

24 June 2011 *For immediate release*

SLAMBassadors^{UK}

Now open for entries: young people across the UK – make some noise!

Now in its tenth year, SLAMBassadors UK continues to seek out the most inspirational young performance poets from around the UK. Any young person aged 12-18 who wants to speak, rap, rant, chime or rhyme around the theme of 'Identity' can enter. The deadline for entries is Friday 9 December 2011.

Look out for workshops and filming in London, Manchester, Yorkshire, Liverpool, Leicester, and Scotland. A team of established performance poets and rappers will go into schools, youth clubs and theatres to find those voices that express what it means to be a young person in Britain today. Young people can also enter independently by emailing their films to the Poetry Society.



Photo: Hayley Madden

Poets taking to the road this year include leading spoken word artists

Joelle Taylor (co-ordinator of SLAMBassadors UK), Nikki Blaze, Khadijah Ibrahim and Beyonder. Alongside these are former SLAMBassadors UK winners Chris Preddie, PACE, Louise Hill and Kayo Chingonyi all of whom, since winning SLAMBassadors UK, have gone on to become big names on the performance poetry circuit.

How to enter: any young person aged 12-18 can enter – they do not need to belong to a school or to have taken part in one of the free workshops. Simply write a poem or rap around the theme of 'Identity', film yourself performing the poem, register your entry online and send the video to the Poetry Society. Full details and entry forms are available at <http://slam.poetrysociety.org.uk/>

All the videos published on the Poetry Society website will be judged by Joelle Taylor and a high profile guest poet who will be announced later in the year.

Continues over

For further information

Telephone Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895
or Alan Ward on 020 7420 9886
Email: marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk

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The Poetry Society is grateful to the following for their support of SLAMBassadors UK: North Somerset Council, Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service, Buckinghamshire County Council, Glastonbury Festival and Pop Up Festival of Stories.

– ENDS –

For more information and/or to interview Joelle Taylor or any of the poets and past SLAMBassadors winners contact Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895 or email marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

- SLAM is the competitive art of performance poetry, rapping or emceeing where artists spit their lyrics and poems to panel of judges.
- Joelle Taylor is the coordinator of SLAMBassadors UK. She is based in London, and has worked extensively as a performance poet, spoken word artist and storyteller since 1986. She also has a background in theatre. She has led numerous writing and performance workshops in schools, theatres and art centres. She has toured nationally both as a solo artist and as a member of Atomic Lip, a polyphonic performance poetry group which fused spoken word with popular culture.
- 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.

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