



## Poetry and Prose Readings October 2008 – May 2009

Hospitality Room, Octagon Theatre, 7.30

Tickets £4 and £2 (concessions)

Tickets from the Octagon Box Office 01204 520661

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October**      **Robert Sheppard**  
**Conor O'Callaghan**

### **Robert Sheppard**

Robert Sheppard started out as a novelist but turned to poetry. His books include *Daylight Robbery* (1990), *The Flashlight Sonata* (1993), *Empty Diaries* (1998) and *The Lores* (2003). Forthcoming books include *Tin Pan Arcadia* and *Hymns to the God in which my Typewriter Believes*. Robert is Professor of Creative Writing at Edge Hill University.

### **Conor O' Callaghan**

Conor O'Callaghan was born in Newry in 1968. He is the author of two volumes of poetry: *The History of Rain* won the Patrick Kavanagh Award in 1993 and was shortlisted for the Forward Poetry Prize for Best First Collection the following year; *Seatown* was published in 1999. He has received two bursaries in literature from the Arts Council of Ireland and a Rooney Prize Special Award, and was writer-in-residence at University College Dublin in 1999-2000. He has also written *Red Mist : Roy Keane & the World Cup Civil War - A Fan's Story*.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**      **Ian McGuire**  
**M. J. Hyland**

### **Ian McGuire**

Ian McGuire has taught American Literature at the University of Manchester, but now is co-director of the Centre for New Writing. *Incredible Bodies* is a contemporary campus novel published by Bloomsbury in March 2006. He has published short stories and is working on a new novel.

### **M. J. Hyland**

M. J. Hyland spent her early childhood in Dublin. She studied English and Law at the University of Melbourne, and worked as a lawyer for several years. Her first novel, *How the Light Gets In* (2004), was shortlisted for various prizes and was joint winner of the Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist Award.

*Carry Me Down* (2006), her second novel, was winner of both the Encore Award and the Hawthornden Prize in 2007. It was also shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. M. J. Hyland teaches in the Centre for New Writing at Manchester University.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November    Jon Glover  
   Jeffrey Wainwright**

**Jon Glover** is the Managing Editor of *Stand*, one of the most important magazines publishing new poetry and fiction. His latest book of poems published by Carcanet is *Magnetic Resonance Imaging*. His last was *To the Niagara Frontier*. He is a Professor at the University of Bolton and leads their MA in Creative Writing. Some of his recent poems come from the experience of being diagnosed with MS.

**Jeffrey Wainwright** is a Professor in English at Manchester Metropolitan University and has published several books as well as his Selected Poems (1985), *The Red-Headed Pupil* (1994) and *Out of the Air* (1999). A new collection of his poetry, *Clarity or Death!* should be in print by the time of the reading.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February        Stuart Calton  
   Ira Lightman**

**Stuart Calton**

Stuart Calton is a musician, poet and member of the Socialist Workers' Party (UK). As a musician he goes under the name T.H.F. Drenching and runs a small mail-order record label called Fenland Hi-Brow Recordings. His first book, *Sheep Walk Cut* was published by Barque Press in 2003. It is a sequence of 15 poems which attempts to plot its way through the 100 years of Highland clearance which began in the mid-18th century. He is currently finishing his second volume *The Bench Graft*.

**Ira Lightman**

Ira Lightman is a conceptual poet who has expanded his range of forms to include visual poems, poems like music, mathematical poems, and poems like molecules. He does public art and performance pieces, and has work online in several places.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February     Paul Magrs  
   Jamila Gavin**

**Paul Magrs**

Paul Magrs is a novelist who has been teaching creative writing professionally since 1993. He studied at Lancaster University, and lectured full-time at UEA for seven years. He writes fiction for adults and children, and recent books include *Something Borrowed* (2007), *Exchange* (2006), *Never the Bride* (2006), *To the Devil: A Diva!* (2004), *Aisles* (2003), and *Hands Up!* (2003).

**Jamila Gavin**

Jamila Gavin was born in Mussoorie, India. She moved to England when she was 12 years old, and later studied music at Trinity College of Music. She published her first book in 1979, and has since written many short story collections, teenage novels and books for children aged six to sixteen years. In 1992 her novel for teenage readers, *The Wheel of Surya*, was published, and was followed by two other books in the series: *The Eye of the Horse* (1994); and *The Track of the Wind* (1997). The trilogy reflects her background in India up to and after Independence. All three books were shortlisted or runners up in the Guardian Children's Fiction Award. Many of her recent books have been dramatized.

**Monday March 9th 2009 Linda Chase  
Chris Woods**

Linda Chase grew up on Long Island. She has been a stage costume designer, a Tai Chi teacher and, more recently a tutor of poetry and creative writing. Her first collection, *These Goodbyes*, was published by Fatchance Press in 1995. Her two Carcanet Press titles are *The Wedding Spy*, 2001 and *Extended Family*, 2006. Linda teaches on the MA course in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University and is the Programme Coordinator and a tutor for the [Poetry School](#) Manchester. In 2004 she started a performance series, [Poets and Players](#), which showcases new writers and musicians.

**Chris Woods** works part time as a GP in Lancashire and tries to balance medicine, family and writing. His poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers including *The British Medical Journal*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Poetry Review*, *PN Review*, *The Spectator* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. His work has been broadcast on BBC Radio and Channel Four Television (*Rhyme and Reason* and *Six Experiments that Changed the World*). He has been a prize winner in many poetry competitions, won the Peterloo and been a competition judge. His poetry has appeared in anthologies in the UK and America. His first poetry collection, *Recovery*, is published by Enitharmon. His second collection, *Dangerous Driving*, is published by Comma Press.

**Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 Adam Foulds  
Janette Jenkins**

Adam Foulds read English at St. Catherine's, Oxford, has a Creative Writing MA from UEA and received the Harper-Wood fellowship from St. John's College, Cambridge. His poetry, praised by Christopher Reid and Craig Raine, has appeared in magazines such as *Arete*, *Stand* and *Quadrant*. He is the author of *The Truth About These Strange Times* which won The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. He lives in South London.

Bolton born **Janette Jenkins** studied acting before completing a degree in Literature and Philosophy and then doing an MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, where she was in Malcolm Bradbury's final class, along with Toby Litt, John Boyne, Richard Beard and Bo Fowler. She is the author of the novels, *Columbus Day* (Chatto) and *Another Elvis Love Child* (Chatto). Her short stories have appeared in newspapers and anthologies, including *Stand Magazine*, and have been broadcast on Radio 4. *Angel of Brooklyn* is set at the start of the first World War in Anglezarke where Jonathan Crane brings his American bride. This is Janette's 3rd novel published in 2008. In 2003 she was awarded a Fellowship by the University of Bolton. She lives in the city of Durham.

**Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2009**     **Jon McGregor**  
**Kathryn Simmonds**

**Kathryn Simmonds** is the author of *Sunday at the Skin Launderette* (2008). She was one of the supplementary winners in the 2005 Bridport Prize with her story *How to Eat an Elephant*. She lives in North London, and works as a quiz writer. Kathryn has had a great deal of success with her poetry over recent years, which led to her winning an Eric Gregory Award in 2002. She was also awarded an Eastern Arts Bursary in 2003. Her pamphlet of poems, *Snug*, was a winner in the Poetry Business competition. *The Handover Notes*, a story Kathryn wrote about a secretary, is in the process of being turned into a short film. Kathryn Simmonds is a graduate of the Creative Writing MA at the University of East Anglia.

**Jon McGregor** was born in Bermuda in 1976. He moved with his family to England and spent his childhood in Norwich and Norfolk, later studying at Bradford University for a degree in Media Technology and Production. He started writing seriously during his final year at University, contributing a series entitled 'Cinema 100' to the anthology *Five Uneasy Pieces*. He has had short fiction published by *Granta* magazine, and a short story entitled *While You Were Sleeping* broadcast on Radio 4.

He left Bradford for Sheffield, then Nottingham, taking a series of shift-jobs to support his writing, and wrote his first novel, *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things*, in Nottingham, while living on a narrowboat. His novel has received much press attention, as he was the youngest contender and only first novelist on the longlist for the 2002 Man Booker Prize. It went on to win the Betty Trask Prize and the Somerset Maugham Award and to be shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. Jon McGregor's second novel, *So Many Ways To Begin*, was published in 2006 and was on the longlist for the Man Booker Prize.