Dear Emily
Our lives may continue to be restricted for some time due to Covid-19, but that hasn’t stopped our writing students continuing to fly free. Here’s their latest news ...

**The Novel Studio**

We are delighted to announce that Janice Okoh has won the 2020 Novel Studio scholarship. Set up by alumna and crime author Harriet Tyce, the scholarship supports a fully-funded place on the course for a talented writer from a low-income household. Read more about the winner and the scholarship [here](#).

Harriet has also been busy with her second psychological thriller, *The Lies You Told* which was published in August; Sophie Hannah has called it ‘totally addictive.’
Janice Okoh, winner of the 2020 Novel Studio scholarship.


Suchandrika Chakrabarti has won a Funny Women Ones to Watch award 2020 for her stand-up comedy.

Bren Gosling’s new play, Invisible Me, will premiere at the Bloomsbury Festival this October.
Award-winning author Peng Shepherd – former student of Katy Darby’s Short Story Writing and Writers’ Workshop – has written a new novel, The Cartographers, which will be published by Harper Collins in 2021.

Tomek Mossakowski was longlisted for the Cambridge Short Story Prize.
Martin Ouvry’s Novel Writing and Longer Works former student Chloe Ashby has signed a deal with Orion for a novel she began on his course.

Susan Grossman’s Freelance Writing student Claire Hamlett has published in The Guardian.

**Featured Course: Narrative Non-Fiction**

Peter Forbes has been running our Narrative Non-Fiction course for seven years. A key feature of the course is the detailed individual editing of student assignments. It’s a method which clearly works. Alumni from the course have subsequently published articles in The Guardian, Observer, New Statesman, Spectator, Private Eye, Irish Times, TLS, New Humanist, amongst others.
Peter Forbes, Narrative Non-Fiction tutor

Books begun or developed while on the course have gone on to get deals with, e.g. Granta and MIT Press. In the latest news alumna Alice Grahame will publish a new biography, *Walter Segal: the self-built architect* with Lund Humphries in March 2021, and Deirdre Finnerty's book on the Irish Magadalen Laundries has been accepted by Hachette.

Unsurprisingly, student feedback on Peter’s course is consistently first-rate. One former student said: “I’m excited about what the future will bring in my writing life, and I know I can credit a lot of this to the early work I did in your course.”

Due to Covid-19, all our short courses have been delivered remotely, but this has not hampered student enthusiasm: “There’s certainly a high calibre of writers from whom I am benefitting,” said a participant from the summer term 2020. The course is now offered on two nights (Tuesday and Thursday), and you can now join from anywhere in the world on MS Teams.

**Tutors**

Sophia Bennett, whose new series, *Her Majesty Investigates*, will be published next month, will no longer be teaching on our *Writing for Children* course. We are very sad to see her go and very grateful for her excellent teaching over the years. Thank you, Sophia!

The good news is that children’s author [Anna Wilson](#) will now be teaching the course. Anna has written over 50 books for children and is a vastly experienced tutor. Welcome, Anna!

Katy Darby’s short story *Miller’s Court* was shortlisted for the Exeter Writers’ Prize and Highly Commended in the Julia & Martin Wilson Short Story Prize.
Author, Anna Wilson, will now be teaching Writing for Children.

Opportunities and Events

City Writes

After our successful virtual City Writes in the Summer Term, we are delighted to be returning with another City Writes via Zoom this term on Wednesday 9th December 6.45-8pm. As the City Short Courses showcase for creative writing talent, our professional writer this term will be the fabulous Novel Studio and Short Courses alumna Deepa Anappara, whose debut, Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line, was longlisted for the Booker Prize earlier this year. A wonderful novel about child disappearances from the outskirts of a large Indian city, Deepa will be reading a short extract and answering questions from host, Rebekah Lattin-Rawstrone and audience.
Deepa Anappara, author of Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line.
As always, our professional joins the stage with other City Short Creative Writing Course alumni, chosen from the termly City Writes Competition. More details on the competition can be found here. Please note the deadline for this term is Friday 13th November (lucky for some!) and we are looking for your best 1,000 words of fiction or creative non-fiction. Details of the winners will be announced in Week 9. Please do check the submission guidelines. We look forward to reading your work or seeing you there.

To be considered, applicants must submit 1,000 word of fiction writing (we also accept creative non-fiction, such as memoir or travel writing, and though we do accept young adult, we don't currently accept children’s fiction) on any subject. For submission guidelines, visit the webpage.

WRITERS’ STUDIO

For writers who've made good progress with their book, fiction or non-fiction, and are looking for that breakthrough that will make their writing stand out to agents and publishers, the next round of applications to The Writers’ Studio Full Mentoring and Editing scheme, a collaboration between The Ruppin Agency and The Book Edit, is now open with a deadline of Monday 5th October 2020.

For more information about the scheme email The Ruppin Agency.

Course news

We will continue to run all our short writing courses online for the autumn term. Start your creative journey today, all from the comfort of your home.

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
WANT TO BE PART OF OUR FANTASTIC WRITING COMMUNITY?
Have a look at our full range of courses running from autumn 2020.

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.
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