

Press Release

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For immediate release

New Welsh Writing Awards 2017 opens for entries with two new categories

The New Welsh Writing Awards 2017, run by New Welsh Review in association with Aberystwyth University and AmeriCymru, opens for entries on 26 September with two new categories, the Aberystwyth University Prize for Memoir and AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella.

Now in its third year, the Awards were set up to champion the best short-form writing in English and has previously run non-fiction categories with the WWF Cymru Prize for Writing on Nature, won by Eluned Gramich in 2015 and the University of South Wales Prize for Travel Writing, won by Mandy Sutter in June 2016.

This year sees the Awards open up to fiction and memoir, welcoming sponsorship from Aberystwyth University, the core sponsor and host of New Welsh Review, and US online magazine and social network AmeriCymru. The Awards are run in partnership with Curtis Brown, Gladstone's Library and Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre.

New Welsh Review editor Gwen Davies will judge both categories with Welsh-American writer David Lloyd co-judging the Novella category. David is the author of nine books including poetry collections and novels, and directs the Creative Writing Program at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY.

Each category winner will receive £1,000 cash, e-publication by New Welsh Review on their New Welsh Rarebyte imprint and a positive critique by leading literary agent Cathryn Summerhayes at Curtis Brown. Second prize for each category is a weeklong residential course at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre in Gwynedd, north Wales and third prize is a weekend stay at Gladstone's Library in Flintshire, north Wales. All six winners will also receive a one-year subscription to New Welsh Review. In addition New Welsh Review will consider the highly commended and shortlisted nominees for publication in a forthcoming edition of its creative magazine *New Welsh Reader* with an associated standard fee.

The Awards are open to all writers based in the UK and Ireland plus those who have been educated in Wales. The AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella is also open to writers based in the US and Canada. Entries close at midnight on 1 March 2017. Full details, including terms and conditions, can be found online at www.newwelshwritingawards.com.

The longlist will be announced online on 3 April 2017, with the shortlist announced at an event at Aberystwyth University on 4 May 2017 and the winner at an event at Hay Festival on 1 June 2017.

Gwen Davies, editor of New Welsh Review says: 'We are seeking evocative, succinct and authentic short book-length manuscripts in English. For the novella category they will be between 8,000 and 30,000 words. For the memoir, between 5,000 and 30,000. If your top drawer hides a novella with the punch of *Animal Farm* or the poignancy and dialect of Mihangel Morgan's *Pan Oeddwyn yn Fachgen*; or the bite, and visceral local feel of

memoirs such as Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club* or the sheer cheek of Charles Nicholl's *The Fruit Palace*, we want to hear from you.'

Co-judge **David Lloyd** says 'I am delighted to serve as co-judge for the AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella. Ever since writing a novella for my first book of fiction, I have loved the form, which combines the intensity of the short story with the expansiveness of the novel. It can be devoured in one sitting or put down and picked up for leisurely reading. Anyone who has read James Joyce's 'The Dead', Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, Carson McCullers' *The Ballad of the Sad Café*, or Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* will know the pleasures of this genre in the hands of masters. I also very much value the international scope of this contest, which I hope will draw out authors from diverse backgrounds who write – or who are now inspired to try – the novella.'

Louise Marshall, Head of English and Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, said: 'We are delighted to be working with New Welsh Review to find the best writing talent in Wales and beyond. Memoirs are a fascinating and often surprising literary form and, just as these Awards have already celebrated Mandy Sutter's and Eluned Gramich's beautifully crafted and enthralling works, we are very much looking forward to discovering equally talented writers in the future.'

Ceri Shaw, co-founder of AmeriCymru, added, 'AmerCymru is honored to be offered this opportunity to partner with the New Welsh Review and Aberystwyth University. We founded AmeriCymru to increase awareness of Wales and Welsh heritage and to bring Wales and its arts, including literature, to the attention of more people around the world. This competition provides voice and opportunity to new and upcoming writers, and we are excited to be able to contribute to this effort.'

For more details on the Awards and for interview requests please contact Megan Farr on marketing@newwelshreview.com or 07912149249



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Notes to editor:

- **Gwen Davies** has been editor of New Welsh Review since 2011. She has worked as creative editor at publishers including Parthian, and founded the imprints Alcemi and New Welsh Rarebyte. As a literary translator her titles include Robin Llywelyn's *White Star (Seren Wen)* and two of bestseller Caryl Lewis' novels, *Martha, Jack & Shanco (Martha, Jac a Sianco)* and *The Jeweller (Y Gemydd)*. She has also been a Literature Officer at the Arts Council of Wales, a member and Chair of Literature Wales' Writers' Bursaries Panel for seven years, represented literature for the Arts Council of Wales' Creative Wales Awards and has been a writers' mentor, both privately and for Literature Wales. She has been co-judge for the New Welsh Writing Awards since its inauguration in 2015, and in 2017, as well as being co-judge for the novella category, will be sole judge for the memoir category. She grew up in a Welsh-speaking family in West Yorkshire and now lives in Aberystwyth with her family.
- **David Lloyd** is the author of nine books, including three poetry collections (*Warriors* 2012, *The Gospel According to Frank* 2009, *The Everyday Apocalypse* 2002) and two works of fiction (*Boys: Stories and a Novella* 2005 and *Over the Line* 2013). In 2000, he received the Poetry Society of America's Robert H. Winner Memorial Award. In 2001 he was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in residence at Bangor University, Wales, UK. He directs the Creative Writing Program at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. www.davidlloydwriter.com
- **Aberystwyth University** is a public research university located in Aberystwyth, Wales. Aberystwyth was a founding Member Institution of the former federal University of Wales. The University has almost 8,000 students studying across its six academic Institutes and was voted Top Ten in the UK and Top in Wales for Student Satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2016. www.aber.ac.uk/en/
- **AmeriCymru** is the social network for the Welsh, Welsh Americans, ex-pats and people of Welsh descent around the world and runs a number of events and competitions promoting Welsh culture in the US and beyond. www.americymru.net/welsh-literature
- **New Welsh Review** was founded in 1988 as the successor to *The Welsh Review* (1939-1948), *Dock Leaves* and *The Anglo-Welsh Review* (1949-1987) and is Wales's foremost literary magazine in English, offering a vital outlet for the very best new fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry, a forum for critical debate, and a rigorous and engaged reviewing culture. New Welsh Review Ltd is supported through core funding by the Welsh Books Council and hosted by Aberystwyth University Department of English and Creative Writing. The magazine's creative content was rebranded as *New Welsh Reader* in May 2015, with reviews moving entirely online. New Welsh Review can be bought by Direct Debit on subscription at £16.99, UK only (£20.99 for all other subscription types, UK). www.newwelshreview.com
- The **New Welsh Writing Awards** were set up in 2014 to promote and publish short books of under 30,000 words across different categories. The **New Welsh Writing Awards 2015**: WWF Cymru Prize for Writing on Nature and the Environment was won by Eluned Gramich for *Woman Who Brings the Rain: A memoir of Hokkaido, Japan* (available in print and as a Kindle ebook). Eluned now lives and works in Germany and is currently working on her first novel. The winner of the **New Welsh Writing Awards 2016**: University of South Wales Prize for Travel Writing was Ilkley-based writer Mandy Sutter for her piece 'Bush Meat: As My Mother Told Me'. She is currently working on a collection of writing based on her mother's experience of living in 1960s ex-pat Nigeria.