



Markus Dohle

Chief Executive Officer

Dear Writers, Parents, and Teachers,

Welcome to the 2017 Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards Celebration.

At Penguin Random House, we are deeply committed to creating the next generation of writers and readers around the world. This commitment drives everything we do — from the books we promote and publish, to the programs we fund and support — and is personified no more proudly than in our Creative Writing Program. Through programs and partnerships focused on advancing a diversity of voices and ideas, promoting literacy and education, providing access to books, and championing creativity, we proudly believe in the power of books to connect and change lives.

Together, we are honored and privileged, as ever, to have the opportunity to hear diverse voices and nourish a passion for reading right here in New York City through the Creative Writing Program and from its participants, the talented youth from our city's public high schools. Since its start in 1994, we have awarded more than \$2.5 million dollars in scholarships for original stories, poems, plays, and memoirs. Our dedicated publishing colleagues have also been particularly instrumental in this annual Awards evening, continuing to volunteer their time as judges and event coordinators, as well as actors cast in tonight's production.

On behalf of all of us at Penguin Random House, it is with admiration and excitement that I congratulate and applaud all of the young writers here tonight. Thank you for connecting us to your stories. It is your original and daring voices that have transformed this program into such an impactful and powerful evening.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Markus Dohle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.