
The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2011: A chance to be discovered!

Deadline for entries:
31st July 2011



Glyn Maxwell, Judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2011
© Kate Eshelby

“Many young poets know they have talent, but many more don’t. And many true poets, young and old, sit around for years waiting to be discovered. The Foyle Young Poets Award is a chance to speed that process up, to step into the light and let us hear you. So take the chance.” Glyn Maxwell, Judge

The **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** is a chance for any young poet aged 11-17 to be ‘discovered’ and accelerate their writing career.

Since it began 14 years ago the Foyle Young Poets Award has kick-started the careers of some of today’s most exciting young poets. These include **Caroline Bird**, who after winning the award had her first collection of poetry published aged just 16, **Jay Bernard** whose first collection *Your Sign is Cuckoo, Girl* was published in 2008, and **Richard O’Brien** who set up the highly successful e-zine *Pomegranate* with other young writers. Many past winners such as **Helen Mort** have also performed their work at festivals across the UK such as **Latitude** and the **Big Chill**.

Any young writer can enter, whether they have been writing for a long time or just started – all they need to have is an active engagement with the world around them. As Fielding Ronshaugen, one of last year’s winners explains:

“The real trick of the poet is to pull out the beauty in a biscuit, or a random fact you learned about owls, an old postcard or the memory of a place you visited as a child and pin it down to paper so that other people can catch a glimpse of the same wonderfulness.”

All fifteen overall winners of the prize are invited to a gala prize giving event in London on National Poetry Day (6th October 2011). There are two prizes available for the fifteen overall winners of the award. The 14-17 year olds get the chance to attend a week long residential course at The Hurst in Shropshire, one of the prestigious Arvon Centres, where they will be tutored by this year’s judges Imtiaz Dharker and Glyn Maxwell. The younger age range winners (11-14 year olds) will receive a visit to their school from a professional poet, followed by distance mentoring.



Intiaz Dharker, Judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year 2011 © Simon Powell



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Awards Ceremony 2010



Fielding Ronshaugen, Winner of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2010

To Enter: Enter online at www.foyleyoungpoets.org Deadline for Entries: July 31st 2011

Request an entry form by writing to Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award
22 Betterton Street
London
WC2H 9BX

Ages: 11-17

Other information: The competition is free to enter. Poets can enter more than one poem, of any length, on any theme.

Or email fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk

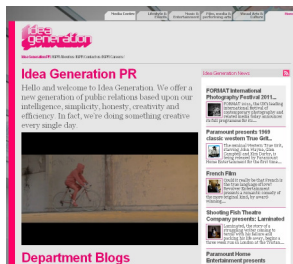
The **Foyle Young Poets of The Year Award 2011** is supported by the **Foyle Foundation**.

Contacts

For further information / Use of pictures / Interviews

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- Online Press Office
- Client list
- Company contact detail



www.foyleyoungpoets.org

For:

- Information
- Previous Winners

Editor's Notes

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Established in 1998, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year is now the key award for young writers aged 11-17. The competition is free to enter and poems can be on any theme, and of any length. It receives entries from over 6000 young people each year.

"The Foyle Young Poets Awards are important beckoning points for younger writers. They recognise a poet's first adventures into a public space for their poetry." Prof. David Morley, National Teaching Fellow, Warwick University. To enter and for more information go to www.foyleyoungpoets.org

The Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust supporting UK charities which since its formation in 2001 has become a major funder of the Arts and Learning. The Foyle Foundation has invested in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award since 2001, one of its longest partnerships, during this time it has trebled its support and enabled the competition to develop and grow to become one of the premier literary awards in the country. www.foylefoundation.org.uk

Imtiaz Dharker

Imtiaz Dharker was born in Pakistan, raised in Glasgow, and now lives between London and Mumbai. She is the author of five poetry collections: *Purdah and other poems* (1988); *Postcards from god* (1997); *I speak for the devil* (2001); *The terrorist at my table* (2006); and *Leaving Fingerprints* (2009) (Bloodaxe). She works as a documentary film-maker in India, and is also an artist, having shown solo exhibitions in the UK, India and Hong Kong. Her work has been described by critic Bruce King as "consciously feminist, consciously political, consciously that of a multiple outsider, someone who knows her own mind, rather than someone full of doubt and liberal ironies".

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 organizations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4000 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. As well as the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, the Poetry Society runs the National Poetry Competition, one of the world's longest-running and most prestigious prizes for an individual poem, and the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry – the prize founded by Carol Ann Duffy from her honorarium as Poet Laureate.

"The Poetry Society is the heart and hands of poetry in the UK – a centre which pours out energy to all parts of the poetry-body, and a dexterous set of operations which arrange and organize poetry's various manifestations. It has a long distinguished history, and has never been so vital, or so vitalizing as it is now." Sir Andrew Motion

Glyn Maxwell

Glyn Maxwell is an established and critically-acclaimed poet, novelist and playwright. His collection *The Breakage* (1998) was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Forward Poetry Prize for Best Collection, and *The Nerve* (2002) won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. He has written a number of plays including *Broken Journey* (Time Out Critics' Choice), *The Lifeblood*, *Any Road* and *The Only Girl in the World*. His radio play, *Childminders*, was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 2002. He has also written opera libretti, including *The Girl of Sand* with composer Elena Langer, and a libretto based on Euripides' *The Birds* composed by Ed Hughes which performed at the City of London Festival 2005. *Blue Burneau* (1994), his first novel, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award. He is currently adapting Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* for Moving Pictures Theatre Company. His latest poetry collection, *Hide Now*, was published in 2008, and shortlisted for the 2008 T. S. Eliot Prize and the 2009 Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year).