

HACHETTE UK LAUNCHES MO SIEWCHARRAN PRIZE FOR UNPUBLISHED BAME WRITERS

Hachette is delighted to launch the inaugural Mo Siewcharran Prize, a new annual award given to unpublished fiction writers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Run by Changing the Story, Hachette UK's Diversity and Inclusivity initiative the prize aims to discover and nurture talent from under-represented backgrounds writing in English and to give those writers the opportunity to be published by Hachette UK.

Mo Siewcharran had a wonderful career in publishing and was much loved by friends and colleagues across the industry. For sixteen years, latterly as Director of Marketing and Communications, she worked at Nielsen Book, who are kindly supporting the prize. Prior to working at Nielsen Book, Mo worked at Penguin Random House where she met her husband John Seaton whose generosity has helped to establish the prize in her memory after she died suddenly in June 2017.

Submissions open today (Tuesday 30th April) on what would have been Mo's birthday.

About the prize

The Mo Siewcharran prize is looking for compelling, unique, relatable novels that tell us something about the world we live in and the breadth of human experiences from previously unpublished writers from a BAME background aged 18 and over who are residents in the UK.

How to Enter

A 700-word synopsis of the plot of the novel, a list of the book's characters and no more than 8,000 words (either the first three chapters or first fifty pages) of the novel in English need to be submitted here by 12th July 2019: <https://pages.littlebrown.co.uk/the-mo-siewcharran-prize/>

Awards

1st Prize - £2,500 prize money **plus** a publishing deal* with Little, Brown imprint Dialogue Books

2nd Prize - £1,500 prize money plus a hamper of books

3rd Prize - £750.00 prize money plus a hamper of books

*subject to contract

Judges

The first round of judges are members from the THRIVE Network – Hachette UK's BAME Employee Network.

Judges to select the shortlist, winner and runner up will be:

Candice Carty-Williams – author of *Queenie*

Guy Gunaratne – author of *This Mad and Furious City*

Catherine Cho – Literary Agent at Curtis Brown

Sharmaine Lovegrove – Publisher of Dialogue Books

Viki Cheung – Co-Chair of THRIVE and Key Account Manager for Little, Brown and Orion.

Quotes

John Seaton 'This is a brilliant idea. I can say that without embarrassment as it is not mine. I have Hachette, and especially Sharmaine to thank for that. It is a wonderful initiative in bringing to the fore writers from under-represented backgrounds. I am thrilled, much more to the point I know Mo herself would have been. That it is being announced on what would have been Mo's birthday gives it an added poignancy.'

Sharmaine Lovegrove 'It's been such an honour to create an award in the memory of Mo Siewcharran. Mo was a brilliant advocate for inclusion in publishing and she truly believed in the

power of books. I very much look forward to reading the entries and finding brilliant new voices from BAME backgrounds to publish in her legacy’.

Guy Gunaratne ‘I’m delighted to join the fellow judges on this inaugural panel. It was initiatives like the Mo Siewcharran Award that led to my early writing being read by agents and editors. Be brave. I’d encourage you all to apply.’

Victoria Cheung ‘Mo Siewcharran was a driving force for change and it’s vital that we keep taking active steps to publish inclusively, with more than just words. I’m thrilled to be involved and am looking forward to discovering fantastic new talent!’

Catherine Cho ‘I’m thrilled to be a judge for the inaugural Mo Siewcharran Writing Award. It’s an honour to have been asked, and I’m excited to see all the talent that will come.’

Stephanie Enderby, Senior Marketing Manager, Nielsen Book ‘Nielsen Book is delighted to be supporting the Mo Siewcharran Prize. Mo was a much loved and integral member of Nielsen for over 16 years. Her enthusiasm for reading and the book industry was infectious and well recognised both internally and amongst our clients. We are thrilled to be involved in this fitting tribute to her memory.’