

4 September 2014 for immediate release

The Poetry Society is pleased to present a packed autumn of poetry events



A still from the Poetry Society's newly-commissioned film to accompany Marian Allen's poem 'Wind on the Downs', to be premiered at National Poetry Day Live

Autumn events from the **Poetry Society** include a special focus on the **First World War**. Four of the UK's most exciting poets premiere searing new commissions responding to the legacy of the conflict in *The Pity* at the Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. **Memory & Memorialisation**, a partnership with the Freud Museum, is a psychoanalytic poetry day-festival examining subjects suggested by the war through readings, talks and conversations with leading poets and psychoanalysts.

The theme for this year's National Poetry Day is 'Remember', which will be reflected in our annual free poetry showcase, **National Poetry Day Live** at Southbank Centre: a lively day of performance programmed by Poetry Society's Young Associates. The latest new talents in poetry are presented at events to celebrate the winners of young people's competitions **Foyle Young Poets of the Year** and spoken word championship **SLAMBassadors**, while winners of the **National Poetry Competition** perform at literary festivals across the UK from Cheltenham and Winchester to Sheffield and Aldeburgh.

Poets and speakers to look out for include: Julia Donaldson, Jean 'Binta' Breeze, Michael Longley, John Glenday, Julia Copus, Daljit Nagra, Denise Riley, Kim Addonizio, Jacob Polley, David Constantine, Sam Willetts, Ian Duhig, Zaffar Kunial, Warsan Shire, Steve Ely, Deryn Rees-Jones, Steve Wilson, David Morgan, Ellie Roberts, Linda France, Carolyn-Jess Cook, Cheryl Moskowitz, Sarah Wardle, Rachael Allen, Danica Ognjenovic, Katharine Towers, Ross Sutherland, Raymond Antrobus and Paula Bohince.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Winchester Poetry Festival reading

Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8SB. Saturday 13 September, 8-9.30pm.

Michael Longley, Julia Copus and David Constantine present an evening of poetry that squares up to contemporary life. In association with the Poetry Society. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions). www.winchesterpoetryfestival.org

World War I Women Poets at the Fleming Collection

The Fleming Collection, 13 Berkeley Street, London W1J 8DU. Wednesday 17 September, 6.30-8.30pm.

When we think of poetry of the First World War, it is primarily soldier poets such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon who come to mind. Judith Palmer, Director of the Poetry Society, will introduce and read some of the women's poetry that emerged from the conflict: telling the story of poets who worked as nurses or ambulance drivers, and those who waited and mourned for brothers, lovers and sons. Tickets are £7.50 (£5 Fleming Collection & Poetry Society Members/Students) www.flemingcollection.com

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For further information

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The Poetry Society,
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Private View of 'Digressions' Exhibition

Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX. Thursday 18 September, 6.30pm.

The launch of the new exhibition at the Poetry Society's Poetry Café, by artist Philippa Troutman and Ian Duhig, who will also read at the event. The book that has been produced from the exhibition, published by Smokestack, will also be launched.

The event is free, but please RSVP to Robyn Donaldson, marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk. 020 7420 9886. The exhibition runs from 1 September until 4 October 2014.

Memory and Memorialisation at the Psychoanalytical Poetry Festival

Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX. Saturday 27 September, 9am-5pm.

Marking the centenary of the First World War, this all-day event examines ideas of memory and memorialisation and brings together leading speakers from the worlds of poetry and psychoanalysis. Readings, talks and in-conversations from David Constantine, John Glenday, Deryn Rees-Jones, Denise Riley, Sam Willetts, Stephen Wilson, Gerry Byrne and Ellie Roberts; exploring themes of mourning, remembering, time and imagination. Chaired by David Morgan & Judith Palmer. Discussion of Isaac Rosenberg, Helen Thomas and David Jones, plus the premiere of a newly-commissioned Marian Allen film-poem.

Registration; £60/£45 students/concessions (£5 discount for members of the Poetry Society or the Freud Museum)

www.freud.org.uk/events/75647/psychoanalytic-poetry-festival-2014

To Teach is To Do, a Poetry School poetry workshop for teachers with Cheryl Moskowitz

Poetry School, 79-83 Lambeth Walk, London SE11 6DX. Saturday 27 September, 10.30am-4.30pm.

Explore ways in to writing and sharing poetry together and discuss how these might be adapted for use in different classroom settings. During the course of the day you will connect to some of poetry's most basic and essential elements; love of language, use of sound and rhythm and form as a container. A great way to prepare for National Poetry Day just aand bring fresh enthusiasm to your class. The full-day course costs £69 (£66/£55 concessions). www.poetryschool.com

OCTOBER

National Poetry Day Live

Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. Thursday 2 October, 1-6pm.

In the morning, the Poetry Society announces the winners of the Foyle Young Poets Award. The afternoon features a wide range of wonderful events, with poetry for all ages, including school groups and families – all based around the theme of 'remember'. This year, National Poetry Day Live will be programmed for the first time by a group of the Poetry Society's Young Associates – young poets at the start of their careers. Confirmed acts for the day include Julia Donaldson, Jean 'Binta' Breeze, Daljit Nagra, Joelle Taylor, Joseph Coelho, Ross Sutherland, Emily Berry, Kei Miller and Raymond Antrabus. Several new Poetry Society commissions will premiere, including a new film of Marian Allen's WW1 poem 'The Wind on the Downs'. www.poetrysociety.org.uk/npd

The Pity

Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX. Thursday 2 October, 6pm.

As the culmination of the Poetry Society's National Poetry Day events, four of the UK's most exciting contemporary writers perform searing new work about the legacy of the First World War. Denise Riley, Steve Ely, Zaffar Kunial & Warsan Shire premiere powerful poetic responses to the conflict, with visuals by Robert Peake.

Tickets £10 (£5 for Poetry Society members). Box Office 0844 875 0073. www.poetrysociety.org.uk/events/event/2822

National Poetry Competition winners at Cheltenham Literature Festival

Drawing Room, Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham GL50 1QA. Wednesday 8 October, 4-5pm.

The winners of one of the world's biggest poetry competitions join judge Julia Copus to read from and discuss their latest work. Linda France details the poetic unfurling of her recent botanic garden Grand Tour experiences, including her winning poem 'Bernard and Cerinthe'. Carolyn Jess-Cooke performs her winning poem 'Hare', and others from her new collection exploring motherhood, *Boom!*

Tickets £6. Box Office 0844 880 8094. www.cheltenhamfestivals.co.uk/literature

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Launch of *The Poetry Review* autumn issue

Tamper Coffee, Sellers Wheel, 149 Arundel Street, Sheffield, S1 2NU. Wednesday 15 October, 6-8pm.

The Poetry Society launches the autumn issue of *The Poetry Review*, with readings from Danica Ognjenovic, Katharine Towers and Jacob Polley. Hosted by editor Maurice Riordan and presented as part of the Off the Shelf festival in Sheffield, which runs 11 October-1 November 2014.

Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance. RSVP to Robyn Donaldson at marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk or 020 7420 9886.

Inside Out Festival reading with Sarah Wardle

The Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX. Thursday 23 October, 6.30pm.

A reading with Geoffrey Dearmer Prize-winning poet Sarah Wardle, presented as part of the Inside Out Festival run by Kings College Culture Capital Exchange. Sarah will read work from her latest collection, *Beyond*, published by Bloodaxe.

www.poetrysociety.org.uk/events/event/2843

***The Poetry Review* presents: Kim Addonizio and Rachael Allen**

The Betsey Trotwood, 56 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3BL. Tuesday 28 October, 7.30pm.

A poetry reading with two of the contributors from the autumn issue of *The Poetry Review*. Kim Addonizio is an award-winning American poet making a rare appearance in this country. Rachael Allen is the online editor of *Granta* and has a pamphlet forthcoming in the Faber Young Poets series.

Tickets: £6 (£5 for Poetry Society members and concessions). www.poetrysociety.org.uk/events/event/2844

SLAMBassadors Final Showcase

Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. Friday 31 October, 4-7pm.

Come and hear the winners of the Poetry Society's SLAMBassadors solo slam competition perform their winning poems with high-profile spoken word acts including Joelle Taylor. The event will be free – keep an eye on our website for more details.

www.poetrysociety.org.uk

EXHIBITIONS

At the Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9BX.

'Digressions'

1 September – 4 October

An exhibition of Philippa Troutman's paintings, prints and cut-ups, in a joint project with poet Ian Duhig, celebrating Laurence Sterne's masterpiece, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*.

– ENDS –

For further information about any of the events listed, contact Robyn Donaldson on 020 7420 9886 or email rdonaldson@poetrysociety.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

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. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages. It publishes the magazine *The Poetry Review*, runs the National Poetry Competition, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award and the youth performance poetry championship SLAMBassadors UK. www.poetrysociety.org.uk

THE POETRY CAFÉ

The Poetry Café (The Poetry Place) is Covent Garden’s most congenial literary joint. Serving delicious vegetarian cuisine at lunchtime, and coffee and pastries throughout the afternoon, in the evening the atmosphere is busy and vibrant, with poetry readings almost every night. Exhibitions run regularly at the café, and have included shows such as ‘Pharmapoetica’, which was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes award for New Work in Poetry, ‘Where We Begin to Look’, with Zoe Benbow and Deryn Rees-Jones and ‘Caricatures’ by Gerald Mangan, some of which have gone on to tour at festivals and venues around the country. Visit the cafe at 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX. www.poetrysociety.org.uk/cafe

NATIONAL POETRY DAY LIVE

NPD Live is presented by the Poetry Society and Southbank Centre, London and has run every National Poetry Day since 2009. The programme of events runs 1-6pm at Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, London, SE1 8XX. Admission is free. www.poetrysociety.org.uk/npd

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