

## HUBERT BUTLER ESSAY PRIZE 2018



The Hubert Butler Essay Prize 2018 award ceremony took place on 24 October 2018 at the Irish Embassy in London. The Irish Ambassador H.E. Mr Adrian O'Neill welcomed guests and was followed by Prof R. F. Foster who talked about Butler, the prize and the three winners. Cordelia Gelly, Butler's grand-daughter, awarded Nigel Lewis the first prize and a runners-up prize to Victoria Mason. The second runner-up Rachel Andrews was unable to join but she sent a message which Cordelia read out.

### NIGEL LEWIS - WINNER OF THE HUBERT BUTLER ESSAY PRIZE 2018

**Nigel Lewis** (above far right) was born in Central America in 1948 and educated at Midhurst Grammar School in Sussex and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was a journalist for the BBC World Service, Radio 3, and the CBC, and has occasionally contributed to *The Sunday Times*, *New Statesman*, *Spectator*, and Radio 4. His recent work includes *The First Commandment*, the English libretto for an early Mozart work (for the Classical Opera Company) and *The Cover Plan Conspiracy: the British and Exercise Tiger* (published last year as an e-book). He divides his time between North London and a small house in Italy and is working on a novel.

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## JOINT RUNNERS-UP RACHEL ANDREWS AND VICTORIA MASON



**Rachel Andrews** (above left) is a writer and journalist based in Cork, Ireland. Her writing has appeared in *n+1*, *Longreads*, the *London Review of Books*, *Brick* literary journal, the *Dublin Review* and the *Stinging Fly*. She has been shortlisted for the Fitzcarraldo Essay Prize (2018), and for the Notting Hill Essay Prize (2017). In 2013 she was awarded the Documentary Essay Prize at the Centre for Documentary Studies, Duke University. She teaches journalism at Griffith College Cork.

**Victoria Mason** (above right) grew up in Northern Ireland and lives in Coventry. Having studied history at Cambridge University, she spent a year living and working in Madrid, before returning to the UK. She now works for the Archbishop of Canterbury in his Reconciliation team. She is married to Bernardo, a Spaniard whom she met in Bordeaux.

## JUDGES



Professor **Roy Foster** chairs this year's judging panel, and is joined by **Nicholas Grene** and **Isabella Thomas**

**Roy Foster** is Emeritus Professor of Irish History at Oxford and Professor of Irish History and Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He is the author of many prizewinning books, including *Modern Ireland 1600-1972*, *Paddy and Mr Punch*, *The Irish Story*, *Luck and the Irish*, the two-volume authorised

biography of W.B. Yeats, and most recently *Vivid Faces: the revolutionary generation in Ireland 1890-1923*. He is also a well-known cultural commentator and critic.

**Professor Nicholas Grene** (B.A. Dublin) Ph.D. (Cambridge), F.T.C.D., M.R.I.A. Professor Emeritus has been Professor of English Literature in the School of English since 1999; he is a Senior Fellow of the College, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

He is the author of a number of books including *Synge: a Critical Study of the Plays Shakespeare, Jonson, Molière: the Comic Contract, Bernard Shaw: a Critical View, Shakespeare's Tragic Imagination, The Politics of Irish Drama, Shakespeare's Serial History Plays, Yeats' Poetic Codes* and *R.K. Narayan*.

An Andrew W. Mellon Fund Fellow at the Huntington Library in California in 1994, he was the founding Director of the Synge Summer School (1991-2000) and was the founding chair of the Irish Theatrical Diaspora research network.

**Isabella Thomas** is a writer, journalist and editor. She is the founder of the Aspen Initiative in the UK, and was formerly programme director of the [Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation](#) and Axess Publishing in Stockholm. She has also worked with the Club of Three (now the Institute for Strategic Dialogue), bringing British, French and German citizens from different walks of life together to discuss common problems.

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## SUPPORTERS

**The Hubert Butler Essay Prize 2018 is supported by**

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