

GORDON BURN PRIZE

Press release: for release 9am, Thursday 23 March 2023

New sponsor, bigger prize fund and new chair of judges for the Gordon Burn Prize

Terri White has been announced as the new chair of the judges for the Gordon Burn Prize, which will next be announced in March 2024. Terri White is a journalist, screenwriter and author of the 2020 memoir *Coming Undone*.

The Gordon Burn Prize was launched by New Writing North, Faber & Faber and the Gordon Burn Trust in 2012 and first awarded in 2013 to Benjamin Myers. For ten years, the prize was awarded as part of Durham Book Festival. Today's announcement heralds a new three-year partnership with Newcastle University. The Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 will be announced at Newcastle's Northern Stage in March 2024, with an accompanying programme of activities for university staff and students. The new sponsorship from Newcastle University also means the prize fund has doubled to £10,000.

The Gordon Burn Prize remembers the author of novels including *Alma Cogan*, *Fullalove* and *Born Yesterday: The News as a Novel*, and non-fiction including *Happy Like Murderers: The Story of Fred and Rosemary West* and *Best and Edwards: Football, Fame and Oblivion*.

The prize seeks to celebrate the writing of those whose work follows in Gordon's footsteps, identifying and celebrating brilliant writing that often finds its readers outside the mainstream. The prize covers both fiction and non-fiction, awarding books that are fearless in their ambition and execution, often pushing boundaries and challenging readers' expectations. In 2022, Preti Taneja won the Gordon Burn Prize for *Aftermath*, a work of narrative non-fiction that blurs genres and form to understand terror, trauma and grief.

Gordon was born in 1948 in the West End of Newcastle and retained a strong connection to the city throughout his life, writing about the city in both journalism and his novel, *The North of England Home Service*. While based in London, in later years he did much of his writing in a small cottage in rural Berwickshire, bought for that purpose. As well as winning £10,000, the winner of the Gordon Burn Prize will have the opportunity to take up a writing retreat at Gordon's cottage.

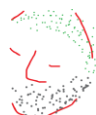
Professor James Annesley, Acting Dean of Culture and Creative Arts at Newcastle

University: "Newcastle University are delighted to be sponsoring the Gordon Burn Prize in partnership with New Writing North, The Gordon Burn Trust and Faber & Faber. With its deep regional connection and its concern for the best and most challenging of books, the Gordon Burn Prize speaks to the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics' world leading

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reputation for excellence in Creative Writing and Newcastle University's wider commitment to culture and the arts."

Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North said: "At a time when many literary prizes are struggling, we're thrilled and very grateful to have new sponsors in Newcastle University and to be bringing the prize back to Gordon's home city. We're really excited for people here to celebrate Gordon's writing and the work of those writers who follow in his footsteps and to extend our university partnerships in this way with Newcastle."

Carol Gerner of the Gordon Burn Trust said: "We are all very excited that the prize is going to be based in Newcastle. Gordon was absolutely passionate about it, and missed it so much that he chose the Scottish Borders to write in, so that he could be closer to the city. There is so much of his history there, and he would have been absolutely thrilled to know that through the Prize more wonderful writers will be connected to him and Newcastle in the future."

Terri White, Gordon Burn Prize chair of the judges said: "As a passionate fan of Gordon Burn's work, it's utterly wild that I'll have the honour of chairing the prize. Much like Burn's work was without peer, the Gordon Burn Prize is unlike any other literary prize in the world, recognising work that is relentlessly radical, genre-busting, blazing and bold. I can't wait to join the celebration of literature that treads the same pioneering path."

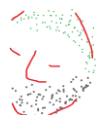
The Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 will open for entry in May 2023 to works in English published between 1 July 2022 and 30 November 2023 by writers of any nationality. The longlist will be announced in November 2023 and the shortlist in January 2024, before the prize ceremony in March 2024.

Notes to Editor

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Previous winners of the Gordon Burn Prize:

- 2022: *Aftermath*, by Preti Taneja
- 2021: *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, by Hanif Abdurraqib
- 2020: *This Is Not Propaganda*, by Peter Pomerantsev
- 2019: *For the Good Times*, by David Keenan
- 2018: *Census*, by Jesse Ball



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- 2017: *The Long Drop*, by Denise Mina
- 2016: *All That Man Is*, by David Szalay
- 2015: *In Plain Sight: The Life and Lies of Jimmy Savile*, by Dan Davies
- 2014: *The Wake*, by Paul Kingsnorth
- 2013: *Pig Iron*, by Benjamin Myers

The position of chair of judges for the Gordon Burn Prize was last held by Denise Mina in 2021 and 2022.

Terri White is a journalist, author and screenwriter based in the northwest. Her book, *Coming Undone: A Memoir* was published by Canongate in 2020 and she is now developing it for television – as writer and Exec Producer- with Netflix and Bad Wolf, the production company behind *His Dark Materials* and *I Hate Suzie*. Terri contributed an essay to Ted Kessler's non-fiction book on fathers, *My Old Man*, also published by Canongate. She is a columnist for *The Sunday Times* and her journalism is focused at the intersection of life-writing and culture, class, society and feminism. She writes regularly for titles including *New Statesman*, *The Observer*, *British Vogue*, *The Guardian*, *ELLE UK* and *The Big Issue*. She has just made her first narrative radio documentary and podcast for the BBC, 'Terri White: Finding Britain's Ghost Children'. Prior to this, Terri worked in publishing for two decades, editing magazines in the UK and US including *EMPIRE* and *Time Out New York*. She was named Editor of the Year three times by the British Society of Magazine Editors; one of the 150 Female Leaders redefining the creative industries and a Folio Top Woman in US Media. She received the BSME's lifetime achievement award, the Mark Boxer Award, in 2022 and was made a Fellow of the RSA (The Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce), in recognition of her work in journalism. She is currently working on a short film, a second non-fiction book and her first novel.

