

Guest poet – Ieva Flamingo

Latvia's answer to Allan Ahlberg, **Ieva Flamingo** is a prolific and prize-winning children's poet whose first UK publication *The Noisy Classroom* celebrates the highs and lows of childhood and the universal rituals of school life. Ieva is an engagingly mischievous performer, ably supported by her translator Richard O'Brien, and we're proud to present our first poet in translation as our **headline guest reader** at the Suffolk Young Poets evening on **Friday 19 October**.

SCHOOL WANTS

School wants me to be like a calculator –
to come, to go, to do things, now – not later.

School wants me to succeed at every test,
learn all the answers, or at least to guess.

School wants my mind to rival God's perfection,
and never let mistakes escape detection.

School wants and wants, sends class alerts all day.
School doesn't ask how I feel today.

Ieva Flamingo

translated by **Richard O'Brien**

from *The Noisy Classroom* (The Emma Press 2017)

Write your own poem

Ieva's translator Richard says: "In *School Wants*, Ieva creates the effect of non-stop demands by starting every verse with the same few words. It doesn't have to be about school, but each section of your poem should begin with a repeated phrase. This could be anything – 'Mum says...', 'My brother says...', 'Breaktime makes me...' Why not try this way of writing yourself?"

Thank you Latvian Literature
for funding the guest
reading by Ieva Flamingo



Introducing Poetry People

Poetry People brings poetry to people and people to poetry, often for the first time. Led by **Dean Parkin** and **Naomi Jaffa**, Poetry People reach out to the wider community through projects, competitions, workshops and live events.

The Suffolk Young Poets Competition is one of the UK's oldest poetry showcases for children's writing. Since 1989, the Competition has received nearly **35,000 entries** – extraordinary for just one county.

Each year Poetry People runs workshops in Suffolk schools to encourage young writing talent and generate brilliant entries for the Competition. This year's series of summer term workshops is called **Growing Poems** and will focus on schools in and around Suffolk's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

If you'd like a Poetry People workshop at your school, contact: naomi@poetrypeople.co.uk

Suffolk
Young
Poets
Competition
2018



Thank you Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and Galloper Wind Farm Fund for funding Growing Poems workshops



Everything you need to know

Poetry People is a registered Community Interest Company No.10706570

How to enter? And the rules?

- Suffolk Young Poets Competition is open to all young people up to the age of 18, living in Suffolk or attending a Suffolk school in 2017-2018
- The writer's name, age (on Tuesday 31 July 2018) and home or school address **must be included on each page**
- Please provide a contact email address (teacher, parent or guardian)
- Poems may be on any subject and in any form
- Poems may be typed or hand-written
- Entries for the **Best Poem in Translation** need to be supplied in their original language *and* in English
- A maximum of three poems per entrant
- Each poem should begin on a separate page
- Poems cannot be returned – please keep a copy
- The closing date for entries is **Tuesday 31 July 2018**

**Please send your entries to:
Suffolk Young Poets Competition
Poetry People, The Cut, 8 New Cut
Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY**

Thank you Suffolk Young Poets Competition 2018 is delivered in partnership with Halesworth Arts Festival. Grateful thanks to The Limbourne Trust for funding support and to Silk Pearce for sponsorship.

Any prizes? Of course!

This year there will be ten winners and a new prize awarded to the Best Poem in Translation by a young poet whose mother tongue is not English. All the winning Suffolk Young Poets will enjoy the following benefits and prizes:

- The opportunity to read their poem on stage at the Halesworth Arts Festival on **Friday 19 October 2018** as part of the Suffolk Young Poets evening, alongside Latvia's leading writer for children, **Ieva Flamingo**, who'll be partnered by her translator **Richard O'Brien**. Together, they'll share poems from Ieva's first UK publication *The Noisy Classroom*.
- A place on the Suffolk Young Poets **workshop afternoon** on Friday 19 October at The Cut Arts Centre in Halesworth.
- An **illustrated poster** of each winning poem, individually created by design group Silk Pearce.
- A Suffolk Young Poets Competition **Trophy**, £20 **book token** and a Top Ten Winner certificate. Up to 40 Highly Commended **certificates** will also be awarded.
- Publication on the Poetry People website and other social media.

The Silk Pearce Trophy Leading design group Silk Pearce are keen to support and recognise the best poems by young people. Their specially-designed stylish trophy will be given to the Suffolk school with the strongest overall entry to the Competition on Friday 19 October at the Halesworth Arts Festival.

Who are the judges?

Naomi Jaffa was Suffolk's first literature development officer and worked for Aldeburgh Poetry Festival from 1993 and as its Director 1999–2014. Her second pamphlet collection *Driver* was published in 2017.

Karl Knights was born in 1996 and went to school in Leiston. Highly commended three times in the Suffolk Young Poets Competition, he is now at the University of Kent, has written for *The Guardian* and is working towards his first collection.

Michael Laskey is a poet, editor, tutor and workshop leader. Aldeburgh Poetry Festival co-founder in 1989, he co-edited *Smiths Knoll* magazine for 21 years. He has published five collections plus a *Very Selected* in 2017.

Dean Parkin was born in Suffolk and works as a freelance poet devising projects such as *Poem for Suffolk* (2014–15) and currently *The Grit*. He has published two full collections, most recently *The Bubble Wrap* (2017), his first for children.

Jeni Smith was Suffolk's English Specialist Advisor, then UEA's Senior Lecturer in Education until her recent retirement. Currently joint director of the National Writing Project, her collection *Reading Through The Night* was published in 2015.

Say hello to Poetry People
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