

Press release

Looking for a writing adventure? Julia Darling Travel Fellowship 2018 opens for entries

Worth £2000, the Julia Darling Travel Fellowship offers a published writer from the North of England a period of travel for writing, research and inspiration. It is now open for entries until 23 March 2018.

The Julia Darling Travel Fellowship celebrates the memory of writer Julia Darling, whose wide-ranging work included the novels *Crocodile Soup* (1998, 2015) and *The Taxi Driver's Daughter* (2003); poetry collections *Sudden Collapses in Public Places* (2003) and *Apology for Absence* (2004); and plays for stage and radio, *Eating the Elephant* (1996), *Personal Belongings* (2002) and *Appointments* (2005).

Founded by Julia's friends and family in 2015, the fellowship is managed by New Writing North. It is inspired by Julia's love of travel and by the appreciation that she had of writing away from home, while reflecting her passion for encouraging other writers. So far the award has supported three writers to undertake creative journeys to write and research new work: Chloe Daykin travelled to Norway, Michelle Green travelled to Hayling Island and Emma McGordon journeyed to San Francisco.

The Fellowship is awarded by a panel made up of Julia's writer friends and family. This year's judges are Kitty Fitzgerald, Linda Anderson, Jan Clements and Bev Robinson.

Julia Darling's work encompassed a wide range of topics and forms from plays and novels to poetry and performance. Honouring that range of disciplines, the Fellowship is open to novelists, poets and playwrights. Entrants must be over the age of 18, live and work in the north of England and have at least one professionally produced or published work to their name.

Claire Malcolm, chief executive of New Writing North said: 'The fellowship is a very special part of New Writing North's work. It reflects the spirit of adventure that Julia had in both her writing and her life and uniquely supports writers to define their own creative journey. I've loved hearing about where the previous winners have been and the impact that their travels had on their work. It's always interesting and always surprising and so far such a good body of work has grown from it.'

Bev Robinson said: 'The Julia Darling Travel Fellowship is such a special award as it gives creative writers a little gem of time and travel to explore their creative instincts.'

For all media enquires, including high res images and interview requests, please contact Laura Fraine, Senior Marketing &

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Notes to Editors

New Writing North

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England and is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. It works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as The Northern Writers' Awards, the Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival. As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and acts as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber & Faber, Northumbria University and Durham University.

Julia Darling Travel Fellowship

The fellowship can be used to fund travel and accommodation in the UK and internationally. The fellowship will also support group applications by writers who would like to undertake joint residential retreats (something that Julia valued).

The fellowship is open to novelists, poets and playwrights over the age of 18, who live and work in the north of England who have at least one professionally produced or published work to their name. The fellowship is for activity that takes place between June 2018 and May 2019.

To apply writers must write a brief description (up to 500 words) of how they would like to use the resource to advance their creative work, a short biography (up to 300 words) and state why now would be a good time for them to receive support (up to 300 words). To apply visit www.newwritingnorth.com . Entry is by online submission only.

The Julia Darling Travel Fellowship opens for applications on: Tuesday 6 February 2018 and the deadline for submissions is Friday 23 March 2018. The fellowship will be announced in May 2018.

Judges Biographies

Kitty Fitzgerald

Kitty Fitzgerald has written five well-received novels: *Identity* (Room to Write 2014), *Pigtopia* (Faber & Faber), *Small Acts of Treachery* (Brandon), *Marge* (Sheba) and a collection of short Stories, *Miranda's Shadow* (IRON Press 2013). Her modern fable, *The Water Thief and the Manatee* (illustrated by Nicola Balfour) was published in June 2017 (IRON Press).

She has been published in 24 countries, took second place (fiction) in the Barnes & Noble Discover Awards and has written for radio drama and theatre. Her writing awards include: Hawthornden Fellowship, Hosking House Fellowship, Heinrich Böll Award. In Autumn 2015, she was Writer in Residence at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

She has edited five collections of short fiction. Written four plays for BBC Radio 4; six of her theatre plays have been produced by a variety of companies.

Linda Anderson

Linda Anderson is Professor of Modern English and American Literature at Newcastle University and was founding Director of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts. She is currently Director of the Newcastle Poetry Festival with Sinéad Morrissey. She has published critical books and essays on various topics including autobiography and Elizabeth Bishop, most recently, *Elizabeth Bishop: Lines of Connection*. She also writes poetry and has a pamphlet, *Greenhouse*, with Mariscat.

Jan Clements

Jan Clements is a media lawyer working with news organisations, journalists and NGOs on freedom of expression. Like Julia, she was born in Winchester. They became lifelong friends when at about 12 years old they met at school and discovered they each knew all the words to 'The Crystal Ship' by The Doors. She travelled with Julia several times starting in their teens when they pledged to hitch 'up and down the world'. Julia always wrote on these journeys and they made scrapbooks together, illustrating the importance to writers of being able to travel.

Bev Robinson

Bev Robinson was Julia's partner for 16 years where they lived in Newcastle with Julia's two daughters Scarlet and Florrie. She enjoyed travelling the world with Julia to explore places and 'fill up the image banks'. In 2015 Bev helped to establish the Julia Darling Travel Fellowship with New Writing North.