

News Item – Submissions Open 2020

Title: Deborah Rogers Foundation Announces 2020 Writers Award

Sub-title: Submissions for the DRF 2020 Writers Award can be made between 1st June 2019 until 31st October 2019.

Body:

Deborah Rogers Foundation Announces 2020 DRF Writers Award

- Submissions open on 1st June and close on 31st October 2019
- Judges will be Ian Rankin, Sarah Perry and Max Porter
- Winner receives £10,000 to complete first book

www.deborahrogersfoundation.org

The Deborah Rogers Foundation announces that submissions for the 2020 DRF Writers Award will open on 1st June 2019 and close on 31st October 2019.

The judges of the 2020 DRF Writers Award will be Ian Rankin (Chair), Sarah Perry and Max Porter. They will announce the shortlist of three in April 2020 and the Award will be presented in London in mid-May 2020.

The winner of the 2018 Writers Award was *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* by Deepa Anappara, to be published by Chatto & Windus in February 2020, and already sold in eighteen countries.

THE 2020 DRF WRITERS AWARD

£10,000 will be presented to a first-time writer whose submission demonstrates outstanding literary talent and who needs financial support to complete their work:

- Submissions should take the form of 20-25,000 words of a work in progress, fiction or non-fiction, which is not under option or contract.
- Applicants may not be under contract to any publisher for any work or title in any language.
- Applications are open to writers who have not previously published a full-length book of their own prose writing (including self-published or published on-line) excluding a collection of their own poetry. They may have published short prose writing within a magazine/anthology.

- Entrants must write in the English language and reside within the British Commonwealth and Eire.
- Submissions should be accompanied with a brief synopsis and biographical note.
- Applicants who submitted work for the DRF Writers Award previously may re-apply but the work submitted must be new.
- The winner receives a cheque of £10,000 and each runner-up receives £1,000.

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JUDGES OF THE 2020 DRF WRITERS AWARD

Ian Rankin is the internationally bestselling author of the Inspector Rebus and Detective Malcolm Fox novels, as well as a string of standalone thrillers. His books have been translated into thirty-six languages and are bestsellers on several continents. Ian is the recipient of four CWA Dagger Awards and in 2004 won America's celebrated Edgar Award. He is also the recipient of honorary degrees from the universities of Abertay, St Andrews, Hull and Edinburgh, and received the OBE for services to literature, opting to receive the prize in his home city of Edinburgh, where he lives with his wife and two sons.

Sarah Perry's first novel, *After Me Comes the Flood*, was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Folio Prize, and won the East Anglian Book of the Year Award in 2014. *The Essex Serpent* was a number one bestseller in hardback, Waterstones Book of the Year 2016, and the British Book Awards Book of the Year 2017. Her most recent novel, *Melmoth*, was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas prize. Her work has been translated into twenty languages. She lives in Norwich.

Max Porter's first novel, *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers* won the *Sunday Times*/Peter, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year, the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the Europese Literatuurprijs and the BAMB Readers' Award and was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Goldsmiths Prize. It has been sold in twenty-nine territories. His second novel *Lanny* was a *Sunday Times* Top 10 bestseller and has sold in twenty-two territories. Max was previously editorial director at *Granta*, where his authors included Eleanor Catton, Han Kang and Rebecca Solnit. He now lives in Bath with his family.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

DEBORAH ROGERS

A literary agent all her professional life, Deborah Rogers (1938-2014) set up her own agency in 1967, and twenty years later formed [Rogers Coleridge & White](#) with Gill Coleridge and Pat White. One of the most influential literary agents of her generation, Deborah was renowned for her taste, her loyalty and her immense generosity in the support she gave to authors. Her sudden death on 30th April 2014 sent a shockwave through the world of publishing and the many writers, publishers

and agents whose lives she had touched. At the 2014 London Book Fair, Deborah was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award in International Publishing, the first agent to have received the honour. She accepted this with characteristic modesty:

“It hardly seems fair to be given an award for what has been a lifetime of such pleasure... those who have entrusted their work to us over the years will never know the intense pride that they have brought, and the anticipation and excitement that greets each new manuscript never palls. I have them to thank most of all.”

THE DEBORAH ROGERS FOUNDATION

Deborah’s particular genius lay in identifying and supporting talented young people. The **Deborah Rogers Foundation** (DRF) was therefore set up in her memory to continue to seek out and support emerging talent in the publishing world specifically by means of two biennial awards:

- [The Writers Award](#) which gives £10,000 to an unpublished writer to enable them to complete a first book
- [The DRF David Miller Bursary](#) which offers work placements in publishing houses and literary agencies worldwide together with £10,000 to help a young agent gain international work experience

The Foundation is seeking to raise a further £125,000 to complete a total endowment of £250,000 to support these two Awards and secure their future for ten years or more.

Visit www.deborahrogersfoundation.org for further information about the Foundation.



Ian McEwan at the Hay Festival on 27th May 2018 with Deepa Anappara and Sharlene Teo – the winners of the 2016 and 2018 Writers Award.

THE 2018 DRF WRITERS AWARD

The winner was **Deepa Anappara** for *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line*, to be published by Chatto & Windus UK and Random House US in 2020.

The runners-up were **Dima Alzayat** for *Daughters of Manat & Other Stories* (Picador 2020) and **Chris Connolly** for *The Speed of Light and How it Cannot Help Us*.

The judges were **Anne Enright** (Chair), **Peter Hobbs** and **Jenny Uglow**.

THE 2016 DRF WRITERS AWARD

The winner was **Sharlene Teo** for *Ponti* published by Picador UK and Simon & Schuster US in 2018.

The runners-up were **Imogen Hermes Gowar** for *The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock* (Harvill Secker 2018) and **Guy Stagg** for *The Crossway* (Picador 2018).

The judges were **Shena Mackay** (Chair), **Owen Sheers** and **Kate Summerscale**.

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