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**Francesca Beard, Louise Doughty, Joe Dunthorne and Adam Foulds
to be Rathbones Folio Mentors**

Francesca Beard, Louise Doughty, Joe Dunthorne and Adam Foulds are confirmed as mentors for the second year of the Rathbones Folio Mentorship scheme, in association with First Story. These four Folio Academy Members were selected by ballot from a pool of over 100 writers who put themselves forward for the second year of the Rathbones Folio Mentorships.

Each Folio Academy Member has been paired with one of four students of outstanding talent who took part in this year's First Story writing residencies, which take place in dozens of different schools across the country – particularly in areas of deprivation and disadvantage – and work with over 1300 young people.

The four mentors and their mentees will meet face-to-face throughout the 2018/19 academic year, in addition to corresponding online. Throughout, the mentees will work on an agreed creative writing project, culminating in a showcase event for the public at the British Library, on 19 May 2019, which will take place as part of the lead up to the Rathbones Folio Prize Ceremony 2019.

First Story, founded by writer and former teacher, Katie Waldegrave, and the writer, William Fiennes, brings talented professional writers into over 85 secondary schools serving low-income communities across the UK to work with teachers and students to foster creativity and communication skills.

Nicki Shore, Head of Programmes at First Story, said: 'First Story believes writing is a source of power and pleasure, and we are delighted to be partnering with The Rathbones Folio Prize again this year to enrich and empower students beyond their First Story experience in secondary school. Working with Folio Academicians to nurture the most talented First Story students is a perfect sequel for the young people to develop their craft and strengthen their own voices. We hope this will also contribute to the diversity of the publishing world, as the young people we work with come from backgrounds often not represented in mainstream publishing.

Louise Doughty, Rathbones Folio Mentor, said: 'I'm a great believer in encouraging new writers, having benefited enormously from teaching and mentoring in the early stages of my own career. I did the MA in creative writing at the University of East Anglia back in the days of Malcolm Bradbury and Angela Carter and have helped UEA set up a crowd-funded scholarship for BAME applicants to the course, as well as teaching various courses myself over the years, but individual help is particularly important and I'm really excited about getting to know the candidate that First Story have chosen'

The Rathbones Folio Mentorships are made possible with generous support from Arts Council England and Cockayne Foundation.

Louise Doughty is the author of eight novels, one work of non-fiction and five plays for radio. Her latest book, *Black Water*, is published with Faber & Faber UK and Sarah Crichton Books/Farrar Straus & Giroux in the US. It was nominated as one of the New York Times Book Review Top 100 Notable Books of 2016. Her previous book was the number one bestseller *Apple Tree Yard*. Louise has recently launched a scholarship scheme for BAME candidates to access the acclaimed University of East Anglia Creative Writing course.

Joe Dunthorne (born 1982) is a Welsh novelist, poet and journalist. He received a BA and an MA in Creative Writing from UEA. He first made his name with his novel *Submarine* (2008), which was made into a film in 2010. His second novel, *Wild Abandon* (2011), won the RSL Encore Award. A collection of his poems was published in 2010 in the Faber New Poets series, and a third novel, *The Adulterants*, was published in 2018 by Hamish Hamilton.

Adam Foulds (born 1974) is a poet and novelist. His novel *The Truth About These Strange Times* (2007), won the 2008 Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award and a Betty Trask Award. His long narrative poem *The Broken Word* (2008), about Kenya's Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s, was shortlisted for the 2008 John Llewellyn-Rhys Memorial Prize and the 2009 Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, and won a Somerset Maugham Award and the 2008 Costa Poetry Award. *The Quickening Maze* (2009) was his second novel, which was shortlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. In 2010, Foulds was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Francesca Beard has been described as "spine-tingling" (*Independent*) and "The Queen of British Performance Poetry" (*Metro*), and has performed and run workshops for the British Council all over the world. Her one-woman show, *Chinese Whispers*, produced by Apples and Snakes, toured the UK and internationally from 2003 through to 2007. In 2007, she was on attachment to the Royal Court Theatre as one of the UK's most promising writers. She has been Poet-in-Residence at institutions such as Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London, the Natural History Museum, BBC White City and the Metropolitan Police.