Patrick McGuinness wins the Encore Award 2020 in its 30th year for *Throw Me To The Wolves* (Jonathan Cape) £10,000

The 2020 judges are RSL Fellows Edmund Gordon, Nikita Lalwani and Eley Williams.

‘I’ve always thought this Award was one of the most empathetic around. It’s a real boost as well as an honour to win it because it understands that part of a writer’s life – neither sprint nor marathon – that gets forgotten.’
– Patrick McGuinness

‘A journey to the dark heart of modern British society, linking the inhumanity of our public school system to a wider cultural chill, this is a crime novel of rare dash and intelligence, full of discomfiting ideas and virtuosic prose.’ – Edmund Gordon

‘*Throw Me To The Wolves* is a novel that is saturated with small truths, tiny gems of knowing that linger and provoke long after putting the book down. A beautiful, haunting thriller.’ – Nikita Lalwani

‘A timely exploration of the frailties and sinews of British society, *Throw Me To The Wolves* considers memory, guilt and surveillance with lyricism and clarity. A crucial addition to modern crime fiction.’
– Eley Williams

The Encore Award £10,000 for best second novel of the year.
Patrick McGuinness is a novelist, poet, academic and translator. His first novel *The Last Hundred Days* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and won the Writers’ Guild Award for Fiction and the Wales Book of the Year. His memoir about growing up in post-industrial Belgium, *Other People’s Countries*, won the Duff Cooper Prize. He lives in Caernarfon and works in Oxford.

The winner is announced on Thursday 25 June 2020, 7pm across the RSL’s social media channels.

Other books shortlisted in 2020

The Encore Award shortlist 2020 to receive £500 each recognising the challenges and achievements of second novels

**David Keenan, *For the Good Times* (Faber & Faber)**

‘Incendiary, intimate, absurdist and disquieting story-telling.’ – Eley Williams

David Keenan’s first novel *This Is Memorial Device* won the Collyer Bristow/London Magazine Award for Debut Fiction 2018. *For The Good Times* won the Gordon Burn Prize in 2019

**Billy O’Callaghan, *My Coney Island Baby* (Jonathan Cape)**


Billy O’Callaghan is the author of two novels and three short story collections. His collection *The Things We Lose, The Things We Leave Behind* (New Island Books) won a 2013 Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award and was selected as Cork’s One City, One Book for 2017.

**Shiromi Pinto, *Plastic Emotions* (Influx Press)**

‘Pinto navigates the politics of desire and genius with skillful understanding.’ – Nikita Lalwani

Shiromi Pinto has written short fiction for BBC Radio 4, the Victoria & Albert Museum and opendemocracy.net. Her first novel, *Trussed*, was reviewed as ‘audacious’ (*The Independent*), ‘brilliant’ (*Diva*) and ‘so cool that it hurts’ (*The Times*).

**Luiza Sauma, *Everything You Ever Wanted* (Viking)**

‘A work of thrilling imaginative boldness.’ – Edmund Gordon

Luiza Sauma is the author of two novels, *Everything You Ever Wanted* and *Flesh and Bone and Water* – both published by Viking. She has also written for *The Guardian, The Telegraph, the i, Five Dials* and others.
The Encore Award first presented in 1990 for best second novel of the year.

Previous Encore Award winners (*joint winners)

2019  Sally Rooney  Normal People
2018*  Andrew Michael Hurley  Devil’s Day
        Lisa McInerney  The Blood Miracles
2017  ian McGuire  The North Water
2015  Sunjeev Sahota  The Year of the Runaways
2014  Neel Mukherjee  The Lives of Others
2013  Evie Wyld  All the Birds, Singing
2012  Ned Beauman  The Teleportation Accident
2011  Joe Dunthorne  Wild Abandon
2010  Adam Foulds  The Quickening Maze
2009  Julia Leigh  Disquiet
2007  M.J. Hyland  Carry Me Down
2005  Nadeem Aslam  Maps for Lost Lovers
2004  Michelle de Kretser  The Hamilton Case
2003  Jeremy Gavron  The Book of Israel
2002  Ali Smith  Hotel World
2001  Anne Enright  What Are You Like?
2000*  John Burnside  The Mercy Boys
        Claire Messud  The Last Life
        Matt Thorne  Eight Minutes Idle
        Phil Whitaker  Triangulation
1999  Christina Koning  Undiscovered Country
1998*  Alan Warner  These Demented Lands
        Timothy O’Grady  I Could Read the Sky
1997  David Flusfeder  Like Plastic
1996  A.L. Kennedy  So I Am Glad
1995  Dermot Healy  A Goat’s Song
1994  Amit Chaudhuri  Afternoon Raag
1993  Colm Tóibín  The Heather Blazing
1992  iain Sinclair  Downriver
1991  Carey Harrison  Richard’s Feet
1990*  Paul Watkins  A Lesser Dependency

In celebration of the 30th year of the Encore Award, some of the past winners share their reflections of what having the best second novel of the year meant to them in short videos available to watch on the RSL’s YouTube Channel.

Founded in 1820, the Royal Society of Literature is the UK charity for the advancement of literature. In addition to the Encore Award, the RSL administers the RSL Ondaatje Prize for writing best evoking the spirit of a place, the RSL Christopher Bland Prize for debut novelists and popular non-fiction writers over the age of 50, the RSL Giles St Aubyn Award for first commissioned works of non-fiction, the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize and the RSL Literature Matters awards for innovative literary projects.

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