Dear Emily

What a time it’s been since our last newsletter… We hope you’re all doing okay.

If you’re currently one of our students, you’ll know that all our courses have been delivered online during lockdown. While this isn’t ideal for anyone, the feedback so far has been fantastic. A huge thank you to all our tutors and students for adapting so quickly and so brilliantly.

And now the news from our amazing students and tutors…

**The Novel Studio**

Deepa Anappara published her debut novel, *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line*, in January. The book has had a rapturous reception, and has since been longlisted for the Women’s Prize 2020, classed as one of The Observer’s ten best debuts for 2020, and been a *New York Times recommended book*. Most
recently she’s been picked for Val McDermid’s New Blood 2020 shortlist and The Guardian’s Summer Reading List.
Deepa Anappara author of *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line*.


Harriet Tyce’s debut thriller, *Blood Orange*, has been astonishingly successful, selling 100,000 paperbacks at last count. Her second novel, *Lies You Told* – think *Motherland* meets noir – will be published in August. We can’t wait!

Harriet is also continuing her generous support for a second year of the Novel Studio Scholarship, for which we are immensely grateful.

Suchandrika Chakrabarti has had a terrific year, winning awards for her podcasts and publishing widely.
She is currently working on a memoir.
Ali Thurm has published her debut novel, *One Scheme of Happiness*, with Retreat West Books. Read about her journey to publication on our blog.

When Bren Gosling’s play, *Moment of Grace*, was cancelled due to Covid-19, he made it into a film. Read about his journey here.

The Indigo Press have bought world rights to *Lessons in Love and Other Crimes* by Elizabeth Chakrabarty in a pre-emptive bid from Craig Literary Agency.
Ali Thurm, author of *Scheme of Happiness*.

Elizabeth was part of the first intake of Novel Studio students so we’re particularly delighted about this one!

Janet H Swinney has published her story *The Bhaskar Boys* in the Earlyworks Press Anthology.

Katy Darby’s *Short Story Writing* and *Writers’ Workshop* alumni continue their ascent: Anna Dempsey won the *Costa Short Story award* for a story she wrote in Katy’s class; Michael Mann won the Undiscovered Voices short story competition; Sean Hannaway was awarded a Distinction for his MA at Goldsmiths and has a story coming out in *Ambit*. Meganrose Lewis was awarded a Distinction for her MA at Birkbeck in Creative Writing, a course she was inspired to take after completing Katy’s course, and has published a story in *The Willesden Herald New Short Stories 10 anthology*. 
Anna Dempsey, winner of the Costa Short Story award.

And STOP PRESS: Katy’s student, Michael Mann, has sold his debut Middle Grade adventure story to
Hachette Children’s Book. *Ghostcloud* will be released in 2021. Congratulations!

Susan Grossman’s *Travel Writing* and *Freelance Writing* student Claire Hamlett has had an article published in *red pepper*, and three articles commissioned by *Ecohustler*; Richard Derecki has had his first paid piece of writing published in *OnLondon*; and Katie Fallon has published an article on Covid-19 for the *Irish Times*.

Peter Forbes’ *Narrative Non-Fiction* alumni go from strength to strength. Cassandra Greenberg won an essay writing competition shortly after taking the course. Her piece has now been published in *Art Monthly*. Jack Price has published his book on *Stem Cell Therapy* with *MIT*. And, STOP PRESS, Dee Peyok, who took the course seven years ago, has recently signed to *Granta* books for her debut *Away From Beloved Lover: A Cambodian Rock Odyssey*, due to be released in Spring 2022.

Cherry Potts’ *An Approach to Creative Writing* alumnus J Carlos Terry has published his first flash fiction piece on *Havok*, while Neil Lawrence had his first Short Story ‘Diaspora’ performed live by actors at Solstice Shorts Festival 2019, *Time & Tide*, in London, Hastings and Oeiras (Portugal) on 21st December, and published in the *Time & Tide* anthology.

**Writing for Business**

Former tutor Howard Walwyn’s student, Satinder Jandu, has secured a publishing deal for his book on *D li i Ch S i d id”h d’ i l i fi i h*
Delivering Change. Satinder said “Howard's course was instrumental in confirming my strengths as a writer and allowed me to get a book deal with a major industry publisher.” Other alumni have secured better jobs in comms and marketing roles, while some have gone on to retrain as professional editors.

Tutors

Zaffre have pre-empted a series of books from our Writing for Children tutor Sophia Bennett. The Her Majesty Investigates series is Sophia's first foray into crime writing and features the Queen as an amateur sleuth. Think The Crown meets Miss Marple. We can’t wait to read this. Congratulations, Sophia!

Writing for Business tutor Howard Walwyn taught his last term for City in March. Howard has been a brilliant tutor and we are very sad to see him go. Thank you, Howard and best of luck in your new endeavors.

Experienced journalist and podcaster, Jenny Stallard, will take over from Howard. Welcome, Jenny! We’re looking forward to working with you next term.

And finally, a big welcome to Kiare Ladner who has been appointed as part of the Novel Studio teaching team. Kiare is a very talented teacher and award-winning writer whose debut novel will be published by Picador in the autumn.
Events

City Writes

We had to cancel last term’s City Writes due to Covid-19. But we’re delighted to announce that we will be bringing this event live to our students and guests via a Zoom Webinar on 8th July 2020.

Competition winners will join Novel Studio alumna and prolific writer Shah Husain for a fun-filled evening of readings and chat.
Novel Studio alumna and prolific writer, Shah Husain.

This will be a special event put on during lockdown, and as a thank you to all our alumni we will be hosting this completely free of charge. Register here.

Course news

We will be running all our summer schools online in July. If you want to fast-track your writing progress, all from the comfort of your home, there’s still time to book on to our Approach to Creative Writing, Novel Writing and Crime Writing summer schools.

That’s it for now. Do get in touch with any news you have for future newsletters.

With very best wishes,

Emily Pedder
Writing Co-ordinator Short Courses
Course Director, The Novel Studio

For all writing short course enquiries, including enrolment, please contact the Short Courses team.

WANT TO BE PART OF OUR FANTASTIC WRITING COMMUNITY?

Have a look at our full range of courses running from autumn 2020.

VIEW OUR WRITING COURSES

Don't forget to check out our brand new City Short Courses blog for all the latest news, events, success stories and expert insights. If you would like to write a piece for us, please drop us an email.

CITY SHORT COURSES BLOG

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