

21 October 2010 *For immediate release*

## In it to win it. National Poetry Competition deadline approaches



**The deadline for the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition, one of the world's biggest and most prestigious poetry competitions, is fast approaching.**

**This year's judges Sinéad Morrissey, Deryn Rees-Jones and George Szirtes** are standing by, waiting to read poems submitted to the National Poetry Competition.

**Entrants have until 31 October to send in their entries.**

**Now in its 33rd year, the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition** is one of the world's biggest and most prestigious poetry competitions. Winners include both established and emerging poets and for many the prize has proved an important milestone in their professional careers. Carol Ann Duffy, Ian Duhig, Philip Gross, and Jo Shapcott have all won in the past. As well as receiving a monetary prize, winners have their work published in the Poetry Society's leading international journal, *Poetry Review*.

The prizes are: £5,000 for the overall winner, £2,000 for the second, £1,000 for the third. There are also seven commendations of £100.

**Entrants can enter online or download an entry form at [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)**



**National Poetry Competition judges 2010 (from left): Sinéad Morrissey, George Szirtes and Deryn Rees-Jones**

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**For further information**

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– ENDS –

**For more information and/or to interview any of this year's judges, please contact Alan Ward or Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9880.**

#### Notes to Editors

##### • 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](http://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](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk). The winners are announced on 24 March 2011 at the Savile Club, Mayfair.

##### • 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](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)

##### • JUDGES

###### Sinéad Morrissey

Sinéad Morrissey is the author of four collections: *There Was Fire in Vancouver* (1995), *Between Here and There* (2002), *The State of the Prisons* (2005), and *Through the Square Window* (2009); these last three were all shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. She was the recipient of a Lannan Literary Fellowship in 2007, and took first place in the National Poetry Competition with the poem, 'Through the Square Window', the same year. Other awards include the Patrick Kavanagh Award and the Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize. She is Lecturer in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University, Belfast.

###### George Szirtes

George Szirtes won the T.S. Eliot Prize in 2004 for *Reel* and his latest collection, *The Burning of the Books and other poems* (2009), was also shortlisted for the award. Since 1979 he has published nineteen collections, including *Short Wave* (1984), *The Photographer in Winter* (1986), *Bridge Passages* (1991, shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Prize) and *The Budapest File* (2000). He has collaborated often with visual artists and has also written many works for music, stage and radio. He is Reader in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia.

###### Deryn Rees-Jones

Deryn Rees-Jones is an award-winning poet and critic. Her poetry collections are *The Memory Tray* (1994), *Signs Round a Dead Body* (1998), *Quiver* (2004) and *Falls & Finds* (2008). She was named one of the PBS's 20 Next Generation poets in 2004 and one of *Mslaxia's* 'ten notable women poets of the last decade'. She has judged numerous literary awards, including the Costa poetry prize and the T.S. Eliot Prize. She is the editor of the anthology *Modern Women Poets* and is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Liverpool. Her forthcoming collection is *Burying the Wren*.

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