

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



The **Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry** seeks to recognise excellence in poetry, highlighting outstanding contributions made by poets to our cultural life.

Judges Imtiaz Dharker, Tim Supple and Jo Shapcott shortlisted the following seven:

- **Jackie Kay for *Maw Broon Monologues*** (performed at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow). A full-length performance combining rhythmic verse, music and theatre.
- **Dannie Abse for *New Selected Poems 1949-2009: Anniversary Collection*** (published by Hutchinson 2009). A celebration of the 60th anniversary of Dannie Abse's first collection *After Every Green Thing*.
- **Paul Farley for *Field Recordings: BBC Poems (1998-2008)*** (published by Donut Press 2009). This work brings together Farley's broadcast poetry for the BBC over a ten-year period.
- **John Glenday for *Grain*** (published by Picador 2009). Fourteen years in the making *Grain* is at times delicately lyrical and at times playful or surreal.
- **Alice Oswald for *Weeds and Wild Flowers*** (published by Faber and Faber 2009). This is a magical meeting of the visionary poems of Alice Oswald and the darkly beautiful etchings of Jessica Greenman.
- **Chris Agee for *Next To Nothing*** (published by Salt Publishing 2009). *Next to Nothing* records the years following the death of a beloved child in 2001.
- **Andrew Motion for *The Cinder Path*** (published by Faber and Faber 2009). Motion's collection offers a spectrum of lyrics, love poems and elegies all exploring how people cope with threats to and in the world around them.

With the permission of Carol Hughes, this innovative award is named in honour of Ted Hughes and recognises the many ways poets are working today, in printed forms and beyond. Poetry collections for adults and children were considered alongside radio poems, film poems, public art inscriptions and works for the stage. The £5,000 prize money has been donated

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

by Carol Ann Duffy, funded from the annual honorarium that the Poet Laureate traditionally receives from HM The Queen. Any UK living poet, working in any form, who made the most exciting contribution to poetry between 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009, was eligible for the award.

Duffy was delighted with the judge's choices: "The Ted Hughes Award is named in honour of a great laureate and celebrates new work in poetry, in any medium. I am thrilled at the diversity of the shortlist which the judges have announced today."

The winner of the award will be announced on Tuesday 30 March 2010 at the Savile Club in London.

– ENDS –

For further information about The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry/use of images/interviews please contact Lisa Roberts on 0207 420 9895, email: marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk

Notes to Editors

• **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.

"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*.

- **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 Society also organises the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award for poets aged 11-17, and the performance poetry championship, SLAMBassadors UK.
- **Imtiaz Dharker** was born in Pakistan, raised in Glasgow, and now lives between London and Mumbai. 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 most recent poetry collection is *The Terrorist at my Table*.
- **Tim Supple** has directed, adapted and devised theatre, opera and film throughout the UK and worldwide. He has been Artistic Director of the Young Vic, and at the Royal National Theatre where he produced a co-adaptation of Ted Hughes' translation of *Tales from Ovid*. His most recent theatre production was *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for his own company, Dash Arts. Tim is currently developing productions of *The One Thousand and One Nights* and the great Persian epic *The Shahnameh* for the National Theatre in London.
- **Jo Shapcott** has won the National Poetry Competition twice and her collection *My Life Asleep* won the Forward prize. She has worked on many collaborative music projects and is currently Visiting Professor of Poetry at the University of Newcastle. Her latest book is *Transformers*, a collection of her public lectures at Newcastle.
- **Nominations for Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry:** Members of the Poetry Society and Poetry Book Society were invited to nominate a living UK poet, working in any form, who has made the most exciting contribution to poetry. Nominations were then forwarded to the judges.
- **The logo for the Ted Hughes Award** has been 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* (Faber & Faber, 1970) and is reproduced by kind permission of Lisa Baskin and the Estate of Leonard Baskin, © Estate of Leonard Baskin.

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