poetry Competition visit www.poetrysociety.org.uk

• THE POETRY SOCIETY

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 British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4,000 members worldwide and publishes the leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages. To find out more about the Poetry Society visit www.poetrysociety.org.uk

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