

NOIRWICH

Attica Locke to deliver 2020 *Noirwich* Lecture

Programme announced for *Noirwich* crime writing festival
September 10 – 13 September

NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday 29 July 2020

Attica Locke's writing has explored race, prejudice and the anxieties of Trump's America. Now, in a specially commissioned lecture, she will uncover the power inequalities inherent in the nation's favourite genre; crime fiction. Locke, also a screenwriter on the acclaimed series *Little Fires Everywhere* will deliver the 2020 *Noirwich* Crime Writing Lecture.

Now in its seventh year *Noirwich* is a crime writing festival that interrogates the way we live now through this rich and multidimensional genre. Known for its innovative programming the festival is delivered by the National Centre for Writing and the University of East Anglia (UEA). It usually takes place in Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature. This year it moves online with a programme of live Q&As, interactive workshops, a virtual book group and discussion panels. All events (excluding writing workshops) will be free.

The hard-hitting *Noirwich* commission is expected to tackle structural inequalities at the individual and global level, with Locke drawing on examples from her own writing including *Blackwater Rising*, which investigates the enormous power of oil companies. Previous *Noirwich* lectures include Val McDermid on gender and violence, George Alagiah on environmental destruction and Arne Dahl on crime and class.

The 2020 line-up also includes **Oyinkan Braithwaite**, the author behind the literary sensation *My Sister the Serial Killer*, the *New York Times* best-selling writer **Sophie Hannah**,

investigative journalist and writer **Duncan Campbell** and **Olivier Norek**, one of the writers behind the hit French TV series *Spiral*. The programme will also include a showcase of the freshest new voices in crime writing from UEA's MA programme and a celebration of 50 years of creative writing at the university.

Henry Sutton, Professor of Creative Writing and Crime Fiction at the UEA, says:

'Crime writing has always been of the moment - as we adapt to a new virtual world our programme has an added urgency, pertinence and crucially accessibility. These are important voices for a complicated time. We hope Noirwich 2020 will engage new audiences, and create the widest possible community of readers and writers.'

Peggy Hughes, Programme Director, National Centre for Writing says:

"Crime fiction has never felt so important - for diverting and thrilling readers in huge numbers during these complicated days, but also for exploring the fractures in a society made more divided by this pandemic. We're really thrilled that Attica Locke will deliver this year's lecture, and that her words and ideas, and those of many other brilliant participants, will reach an international listenership as we move online. We hope you'll join us!"

The 7th Noirwich Crime Writing Festival will take place from 10 – 13th September 2020. All events, (excluding the online workshops) are free, however booking is essential. For the programme and ticket information, see noirwich.co.uk and follow @NOIRwichFest on Twitter.

Notes to Editors:

1. For comment and interviews contact Alice Kent, Communications Director at alice@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk
2. About National Centre for Writing (NCW)
NCW is a literature development organisation based in Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature. The National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall promotes great literature, inspires communities through the power of writing, reading and literary translation, nurtures literary talent and hosts world-class events. www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk
3. The University of East Anglia (UEA) is a UK Top 15 university. Known for its world-leading research and outstanding student experience, it was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and is a

leading member of Norwich Research Park, one of Europe's biggest concentrations of researchers in the fields of environment, health and plant science. www.uea.ac.uk