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EDWARD ST AUBYN TO RETELL KING LEAR FOR THE HOGARTH SHAKESPEARE

Edward St Aubyn, author of the acclaimed Patrick Melrose novels, joins the Hogarth Shakespeare series to retell one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, King Lear. St Aubyn is the eighth author commissioned for the Hogarth Shakespeare series, which sees Shakespeare's plays reimagined by some of today's bestselling and most celebrated writers.

The series will launch in October 2015 with *The Gap of Time* – Jeanette Winterson's reinvention of *The Winter's Tale*. A further three novels will be published during the 400th anniversary year of Shakespeare's death in 2016: Howard Jacobson's *A Wilderness of Monkeys* (*The Merchant of Venice*) in February, Anne Tyler's *Vinegar Girl* (*The Taming of the Shrew*) in June and Margaret Atwood's retelling of *The Tempest* in October (title to be announced).

The first four in the series will be joined by Tracy Chevalier's *Othello*, Gillian Flynn's *Hamlet*, Jo Nesbo's *Macbeth* and St Aubyn's *King Lear*. The books will be true to the spirit of the original plays, while giving authors an exciting opportunity to do something new.

Rachel Cugnoni, Publishing Director of Vintage, and Juliet Brooke, Senior Editor at Chatto & Windus and Hogarth, acquired world rights in all languages to Edward St Aubyn's novel from Gillon Aitken at Aitken Alexander Associates. Brooke says: 'We are absolutely delighted to welcome Edward St Aubyn to the list. He is a master at portraying the fault lines in family relationships with caustic precision. Who better to take on the ultimate family tragedy.'

Alexis Washam, Executive Editor at Hogarth US, adds: 'We are thrilled to have the inimitable Edward St Aubyn participating in the Hogarth Shakespeare. The razor-sharp psychological insight and unsparing wit that have made his work so widely admired and discussed are perfectly suited to a retelling of the timeless *King Lear*.'

St Aubyn's other novels are published in the UK by Picador and in the US by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. The Patrick Melrose novels, 'one of the major achievements of contemporary fiction' (*Evening Standard*), tell the story of the dysfunctional Melrose family and comprise *Never Mind*, *Bad News*, *Some Hope*, *Mother's Milk* – which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize – and *At Last*. St Aubyn is also the author of the novels *A Clue to the Exit*, *On the Edge* and *Lost for Words*, which won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize in 2014.

The Hogarth Shakespeare series is a major international publishing initiative across the Penguin Random House Group led by Hogarth UK and Hogarth US. The novels will be published simultaneously across the English-speaking world in print, digital and audio formats, which will make the books available to an even broader audience. Rights to the novels have already been sold in eleven countries – the latest being China and Russia – and the series will be published in fourteen languages across twenty territories.

Note to Editors

Please direct all translation rights queries to Monique Corless, Senior Foreign Rights Manager, Vintage: mcorless@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk.

About Hogarth

In 1917 Virginia and Leonard Woolf started The Hogarth Press from their Richmond home, Hogarth House, armed only with a hand-press and a determination to publish the newest, most inspiring writing. It went on to publish some of the twentieth century's most significant writers, joining forces with Chatto & Windus in 1946.

Inspired by their example, Hogarth was launched in 2012 as a home for a new generation of literary talent; an adventurous fiction imprint with an accent on the pleasures of storytelling and a keen awareness of the world. Hogarth is a partnership between Vintage in the UK and Crown in the US, and its novels are published from London and New York.

Hogarth is an imprint of The Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC. Penguin Random House (<http://global.penguinrandomhouse.com/>) is the world's most global trade

book publisher. It was formed on July 1, 2013, upon the completion of an agreement between Bertelsmann and Pearson to merge their respective trade publishing companies, Random House and Penguin, with the parent companies owning 53% and 47%, respectively. Penguin Random House comprises the adult and children's fiction and nonfiction print and digital trade book publishing businesses of Penguin and Random House in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa, and Penguin's trade publishing activity in Asia and Brazil; DK worldwide; and Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial's Spanish-language companies in Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, and Chile. Penguin Random House employs more than 10,000 people globally across almost 250 editorially and creatively independent imprints and publishing houses that collectively publish more than 15,000 new titles annually. Its publishing lists include more than 70 Nobel Prize laureates and hundreds of the world's most widely read authors.

Hogarth has enjoyed notable international success with Shani Boianjiu's debut novel, *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid*, which was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in the UK, and the New York Times bestseller *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra, which has won an array of awards and prizes, including the John Leonard Prize, the Barnes & Noble 2013 Discover Award and the 2012 Whiting Award. Hogarth's list also includes the acclaimed Lawrence Osborne, 'a modern Graham Greene' (Sunday Times) whose novels *The Forgiven* and *Ballad of a Small Player* were published in 2013 and 2014 respectively. In the US, Hogarth has also had significant success with the New York Times bestseller *The Dinner* by Herman Koch. Hogarth US's debut novel *Ruby* by Cynthia Bond is the new selection of Oprah Winfrey's Oprah's Book Club 2.0.

About The Hogarth Shakespeare

The Hogarth Shakespeare programme will launch in October 2015, ahead of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in April 2016. This international publishing initiative is led by Hogarth UK and Hogarth US and published in partnership with Knopf Canada, Knaus Verlag in Germany and Mondadori in Spain; and Penguin Random House Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India.

Simplified Chinese rights have been sold to Penguin Random House China; Complex Chinese rights to Solo Press; Czech rights to Prah; Danish rights to Modtryk; Dutch rights to Uitgevers Nijgh & Van Ditmar; Italian rights to Rizzoli; Korean rights to Hyundai Munhak; Norwegian rights to Aschehoug; Polish rights to Wydawnictwo Dolnoslaskie; Russian rights to Eksmo; and Swedish rights to Wahlstrom & Widstrand.

The concept of The Hogarth Shakespeare series was devised by Juliet Brooke, Senior Editor at Chatto & Windus and Hogarth and Becky Hardie, Deputy Publishing Director. With Clara Farmer, Publishing Director, they comprise the UK publishing team.