

DARKE

2012

The
**NICK DARKE
AWARD**

*Celebrating the best writing
for stage, screen and radio*

Submission Information

NICK DARKE

*I know the stretch of coast from
Treyarnon to Pentire. I know every
crab hole in Rubble cove, Butter
cove, Trescore and Park Head.
I know that Rowan is the best place
for wreck. I know the lobster pools
at Porthmear and Wills' Rock.
I know every inch of scaleable cliff,
the fox runs, the badger sets, the
larks nests in the heather and the
ant hills where the choughs used
to feed. I know where the ravens
nest and the kestrels, the fulmars,
shags, seapies, blackbacks, rock
pipits, jackdaws, guillemots and
razorbills. I know which way the
wind blows and what it will bring.
I know the five drangs in Trescore
to drop pots. I know where to catch
wrasse, where to shoot a longline
for ray, where the mackerel shoal
and when, when the bass shoal
close inshore, when the smoothies
run and the mullet congregate
under the cliffs. I know the name
of every rock and cove that has
a name, Totty cove, Long cove,
Fox cove, Wine cove, Pepper
cove, butter cove, mackerel cove,
Minnows, Trethias Island, The
Quies. I know where to catch the
biggest Pollack, the biggest conger,
the biggest dogfish. I know every
rock that breaks water at high tide,
low tide, half tide. I know every inch
and minute of the spring tide and
the neap tide. I know every farm
and farmer and every access point.
I know every current, every race.
I can look at the white caps and
gauge the strength of the wind.
I can see a thunder swell and
a ground sea. Every inch and
seasonal change is familiar. Any
other stretch of coast is alien to me.*

'From Treyarnon To Pentire'
By Nick Darke

Born and educated in the county of Cornwall, England the playwright Nick Darke left Cornwall to study acting at Rose Bruford College, Kent before learning his craft at The Victoria Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent. Here Nick performed in over 80 plays and in 1978 wrote his first play, *Never Say Rabbit in a Boat*. Its success led him to give up acting and in the following year he won the George Devine Award.

His work attracted further commissions and everything he wrote for the theatre was produced. This included 24 plays that were staged at The National Theatre, London; The Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon; The Bush, London; by Kneehigh Theatre and at The Royal Court, London.

He wrote several radio plays and made documentaries for radio and also successfully wrote for television and film.

He moved back to Cornwall in 1990 and enjoyed the life of his childhood, fishing and wrecking (beachcombing). In 2001 he had a stroke which affected his speech and reading and writing. He and his wife Jane made the film, *The Wrecking Season* about the contacts he made tracing fishing gear back to the east coast of America. (Broadcast by BBC Four in 2005 and 2010)

Nick died of cancer in 2005, aged 56 with his funeral held on the beach. He and Jane filmed the last few months of his life. She made the film *The Art of Catching Lobsters* (BBC Four 2007) about their life together and grief. They have two sons; Jim is a marine scientist, Henry a filmmaker and writer.

*For more information about Nick's life and work
please visit www.nickdarke.net.*

THE AWARD

The Nick Darke Award is a stage, screen and radio writing award that was set up in 2006 to celebrate the best writing for stage, screen and radio.

The Nick Darke Award is open to all writers with a prize of £6,000.

Following Nick Darke's death the Nick Darke Award was conceived by his wife, the artist and film maker Jane Darke, with the support of his family.

Writers are asked to submit work on an environmental theme in recognition of Nick's lifelong commitment to this issue. The word environmental may however be broadly interpreted.

The award is presented each year to a writer for work that pursues an environmental theme within one of the following four disciplines:

- Stage play
- Screenplay
- Radio play
- Documentary film

Nick Darke wrote in many forms but earned his living in the world of theatre, screen and radio. As this award is intended to contribute financially to the life of a writer, the award is in one of these disciplines.

With the opportunity to win £6,000 and open to all writers, this competition provides the time to write that financial support facilitates.

In the first instance submissions are invited for an outline and 20 sample script pages of work that will be considered by a selection of readers. The eight shortlisted writers will then be judged by a panel before the winner is announced in October.

The award is solely funded by the School of Media & Performance at University College Falmouth whose Department of Writing offers undergraduate and postgraduate, traditional and online courses.

www.falmouth.ac.uk/writing

The Judges

Jeremy Howe
Drama Commissioning Editor
for Radio 4, UK

Molly Dineen
BAFTA and Royal Television
Society award-winning UK
television documentary director,
cinematographer and producer

Roger Michell
Theatre, television and film
director whose work includes
the films Notting Hill, Changing
Lanes and Morning Glory

Sebastian Born
Associate Director (Literary),
National Theatre London, UK

Further judge to be confirmed

SUBMISSIONS

1 Eligibility

- 1.1 The application must be made in English.
- 1.2 The competition is open to all writers aged 16 and over.
- 1.3 The writer must be the sole original author. The competition is not open to collaborations.
- 1.4 It must be a new and original piece of work which has not been previously performed or published.
- 1.5 Please tell us if you have any communication requirements and what these are (for example a preference for material in large print or a need for everything on audio CD).

2 Criteria

- 2.1 The theme is the environment; entrants may interpret the theme widely.
- 2.2 The work must be within one of the following four categories:
 - Stage play
 - Screenplay
 - Radio play
 - Documentary film
- 2.3 The length of the piece must be compatible with standard industry practice and must not be shorter than the following:
 - Stage play: 1 hour
 - Screenplay: 30 minutes
 - Radio play: 45 minutes
 - Documentary film: 30 minutes

3 Submission procedure

- 3.1 Please submit an outline of 2,500 words maximum. The outline should contain a clear description of the theme, narrative structure, characters and setting. In the case of documentary projects, the idea and how you will realise it.
- 3.2 Enclose a CV with your submission (this will help the judges to find out more about you), and include your contact details. If you fail to do so your application will not be considered.
- 3.3 Please submit 20 sample script pages of your idea.
- 3.4 Do not include any supporting material such as DVDs, photos, CDs, etc.
- 3.5 Submission copies will not be returned. Please retain a copy of your work for your records.
- 3.6 Please post or email your submission, to arrive by Monday 14 May 2012, to:

The Nick Darke Award
School of Media & Performance
University College Falmouth
Tremough Campus, Penryn
Cornwall, TR10 9EZ, UK

Email: nickdarkeaward@falmouth.ac.uk
- 3.7 Confirmation of receipt of application will be emailed.
- 3.8 Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 3.9 The deadline for submissions is Monday 14 May 2012.

4 Judging procedure

- 4.1 A panel of judges will be made up of practitioners in stage, radio, documentary and dramatic film.
- 4.2 Your work will be considered by a selection of readers who will compile a final shortlist of eight for the judges.
- 4.3 Shortlisted applicants will be notified by Friday 27 July 2012.
- 4.4 Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified, please assume your work has not been shortlisted if you haven't heard from us by Friday 27 July, 2012. The Nick Darke Award cannot enter into any correspondence regarding a submission nor can it offer any editorial notes or guidance. The shortlist and winner of the Award will be published on www.falmouth.ac.uk/nickdarkeaward and www.nickdarke.net.
- 4.5 The judges will select one winner from the 8 shortlisted writers.
- 4.6 The winner will be announced during the first week of October 2012.

5 The Winner

- 5.1 The winning entrant will receive £6,000 to allow them to complete their script to industry standards.
- 5.2 The winner must then submit a complete draft of the script by Friday 29 March 2013.

6 The small print

- 6.1 Should the writer fail to submit a complete script by Friday 29 March 2013 they will be obliged to return the money in full.
- 6.2 The copyright for the piece remains solely with the author. However the Nick Darke Award must be credited on all subsequent publicity material.
- 6.3 The winning writer must make themselves and their winning piece available for all publicity purposes within reason. This may include a performance or reading of the work during University College Falmouth's annual Summer Festival.

Contact information

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FALMOUTH

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www.falmouth.ac.uk

Originally founded as Falmouth School of Art in 1902, University College Falmouth (UCF) has grown from a small art school of less than 200 students to a multi-arts University College with around 3,600 full time students. Its justifiable international reputation has grown from over a century of nurturing original thinking, supported by highly talented and professional staff.

The School of Media & Performance has three departments: Media, Performance and Writing and the funding of the Nick Darke Award is grown from a high respect for Nick's work, his ensuing legacy in these three disciplines and an ongoing and valued relationship with his family.

The Cornish Performance Archive

This archive of Cornish performance is held by University College Falmouth following generous donations from one of Britain's most popular touring companies, Kneehigh, the internationally acclaimed theatre company, WILDWORKS as well as the archive of Nick Darke.

The collection contains preparatory work and scripts for his 30 plays, along with publicity, promotional material, photographs and correspondence. Nick's work for television, film and radio is also well represented. The archive is broad in its appeal, documenting Nick's interest in environmental issues, music, Cornish history and culture, as well as his recovery from a stroke in 2001 and events leading up to his untimely death in 2005. Nick's widow, Jane continues to be involved with the both the collection and its use.

For more information or to arrange access to the collections please contact us.

archives@falmouth.ac.uk
www.falmouth.ac.uk/archives