



Our Spring season is go! Check out our [programme](#) and remember that as London Writers Network members you get 10% off our workshops, events and online courses. We've also launched a brand new London Writers Network event featuring a fantastic panel chatting about how to get into life writing. We'd love to see you there!

We've collated a selection of competitions and opportunities that you can enter in different categories below, and some brilliant inspiration pieces. We've also got some fantastic offers from our supporters - check them out below. Do [get in touch](#) you'd like to be featured in our next newsletter.

And in the meantime, happy writing!

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## LONDON WRITERS NETWORK EVENT: HOW TO GET INTO LIFE WRITING

Wednesday 10 April, 6:30-8:30PM

Idea Store, Whitechapel

FREE to London Writers Network members

Are you interested in Life Writing but don't know where to start? Join Dr Katy Massey, Miranda Doyle and Hannah Lowe for an evening of practical advice, discussions and readings from contributors to 'Who Are We Now? True stories about the impact of Brexit on everyday life.' Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to network with the writers on the panel and audience.

[BOOK HERE](#)

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## The London Writers Awards is back on 1 May!

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be open to writers of literary fiction, commercial fiction, YA/children's and narrative non-fiction. To apply you'll need to submit a written sample/extract up to 3,000 words, a synopsis or project outline and complete an application form. Applications will close on 31 May. Look out for more information on our website and social media soon.

## The Life Writing Prize 2019 Readings

Come and listen to the top ten stories for this year's Life Writing Prize on Wednesday 15 May at Goldsmiths University, where we'll also be announcing this year's winner! Exciting times. Tickets are free but please book in advance.

## 10% discounts off The Author School Day

The Author School have offered 10% discounts off tickets for our members who would like to go **The Author School Day**, which looks absolutely fab! To apply for this, use the code Writers10Percent at the checkout.

## The Future is Back

We're delighted to be supporting Olumide Popoola with her second launch of Futures in the Making - a free creative writing development scheme for LGBTQ+ emerging writers wishing to develop their creative practice and learn how to take their writing to the next level. Applications open on 1 April and close on 31 April.

## 50% subscription discount off The Bookseller

The Bookseller has kindly offered 50% discount to members of the London Writers Network on their magazine and digital subscriptions. Find out more and sign up for this fantastic offer [here](#).

## 10% discount off the The Riff Raff's Services

The Riff Raff have launched The Riff Raff Manuscript Shakedown and The Riff Raff Mentoring Scheme. They're offering our members an unlimited 10% discount on both services, using the code SHAKEDOWN10. Get in!



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## THE LOWDOWN

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## and Screen / Non-Fiction / Cross-genre / From the Network / Inspiration

### FICTION

- **For Books' Sake: The Weekend Read** publishes outstanding fiction written by women every Friday. Submissions must be between 2000-6000 words.
- **HW Fisher Scholarship from Curtis Brown** offers a free space on one of their three month course in London to a writer of limited financial means. The course will run from 1 May-17 July and will be led by Charlotte Mendelson. Send in 3000 words with a synopsis.  
D/L 7 April
- **Glimmer Train Press Short Story Award for New Writers** is open only to emerging writers. \$18 per submission and the winning prize is \$2,500 plus publication in Glimmer Train Stories.  
D/L 30 April
- **The Edinburgh International Flash Fiction Competition 2019** is open for stories 250 words or under that must have not been published previously. £5 per story and £500 winning prize.  
D/L 30 April
- **Bristol Short Story Prize** is an annual international writing competition open to both published and unpublished writers. The maximum length of submissions - on any theme or subject is 4000 words.  
D/L 1 May
- **Brick Lane Bookshop** have launched the inaugural Brick Lane Bookshop Short Story Prize. £1k for the winner. Judged by Kit Caless, Zoe Gilbert and Emma Paterson.  
D/L 25 May
- **Blue Pencil Agency First Novel Award 2019** is open to underrepresented and unpublished authors for a novel in any adult fiction genre. The winner gets £1000 and an introduction to literary agent, Nelle Andrew. Submit up to 5000 words. Entry fee: £20 and online entries only.

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- **Big Issue Crime Writing Competition** is to win a two-book publishing contract for a novel to be published by Avon Books. Writers must send in a full manuscript and a synopsis. Free to enter.  
D/L 31 May
  - **The Bath Novel Award** is an international prize for novel manuscripts written for adults or young adults. It costs £25 per novel to enter with sponsored entries available for low income writers.  
D/L 2 June
  - **Writers & Artists Working-Class Writers' Prize** is open to writers from a working-class background, aged over 18 and living in the UK. Submit a piece of prose no more than 2000 words. Judged by Natasha Carthew.  
D/L 10 June
  - **V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize** is open for short story submissions between 2,000-4,000 words. Entrants must be resident in the UK, ROI or Commonwealth. 50 free entries for low-income writers (apply by 28 May).  
D/L 28 June
  - **The Moth International Short Story Prize 2019** will be judged by the tremendous Kit de Waal who will select three winning stories to be featured in *The Moth*. Winners will also get cash prizes.  
D/L 30 June
  - **The Joan Aiken Future Classics Prize 2019** is open to find a standout new voice in middle-grade fiction. Applicants must be un-agented and resident in the UK / Ireland. The winner gets £1k and a full set of 'The Wolves Chronicles.'  
D/L 30 June
  - **Hashtag Press 2020** is a new prize launched by Hashtag Press offering the winner a book deal with a release date in 2020. Fiction only - adult, YA or middle grade with a strong female protagonist and diverse cast.  
D/L 1 September
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- **The Straid Collection Award: 2019** invites submissions of new and unpublished full collection manuscripts of poetry. £25 to enter. Winning entry will be published.  
D/L 16 April
- **Planet in Peril** is a new anthology combining poetry and photography to increase awareness of the complex issues surrounding climate change. Reduced entry fees are available for those on a low-income.  
D/L 28 April
- **Magma** have put out a call for submissions for poems on the theme 'Loss'. Up to 4 poems can be submitted but they must have not been previously published (online and in print).  
D/L 30 April
- **Grey Hen** is open for poetry submissions up to 40 lines, on any theme, previously unpublished and not accepted for future publication. This competition is open for women over 60 only. £3 per entry / £10 for four.  
D/L 30 April
- **Poetry London Clore Prize** is open for poems under 80 lines. Multiple submissions are permitted and Poetry London subscribers get a discounted entry fee. Cash prizes and publication for winners.  
D/L 1 May
- **erbacce prize for poetry 2019** is a worldwide competition. Entrants must send in five pages of poetry (some of which can be previously published, though it must have some unpublished work too). The winner will get a publishing contract.  
D/L 1 May
- **IOTA Shot Pamphlet Awards: 2019** is open for manuscripts of between 16-20 pages of poetry, with up to forty lines per page and written in any style. £18 to enter with two awards on offer.  
D/L 6 May
- **Conversationally Yours** is a poetry collaboration competition run by The Hedgehog Poetry Press where two poets will create a conversation in poetry. The best ones will be published. £10 entry fee.

- **Marsden the Poetry Village International Poetry Competition** is open for submissions on the theme 'Together'. It will be judged by Patience Agbabi and there will be cash prizes and publication for the winners. £4 per poem / £10 for three.  
D/L 1 June
  - **Poetry Space Competition 2019** is open for entries. Poems must be previously unpublished and 40 lines or under to be entered. Fee is £5 per poem and the top three poets will receive cash prizes.  
D/L 30 June
  - **Momaya Press's Poetry Competition** is open to poets of any nationality writing in English. Entries may be up to 1500 words, in any style and on the theme 'MASKS.' Winners will be published and receive cash prizes.  
D/L 30 October
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## WRITING FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

- **Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting** are offering up to five fellowships of \$35,000. They are intended for new / amateur screenwriters and applicants must submit an original feature film screenplay. The regular deadline is 10 April but there is also a late entry deadline on 1 May.
- **The Upsetters** are looking for submissions for their short play night at the Bunker Theatre on 9 June. They are only accepting scripts from writers of colour based in the UK. Selected writers will be paid and their work staged.  
D/L 7 April (10am)
- **BBC Documentaries New Directors' Initiative** is looking for the next generation of documentary film makers. Six candidates will be given the opportunity to produce and direct their first long-form documentary for BBC Three.  
D/L 7 April

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global events and on the new Punkanary On-Demand channel.

D/L 15 April

- **Lost Souls Podcast Monologues** are looking for new scripts on the theme of 'Lost Soul' for a new storytelling podcast. Free to submit and selected writers will receive £25 for their work.  
D/L 17 April
- **Cast Iron Shorts Competition** is open for submissions of short stories (of 1500 words) on the theme 'sanctuary'. The winning six stories will be read live on stage in June. £5.50 entry fee.  
D/L 26 April
- **The Script Room** is the BBC's submission window and they have just opened for Comedy scripts, from original voices, showing something new and different.  
D/L 29 April
- **The Carlo Annoni Award 2019** is for theatre plays on gay themes and on diversity in love. The plays can be written in Italian or in English. The winning prize (for each language) is €1000. Free to enter.  
D/L 30 April
- **Thousand Films New Writers' Contest** is a new competition from Thousand Films and Sid Gentle Films. It is open for submissions for female writers in the UK and Ireland. Submit a script for the first episode of a drama or comedy. Free to enter.  
D/L 30 April
- **The RTÉ Radio 1 Short Story Competition** is open to writers who are Irish or resident in Irish. Stories must be between 1800-2000 words. Winners will receive cash prizes and be broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1.  
D/L 10 May
- **The Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting 2019** is open to writers of any background and experience. It has a prize fund of £40,000 across four categories including a new prize for a debut play.  
D/L 5 June (6pm)
- **Green Stories** are looking for Stage Plays that in some way touch upon ideas around building a sustainable society. It is free to enter and there is

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## NON-FICTION

- **True Story** is a new home for longform nonfiction narratives. They are open to all types of creative nonfiction year-round though it can take up to 6 months for a response.
- **The Wellcome Collection** are looking for pitches for new articles / essays / serials. They are especially interested in commissioning articles about the themes of solitude, loneliness, magic and psychology. Submit to [stories@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:stories@wellcomecollection.org)
- **Wanderlust Travel Journal** are open for submissions all year round for stories rooted in travel. Entries must be 2000 words long maximum and include a bio of up to 50 words.
- **Better than IRL** is a new anthology from Fiction & Feeling looking for nonfiction submissions. Essays should be written from a personal point of view and be between 2000-4000 words. Selected entries will be paid and published.  
D/L 1 May

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## CROSS-GENRE

- **fiction and feeling** are currently accepting submissions for novellas or short story collections by first-time authors from underrepresented groups or about underrepresented topics. Fiction or non-fiction welcome. Send pitches / manuscripts to [submissions@fictionandfeeling.com](mailto:submissions@fictionandfeeling.com)
- **GRANTA** will be opening for fiction and non-fiction submissions from 28 April until 28 May. They will also be open again for poetry on 28 April. £3



- **#Merky Books New Writers' Prize** is open to young writers aged 16-30, from the UK and ROI. Submissions can be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. The winner will get a publishing contract and representation from The Good Literary Agency.  
D/L 12 April
- **The Willowherb Review** are looking for four writers of colour to create work based around the seasons and in celebration of Epping Forest as part of The People's Forest Programme. Submissions must be original previously un-published non-fiction, poetry or short fiction.  
D/L 26 April
- **Lunch Ticket** are looking for submissions of creative non-fiction, fiction, flash prose, literary translation, writing for young people and visual art. Free to enter and multilingual submissions welcome.  
D/L 30 April
- **The Emerging Writer's Contest** is open to writers of fiction, nonfiction and poetry who have yet to publish or self-publish a book. Subscribers to *Ploughshares* get free entry, non subscribers pay \$24.  
D/L 15 May
- **Palm-Sized Press** are accepting submissions on flash fiction, short essays and articles on writing, craft and flash fiction. Submission fee is \$2 which will be used to pay contributors included in the magazine.  
D/L 19 May
- **the Bridport Prize** has four categories: Novel Award, Flash Fiction, Short Story and Poetry. Entries must be unpublished (with the exception of self-published novels) and multiple submissions are permitted.  
D/L 31 May
- **Creative Future Writers' Award** is for under-represented writers in the UK and is currently open for submissions in poetry and in prose on the theme, 'Home.'  
D/L 2 June
- **streetcake experimental writing prize** is aimed at young people (aged 18-26) interested in experimental writing in short fiction and poetry. Judges: Ed Cottrell, Nik Perring, Sascha Akhtar, SJ Fowler. £1 entry fee.

- **Queen Mary Wasfari New Writing Prize** is open for submissions for Fiction, Poetry and Life Writing. Winners will be published and receive £1000 cash money.  
D/L 28 June
- **The 2019 Berlin Writing Prize** is open for fiction and non-fiction submissions on the theme 'The Circus' from writers worldwide. Word length is 3000 max and fee is €12.  
D/L 30 June
- **Aesthetica Creative Writing Award** is open for entries in poetry and short fiction. £1k cash prize plus publication for each winner. £12 to enter poetry / £18 to enter short fiction.  
D/L 31 August

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## FROM THE NETWORK...

Ollie Charles will be co-hosting the first ever **Untitled: A Writers' Salon** on 25th April, a new platform for underrepresented writers to share their work in front of an audience.

The event will be at The Curtain near Old Street. Find out more and register for free tickets [here](#). Untitled events will be collecting donations in support of akt, working for safe homes and better futures for LGBT+ young people.



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## INSPIRATION

Here's a brand new podcast from Tamasha Theatre: **Tell Dem** offers advice to

We've delighted to have partnered with TLC for several years now supporting their brilliant Free Reads scheme and are absolutely delighted to hear that they'll be **publishing an anthology showcasing the work of marginalised writers**, sponsored by A.M. Heath Literary Agents - and what's more is **JL Hall and Shaun Aston will be in it. Huge congratulations also go to Gill Haigh who was Highly Commended**. Keep an eye out for more news...

Here's two fantastic articles on 'insta-poetry': **Sam Rogers from Vogue talks to six contemporary poets** whilst **Anna Leszkiewicz explores the fragmented critical conversation surrounding this new term in New Statesman**.

We're thrilled to be supporting the fab Kerry Hudson with her plans for **Breakthrough Festival** on 29 June - a completely free, inclusive day of workshops, talks and one-to-ones. Check out their stellar line up!

**Eighty Four: Poems on Male, Suicide, Vulnerability, Grief and Hope** is a brand new anthology from Verve Poetry Press, launching at FOYLES Bookshop on 3 April. The proceeds from ticket sales go to CALM.

'A story is a series of *events* that have been chosen then *composed*. Like composing music' - one of many brilliant statements from Hollywood story structure guru Robert McKee when in conversation with Tim Lott. Read it in full **here**.

First came 'The Good Immigrant' - and with it, lots of amazing stuff including the Good Literary Agency and the Good Journal. But now it's gone stateside: **The Good Immigrant USA** has launched - go buy!

**Letters to the Earth** is a new project run by the Culture Declares Emergency Initiative and they want as many writers and poets to get involved and write a letter or a poem to or from the Earth, to future or past generations, those in power, other species. It can come from a personal place, be dramatic in form, a call to action.

Black Flamingo Salon is a series of salons for black, queer poets to interrogate their practice and networking. Keith Jarrett wrote a brilliant blog about the first one - read it **here**.

Looking for a new bookshop to visit? **Knights Of are opening a**



## Lowdown #11 will reach your inbox in July 2019



Please note that Spread the Word is not responsible for the content of external websites linked in this or other newsletters. We strive to ensure that information included is accurate at the time of going to publication. We recommend that you click through to the websites to ensure your information is as up to date and relevant as it could be. Opportunities are selected by the Spread the Word team, and we reserve the right to choose which opportunities to include.

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