



Strictly Embargoed until 3pm, Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Steven Camden wins CLiPPA 2019 for emotionally charged and powerful poetry collection, *Everything All At Once*

Acclaimed script-writer and spoken word artist Steven Camden was today announced as the winner of the annual poetry award, CLiPPA (Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award). His debut collection, *Everything All At Once*, published by Macmillan Children's Books, was unanimously chosen as the winner by this year's panel of judges.

A.F. Harrold, Chair of Judges for CLiPPA 2019 said of *Everything All At Once*:

"Steven's collection has so many things to recommend it, not only the mastery of our living written/spoken language but also an intense insight into the heart of a secondary school – the nuances and faceslaps of being that age, of tiptoeing or prat-falling through that environment. The heartaches and the anxieties, the laughs, the embarrassments and the low slants of daylight. It's as much a guidebook to navigating those tricky waters as it is a record of what he's seen. A copy of this should be given to every kid about to go up to secondary school."

Camden, who also goes by the stage name Polarbear, beat off competition from Carnegie Medal shortlistee Kwame Alexander, previous CLiPPA winner Rachel Rooney and T.S. Eliot Prize winner Philip Gross. The final shortlisted collection, *Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me* by beloved US poet Eloise Greenfield (Tiny Owl Publishing) was highly commended by the judges.

Praised for the way it captures the authentic teenage voice, *Everything All At Once* marks another high profile win for poetry for older children, which has experienced a huge uplift in the last year and comes on the back of the recent Carnegie Medal win for Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X*.

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive at CLPE said:

"Through our research and work with schools at CLPE, we regularly see the transformative power of poetry on children's engagement with reading and writing. Poetry allows children to see things from the perspective of others, to form opinions and be reflective, to understand how language is used for effect and to show them that they too can have a voice, through writing poetry of their own. CLiPPA champions children's poetry because we believe it is absolutely fundamental to their literacy development and we want children to have access to the best poetry from the earliest age. Steven Camden's collection brings us some of the finest poetry for young people. Eloquent and complex as well as engaging and accessible, it shows the power of poetry to take the reader on an emotional journey towards adulthood."

Camden received his trophy and a cheque for £1000 on The Lyttleton Stage at the National Theatre, in front of a 900-strong audience of school children who have participated in the award's shadowing scheme. As part of the prize he will also be recorded for the prestigious National Poetry Archive. The award is supported by the Siobhan Dowd Trust and the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society.

To ensure the celebration of poetry continues all year round the ceremony culminated in the announcement of a national poetry reading and writing challenge for children. #MyNPDpoem marks the 25th Anniversary of National Poetry Day which this year will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd October.

To speak to Steven Camden or for more information about CLiPPA, please contact Catherine Alport (hello@catherinealportpr.co.uk/ 07843804083).

PRESS RELEASE

Notes for Editors:

About CLiPPA 2019:

Shortlist in Full:

- *Everything All At Once*, by Steven Camden (Macmillan Children's Books)
- *Dark Sky Park*, by Philip Gross (illustrated by Jesse Hodgson) (Otter-Barry Books)
- *Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me*, by Eloise Greenfield (illustrated by Ehsan Abdollahi) (Tiny Owl Publishing)
- *A Kid in My Class*, by Rachel Rooney (illustrated by Chris Riddell) (Otter-Barry Books)
- *Rebound*, by Kwame Alexander (Andersen Press)

Judging Panel:

The judging panel for CLiPPA 2019 comprised of poet and author A.F. Harrold, CLiPPA 2018 winner Karl Nova, Susannah Herbert, director of Forward Arts Foundation and National Poetry Day, poet Ruth Awolola, and Charlotte Hacking, Programme Leader for the CLPE.

About The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education:

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK charity dedicated to raising the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning.

The CLPE is the National Poetry Centre for Primary Schools, upholding the belief that poetry is an essential element when it comes to children developing their literacy skills both within the classroom and at home. The CLPE champions poetry for toddlers to teens via their online resource, Poetryline, a free website of resources including teaching materials, videos, practice examples and hundreds of poems to inspire and enthuse budding poets. It is a charity with a national and international reputation for excellent literacy training and resources. Visit www.clpe.org.uk for further information or follow CLPE on Twitter @clpe1.

About the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS):

ALCS provide a unique service for all types of author. ALCS collect money for authors that can't be administered on an individual basis, from all over the world, from a wide variety of sources and pay it to them. ALCS campaign for the rights of authors and provide a collective voice for the wide variety of individuals that make up their membership. They educate about the principles of copyright and intellectual property and their importance to authors to the general public. ALCS currently has over 100,000 writer members and, since its inception in 1977, has paid over £500million to the nation's writers. www.alcs.co.uk

About the Siobhan Dowd Trust:

The Siobhan Dowd Trust works to give young people the opportunity to access and enjoy books. It is the money earned through UK and International book royalties and other income from Siobhan's work that allows the trust to support deserving projects. Find out more at <http://siobhandowdtrust.com> & on Twitter @sdowdtrust

About National Poetry Day:

National Poetry Day, the UK's biggest annual poetry celebration, is the highpoint of a year-round campaign to increase public enjoyment of poems. It was founded in 1994 by the Forward Arts Foundation, a cultural and education charity supported by the BBC, Arts Council England and leading literary organisations including the Scottish Poetry Library and Literature Wales. National Poetry Day's 25th anniversary – themed around Truth - is sponsored by UK book trade wholesaler Gardners, Browns Books for Students. #MyNPDpoem and films produced with the support of ALCS, the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society.

For more information, see: www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk or www.forwardartsfoundation.org

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