



Curtis Brown Creative launches programme for underrepresented writers

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Online courses and mentoring for Black writers and writers with low incomes



Curtis Brown Creative (CBC) has launched the Breakthrough Writers' Programme, aimed at underrepresented writers and offering courses, mentoring and scholarships. All places on the programme will be fully funded.

The programme begins in February, and is intended to run for a minimum of three years. It will open with a five-day intensive Zoom/online novel-writing course for 15 Black writers. Author Jacob Ross will be lead tutor, working with CBC tutor Laura Barnett, and there will be sessions with literary agents Karolina Sutton and Felicity Blunt, Dialogue Books publisher Sharmaine Lovegrove, and HarperCollins editor Ore Agbaje-Williams. All students will also get one-to-one tutorials with Curtis Brown or C&W literary agents. There will also be a nine-month mentoring programme for five Black writers.

From April, the programme will offer an online course and mentoring for writers on low incomes.

Author Clare Mackintosh has funded a scholarship for a Black writer to join the online novel-writing course in February. Mackintosh is also creating a 12-month mentoring programme for the scholar.

The newly launched Cheerio Publishing is offering a scholarship for a writer with low income to join the online course.

Anna Davis, MD of Curtis Brown Creative, said: "It's time for us to raise our game when it comes to reaching out to under-represented writers - indeed, we have a responsibility to do this. I believe we'll find some amazing writers through our new programme, and I'm excited at the prospect of supporting their development. I'm also delighted to be welcoming some fantastic new author-tutors to our team."

<https://www.curtisbrowncreative.co.uk/the-breakthrough-writers-programme>

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