

11 March 2011 *For immediate release*

The Poetry Society announces the shortlist for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry



Crow © Estate of Leonard Baskin

“Poetry has always been a break-out form, an escape from the confines of cliché. Here we are finding that poetry is still working in surprising ways with new forms and new platforms...” – Jeanette Winterson

The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry is awarded annually to recognise excellence in poetry, highlighting outstanding contributions made by poets to our cultural life. It is one of the only awards to acknowledge the wide range of work being produced by poets – not just in books, but beyond.

This year’s shortlist, selected by judges Gillian Clarke, Stephen Raw and Jeanette Winterson demonstrates the extent of this range and includes film, translation, live performance and the printed word. The winner of the £5,000 prize will be announced at the Savile Club on **Thursday 24 March 2011**, along with the winner of the National Poetry Competition.

The £5,000 prize is donated by Carol Ann Duffy, funded from the annual honorarium the Poet Laureate traditionally receives from HM The Queen.

THE JUDGES’ SHORTLIST IS:



Martin Figura *Whistle* (published by Arrowhead Press and a touring show produced by Apples and Snakes) *Whistle*, both a collection and a performance, is the personal story of the death of Martin Figura’s mother at the hands of his father when he was nine years old.



Kaite O’Reilly *The Persians* (a National Theatre of Wales, site specific performance) *The Persians* is a beautifully poetic version of Aeschylus’ tragic play, retold by Kaite O’Reilly.

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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

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Christopher Reid *Song of Lunch* (a broadcast production for BBC 2)

Christopher Reid worked with director Niall McCormick to adapt his narrative poem 'Song of Lunch' into a 50-minute film for BBC 2.



David Swann *The Privilege of Rain* (published by Waterloo Press)

The Privilege of Rain is a collection of poems and prose written after David Swann spent a year as Writer in Residence at HMP Nottingham.



Katharine Towers *The Floating Man* (published by Picador Poetry)

The Floating Man is Katharine Towers' powerful debut collection, a Poetry Book Society Recommendation.

– ENDS –

For further information about The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry, contact Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895 or email: marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

• Ted Hughes Award judges



Gillian Clarke was recently awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for her latest collection, *A Recipe for Water* (Carcanet), and in recognition of her distinguished contribution to poetry. She has been the National Poet for Wales since 2008, she is President of Ty Newydd and tutor of the M.Phil in Creative Writing at the University of Glamorgan. Other recent publications include her prose collection, *At the Source*.



Stephen Raw is a self-employed artist and designer. He also produces 'bespoke' lettering for publishers, architects and design groups throughout Europe. A recent commission was to design the Memorial to the Royal Ballet Founders now set in the floor of Westminster Abbey close by Poet's Corner. He has exhibited widely.



Jeanette Winterson OBE is the author of nine novels for adults, including *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*, *The PowerBook*, *Sexing the Cherry*, *Lighthousekeeping*, and *The Stone Gods*. Her books for children include *Tanglewreck* and *The Battle of the Sun*. She is also a regular contributor to *The Times*. Her work is published worldwide.

• **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.

• **Poetry Society awards and competitions:** In addition to the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry, the Poetry Society runs the National Poetry Competition, one of the world's longest-running and most prestigious prizes for an individual poem. The Poetry Society also organises the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award for poets aged 11-17, the performance poetry championship SLAMBassadors UK and the Corneliu M Popescu Prize, for poetry translated from a European language into English.

• **Recommendations for Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry:** Members of the Poetry Society and Poetry Book Society were invited to recommend a living UK poet, working in any form, who has made the most exciting contribution to poetry in 2010. Recommendations were then forwarded to the judges.

• **The winner of the inaugural Ted Hughes Award 2009 was Alice Oswald** for her collection *Weeds and Wild Flowers* (Faber & Faber).

• **The logo for the Ted Hughes Award** was designed by David Carroll of David Carroll & Co (www.davidcarrollandco.com) and uses the iconic image of Crow by Leonard Baskin. The image was used originally on the cover of *Crow: From the Life and Songs of the Crow* by Ted Hughes (Faber & Faber, 1970) and is reproduced by kind permission of Lisa Baskin and the Estate of Leonard Baskin, © Estate of Leonard Baskin.

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