

For immediate release



The Royal Society
of Literature

*The
Encore
Award*

Sally Rooney

wins

the £10,000

Encore Award 2019

for

Normal People

(Faber & Faber)

The 2019 judges are RSL Fellows

Edmund Gordon, Nikita Lalwani and Eley Williams.

‘An instant classic: a gripping and exquisitely intimate novel, written with great intelligence, maturity, and sureness of touch. The characters are rendered with luminous humanity.’

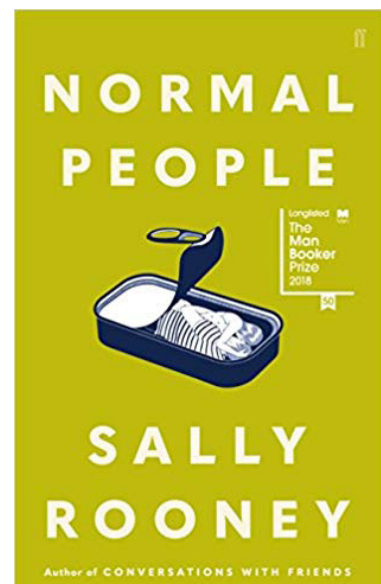
– **Edmund Gordon**

‘This year’s winner of the Encore Award is a fearless, indelible excavation of the politics of desire.

Romantic in theme but vicious in its honesty about class and currency, this novel is as bewitching and paradoxical as the best love songs. A triumph of ambition and rightfully a classic for our times.’

– **Nikita Lalwani**

‘The book’s genius perhaps lies in the way assumptions or assertions of powerfulness and powerlessness -- their erotic charge as well as their banality -- can shape a person or the courses of lives. There is invective here without relying on easy spoof, an examination of the terror(s) of romance stripped of schmaltz or rose-tint. A precocious talent that scrutinises precociousness as a theme, *Normal People* is stylish and political. It’s hot and it’s hopeful.’ – **Eley Williams**





Sally Rooney was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and presently lives in Dublin. She is the author of the novels *Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People*. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The London Review of Books*, and elsewhere. *Conversations With Friends* was shortlisted for both the Dylan Thomas Prize and the Rathbones Folio Prize, and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. She was also shortlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award for ‘Mr Salary’ and was the winner of the Sunday Times/PFD Young Writer of the Year Award. *Normal People* won the Costa Novel of the Year in 2019. It was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2018 as well as the Women’s Prize for Fiction and the Rathbones Folio Prize in 2019.

The other shortlisted books in 2019



Sam Byers, *Perfidious Albion* (Faber & Faber)

‘A vision of our imminent future that’s as alarming as it is hilarious.’

– Edmund Gordon

Sam Byers’s debut novel, *Idiopathy*, was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Prize and the Desmond Elliot Prize and won a Betty Trask Award.



Kerry Hadley-Pryce, *Gamble* (Salt Publishing)

‘A harsh, thrilling slap-in-the-face of a novel.’ – Nikita Lalwani

Kerry Hadley-Pryce wrote her first novel, *The Black Country*, whilst studying MA Creative Writing at the Manchester Writing School and was awarded the Michael Schmidt Prize for outstanding achievement.



Anthony Joseph, *Kitch* (Peepal Tree Press)

‘Kaleidoscopic in both form and function’ – Eley Williams

Anthony Joseph is a poet, novelist, musician and lecturer. *Kitch* was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize.



Daniel Shand, *Crocodile* (Sandstone Press)

‘A riveting, heart-breaking, consistently unpredictable novel.’ –

Edmund Gordon

Daniel Shand teaches at Napier University. His debut novel, *Fallow*, was published in 2016. It won the Betty Trask Prize and was shortlisted for the Saltire Society First Book of the Year.



Sam Thompson, *Jott* (JM Originals)

‘Sensitive, searing, witty and wry.’ – Eley Williams

Sam Thompson’s first novel, *Communion Town*, was published in 2012 and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Notes to Editors

The Encore Award was first presented in 1990 to celebrate the achievement of outstanding second novels. The 2019 Award was presented at the ICA on 13 June 2019.

Previous Encore Award winners	(*joint winners)
2018*	Andrew Michael Hurley <i>Devil's Day</i> Lisa McNerney <i>The Blood Miracles</i>
2017	Ian McGuire <i>The North Water</i>
2015	Sunjeev Sahota <i>The Year of the Runaways</i>
2014	Neel Mukherjee <i>The Lives of Others</i>
2013	Evie Wyld <i>All the Birds, Singing</i>
2012	Ned Beaman <i>The Teleportation Accident</i>
2011	Joe Dunthorne <i>Wild Abandon</i>
2010	Adam Foulds <i>The Quickening Maze</i>
2009	Julia Leigh <i>Disquiet</i>
2007	M.J. Hyland <i>Carry Me Down</i>
2005	Nadeem Aslam <i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i>
2004	Michelle de Kretser <i>The Hamilton Case</i>
2003	Jeremy Gavron <i>The Book of Israel</i>
2002	Ali Smith <i>Hotel World</i>
2001	Anne Enright <i>What Are You Like?</i>
2000*	John Burnside <i>The Mercy Boys</i> Claire Messud <i>The Last Life</i> Matt Thorne <i>Eight Minutes Idle</i> Phil Whitaker <i>Triangulation</i>
1999	Christina Koning <i>Undiscovered Country</i>
1998*	Alan Warner <i>These Demented Lands</i> Timothy O'Grady <i>I Could Read the Sky</i>
1997	David Flusfeder <i>Like Plastic</i>
1996	A.L. Kennedy <i>So I Am Glad</i>
1995	Dermot Healy <i>A Goat's Song</i>
1994	Amit Chaudhuri <i>Afternoon Raag</i>
1993	Colm Tóibín <i>The Heather Blazing</i>
1992	Iain Sinclair <i>Downriver</i>
1991	Carey Harrison <i>Richard's Feet</i>
1990*	Paul Watkins <i>A Lesser Dependency</i> Peter Benson <i>Calm at Sunset, Calm at Dawn</i>

The Royal Society of Literature, founded in 1820, is the UK charity for the advancement of literature. In addition to the Encore Award, the RSL administers the RSL Ondaatje Prize for writing best evoking the spirit of a place, the RSL Christopher Bland Prize for debut novelists and popular non-fiction writers over the age of 50, the RSL Giles St Aubyn Award for first commissioned works of non-fiction, the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize and the RSL Literature Matters awards for innovative literary projects.

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