

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2012: FINALISTS



GUY LE JEUNE

Small Town Removal

Michael Sweeney returns to the town where he grew up for the funeral of his estranged father.

Guy lives in the North West of Ireland and is a student at the Open College of the Arts, Creative Writing degree course. He started to write two years ago after a long a career in the theatre industry. His work has been commended in the 2011 Sean O'Faolain Prize and was shortlisted for the 2012 Fish Publishing Short Story Prize. He is currently running a cross-border Reminiscence Project for An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny and is working on two novels.



AVRIL JOY

Millie and Bird

Two young girls find themselves caught in a world where love is unpredictable and attachment is dangerous.

Avril Joy was born and brought up on the Somerset Levels, the setting for her first novel, *The Sweet Track*, published in 2007 by Flambard Press. In 2008 she gave up her job as a Senior Manager at HMP Low Newton women's prison on the outskirts of Durham City in order to write full-time. She writes novels, short stories and poetry and has recently completed a new venture into crime fiction, *Blood Tide*, a novel set in the heart of Newcastle.



SHEILA LLEWELLYN

Dislocation

A painting in an Irish art gallery triggers off painful memories for one of the art gallery attendants originally from East Germany.

Sheila had two careers before turning to creative writing - firstly working for the British Council in Iran, Africa and Singapore, before retraining as a psychologist specialising in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She now lives in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and recently completed an MA in Creative Writing at Queen's University, Seamus Heaney Centre. In 2011, her radio play *The House on Sharni Street* won the PJ O' Connor Radio Drama Award and in 2012, Sheila was shortlisted for the Seán Ó 'Faoláin International Short Story Prize and for the Bridport Prize. She is currently studying for a PhD and writing a historical novel.



CHIOMA OKEREKE

Trompette de la Mort

Told amongst the dense, secretive forests of northern France, Trompette de la Mort is a woman's confession to her unborn children.

Chioma Okereke was born in Nigeria and came to England at the age of seven. She started her writing career as a poet before turning her hand to fiction. Her debut novel, *Bitter Leaf*, was published by Virago Press in 2010 and was shortlisted for the 2011 *Commonwealth Writers' Prize –Best First Book, Africa*.

She is currently working on her next book.



ANGELA READMAN

Don't Try This at Home

The story of a woman who cuts her husband in half, only to see bits of the lives he could have lived.

Angela Readman started writing short stories two years ago and has since been shortlisted in competitions including The Short Story Competition, The Bristol Short Story Prize, The Asham Award and The National Flash Fiction Day Competition. Some of her stories appear online and in anthologies including *Unthology 3*. She lives in Newcastle, has an MA in Creative Writing and also

writes poetry.



SALLEY VICKERS

Mown Grass

A story of class snobbery and its almost defeat by the power of sexual love.

Salley Vickers is the author of the word-of-mouth bestseller *Miss Garnet's Angel* and several other bestselling novels including *Mr Golightly's Holiday*, *The Other Side of You* and *Dancing Backwards* as well as a collection of short stories - *Aphrodite's Hat*. She has worked as a cleaner, a dancer, a university teacher of literature and a psychoanalyst. She is currently a RLF fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge and she divides

her time between Cambridge and London.