



Bloody Scotland

Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival

2-11, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3JD

Tel: 0141 258 1150

www.bloodyscotland.com | info@bloodyscotland.com

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 31st AUGUST 2016

FOUR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE McILVANNEY PRIZE SCOTTISH CRIME BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016

Winner to be presented at Opening Reception of Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival live on BBC TV on Friday 9th September

A panel of judges chaired by Magnus Linklater today reveal the four finalists for *The McIlvanney Prize* from a ten strong longlist featuring some of the best names in Scottish crime fiction.

The finalists include two leading crime writers – **Val McDermid** and **Chris Brookmyre** – who the judges praised for keeping their established series fresh, with contemporary themes which are immediately relevant to society today. In addition, **Doug Johnstone**, with a stand-alone psychological thriller and **E S Thomson** with an atmospheric historical crime novel, the first in a planned series, have made the cut.

The winner of the Scottish Crime Book of the Year will be awarded *The McIlvanney Prize* in memory of William McIlvanney at the opening ceremony of *Bloody Scotland*. His brother, Hugh McIlvanney OBE, will travel to Stirling to present the award on Friday 9th September. The winner will receive £1000 and all four finalists will be presented with a full set of William McIlvanney novels.

The judges who included award-winning librarian Stewart Bain and journalist Lee Randall commented that the list demonstrates the huge variety and vigour of crime writing from Scotland and explained why each book made the final four:

BLACK WIDOW by **Chris Brookmyre** - *this novel is like watching Olympic diving – just when you think the plot can't twist again, it takes a new turn. Even the twists have twists. With a theme of cyber-abuse, this shows an author taking a long running series to new heights.*

THE JUMP by **Doug Johnstone** – *a taut psychological thriller with a powerful and absorbing narrative which makes this work a compelling read. The reader is drawn into a family drama, suicide, murder -- and a plot whose outcome remains nail-bitingly unresolved until the final pages.*

SPLINTER THE SILENCE by **Val McDermid** - *set in a totally believable world of internet trolling, this novel features established characters but moves their relationship into a new place, suffused with longing. Easily accessible, even to those readers who have not been introduced to earlier books in the series.*

BELOVED POISON by **ES Thomson** - *an ambitious and original novel, full of vivid historical detail about Victorian medicine, and a richly gothic atmosphere, with a large cast of wonderfully named characters, including the strong lead character.*

All four authors will be at the presentation and available for interview. They will also be appearing in various events at Bloody Scotland during the weekend. For further information please contact

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[@brownlee_donald](https://twitter.com/brownlee_donald) [@bloodyscotland](https://twitter.com/bloodyscotland)



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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Bloody Scotland is Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival, unique in that it was set up by a group of Scottish crime writers - Alex Gray, Lin Anderson, G J Brown and Craig Robertson - in 2012. This year marks the 5th Anniversary. Full information at www.bloodyscotland.com

The judges for The McIlvanney Prize are journalist, Lee Randall, award-winning librarian, Stewart Bain and former editor of The Scotsman and The Times Scotland, Magnus Linklater. The award recognises excellence in Scottish crime writing, includes a prize of £1000 and nationwide promotion in Waterstones

Previous winners of the Scottish Crime Book of the Year Award are Craig Russell with *The Ghosts of Altona* in 2015, Peter May with *Entry Island* in 2014, Malcolm Mackay with *How A Gunman Says Goodbye* in 2013 and Charles Cumming with *A Foreign Country* in 2012.

Pictures of the four finalists can be used free of charge with credit to Eoin Carey and found in the following dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p9ezo8exqxszegv/AABw_WFj3ZsvjeYil_Ytok7la?dl=0 or requested from fiona@brownleedonald.com The dropbox includes jackets of each of the titles and a logo for Bloody Scotland

Press office / Green Room location: The Oak Room, Golden Lion Hotel, 10 King Street, Stirling, FK8 1BD (NOTE NEW LOCATION - DON'T BE THE ONE JOURNALIST SITTING IN THE STIRLING HIGHLAND WONDERING WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS. THE BAR AT THE GOLDEN LION IS LIKELY TO BE THE HUB OF ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITY)

Media Passes: Please collect a PRESS lanyard from the press office on arrival which will need to be signed for with email address and name of publication / blog / broadcaster or by leaving a business card. (NOTE DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND YOU NO LONGER NEED A SEPARATE TICKET FOR EVENTS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS)

Press office contact: Fiona Brownlee 07767431846 Fiona@brownleedonald.com or Tim Donald 07713 987537 (tim.donald@brownleedonald.com) (NOTE NEW CONTACTS - it's an entirely new team this year with Laura Jones (laura@bloodyscotland.com) on social media. Festival Director, Dom Hastings has also left and the new director is Bob McDevitt bob@bloodyscotland.com)

Press office hours: Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th 9.30am-7pm (NOTE FOR BOTH FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS PASSES WILL NEED TO BE COLLECTED AT THE OPENING RECEPTION / McILVANNEY PRIZE PRESENTATION IN THE GOLDEN LION BALLROOM 5.15-6.45PM. Passes are not offered for the master classes)

Social Media: If you're not doing so already please follow us @bloodyscotland and use the hashtag #bloodyscotland as much as possible over the weekend of 9-11th so we can get it trending.

Public tickets priced at £9.50 (£8.50) for events at the Albert Halls and £7.50 (£6.50) for all others, are on sale at www.bloodyscotland.com or at the Box Office in the Tolbooth Stirling (Tue-Sat 10am-6pm) or in the Albert Halls (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). **Free standby tickets are available to the unemployed or those on a low income**, on the day of the event if there is good availability. Proof of eligibility is required and tickets are limited to one person. Visit www.bloodyscotland.com/standby for full details. **A 10% discount is available to people residing in the Stirling Council area.** You must give your address at the time of booking. Visit www.bloodyscotland.com/localdiscount for details