

**JUDGES ANNOUNCED FOR JOHN LLEWELLYN RHYS PRIZE
2008**

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The judges are announced for this year's John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, which celebrates the best work of literature (fiction, non-fiction, poetry or drama) by a UK or Commonwealth writer aged 35 or under.

The Judges for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize 2008 are:

Henry Sutton, *author and Books Editor of the Daily Mirror (Chair)*

Joolz Denby, *author & poet*

Sarah Hall, *author and 2006/7 winner of the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize*

This year's shortlist will be announced at the end of October.

The winner will receive a cheque for £5,000, with the other shortlisted authors receiving £500 each. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in central London.

Sarah Hall, judge:

"It was an honour to receive the John Llewellyn Rhys prize last year, and it's an honour to be asked to sit on the judging panel this year. It's one of the most unusual and uncompromising literary awards, and I'm keen to help maintain its integrity and the quality of finalists. I'm hoping there will be a lot of strong entries, in all genres, by both new and established writers, and that publishers will think outside the box and act bravely when it comes to submitting them."

About The John Llewellyn Rhys Prize

The prize was founded 66 years ago in honour of the writer John Llewellyn Rhys, who was killed in action in World War II. His young wife, also a writer, began the award to honour and celebrate his life. Past winners include Margaret Drabble in 1966, William Boyd in 1982, Jeanette Winterson in 1987, Ray Monk in 1990, Matthew Kneale in 1992 and David Mitchell in 1999. Last year's winner was Sarah Hall for *The Carhullan Army*.

Judges Biographies

Henry Sutton (Chair)

Henry Sutton is a novelist and critic. He's the author of five novels (the most recent being *Kids' Stuff*) and a collection of short stories. He is also the Books Editor of the Daily Mirror and is a regular contributor to the Independent On Sunday. He currently holds the Writing Fellowship at the UEA. He lives in Norwich with his family.

Joolz Denby

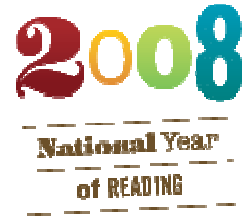
Joolz Denby has been a professional writer, spoken-word artist, photographer and illustrative artist for over twenty-seven years. Her debut novel *Stone Baby* (HarperCollins) won the Crime Writer's Association New Crime Writer of the Year and was shortlisted for the John Creasy Award. Her third novel *Billie Morgan (Serpent's Tail)* was shortlisted for the 2005 Orange Prize for Fiction. Joolz has toured extensively giving critically-acclaimed dramatic readings at venues including Glastonbury (for the past twenty-two years), The Royal Albert Hall and The House of Commons. She appears regularly on BBC Radio Four and BBC Radio One. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Bradford University in 2007 for her outstanding contributions to writing, the visual Arts and her ambassadorial role in promoting her beloved home city of Bradford.

Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall was born in Cumbria in 1974 and now lives and works there. Her first novel, *Haweswater*, was published by Faber in 2002 and was the Best First Book winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2003. Her second, *The Electric Michelangelo*, was longlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for both the Prix Femina and the Man Booker Prize in 2004. Sarah's latest novel, *The Carhullan Army* won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize 2006/7, the James Tiptree Jr. Award, and has been shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award 2008.

About Booktrust

Booktrust is an independent national charity that encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading. Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers of all ages to discover and enjoy books.



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About the National Year of Reading

The 2008 National Year of Reading is a year-long celebration of reading, in all its forms. It aims to build a greater national passion for reading – for children, families and adult learners alike. The Year will encourage people to read in businesses, homes, and communities around the country, providing new opportunities to read and helping people to access help and support through schools and libraries. To get involved and sign up to Year of Reading activities in your area, log on to www.yearofreading.org.uk .

For further information log on to: www.booktrust.org.uk

Prize information: Tarryn McKay 020 8516 2972 tarryn@booktrust.org.uk

Press enquiries: Katherine Solomon 020 8875 4583 katherine@booktrust.org.uk

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