

DARKE

2014

The
**NICK DARKE
AWARD**

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

Submission Information

NICK DARKE

From *Danger My Ally* by Nick Darke

He lights the fuse which starts the chain reaction of the series of charges he's laid around the model site

MARVIN rises and follows the display around the model

When the fuse reaches the dynie at the end it explodes

ELF

That is the liquid oxygen tank Marvin, you see what I was saying?
When it goes we are gonners.

MARVIN ignores **ELF** and lumbers back to whatever it was he was doing

Marvin. Marvin Marvin Marvin I admire your sagacity.

*He sits cross-legged beside **MARVIN***

Why worry? It is good to die since death is part of life. What has been is what will be and what has been done is what will be done and there is nothing new under the sun. The industrial empire is a cancer on the earth and the suffering of the planet far outweighs this little Elf! I am here to sabotage the destruction of a wilderness! Why? Why throw away a life, two, three four lives for the sake of a wilderness? Because it is my duty to protect a wilderness for its own sake! And if I die? Individual suffering is less important than the suffering of an ecosystem!

He checks his watch

Twelve minutes!

He tries the door. It is securely locked

Marvin. Since we have so little time left I wish to make a confession. I am a deep ecologist, that goes without saying. I don't use motor-driven transport. I don't burn fossil fuels. I take the side of nature over culture. I believe in the defence of the wild, the natural and non-human, all animals have an equal claim to Mother Earth, an equal right to dignity. I am, therefore, naturally a vegan Marvin. What else?! But it wasn't always so. I was once a voracious consumer of butchers' meat!

/Continued

He takes from a secret pocket deep within the bag, a string of sausages

These are my favourite sausages. I was never able to forgo them. I would last for perhaps three days then my taste buds would explode for want of a sausage. I would find myself in a trance heading for the abattoir. Knock knock on the back door.

*A **SLAUGHTERMAN** holding a cleaver, plastered in blood and entrails opens the door
He calls over his shoulder:*

SLAUGHTERMAN

Hey boys! It's that crazy vegan again!

Born and educated in Cornwall, England, the playwright Nick Darke studied 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.

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

Peter Thomson

Emeritus Professor of Drama
at the University of Exeter and
General Editor of the three-volume
Cambridge History of British Theatre

Carl Grose

Writer, director and actor and the
first winner of the Nick Darke Award

Margaret Matheson

Producer for cinema and
television, her credits include
the *Original Scum* (banned by
the BBC), *Abigail's Party* and
Oscar winning *Antonia's Line*

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 (see www.falmouth.ac.uk/nickdarkeaward for previous winners' work).

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

- Stage play
- Screenplay (feature film or short film)
- Radio play

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 applicants should outline the form of their idea (theatre, radio play, feature film, short film), pitch it in 25 words or less and then outline the story idea in 750 words, suggesting character, plot and structure. They should also submit 20 pages which are representative of their work; this can be from an existing or new piece of work. The submissions will be read by a group of readers who will produce a long list for the Longlist Committee. The Longlist Committee will reduce the submissions to a final shortlist of eight for the judges. The winner is announced in October.

The awarded is solely funded by Falmouth University through the Falmouth Graduate School, which offers postgraduate courses (MA and MFA) and research degrees (MPhil and PhD) and supports the wider environment for research and advanced scholarship at the University.

www.falmouth.ac.uk/graduate-school

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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 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 three categories:
 - Stage play
 - Screenplay (feature film or short film)
 - Radio play

Please state clearly which category your submission falls within.

3 Submission procedure

- 3.1 Please submit an outline of your story idea (theatre, radio play, feature film, short film) in 750 words suggesting character, plot and structure and pitch it in 25 words or less.
- 3.2 Please also submit 20 pages which are representative of your work; this can be from an existing or new piece of work or a sample of the piece you are submitting and will be developing.
- 3.3 Email a short CV with your submission and include your contact details. If you fail to do so your application will not be considered.
- 3.4 Please email your submission in two PDF documents, one containing your short CV and the other containing the outline, pitch and 20 sample pages. State clearly which category your submission falls into (Stage, Screen, Radio) and email to: nickdarkeaward@falmouth.ac.uk by the deadline of Monday 14 April, 2014.
- 3.4 Confirmation of receipt of application will be emailed.
- 3.5 Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 3.6 The deadline for submissions is Monday 14 April 2014.

4 Judging procedure

- 4.1 A panel of judges will be made up of practitioners in stage, radio and film.
- 4.2 Your work will be considered by a selection of readers who will compile a longlist for the Longlist Committee. The Longlist Committee will reduce the submissions to a final shortlist of eight for the judges.
- 4.3 Shortlisted applicants will be notified by Friday 1 August, 2014.
- 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 1 August, 2014. 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 eight shortlisted writers.
- 4.6 The winner will be announced mid October 2014 at an Award Ceremony at Falmouth University.

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 winning entrant will receive mentoring from Carl Grose.
- 5.3 The winner must then submit a complete draft of the script by Monday 1 June, 2015.

6 The small print

- 6.1 Should the writer fail to submit a complete script by Monday 1 June, 2015 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 the Award Ceremony.

Contact information

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#NickDarkeAward

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Falmouth University has an international reputation in art, design, media, performance and writing as a specialist creative multi-arts institution. With campuses at Falmouth and Penryn, the University has been challenging creativity for more than 100 years, from its origin as Falmouth School of Art in 1902 with less than 200 students to a multi-arts University with around 4000 full-time students.

Falmouth's research and innovation shapes its teaching and the world we live in, with national and international partnerships providing opportunities for both business and students. At the heart of creativity in the UK and the world, Falmouth University explores the convergence between technology and the arts, making a vital contribution to the resurgence of the local and global economies.

The Nick Darke Award is solely funded by Falmouth University through the Falmouth Graduate School, which offers postgraduate courses (MA and MFA) and research degrees (MPhil and PhD) and supports the wider environment for research and advanced scholarship at the University.

www.falmouth.ac.uk/graduate-school

Falmouth University's Academic Departments

Academy of Innovation & Research
Academy of Music and Theatre Arts
Falmouth School of Art
Fashion & Textiles Institute
Institute of Photography
School of Communication Design
School of Film & Television
School of Writing & Journalism

The Nick Darke Archive

Falmouth University is delighted to hold the professional archive of Nick Darke, following the generous donation of papers from his family. The Collection contains a broad range of 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. Inspiring, humbling, humorous, and at times deeply moving, the records document 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 wife, Jane, continues to be involved with both the collection and its use.

The Collection is complimented well by other holdings relating to performance activity in Cornwall, including the archives of Wildworks and Kneehigh theatre companies, the latter whom Nick wrote for on many occasions.

The Collection is widely available to all, and we enthusiastically welcome applicants to the Nick Darke Award keen to learn more about his craft.

For more information or to arrange access please contact us:

Tel: +44 (0)1326 254303
Email: archives@fxplus.ac.uk
library.fxplus.ac.uk/archives
@FXArchives

The Graduate School

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