

2016 Manchester Fiction Prize short list (in alphabetical order):



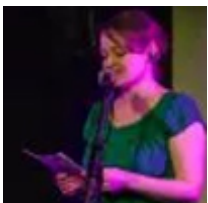
Michael Conley is a 32 year old teacher from Manchester. He mostly writes poetry: his first collection *Aquarium* was published as a pamphlet by Flarestack Poets in 2014, and his second, *More Weight*, came out with Eyewear in March of this year. He took third place in the in the 2014 Bridport Flash Fiction Prize, and his poem 'These Three Young Ladies...' was Highly Commended in the 2015 Forward Prize. His work has appeared in a variety of magazines including Magma, Rialto and New Welsh Review. He is a graduate of the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University.



Erinna Mettler is a Brighton-based writer. Her first novel, *Starlings*, was published in 2011 and described by one critic as doing for Brighton what *The Wire* did for Baltimore. She is a founder and co-director of The Brighton Prize for short fiction and of the spoken word group Rattle Tales. Her stories have been published internationally and short-listed for The Bristol Prize, The Fish Prize and The Writers & Artists Yearbook Award. Her career highlight was having a short story read by a *Game of Thrones* actor at Latitude Festival. Erinna's new short story collection on the theme of fame, *Fifteen Minutes*, will soon be published by Unbound Publishing.



Laura Pocock was born in South Wales and is an English teacher living in Leicester. She holds a BA (Hons) in English from the University of Leicester, and will soon graduate with an MA in Creative Writing from Nottingham Trent University. Laura has written a body of Eco-poetry and enjoys experimenting with the sonnet form. Her short story, 'Recruitment', has recently been published in *Monster*, an anthology of literature by Nottingham writers. She is currently writing a futuristic young adult novel.



Lucy Ribchester lives in Edinburgh. She has written two novels, *The Hourglass Factory* and *The Amber Shadows*. Her short fiction has been published in various journals and previously shortlisted for the Costa Short Story Award. She is a former recipient of a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award and this year was awarded a Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship,

during which time she wrote the story 'Succubus' (short-listed for the 2016 Manchester Fiction Prize). She also writes about dance and circus for *The List* magazine and tutors English.



Sophie Wellstood grew up in rural Warwickshire in an unconventional family. She is the author of numerous short stories and poems which draw on the bizarre and absurd, and which reflect her love of wild places and people. Her fiction was first published in 2014, in *Stories for Homes*, an anthology for Shelter. She was long-listed for the Bath Award in 2016. Sophie recently won Triskele Books Big 5 competition, and her debut novel will be published in 2017. She lives in west London and is working on her second novel and a short story collection.



D. W. Wilson is the author of *Once You Break a Knuckle*, a collection of stories, and *Ballistics*, a novel. He is the youngest-ever winner of the BBC's National Short Story Award, and his fiction and essays have appeared in literary journals on both sides of the Atlantic. He is a nerd, redneck, and prolific procrastinator who once spent six-hundred hours building an Iron Man costume, for his wife, for Halloween. It had light-up eyes. *Photo credit: Samantha Hart.*
