



## **MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE FOR UK WRITERS LAUNCHES TODAY**

Embargoed: Wednesday 13 April, 2016

A major partnership to promote UK writers and literature organisations overseas, launches today at The London Book Fair. Through the International Literature Showcase (ILS), 80 of the UK's most talented upcoming writers will receive promotional opportunities, new commissions and will be supported to develop their international profile. This is a two-year partnership between British Council, Writers' Centre Norwich and Arts Council England.

The International Literature Showcase Online will go live in September 2016. It follows previous editions held in Norwich in 2012 and 2015. ILS Online will provide a platform for writers and literature organisations to promote their work and make connections with their international counterparts. A further 'in-person' showcase will be held in Norwich in 2017.

Previous ILS writers include: Patience Agbabi, Bidisha, Joe Dunthorne, Emma Healey, Anjali Joseph, Tom McCarthy, Jon McGregor, Kei Miller, Molly Naylor, Luke Wright and Evie Wyld. Writers have received international invitations, developed new work, new writing, and new partnerships. UK literature organisations have formed fruitful collaborations with international producers and programmers.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive of Writers' Centre Norwich says;

"New to 2016 is a digital platform to showcase some of the most exciting writers in the UK. We're going to be broadcasting live events from major UK literature festivals, commissioning new content, supporting touring work and exporting the very best in UK writing."

Nick McDowell, International Director, Arts Council England says;

“The online digital showcase will present a diverse range of outstanding UK talent to the widest possible audience. We are delighted to support an ambitious initiative to increase the literature sector’s capacity to work internationally by developing markets overseas and fostering key relationships with international partners”.

Cortina Butler, Director Literature British Council says;

“The International Literature Showcase Online will have real impact both for writers and those working in literature organisations across the UK and internationally. Digital is an invaluable platform for writers and literature producers to build international reach and we look forward to seeing skills and working relationships develop that will bear fruit for many years to come”.

The ILS is looking to hear from interested writers, festival promoters, agents, publishers, translators and cultural promotion organisations in the UK and internationally. Find out more at:

[www.internationalliteratureshowcase.org.uk](http://www.internationalliteratureshowcase.org.uk)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. For further information, interviews and photographs (including launch event photos after 13 April) please contact Alice Kent, Director of Communications, Writers’ Centre Norwich, [alice.kent@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](mailto:alice.kent@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk) / 01603 877177
2. The International Literature Showcase is a two-year partnership between Writers’ Centre Norwich, British Council and Arts Council England
3. **Writers’ Centre Norwich** is the literature development agency for the East and led the successful bid to have Norwich nominated as England’s first UNESCO City of Literature. WCN is a National Portfolio Organisation supporting by Arts Council England. WCN supports emerging and established writers and seeks to explore the artistic and social power of creative writing through pioneering and collaborative projects with writers, readers, schools, libraries and cultural partners. Its programme includes mentoring, workshops, conferences, live literature events and talks by internationally acclaimed writers. Speakers at WCN events in recent years have included Margaret Atwood, Jeanette Winterson and JM Coetzee.
4. **About the British Council** The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 8,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the arts and delivering education and society programmes.

We are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter. A core publicly-funded grant provides 16 per cent of our turnover which last year was £973 million. The rest of our revenues are earned

from services which customers around the world pay for, such as English classes and taking UK examinations, and also through education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. All our work is in pursuit of our charitable purpose and supports prosperity and security for the UK and globally.

For more information, please visit: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org). You can also keep in touch with the British Council through <http://twitter.com/britishcouncil> and <http://blog.britishcouncil.org/>

- 5. Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)