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**Welcome to the first of our newsletters about the T. S. Eliot Prize 2022. Week by week we'll bring you news about the Prize and this year's shortlist, with reviews and articles on the ten poets and their collections, video readings, interviews, poems and more.**



#### Happy National Poetry Day and happy birthday, T. S. Eliot

Happy National Poetry Day all — an appropriate day on which to send belated best wishes to T. S. Eliot on what would have been his 134th birthday. Eliot was born on 26 September 1888 and is one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century. This Prize was named in his honour and to recognise his lasting influence on readers and writers of poetry. The day after Eliot died, in January 1965, Ted Hughes wrote in his diary: 'I've so tangled him into my thoughts, as the guru-in-chief, and dreamed of him so clearly and unambiguously that this

will have consequences for me. At once I felt windswept, unsafe. At the same time, [I] realized that from now on everything will be different.'

#### T. S. Eliot Prize 2022 shortlist – the latest

On Eliot's birthday, 26 September, our 2022 judges – Jean Sprackland (Chair), Hannah Lowe and Roger Robinson – gathered to discuss submissions and agree the T. S. Eliot Prize 2022 shortlist. Our lips are sealed for now, but we'll make the announcement on 13 October – so make sure you're signed up to receive our newsletter that day!



#### T. S. Eliot Prize 2022 events at Cheltenham Literature Festival



##### Live T.S. Eliot shortlist event with Jean Sprackland

Join us at Cheltenham Literature Festival for a *free* live T. S. Eliot Prize 2022 shortlist event. Jean Sprackland will share the collections she and her fellow judges have picked and the reasons why. Drop in at The Huddle, Montpellier Gardens, on Thursday 13 October, 3-4pm. More details at [bit.ly/cheltlitfesteliotshortlist](https://bit.ly/cheltlitfesteliotshortlist)

##### T. S. Eliot Prize winner Joelle Taylor

Later the same day, at 7pm, don't miss the magnificent Joelle Taylor. Joelle will read from her Eliot Prize-winning *C+nto & Othered Poems*, a collection described by our 2021 chair Glyn Maxwell as 'a blazing book of rage and light, a grand opera of liberation'. Ollie O'Neill, former UK Youth Slam Champion and Barbican Young Poet alumni, is guest reader. Tickets £10. Book at [bit.ly/cheltlitfestjoelle](https://bit.ly/cheltlitfestjoelle)



##### The Waste Land at 100

In another Cheltenham Literature Festival exclusive, Matthew Hollis, Faber Poetry Editor and author of the forthcoming *The Waste Land: A Biography of a Poem*, Erica Wagner, critic and author, and Daljit Nagra, twice shortlisted and a former judge of the T. S. Eliot Prize, will present an expert guide to *The Waste Land* in its centenary year. See them on 16 October, from 6.15pm, on the Baillie Gifford Stage, Town Hall, Cheltenham; tickets £12 from [bit.ly/cheltwasteland100](https://bit.ly/cheltwasteland100)

#### Young Critics Scheme with Young Poets Network

We're delighted to have launched our new Young Critics Scheme with partner Young Poets Network. We'll help ten young writers to develop their reviewing skills through expert advice and online workshops, before they test their mettle by video-reviewing this year's T. S. Eliot Prize shortlist. Look out for their videos later in the year on YouTube and via our (newly launched) Instagram page. You can find out more about The Poetry Society's excellent Young Poets Network at [yppn.poetrysociety.org.uk](https://yppn.poetrysociety.org.uk)



#### Follow us on Instagram

Did we mention we've added Instagram to our online presences on Facebook and Twitter? Please find and follow us on Instagram [@tseliotprize](https://www.instagram.com/tseliotprize)

#### Shortlist readings at the Royal Festival Hall

Our 2021 Prize marked the welcome return of one of poetry's biggest nights: the in-person T. S. Eliot Prize Shortlist Readings at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, London. We are already looking forward to seeing this year's shortlisted poets perform on Sunday 15 January 2023. Hosted once again by poet and broadcaster Ian McMillan, the readings will be British Sign Language interpreted and live-streamed worldwide. Book at [bit.ly/eliotprize22sbcreadings](https://bit.ly/eliotprize22sbcreadings)



#### Poets on film

You may have spotted our posts about past winners on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Don't forget you can delve into our amazing video archive of exclusive recordings of past winning and shortlisted poets at [bit.ly/tseliotprizeyoutube](https://bit.ly/tseliotprizeyoutube)



#### Stay signed up, tell your friends

In our next newsletter, we'll bring you the exciting news of the 2022 T. S. Eliot Prize shortlist, launch our Readers' Notes series, publish an introductory review of the first of our shortlisted poets and collections, and trail our new video series. Please stay signed up and encourage your friends to do so.

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