

ARCH468

HOPE PRIZE

BLAZE NEW TRAILS

Arch 468 announce Andrew Thompson as winner of inaugural Hope Prize

Andrew Thompson's *One Hundred Oxen* has been awarded the inaugural Hope Prize by Arch468. He receives a £10,000 commission, having responded to the open call out for a new play that offered a vision of hope in a bid to ensure that hope is not allowed to fade from public discourse. Arch 468 will be working with partners including Theatre Clwyd, An Tobar & Mull Theatre and Hightide to explore production of the finished piece from 2023 onwards.

One Hundred Oxen examines how a seismic change can cause unprecedented ripples through our lives. Thompson explores the scientific premise that our body renews on a cellular level every seven years, looking at how we develop as people and change and grow in relationships. Examining issues of science, grief, religion and self-discovery, the piece is fundamentally about finding the strength to shake off setbacks, celebrating the idea that we can all rise triumphantly from a place of struggle, even from what may seem like the very blackest of holes. Thompson is an Edinburgh and Newcastle based writer who has previously been selected for the L20 artist attachment scheme with Lyceum Theatre in 2021 and the Writer's Hothouse project with the RSC in 2020.

Thompson comments, *Winning this prize is fantastic. To have the chance to work with an idea of hope, and to take that work into communities in times like these with Arch 468 feels like a real gift. I'm excited to get started and to create something really theatrical and inspiring together.*

Due to the high calibre of entries, Catherine Dyson has been named as runner up of the Hope Prize with a £2,000 prize for her play *I Will Still Be Dreaming*. The Welsh writer is known from BBC Writers Comedy Room 2019/2020 and was shortlisted for the 2019 inaugural Wales Writer in Residence Award. *I Will Still Be Dreaming* intertwines three narratives in a time-travelling, genre-busting story about our potential to rebuild ourselves. What would happen if we could look at ourselves from a great distance? If we could face the limits of our knowledge with honesty and courage?

Dyson comments, *I'm incredibly happy to have been selected as a runner up for the Arch 468 Hope Prize. I'm thrilled that the wild idea I submitted resonated with the judges, and so grateful to be given the opportunity to develop it. Thank you!*

The shortlisted playwrights announced earlier this year were Annie Fox with *Wildfires (Spark)*, Beth Noonan-Roberts with *Cataclysm*, Carla Grauls for *The Unseeing*, Elsie Loades and Megan Mumby for *The Earth is in the Sky Tonight*, Matthew Gabrielli with *Fool's Gold* and Tabitha Mortiboy for *Kissing Rice*.

The final panel selecting the winner from the shortlist were Suba Das (HighTide), Richard Twyman (English Touring Theatre), Suzanne Bell (Royal Exchange), Tamara Harvey and Nick Stevenson (Theatr Clwyd), Stewart Pringle (National Theatre), Chloé Nelkin (Chloé Nelkin Consulting), Sofia Stephanou (Arch 468) and Rebecca Atkinson-Lord (Arch468, An Tobar and Mull Theatre).

Rebecca Atkinson-Lord comments, *I'm delighted that Andrew has been selected as the winner of Arch 468's inaugural Hope Prize. His pitch for One Hundred Oxen was incredibly accomplished and suggested a story that held space for hope on both a personal and an epic scale. I can't wait to see how the piece develops as we move towards production. Catherine's piece, I Will Still Be Dreaming, impressed the judges with its theatrical and imaginative evocation of humanity's place in a universal narrative. I'm looking forward to supporting Catherine to find the right home for it.*

Notes to Editors

Shortlisted Writers

Name	Title of Proposed Play
Andrew Thompson	<i>One Hundred Oxen</i>
Annie Fox	<i>Wildfires (Spark)</i>
Beth Noonan-Roberts	<i>Cataclysm</i>
Carla Grauls	<i>The Unseeing</i>
Catherine Dyson	<i>I Will Still Be Dreaming</i>
Elsbeth Loades	<i>The Earth is in the Sky Tonight</i>
Matthew Gabrielli	<i>Fool's Gold</i>

Tabitha Mortiboy

Kissing Rice

Longlisted Writers

Name

Title of Proposed Play

Alex Dickinson

Uncharnted

Alex Hand

Hedging your bets

Alice Fforde and Charlie Dryden

Seed

Amanda Hallam Lane

Untitled - A Score for Performance

Andrew Thompson

One Hundred Oxen

Anna Clarkson

Circustime

Anna Wheatley

Cassettes

Annie Fox

Wildfires (Spark)

Becci Sharrock

Hostile Planet (working title)

Belle Jones

The Inheritance

Beth Noonan-Roberts

Cataclysm

Carla Grauls

The Unseeing

Carlotta Howes

Space Junk

Carmina Bernhardt

We Wash You Well

Catherine Dyson

I Will Still Be Dreaming

Ellen Edwin-Scott

Cade

Elsie Loades and Megan Mumby (Ground Control)

The Earth is in the Sky Tonight

Emma Kelly

The Guide

Emma Williams

The Listening Machine

Isla Cowan

Trash

Katurah Morrish

The Remembering

Laura Hopwood

Bread of Life

Lizzie Milton

Intransigent Lines

Luke Ofield and Pip O'Neil

Hope Against Hope

Matthew Gabrielli

Fool's Gold

Megan Lucy Smith	<i>Two Birds</i>
Mhairi Ledgerwood	<i>The Second Act Of Mary Campbell</i>
Paula Brett	<i>All Grown Up</i>
Robert Thorpe-Woods	<i>Rooted</i>
Sam Chittenden	<i>Rewilding</i>
Shamira Turner	<i>Museum of Might-Have-Beens</i>
Sheila Duncan	<i>Wyrđ Song</i>
Stephen Plaice	<i>The Seven Sleepers</i>
Tabitha Mortiboy	<i>Kissing Rice</i>
T.A. Woodsmith	<i>Vespertine</i>

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