



...Not just a pen

COMEDY WOMEN IN PRINT PRIZE

2022/23



~~WHAT~~ YES!

Welcome to the world of

COMEDY WOMEN IN PRINT

You may be in an uber, on the tube or having a quiet fag under a lamp post outside by now, but wherever you are, I hope you're not too disappointed there isn't a free air fryer in your goody bag. Instead, you've got this souvenir brochure - be happy.

We've laughed, we've cried, we've begged, we've doubted, we've fallen out and fallen in (pubs mostly) throughout this diverting journey to get to tonight. And here we are - at the fourth winners' event to celebrate the inner droll of more witty writers than ever before.

As soon as I mentioned (OK, shouted) the idea of CWIP, I was met with nothing but enthusiasm, so I knew I was on to a winner. In fact, not one person said it might be a bad idea to become compulsive, obsessed, persistent, whiny, and annoying - so I just cracked on with it, alienating anyone who didn't share the same need to talk about prize infrastructures and people skills. And, who knew that I'd meet so many extraordinarily good people along the way - even if it meant gate-crashing, drinking, fishing business cards out of various body parts or being caught applying lip liner on a zoom call. It was worth it.

So, I hope you're ready to be delighted, relieved, and toot the empowerment in the room - Why?

Because it's about effing time - pardon - and because suddenly, the world has fallen in love with witty women's narrative voices. Witty story telling is now 'in' apparently... lets exploit the hell out of that.

Not that I'm complaining, but when I began writing and performing comedy it was 1983 and unless you were a male performer - the audiences tended to glaze over or throw things. Oddly enough, I cracked on despite being asked to reveal a certain body part at the Comedy Store once - (luckily, I hadn't brought it with me that night, so I was let off the hook).

Women who were placed in the comedy section of the Edinburgh brochure were not considered normal. Partly because of the rarity factor. And also, there was still a lack of ease with women 'taking the lead' which is generally required when executing comedic content.

You may know me from Ab Fab or Bottom or perhaps on Radio 4, giving a sound bite about a contemporary who has just passed away. So here I am, about to reveal my memoir without being sued, and being tasked with a small question - how about having more than one witty women writer at a time to be heralded for both their success and their potential? And how long will it take for a new normal? We are not there yet...

Helen Lederer
Founder

the fresh flower company

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Proud to support the 'Comedy Women in Print Prize 2022/23'

"A myth abounds that women aren't funny. Naturally it wasn't women who came up with this nonsense: women know how hilarious other women are."

CWIP



Marian Keyes
CWIP Foundation Supporter

Think writers should get paid for their hard work?

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Find out more at alcs.co.uk



ALCS is proud to sponsor the Comedy Women in Print Prize 2023.

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SO HOW DID THIS ALL COME ABOUT YOU MAY BE WONDERING?

Good question – a few years ago, out of 24 Amazon best seller humorous books - 20 were written by women! These funny female books occupy a stonking 83% of the market. Yet where was the funny female comedy literary prize?

When I finished writing my comedy novel *Losing It*, I looked around rather hopefully for a women's comedy literary prize to win and discovered there weren't any.

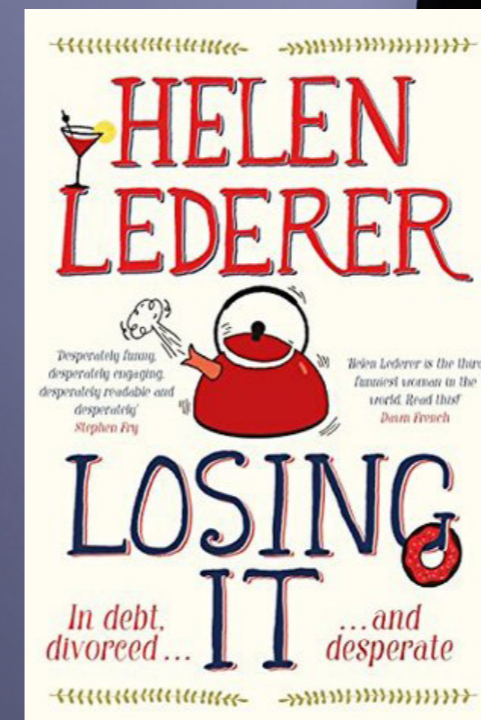
Which is why I set up #CWIP

PS In CWIP's first year – the wonderful Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize had, in its 18-year history, awarded a female winner two and a half times.

Two years later, four of the witty books on Bollinger's shortlist were by women. With a glorious win from Nina Stibbe in 2019.

Coincidence or CWIP's influence?
Just asking...

If it isn't normal to see women's wit on the page, it is less likely for publishers to feel comfortable investing.



Meet the judges...



CWIP is indebted to the talent and generosity of the judges along with their valuable time, shared belief and friendship



Angie Greaves
Head Judge - Published

Angie Greaves has worked across most top radio stations before presenting the National Drive Time show and Sunday Morning Vibes on Smooth Radio. A passionate and avid reader, Angie created a popular book series from 2006, and recently relaunched Angie's Book Club available on YouTube and other streaming platforms. angiegreaves.com



Susie Blake
Published Novel Judge

As well as playing the iconic, deadpan news reader in BBC's 'Victoria Wood Show' Susie Blake has appeared in almost every comedy drama on British television including 'Sunburn', 'Cuckoo' and 'The Darling Buds of May'. Her extensive theatre work marks her out as one of Britain's finest comedy character actresses.



Michelle De Swarte
Published Novel Judge

Michelle De Swarte is an actress, writer, and comedian having established herself on the New York comedy scene with her own material. Recently starring as a series regular in Katherine Ryan's Netflix series The Duchess as well as the lead role of Natasha in HBO/Sky dark comedy series The Baby.



Jennifer Young
Head Judge - Unpublished

Jennifer is the Head of Writing and Journalism at Falmouth University. She's the author of historical thrillers, and A Little Switch, the last instalment in her 1950s Cold War trilogy, has just come out. She loves being a judge for CWIP - reading all the manuscripts is a highlight of her year.



Charlie George
Unpublished Novel Judge

Charlie is a stand-up comedian and writer, performing regularly on the circuit. Her writing credits include Charlie Brookers 'Cunk & Other Humans on 2019', 'Death to 2020' for Netflix alongside 'HIGNFU', Joe Lycett's 'Got Your Back', '8 Out of 10 Cats', and 'The Now Show' to name a few!



Llewella Gideon
Unpublished Novel Judge

Llewella starred and wrote for BBC 2's 'The Real McCoy'. TV credits include Ab Fab and many more. She adapted her book and stage show for BBC radio. Winner of CRE - Race in the Media Awards and nominee of the Writers Guild Best Radio/Light Entertainment for the BBC Comedy.



Anita Dobson
Published Novel Judge

As Angie Watts in EastEnders, the hugely popular Anita Dobson won many accolades and awards. Vast Film, TV and Theatre includes 'Katy Brand's Big Ass show', 'Rab C Nesbitt' and 'Call The Midwife' alongside an array of roles at the National, The Royal Court and The Playhouse to name a few.



Jesse Q. Sutanto
Published Novel Judge

Jesse Q. Sutanto winner of CWIP 2021 is the author of adult, YA, and children's middle grade books. The film rights to Dial A for Aunties, were bought by Netflix. Adult books include Dial A for Aunties Four Aunties and a Wedding. YA books include The Obsession and The New Girl.



Arabella Weir
Published Novel Judge

Comedy actress and writer Arabella Weir both wrote and performed in TV's 'The Fast Show'. Her best seller 'Does My Bum Look Big in this', was followed by 'Onwards and Upwards' and 'Stupid Cupid'. Starring in the Sitcom 'Two Doors Down' since 2016, she also writes for The Independent and Guardian.



Liz Hoggard
Unpublished Novel Judge

Arts journalist, Liz Hoggard, has written author interviews for newspapers and magazines including The Observer, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, Evening Standard, Radio Times, You magazine, and the Mail's women's Inspire section. Nominated for the 2018 British Journalism Awards, Liz is co-author of the non-fiction title, Dangerous Women: The Guide to Modern Life.



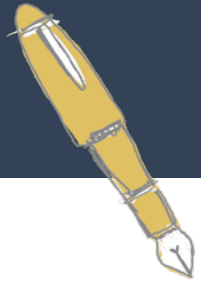
Rebecca Rogers
Unpublished Novel Judge

Rebecca Rogers grew up on a diet of Blackadder and Monty Python. For a long time, she thought Michael Palin was her uncle (he's not). A civil servant by day and writer by night, The Purgatory Poisoning is her first novel and won the Comedy Women in Print Unpublished Prize 2021.



Lucy Stewart
Unpublished Novel Judge

Lucy Stewart is an editor at HarperFiction, where she works across a range of bestselling commercial fiction. She can't wait to read this year's entries and to find what will no doubt be another hilarious and unique unpublished gem to bring to the HarperFiction list this year.



SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT... OUR PARTNERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Harper Collins has awarded the winner of the unpublished manuscript a publishing deal, as well as an advance of £5000 four years in a row.

The University of Hertfordshire and Falmouth University offer places on their MA's, 'Schnoobert Productions' offer 'Book to Screen', and Penguin offer the Sue Townsend 'New Voice' award.

In 2020 we included Funny Graphic novels and learned a whole load of new stuff about wit on the page with the brilliant LDC comics.

These partnerships have impacted on the literary landscape of witty writers. Since we began many new authors are now published, have agents or publishing deals in the making. Some are on their second or third novels.

Here's some boasting because we do that now...

"My phone never stops ringing!! I'm thrilled to have won a CWIP award but more than that, it's been a joy to be involved, right from the start."
Nina Stibbe, CWIP published novel winner 2020, 'Reasons to be Cheerful' (Penguin).

"I enjoyed every last second of being shortlisted in such amazing company."
Michelle Gallen, shortlisted for CWIP published novel 2020, 'Big Girl Small Town' (John Murray).

"When the shortlist was released, I was approached out of the blue by an agency who requested the manuscript as a result of reading the synopsis on the CWIP website."
Abigail Mann, CWIP unpublished runner-up 2019, 'The Lonely Fajita' (One More Chapter).

"After winning the runner up prize last year, I achieved my MA in Creative Writing, I have written a new novel. I owe it all to CWIP."
Zahra Barri, CWIP unpublished novel runner-up 2020.

"My debut novel, The First Time We Met, is now published with Bookouture, and all the feedback you generously provided made a huge difference to me in getting to this point"
Jo Lovett-Turner, longlisted for CWIP unpublished novel 2019.

"You have done so much for comedy writers in terms of providing a platform to get us noticed. You have given me an unbelievably fantastic launch pad, beyond my wildest dreams"
Kirsty Eyre, CWIP unpublished winner 2019, 'Cow Girl' (HarperCollins).

"Being longlisted made me feel stronger, freer, & braver. You have created something really special in CWIP. It engenders a sense of creative bravery, and community."
Vanessa Lawrence, longlisted for the published humorous graphic novel 2020, 'The C Word'.

"CWIP highlights that you can be serious and funny...humour is the best way to explore some of the difficult stuff -politics, identity issues concerning racism or class or gender"
Monica Ali, shortlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'Love Marriage' (Virago).

"Being shortlisted for the CWIP prize is one of the best things that's ever happened to me. It's proof that there is space for my kind of wit...I don't have to turn myself vanilla because thanks to the wonderful Helen Lederer, CWIP exists to champion witty women of all flavours, even dark ones"
Nikki May, shortlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'Wahala' (Doubleday).

"CWIP is important because it recognises humour writing as an actual literary craft - which it is"
Bonnie Garmus, shortlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'Lessons in Chemistry' (Doubleday).

"As to the prize's cultural importance, I would say, it gives male writers something to aspire to, which might help redress the popular belief that men can't be funny."
Meg Mason, longlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'Sorrow and Bliss' (Weidenfeld and Nicolson).

"Women being funny about their own stuff and on their own terms is still a rarity, and that needs support and recognition."
Lucy Mangan, longlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'Are we having fun yet?' (Profile Books).

"Any prize that champions the writing of witty women is doing a public service. Not to mention, it can feel so daunting to be a debut writer. CWIP is spotlighting newbies as well as the wonderful, established writers whom we all admire."
Phoebe Luckhurst, shortlisted for CWIP published novel 2022/23, 'The Lock In' (Penguin).

And more of our amazing alumni:

Kat Ailes, unpublished novel runner-up 2021, 'The Expectant Detectives' (Bonnier); **Hannah Dolby**, unpublished novel runner-up 2021, 'No Life for a Lady' (Head of Zeus); **Lily Lindon**, flash fiction winner 2021, 'Double Booked' (Head of Zeus); **Jo Lyons**, shortlisted unpublished novel 2021, 'Benidorm, actually' (Gekko Press); **Rebecca Rogers**, unpublished novel winner 2021, 'The Purgatory Poisoning' (HarperFiction); **Kathleen Whyman**, shortlisted unpublished novel 2020, 'Wife Support System' (Hera Books); **Faye Brann**, unpublished novel winner 2020, 'Tinker, Tailor, Schoolmum, Spy' (HarperFiction); **Nancy Peach**, longlisted unpublished novel 2020, 'Love Life' (One More Chapter); **Kristen Bailey**, longlisted unpublished 2019, 'Has Anyone Seen My Sex Life' (Bookature); **Eva Verde**, longlisted unpublished novel 2019, 'Lives like Mine' (Simon and Schuster).



Abbie Headon
Head Judge - Short Story

Abbie Headon is an editor whose clients include Farrago Books, Bloomsbury, Canelo, HarperCollins, Ladybird and the University of Wales Press. A few of her books are The Power of Yes, The Power of No, LEGO Build Yourself Happy and I'm Not Wearing Any Trousers: And Other Working-from-Home Truths.



Gabby Hutchinson Crouch
Short Story Judge

Gabby Hutchinson Crouch is a comedy writer with credits including Horrible Histories, The News Quiz, The Now Show and Homeschool History. She is also the author of the comedy fantasy 'Darkwood' trilogy and the supernatural comedy adventure 'Rooks' series.



Yasmeen Khan
Short Story Judge

Yasmeen Khan is a writer, award winning radio broadcaster and performer, writing comedy sketches and monologues extensively for stage and radio. This includes a reinvention of The Importance of Being Earnest with a contemporary northern and British Asian twist. Her TV writing includes BBC EastEnders, alongside making documentaries for Radio 4.



Olga Koch
Short Story Judge

Nominated for Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy awards, and Best Show at Leicester Comedy Festival, Olga has appeared on Mock the Week and QI to name a few shows. 'Olga Koch: Fight' for Radio 4, won best Radio Comedy- Writers' Guild Awards. 'Human Error' podcast is on BBC Sounds.



Ria Lina
Short Story Judge

Ria Lina is a highly accomplished comedian, writer, actor, wowing audiences on 'Mock the Week', 'Have I Got News For You', and countless other panel shows. With five Edinburgh shows under her belt, this multi-award-winning comedian is in demand for both her scientific insight, confident delivery and biting wit.



Chrissie Manby
Short Story Judge

Chrissie Manby is the author of 23 romantic comedies. She's had several Sunday Times bestsellers and her novel about behaving badly after a break-up, Getting Over Mr. Right, was nominated for a Melissa Nathan Award. She also worked on the Girls' Night In anthologies, which raised over £1m for humanitarian projects with War Child.



Published Shortlist



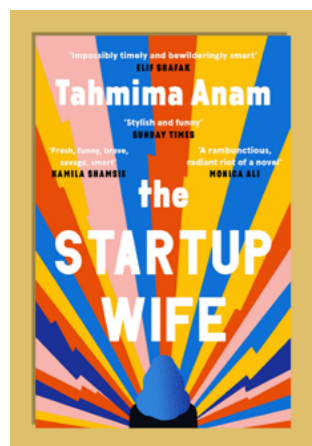
LOVE MARRIAGE

Monica Ali

Virago

Yasmine Ghorami has a lot to be grateful for: a loving family, a career in medicine and a charming fiancé called Joe. But now the dreaded moment has arrived. It is time to meet Joe's feminist mother...

Judges: 'Everything a novel should be - laugh out loud, funny, fresh evocative and fearless.'



THE STARTUP WIFE

Tahmima Anam

Canongate

When Asha starts work on a revolutionary app with her new husband she's thrilled. What happens to her and her relationship when the app explodes into the next big thing?

Judges: 'A funny and fascinating delve into a world rarely seen in novels, voiced by a truly lovable character'



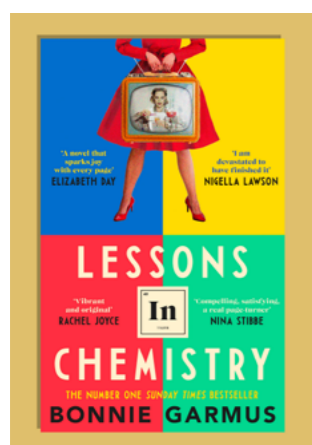
FACTORY GIRLS

Michelle Gillen

John Murray

It's 1974 and smart-mouthed and filthy minded, Mauve has always felt an outsider in her small Northern Irish town. When she tries to squeeze as much fun as possible into her last summer, she realises something is going on behind the scenes at her factory summer job.

Judges: 'Laugh out loud funny, grabbed me halfway through the first sentence!'



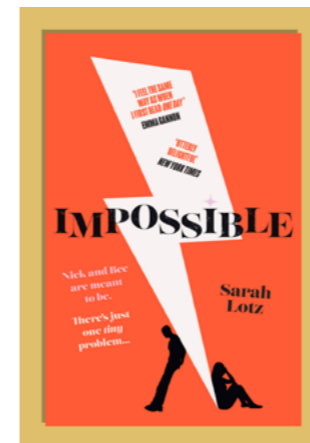
LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY

Bonnie Garmus

Doubleday

It's the early 1960's and chemist Elizabeth Zott, has to put up with her male colleagues with their very unscientific view of equality.

Judges: 'A book like no other, utterly original with humour that reminded me of Terry Pratchett'



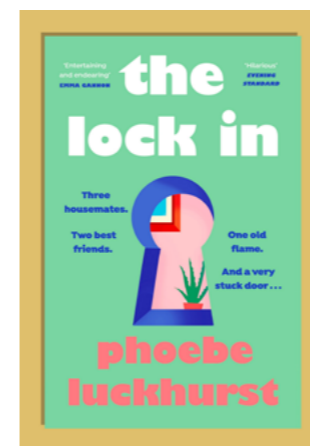
IMPOSSIBLE

Sarah Lotz

HarperCollins

One day Bee (Pringles enthusiast) and Nick (failed husband) meet over a misdirected email. The connect is instant and inevitable, or is it? What follows is impossible...

Judges: 'An age old story made modern and funny by skilful, insightful writing.'



THE LOCK IN

Phoebe Luchhurst

Penguin

Best friends Ellen and Alexa have always been close. Until one fateful morning when they get locked in the attic with Jack - Alexa's date from the night before.

Judges: 'I was in that room with this tricky foursome. Very funny, impossible to put down'



WAHALA

Nikki May

Doubleday

Ronke, Simi, and Boos are three mixed race friends in London. Everyday racism has never held them back but now in their thirties they question their future and confront their past.

Judges: 'Incredibly relatable and so funny!'



THE EXHIBITIONIST

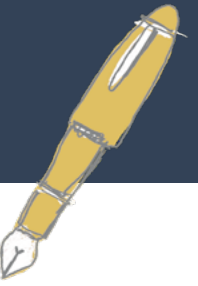
Charlotte Mendelson

Mantle

The Hanrahan family gathers for a weekend as famous artist and egoist Ray, prepares for a new show. Rays' wife Lucia has secrets of her own...

Judges: 'Brilliantly drawn characters set in a hilarious and relatable context'

Unpublished Shortlist



While He
Looked at
the Moon

Christina Carty

WHILE HE LOOKED AT THE MOON

Christina Carty

When Emma ends up pregnant and wants to keep the baby, she moves from London back home to West Ireland without husband Ben. Three months with Baby, and Emma is uncharacteristically alright. Sleep deprived; terrified but alright. Then Ben arrives...

Judges: 'Well written, made me laugh out loud. Amazing writing, can't write a dull line.'

Happy
Above Us

Silvia Saunders

HAPPY ABOVE US

Silvia Saunders

When Mara inherits enough money to buy her first flat in London, she believes all her problems will be solved, just as soon as she can convince her homesick boyfriend, Tom, to move in; the couple who live above her seem so happy, so why can't she and Tom be happy too?

Judges: 'About how we live now, which is exciting. Dark humour that comes from the narrator's voice.'

Death and
Her Life

Veronika Dapunt

DEATH AND HER LIFE

Veronika Dapunt

Death – the controller of all deaths in the world – takes a holiday and visits Earth when the unconceivable happens: an Unplanned Death, e.g., a death which she didn't authorise. With the help of her sister, Life, she sets about solving the mystery of who caused these unplanned deaths.

Judges: 'Love, love, love it... could see it on screen.'

Second
Chance

Joanna Waldron

SECOND CHANCE

Joanna Waldron

Bethany Dean has been engaged three times, but each fiancé died before their wedding. After so much heartbreak Beth thinks she's done with love – until she's hit by a car, and wakes up in Heaven to be told she must now choose which fiancé to marry...

Judges: 'Brilliant, original concept, page turner.'

Miss
Merriman
Regrets

Louise Jensen

MISS MERRIMAN REGRETS

Louise Jensen

In the peaceful 1930s village of Farnley, Miss Merriman earns the gratitude of an ancient elemental god, and her prayers are answered with unexpected and alarming results. Chaos ensues and she sets about rectifying the problem's she's caused.

Judges: 'Strong Miss Marple vibe with a subversive edge.'

Godfellas

Nicola Whyte

GODFELLAS

Nicola Whyte

Newly ordained priest and recovering gambling addict, Matthew, becomes involved in the unlikeliest of crime organisations; getting wrapped up in St Oswald's unlawful schemes to boost the parish's income, he finds himself acting as a pensioner's mule...

Judges: 'Brilliant concept. really pacey, well plotted, loved the title.'

Swiping
At 60

Niloufar Lamakan

SWIPING AT 60

Niloufar Lamakan

Sixty-year-old Sophia Stone accepts a challenge on New Year's Eve to go on one date a week for a year. Defying ageist expectations, she wants sparkling romance and hot sex, not targeted ads for funeral plans.

Judges: 'Great concept, up to date and cosmopolitan.'



BEFRIEND US

— WHAT? — YES!

It's all very well boasting, but here's my confession. I'm not actually trained in prize work....

With your friendship - we can do this. Why? Because you have seen the difference CWIP can make to the profile and respect of witty women's writing. Our brand has integrity and irreverence. Your involvement will genuinely close the gap in parity in the landscape of prizes and celebration.

We've only just begun. We need more categories, more administrators, more events. We are growing the CWIP community and have exciting partnerships with prisons, schools, wondrous witty writers who workshop with others because they like a laugh.

By contributing – you are truly enabling us to definitely put witty women authors centre stage. We invite you to be part of our journey. Any and all support will make a huge difference.

comedywomeninprint.co.uk/support

COMEDY WOMEN IN PRINT PRIZE FRIEND



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EXPRESS YOUR TALENT.
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Short Story Shortlist

Go Your Own Way

Kimberley Adams

GO YOUR OWN WAY

Kimberley Adams

Donna is the first to go to university and spends her last summer in a funeral parlour. Which doesn't go well...

Judges: 'Such a fantastic and unique, character dynamic and such loveable and three-dimensional characters.'

Nothing Compared to You

Annemarie Cancienne

NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU

Annemarie Cancienne

Audrey accidentally kills her hamster while singing to it...

Judges: 'One of the most accurate, hilarious, and heart-breaking friendship breakups and the sorrow of the lack of closure.'

Shopping for England

Kim Clayden

SHOPPING FOR ENGLAND

Kim Clayden

A wild ride through the bitter rivalries and scandals of a newly invented world championship sport: shopping.

Judges: 'Some of the most vivid, satisfying, and virtuosic world-building I've ever read.'

Unbound

Jean Ende

UNBOUND

Jean Ende

Saraleh visits her aunt Rachel in Brooklyn, who has, among other things stopped wearing her girdles but in spite of this oversight, the party is a hit...

Judges: 'A funny, touching, and well-observed story with varied, believable characters. The sense of community warmed our hearts.'



Care Home Capers

Wendy Hood

CARE HOME CAPERS

Wendy Hood

A group of care home residents decide to start a choir – however, despite a bagpiper with emphysema and a collective lack of teeth things don't go according to plan.

Judges: 'A heart-warming and funny tale that feels like a warm hug.'

You Can't Get There From Here

Jacqueline Saville

YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

Jacqueline Saville

Ian tells his wife he's at a conference in Brighton but actually goes to the lake district bird watching. Unfortunately for all, the conference hotel burns down, and his wife offers to pick him up.

Judges: 'The main character's numerous everyday mishaps made us laugh and lifted our spirits.'

Sorry, Delivery

Paula Lennon

SORRY, DELIVERY

Paula Lennon

Kayla is a narcoleptic delivery driver who likes biscuits and discovers a dead body on one of her routes....

Judges: 'Funny, gripping, and a genuinely fantastic mystery.'

Glue

Clare Shaw

GLUE

Clare Shaw

Gillian might be a 36-year-old deputy head teacher, with a clingy mother, but when she accidentally glues herself to the checkout at Tesco Express as well as Gary the assistant, things turn out to be more releasing than she might have thought.

Judges: 'The quality of the writing stood out to us, fantastic and well-rounded characters we've never seen before and loved spending time with.'

Poets Rise Again

Josie Long

POETS RISE AGAIN

Josie Long

Two best friends set up a business convincing insecure guilty wealthy people to hand over their assets in a quest for inner peace.

Judges: 'A phenomenal and timely idea, masterfully and hilariously executed.'

Ways with Mince

Kathryn Simmonds

WAYS WITH MINCE

Kathryn Simmonds

Sue has a troubled relationship with her mother-in-law, Rosemary, who doesn't think she's good enough for her son - too fat. They argue a lot, but a peace offering makes things worse.

Judges: 'Family relationships are tested beyond their limits, with the deftness and pacing of a monologue by Victoria Wood.'

Hapless

Rita Malik

HAPLESS

Rita Malik

A timeless story of one hapless man, a pig on the run, a corrupt master of the village and hungry villagers...

Judges: 'Ambitious, fun, bold, and so wonderfully silly!'

Jenny Bean, Calamity Queen

Julia Wood

JENNY BEAN, CALAMITY QUEEN

Julia Wood

Jenny, 52, wants to have her delayed 50th birthday party and marry boyfriend Ben before he trades her in for a younger model. Pilates ends up in injury, a relaxing massage ends up in injury - and a trip to TK Maxx to buy her dress, ends up in a near arrest and a lifetime ban.

Judges: 'Bright, loud, life-affirming and oh so much fun!'

A 'REAL' Essex girl,
“with a passion for storytelling
and a commitment to
authenticity”

**GEORGIA
CRANDON**

Georgia Crandon is a perfect musical representation for CWIP.

"It's hard enough for anyone to carve a career for themselves in the music industry, let alone if you're a woman. So there are obvious comparisons with what Helen is trying to achieve with CWIP, literarily." - Georgia.

Helen first approached Georgia Crandon in 2019 to co-write a song that represents CWIP. It gets a slight makeover every year for the annual award ceremony.

Notwithstanding working with numerous alumni from from The Jools Holland Orchestra, The Specials and Earth Wind & Fire, she has also been played on BBC Radio 2 and numerous other BBC local stations. Her last EP Overthinker, which dropped in 2020 also featured on a compilation album released in Japan in September 2021.

Following a 52 date UK theatre tour, concluding at The Royal Albert Hall in 2019, Georgia has recently completed a tour of Germany having finished her debut UK album. She is set to tour Germany (again), Japan and the UK in 2023.



Photographs by Derek D'Souza and Steve Holdway



The CWIP Story Song

Lyrics - Helen Lederer - Georgia Crandon

*Ever since the eighties it's been quite tough,
No one on the circuit seemed to like my stuff.
So, I wrote a book to get more visibility,
But funny women's fiction had no parity.*

*It's time to change and get our voices heard,
In spite of accusations of us spreading the wrong word.
Though it's changing, it's hard to make our mark,
There's many of us out there, not just Muriel Spark.*

*CWIP is here to clear the air,
If you're funny and a woman there's a prize to share.
Women's witty fiction is still quite rare,
We're changing this and yes, we dare.*

*Take a ballsy lady with a funny mind,
I couldn't think of two things better off combined.
Still the biz' can be unfair,
We're changing this and yes, we dare, 'oh yeah,'
We're changing this and yes, we dare.*

*All the prizes out there were won by men,
But it ain't just them who wield the pen.
Setting up this prize appeared the thing to do,
Support is slow but steady, now it's down to you.*

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK

*CWIP is here to change the world.
Empowerment with novels simply NOT absurd.
Funny girls were overlooked, but oh contraire...
We're changing this and yes we dare.*

*And CWIP is far from passionless,
And CWIP is ABSOLUTELY fxxking FABULOUS,
Still the biz' can be unfair,
We're changing this and yes, we dare, oh yeah,
We're changing this and oh yeah, we dare.*

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Persuasion was founded by Jane Austin (see what she did there?) in 2008, and is her proudest life's achievement to date, second only to winning a junior competition as a pre-teen double-jointed ice-skater. Persuasion's pens are mightier than many-a PR sword and humour is often its weapon of choice. All power to our fellow funny female writers...

MY Menopause CENTRE

My Menopause Centre
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to recognise brilliant women!



My Menopause Centre's co-founders
Helen Normoyle and Dr Clare Spencer

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