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For immediate release:

MANCHESTER
BLOG AWARDS

2010 Manchester Blog Awards now open for nominations

Bloggers, readers and members of the public are invited to visit the Manchester Blog Awards website at manchesterblogawards.com and submit their nominations in the following categories: Best Writing, Best Arts and Culture Blog, Best City or Neighbourhood Blog, Best New Blog and Best Personal Blog.

Now in its fifth year, the annual awards recognise the best of Manchester's online writing. Eligible blogs submitted by the close of nominations on Friday 10 September will be narrowed down to a shortlist in each category, and then a judging panel will select the winners, which will be announced at the Blog Awards evening event.

Held each October as part of the Manchester Literature Festival, the awards event has grown in popularity every year and this year it will move to an exciting new home: The Deaf Institute on Grosvenor Street. We think this Manchester cultural hub is the ideal place to celebrate some of the city's most talented independent voices.

This year's event will take place on the evening of Wednesday 20 October. Chris Killen, a former blog award winner and the author of *The Bird Room* (Canongate Books), will be reading from *I Am Having A Nice Time*, his new choose-your-own adventure story. There will be readings from the best and brightest of the city's bloggers, stepping out from behind their screens for one night only. And the event will be soundtracked by two of Manchester's top music bloggers, Yer Mam! and The Pigeon Post. For booking information, please visit our website.

The Manchester Blog Awards is supported by both Arts Council England North West and the Manchester Digital Development Agency, part of Manchester City Council.

For the latest updates on the Manchester Blog Awards, subscribe via our website at manchesterblogawards.com, or follow us on Twitter at [@mcrblogawards](https://twitter.com/mcrblogawards).

Logos can be downloaded from the press section of our website. For more information email info@manchesterblogawards.com, or phone MBA organiser Chris Horkan on 07811 411 726.

Background:

Each year, the Manchester Blog Awards celebrates the best self-published online writing in the city. Since the first event at Urbis in 2006, the blog awards has significantly contributed to Manchester's image within the UK and internationally as a city on the digital cutting edge, and as a place where ordinary people are engaging with technology in creative ways.

The current renaissance of online lit projects in Manchester such as Rainy City Stories and live literature nights has its roots in the lively new tech-friendly writing scene that the Blog Awards and Manchester Literature Festival's Freeplay strand of programming (of which it is a part) have helped establish.

Four previous Manchester Blog Award winners have gone on to get book contracts, and several more have gone on to have their writing featured in national newspapers and media outlets. Each of these writers acknowledges the profile-raising power of the blog awards as a benefit to their work.

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