

Natasha Carthew looks for Breaking Class Tour funding

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Festival for Working Class Writers artistic director to undertake tour across UK in 2022



Natasha Carthew is looking for funding to tour the UK in 2022 to highlight diversity and inclusion surrounding working class writers and industry professionals. The Breaking Class Tour aims to visit festivals, universities, libraries, bookshops and conferences, and Carthew - artistic director of the Festival for Working Class Writers - will talk about the issues that face working class writers, along with talking to publishing industry professionals about how to tackle discrimination and unconscious bias in the industry.

Carthew is the author of nine books. Her latest, *Born Between Crosses*, is a prose poetry sequence celebrating the working lives of working class women (Hypatia Publications, 2021). She said: "It's incredibly important to me that the myths that exist around diversity and inclusion, when it comes to working-class writers and publishing employees, are highlighted. It is easy to think that boxes are being ticked, but unless good practice is embedded in policy and publishing staff are given time to work on meaningful strategy that surrounds diversity, change will not come, and certainly not fast enough."

She will be joined by fellow writers and social commentators on the tour. Those interested in sponsoring it can contact her at workingclasswritersfestival@gmail.com.

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