

Press Release

Monday 3 April 2017

For immediate release

Themes of family separation and reconciliation on New Welsh Writing Awards 2017 longlist dominated by women

New Welsh Review in association with Aberystwyth University and AmeriCymru is delighted to announce the longlists for the New Welsh Writing Awards 2017: 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 2016. The Awards 2017 opened up entries from the US and Canada for the first time in the Novella category.

Both new and established writers based in Wales, England and the US are in the running for the top prize including a joint memoir by a husband and wife. The longlist is dominated by women with 8 out of 9 women contending for the Memoir Prize and 6 out of 9 women in the running for the Novella Prize.

The memoir list includes true stories of a Canadian hobo; anorexia; a daughter's American road-trip made to help reconcile her father and grandmother; an all-boys care-home in South Africa whose residents include a baboon; being the daughter of a Rhyl beauty competition judge, and backpacking behind the iron curtain.

Among the novellas, sexual abuse or the threat of it are among the themes; also homosexuality in a Welsh monastery; the meanings and mystery of treasures old and new; escaping the shadow of a father figure, and the enduring healing and destructive powers of archetypes and idylls.

Aberystwyth University Prize for Memoir Longlist

Maria Apichella (Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk)	<i>The Red Circle</i>
Caroline Greville (Eythorne, Nr. Dover Kent)	<i>Badger Contact</i>
Catherine Haines (Charing, Kent)	<i>My Oxford</i>
Liz Jones (Aberystwyth, Wales)	<i>On Shifting Sands</i>
Sarah Leavesley (Droitwich, Worcestershire)	<i>The Myopic of Me</i>
Mary Oliver (Newlyn, Cornwall)	<i>The Case</i>
Amanda and Robert Oosthuizen (Eastleigh, Hampshire)	<i>Boystown S.A.</i>
Lynne Parry-Griffiths (Wrexham)	<i>Painting the Beauty Queens</i>
	<i>Orange</i>
Adam Somerset (Aberaeron, Wales)	<i>People, Places, Things: A</i>
	<i>Life with the Cold War</i>

AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella Longlist

Cath Barton (Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales)	<i>The Plankton Collector</i>
Rebecca Casson (Holywell, Flintshire, Wales)	<i>Infirmarian</i>
Barbara de la Cuesta (Seaside Heights, New Jersey, US)	<i>Exiles</i>

Nicola Daly (Chester, Cheshire)	<i>The Night Where you no Longer Live</i>
Olivia Gwyne (Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland)	<i>The Seal</i>
Atar Hadari (Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire)	<i>Burning Poets</i>
Joao Morais (Cardiff, Wales)	<i>Smugglers' Tunnel</i>
Veronica Popp (Chicago, US)	<i>Sick</i>
Mike Tuohy (Jefferson, Georgia, US)	<i>Double Nickel Jackpot</i>

Commended

Amanda Oosthuizen (Eastleigh, Hampshire)	<i>Carving Strangers</i>
--	--------------------------

New Welsh Review editor Gwen Davies judged both categories with help from students from Aberystwyth University. The shortlist for the Novella category will now be co-judged by Welsh-American writer David Lloyd. 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.

Gwen Davies, editor of New Welsh Review said: 'These Awards keep going from strength to strength in their third year with a much-increased number of entries and an excellent standard of writing. *Carving Strangers*, a South-Africa set novel about female emancipation, wood-carving and illegal diamonds, didn't make it to the longlist but deserves a special mention for the quality and flow of its prose. The novella category, in particular, this year offers a range of voice and expertise of style, as well as historical span, that bodes well for the future of the novella in Wales, a place that has long been a haven for the shorter form in literature.'

The shortlist will be announced at an event at The Bookshop in Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Thursday 4 May from 6.30-8pm and the winners will be announced at a ceremony at Hay Festival on Thursday 1 June from 2-4pm.

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 live overseas who have been educated in Wales. The AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella was also open to writers based in the US and Canada.

The 2017 Awards are sponsored by 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.

www.newwelshwritingawards.com #newwelshawards

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