

Rachel Cleverly (she/her)

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Bio

Rachel is a poet, playwright and producer.

She is a Barbican Young Poet, and an alumnus of Apples and Snake's 'The Writing Room', BBC Words First and the Soho Theatre Sketch Comedy Lab. Rachel works at the National Literacy Trust, where she manages [Inside Stories with Audible](#). She is an Assistant Director and Dramaturg at the Old Vic in the Community team, where she works with emerging theatre makers. She is a trustee of the Arvon Foundation, has delivered workshops and events with the National Centre for Writing, The Poetry Society and the Southbank Centre, as well as working as a reader for the Women's Prize for Playwriting and Paines Plough. She recently curated an evening of love poetry, read by actors, performed in Somerset House.

Her debut pamphlet, *Prickle*, is forthcoming with flipped eye publishing.

Education

MA Creative Writing Poetry (Distinction) University of East Anglia | 2018-19

BA English (First-Class) Queen Mary University of London | 2015-18

Awards and achievements

- Highly Commended in the Manchester Cathedral Poetry Competition (2023) for 'No Good News Today'
- Commended in the Winchester Poetry Competition (2023) for 'Portrait of a Girl as Spinach' and 'The Year Prickled'
- Selected by Omnibus Theatre as an Engine Room artist for a rehearsed reading of *.net*
- Shortlisted for the UEA New Forms Awards (2022) for *.net*
- Commended in the Winchester Poetry Competition (2021) for 'things which make my life difficult and my writing bad'
- Long-longlisted in the Brick Lane Short Story Prize for 'Much Too Little'

Publications

- 'The Intern(s)' and 'No Spoilers' in *Issue 7* of Porridge Magazine (Mar 2024)
- 'Spread' in *Issue Two* of And Other Poems (Nov 2023)
- 'Facebook Marketplace in Dreams' in *Issue 68* of The North Magazine (Aug 2022)
- 'Cutting' and 'The Patient' in *Articulations for Keeping the Light In* (flipped eye publishing, Jun 2022)
- '.Net (Extracts)' in *SMEOP* (Black Sunflowers Press, Nov 2021)
- 'Streaming & other poems' in *Issue 9 – Technology* (Tentacular, Nov 2021)
- 'It is November 1st in New Cross and' featured in the 'Write Across London' digital exhibit (Royal Society of Literature, Oct 2021)
- 'Back to Work' (Ink, Sweat & Tears, May 2021)
- 'A Good Age to Go' in *SPAM002* (Spam zine & Press, Apr 2021)
- 'You Must Say No' in *Care in a Pandemic Zine* (The Feminist Library, Nov 2020)
- 'Potato' in *Issue 04* (Filler Zine, Oct 2020)
- '6 – 31st August and 'Discharge' in *Issue #3* (ACHE Magazine, May 2020)
- 'Four Poems' in *UEA Poetry Anthology 2019* (Egg Box Publishing, Oct 2019)

Performances

- March 2024 – Almost Like Falling in Love, Somerset House Studios
- January 2024 – Manchester Cathedral Poetry Competition, Manchester Cathedral
- October 2023 – Awards Ceremony, Winchester Poetry Festival
- September 2023 – Guest Poet at Yer Bard Poetry, Dash the Henge Store
- May 2023 – Barbican Young Poets Showcase, Barbican Centre
- November 2022 – Young Barbican Night: Rebel Rebel, Barbican Centre
- May 2022 – Young Poets Showcase, Barbican Centre
- February 2021 – OV Theatre Makers Showcase, Old Vic
- October 2021 - Awards Ceremony, Winchester Poetry Festival
- June 2021 – The Big Albany Poetry Picnic, The Albany
- August 2020 – BoxedIn, Online
- January 2020 – The Writing Room Showcase, Freeword Centre
- March 2019 - UEA Live, the National Centre for Writing
- February 2019 – The Social, BBC Radio Norfolk
- March 2018 – Jawdance, Rich Mix

Press

- [‘Cin, Cassidy and Mortimer shortlisted for Desmond Elliott Prize’](#) in *The Bookseller*
- Interviewed for the [‘Being a Young Creative’](#) episode of *Nothing Concrete: The Barbican Centre Podcast*
- [‘Flipped eye joins forces with The Barbican for young poets anthology’](#) in *The Bookseller*
- [‘Rachel Cleverly in the spotlight’](#) on the Lucent Dreaming website

Relevant Work Experience

Project Manager, Criminal Justice | [National Literacy Trust](#) | Dec 2023 – Present

Responsible for the development and delivery of Inside Stories with Audible - using audio content creation (lyrics, poetry, radio plays) as a tool for young people in prison and Young Offenders Institutions to tell their stories and talk about the issues that are important to them.

Assistant Director | [Old Vic](#) | Aug 2023 – Feb 2024

Provided delivery, administrative and creative support to the programme Director. Assisted workshop planning and delivery. Supported the direction of a scratch event. managing rehearsal and tech schedules.

Consultant/Changemaker | [Barbican Centre](#) | Nov 2022 – Present

Worked with the Artistic Director and CEO on a strategic level to ensure the artistic and political ambitions of the organisation are met. Developed a new strand of artistic engagement activity in the form of a residency space and programme for emerging creatives.

Trustee | [The Arvon Foundation](#) | Nov 2022 – Present

Served on the Arvon Foundation board, providing creative, strategic and financial advice and guidance to the organisation’s senior team and ensuring that the Arvon Foundation remains the home of creative writing in the UK.

Education Officer | [The Poetry Society](#) | Oct 2021 – Nov 2023

Responsible for project managing the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, delivering the world’s biggest and most prestigious mentoring and development scheme for young writers.