

*The
Encore
Award*



The Royal Society
of Literature

Patrick McGuinness



wins the
Encore Award 2020

in its 30th year for

Throw Me To The Wolves

(Jonathan Cape)

£10,000

The 2020 judges are RSL Fellows
Edmund Gordon, Nikita Lalwani and **Eley Williams**.

‘I’ve always thought this Award was one of the most empathetic around. It’s a real boost as well as an honour to win it because it understands that part of a writer’s life – neither sprint nor marathon – that gets forgotten.’

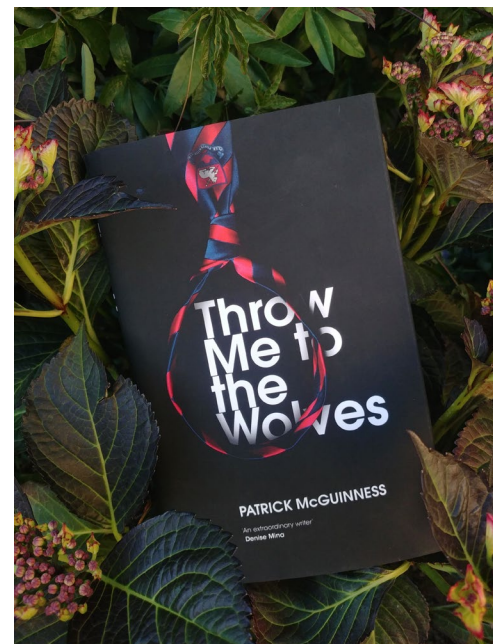
– **Patrick McGuinness**

‘A journey to the dark heart of modern British society, linking the inhumanity of our public school system to a wider cultural chill, this is a crime novel of rare dash and intelligence, full of discomfiting ideas and virtuosic prose.’ – **Edmund Gordon**

‘*Throw Me To The Wolves* is a novel that is saturated with small truths, tiny gems of knowing that linger and provoke long after putting the book down. A beautiful, haunting thriller.’ – **Nikita Lalwani**

‘A timely exploration of the frailties and sinews of British society, *Throw Me To The Wolves* considers memory, guilt and surveillance with lyricism and clarity. A crucial addition to modern crime fiction.’

– **Eley Williams**



The Encore Award £10,000 for best second novel of the year.

Notes to Editors



Patrick McGuinness is a novelist, poet, academic and translator. His first novel *The Last Hundred Days* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and won the Writers' Guild Award for Fiction and the Wales Book of the Year. His memoir about growing up in post-industrial Belgium, *Other People's Countries*, won the Duff Cooper Prize. He lives in Caernarfon and works in Oxford.

The winner is announced on Thursday 25 June 2020, 7pm across the RSL's social media channels.

Other books shortlisted in 2020

The Encore Award shortlist 2020 to receive £500 each recognising the challenges and achievements of second novels



David Keenan, *For the Good Times* (Faber & Faber)

'Incendiary, intimate, absurdist and disquieting story-telling.'
– Eley Williams

David Keenan's first novel *This Is Memorial Device* won the Collyer Bristow/London Magazine Award for Debut Fiction 2018. *For The Good Times* won the Gordon Burn Prize in 2019



Billy O'Callaghan, *My Coney Island Baby* (Jonathan Cape)

'A wise, tender, and exquisitely tuned novel.' – Edmund Gordon.'

Billy O'Callaghan is the author of two novels and three short story collections. His collection *The Things We Lose, The Things We Leave Behind* (New Island Books) won a 2013 Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award and was selected as Cork's One City, One Book for 2017.



Shiromi Pinto, *Plastic Emotions* (Influx Press)

'Pinto navigates the politics of desire and genius with skillful understanding.' – Nikita Lalwani

Shiromi Pinto has written short fiction for BBC Radio 4, the Victoria & Albert Museum and opendemocracy.net. Her first novel, *Trussed*, was reviewed as 'audacious' (*The Independent*), 'brilliant' (*Diva*) and 'so cool that it hurts' (*The Times*).



Luiza Sauma, *Everything You Ever Wanted* (Viking)

'A work of thrilling imaginative boldness.' – Edmund Gordon

Luiza Sauma is the author of two novels, *Everything You Ever Wanted* and *Flesh and Bone and Water* – both published by Viking. She has also written for *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *the i*, *Five Dials* and others.

The Encore Award first presented in 1990 for best second novel of the year.

Previous Encore Award winners		(*joint winners)
2019	Sally Rooney	<i>Normal People</i>
2018*	Andrew Michael Hurley	<i>Devil's Day</i>
	Lisa McInerney	<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 Beauman	<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>

In celebration of the 30th year of the Encore Award, some of the past winners share their reflections of what having the best second novel of the year meant to them in short videos [available to watch on the RSL's YouTube Channel](#).

Founded in 1820, the **Royal Society of Literature** 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.

For further information please contact
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