



LoveReading LitFest to host the 2021 Branford Boase Award Ceremony in new partnership

Press release 30 June 2021

In a new partnership this year's **Branford Boase Award** ceremony will be hosted as part of the **LoveReading LitFest**.

The ceremony will be broadcast from 6.30pm on Thursday 15 July, as a special festival event open to all those interested in children's literature. It will feature the announcement of the winning author and editor by 2020 winner, **Liz Hyder**, author of **Bearmouth**, together with contributions from previous **Branford Boase Award** winners and supporters, including **Dame Jacqueline Wilson**. All this year's shortlisted authors will feature and the event will culminate with an interview with the winners.

Deborah Maclaren, director of the **LoveReading LitFest** says, 'We are delighted to be working with the **Branford Boase Award** on this very special event. Followers of the **LoveReading LitFest** are eager to discover new authors, for themselves and their children, and the **BBA** highlights the most talented new writers for young people. The programme we have put together is very exciting and we expect a large and enthusiastic audience for this event.'

Julia Eccleshare, co-founder of the **Branford Boase Award** and chair of the judges says, 'We are thrilled to be working with Deborah, Paul Blezard and the rest of the **LoveReading LitFest** team. In the 22nd year of the **Branford Boase Award**, this partnership brings new energy to the prize and it's wonderful that the ceremony will be open to so many readers.'

Established in 2000 to commemorate award-winning author **Henrietta Branford** and influential Walker Books editor **Wendy Boase**, the **Branford Boase** is awarded annually to the author of an outstanding debut novel for children. Uniquely, it also honours the editor of the winning title and highlights the importance of the editor in nurturing new talent. It has long been recognised as 'the one to watch' with an impressive record of identifying exceptional authors at the start of their careers. Winners and shortlisted authors include **Siobhan Dowd**, **Meg Rosoff**, **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**, **Frances Hardinge**, **Patrick Ness**, **M.G. Leonard** and **Marcus Sedgwick**.

There are seven books on the 2021 shortlist, which has been described as ‘a showcase for all that children’s literature can be’. They are:

When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten, edited by Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Children’s Books)

Witch by Finbar Hawkins, edited by Fiona Kennedy (Zephyr)

And the Stars Were Burning Brightly by Danielle Jawando, edited by Jane Griffiths (Simon and Schuster)

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, edited by Eishar Brar (Knights Of)

Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann, edited by Carmen McCullough (Penguin)

Orphans of the Tide by Struan Murray, edited by Ben Horslen, illustrated by Manuel Sumberac (Puffin)

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson, edited by Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker, illustrated by Rob Biddulph (Usborne)

This year the judges are Zoey Dixon, YLG Librarian of the Year 2020; Scott Evans, teacher, consultant and founder of TheReaderTeacher.com; Natasha Radford of Chicken and Frog bookshop, Brentwood; and Liz Hyder, author of **Bearmouth**, winner of the **2020 Branford Boase Award**. The panel is chaired by Julia Eccleshare, children’s director of the **Hay Festival**.

For further information on the **Branford Boase Award**, please contact Andrea Reece on andrea.reece@zen.co.uk or call her on 07807893369.

For further information on the **LoveReading LitFest**, please contact Alex Hippisley-Cox on alex@ahipcoxpr.co.uk or call her on 07921 127077.

Notes for editors

The **Branford Boase Award** was set up in memory of the prize-winning author Henrietta Branford and Wendy Boase, editorial director and one of the founders of **Walker Books** and is supported by **Walker Books**.

Running alongside the Branford Boase Award, the Henrietta Branford Writing Competition encourages writing talent in under 18s.

The Award is the joint idea of **Julia Eccleshare MBE** and **Anne Marley MBE**. Julia is the director of the **Hay Festival** children’s programme. Anne was Head of Children’s, Youth & Schools Services for Hampshire Library & Information Service for many years and helped to found Authors Aloud UK, an author booking agency.

For further information on the prize, past winners and this year’s shortlist please visit www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk

Established in 2005, **LoveReading** has over 300,000 engaged book lovers on its database, all hungry for trusted advice to help them find their next favourite author, book or genre. With a mission to encourage reading for pleasure, their sites regularly deliver one million page

impressions per month. In March 2021 **LoveReading** partnered with some of the festival professionals behind the **LockdownLitFest** and created the **LoveReading LitFest** - a digitally native, year-round books and literature festival - enabling its audience to discover new authors and literature in an entirely different way.

For further information about the **LoveReading LitFest** please visit www.lovereadingleitfest.com

For more information about **LoveReading** visit:

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