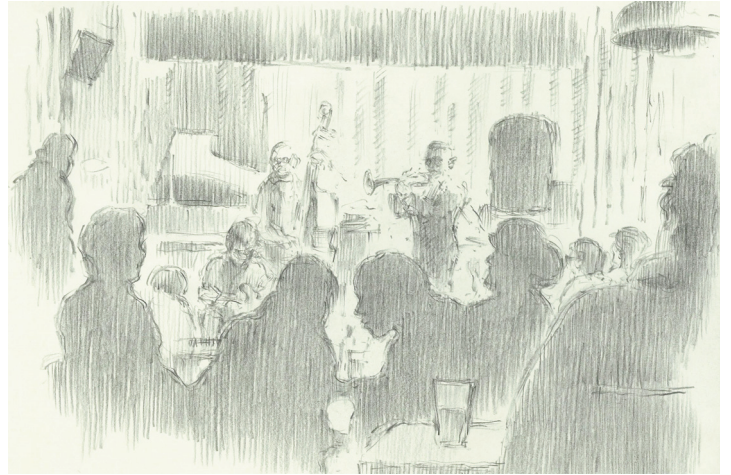


10 July 2014 for immediate release

A continuing season of events with the Poetry Society



Detail from 'Trumpet' by Thomas Hogan, from the Poetry Café exhibition 'Drawn to Poetry - A Visual Response', showing 16 June - 16 August.

The **Poetry Society** is pleased to announce a packed calendar of events and exhibitions this summer, and beyond. Ranging from a series of **poetry readings** with winners of the National Poetry Competition to the Poetry Society **Annual Lecture** with Carolyn Forché; from a stop off in Antwerp with a showing of NPC **filmpoems** in June to a Psychoanalytical Poetry Festival event at the Freud Museum in September – there's something poetic from the Poetry Society for everyone to enjoy.

EVENTS

JULY

Poetry Society events at Ledbury Poetry Festival

Ledbury, 4-13 July

National Poetry Competition Winners.

Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury HR8 1DW. Friday 11 July, 12:45pm. Free, but must be booked in advance.

Join three of this year's top winners: Elaine Gaston, Josephine Abbott and first prize winner, Linda France as they read their award-winning poems chosen from over 12,000 anonymous entries from 77 countries around the world.

www.poetry-festival.co.uk. Box Office: 0845 458 1743

Poetry Society events at the Poetry International Festival

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. 17-21 July.

Poetry for secondary school pupils. The Clore Ballroom, Friday 18 July, 1pm. Free.

Spoken-word artist Joelle Taylor introduces an afternoon of young poetry collectives and international poets. For secondary school-aged pupils. Past winners of SLAMBassadors UK, a national young people's spoken-word championship run by the Poetry Society, take to the stage..

Creativity and Climate Change – World Premiere of the SWITCH Poetry Scores. Saturday 19 July. The Clore Ballroom, 1.30pm. Free.

Cape Farewell's poet-in-residence Sabrina Mahfouz will introduce this world premiere of four unique poetry soundscapes – an exciting collaboration between four Young Poets Network poets and the Hollywood Composer David Julyan.

Filmpoem, the UK premiere of poetry films made from the ten National Poetry Competition winning poems. Saturday 19 July. The Clore Ballroom, 6.30pm. Free.

Presented by Filmpoem in collaboration with Felix Poetry Festival and in association with The Poetry Society. The event is hosted by Alastair Cook, Director of Filmpoem, and Judith Palmer, Director of the Poetry Society.

Continues over

For further information

Telephone Robyn Donaldson
on 020 7420 9886 or email
rdonaldson@poetrysociety.org.uk

The Poetry Society,
22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX
Tel: 020 7420 9880 Fax: 020 7240 4818
www.poetrysociety.org.uk

National Poetry Competition winners read their poems, with winners including Linda France and Tom Warner. Level 5 Function Room, Sunday 20 July, 2pm. £8.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/poetry-international

SKRYF with words by Jackie Kay at the Milton Keynes International Festival

SKRYF is a mechanical sandwriter created by Dutch artist Gijs van Bon which moves along leaving behind a stream of phrases created out of sand that will last as long as the passage of time and the elements allow. In a special one-off collaboration, leading writer and poet Jackie Kay has been commissioned by IF: 2014 in association with the Poetry Society to create poetic words and lines, composed with Milton Keynes in mind, for SKRYF to 'print' across the city on pathways and cycle routes.
www.ifmiltonkeynes.org/festival-programme.html

Jackie Kay will read from her work, and take part in a Q&A with the assembled audience. The Stables Spiegeltent, Milton Keynes International Festival. Sunday 20 July, 4pm. £7.50.

SKRYF will be sandwriting Jackie Kay's words in Central Milton Keynes 18-19 July, and at South Willen Lake Park on 20 July. Free.

The Poetry Society Annual Lecture, 'The Poet as Witness' with Carolyn Forché

London Event, Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. Sunday 20 July, 5.15pm. £10. Carolyn Forché explores how poets have been shaped by extreme events. From William Blake, caught up in the Gordon Riots, to Emily Dickinson living through the American Civil War, or Thom Gunn watching his friends die of AIDS, what has been the impact of being an eye-witness to suffering? Using the work of John MacRae and Isaac Rosenberg who fought on the battlefields of World War I, to dissidents who lived with surveillance, internment and exile – such as Akmatova and Mandelstam, American poet Forché examines poems composed at the limits of human endurance. Poetry Society members receive 20% off. Quote POETRYSOCIETY when booking.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/poetry-international

Liverpool Event, Abercromby Square, University of Liverpool, Friday 25 July. Free. How do poets engage with war in the twenty-first century? As part of the University of Liverpool's Festival of Ideas commemoration of World War I, the School of English hosts three modern poets who have written about war and their own experiences of conflict. The activist and award-winning poet Carolyn Forché will be joined by Iraq Veteran, memoirist and esteemed poet Brian Turner and the Russian-American poet Ilya Kaminsky. This event brings together three American poets in a rare reading in the UK, followed by a Q&A discussion of modern war, poetry and witness. RSVP at poetryandwar.eventbrite.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

Winchester Poetry Festival main 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

Continues over

Memory and Memorialisation at the Psychoanalytical Poetry Festival at the 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 poets including Deryn Rees Jones, Denise Riley, Sam Willetts, David Constantine, Dr Stephen Wilson. www.freud.org.uk

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

The 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, form as a container. With National Poetry Day just around the corner, bring fresh enthusiasm to your class – write your own poems to celebrate! The full-day course costs £69 (£66/£55 concessions). www.poetryschool.com

National Poetry Day Live

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. Thursday 2 October.

In the morning, the Poetry Society announces the winners of the Foyle Young Poets Award from the Southbank Centre. Join us in the afternoon for a wide range of wonderful events, with poetry for all ages, including school groups, families and an evening of performances for adults – 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. Several new Poetry Society commissions will premiere, including a new film of Marian Allen's 'The Wind on the Downs' and four new commissions on the theme of 'conflict'. Denise Riley, Warsan Shire, Steve Ely and Zaffar Kunial will each showcase new pieces in the Purcell Room of the Southbank Centre. www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/info/npd

EXHIBITION

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

Drawn to Poetry – a Visual Response

16 June – 16 August

An exhibition of drawings by artist Thomas Hogan produced at speed, with an eye to economy and spontaneity, at poetry events organised by the Poetry Society, the Poetry School, Apples and Snakes and others. They feature some recognisable figures from the contemporary poetry scene.

– ENDS –

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

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 ward for New Work in Poetry, 'Where We Begin to Look', with Zoe Benbow and Sarah Corbett 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

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