# **What does the course include?**

Using the best examples of poetry, fiction, and plays written by disabled and Deaf writers, our online group workshops will invite you to consider how we can be more inclusive and representative in the creation of characters, perspectives, narratives, and fictional worlds. Through discussions, writing exercises and prompts, you will be encouraged to look at your writing anew. We will challenge the stereotypes, and consider new narratives, reinvented protagonists, surprising endings, and a refreshed language for our work.

## **Course Content** - **2023**

**Session 1** (8 November 2023, 12.00pm-2.00pm)

In this session we will introduce ourselves and get to know the group of writers.

The content of the session will explore representation of Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent people in literature. We will read extracts from some of the best examples of poetry, fiction, and plays written by Disabled and Deaf writers and discuss how we can implement some of the good techniques and ideas we will have read and discussed into our own work.

In this initial session, we will set out the groundwork for reinventing our protagonists, exploring models of disability, and setting ourselves the challenge to change stereotypes, consider new narratives, and using refreshed language in our work.

**Session 2** (15 November 2023, 12.00pm-2.00pm)

This session will focus on monologues. Even if your writing in progress is not a monologue or a script, this workshop will help you develop your craft in writing from your own – or from another first person’s – perspective.

**Session 3** (22 November 2023, 12.00pm-2.00pm)

This session will focus on poetry. Even if your writing in progress is not poetry, the workshop will teach you how to write succinctly. It will introduce useful techniques and imagery and demonstrate how poetry can be a powerful tool to make your readers empathise and understand.

**Session 4** (29 November 2023, 12.00pm-2.00pm)

This session will focus on fiction. Depending on the group’s work in progress, we might decide to focus on writing for children and young people, fiction, or creative non-fiction. We will touch on storylines, characters and dialogue.

**2024**

**Session 5** (Week of 15 January, 2024. Specific times will be agreed upon by the participants and tutor at the beginning of the course)

Following a 6-week break for you to develop your writing, each writer will receive a one-to-one session with Kaite to discuss your individual projects.

**Session 6** (January/ February 2024)
The final session will be a celebration, and an opportunity for each writer to perform a short piece of their own written work to the rest of the group. We will also be joined by some representatives from the publish world in Wales, who will provide information and answer questions on publishing pathways.

## **Eligibility**

This opportunity is for Wales-based writers over the age of 18 who are **Deaf** and/or **Disabled** and/or **Neurodivergent** according to the \*social model of disability.

\*The Social Model of Disability holds that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference.

The course is suitable for emerging writers looking to expand their writing toolkit, and more experienced writers looking to reinvent their protagonists. The course is relevant for writers of all genres, including poetry, prose, non-fiction and scriptwriting.

The course will be delivered in English. However, we welcome writers who primarily write in Welsh to join, as the skills and craft you will learn on the course will apply to creative writing in all languages. For Deaf writers, we will discuss your access needs, and ensure that BSL interpretation will be provided, or a live captioning service – depending on your preference.

Further information can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions page.](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist-opportunity-for-deaf-and-or-disabled-writers/reinventing-the-protagonist-frequently-asked-questions/)

## **Accessibility**

This course will be run on the video platform Zoom. Each session will last 2 hours, with a comfort break in the middle. If required for access purposes, sessions can be recorded for the participants to watch back in their own time, to digest the workshop at their own pace.

Literature Wales will issue Access Riders to all successful applicants, asking for access requirements, to ensure that adequate support is provided where needed. For example, a live captioner or a BSL interpreter could be present during the sessions. Literature Wales staff will also be available to answer any questions or hold any discussions prior to the course. Our aim is to ensure that the course is as accessible, comfortable, and enjoyable as possible for everyone.

Literature Wales is glad to work in partnership with Disability Arts Cymru on this course and is grateful for their support.

## **Tutor**

**Kaite O’Reilly**works internationally as a playwright, dramaturg, and tutor. She won The Ted Hughes Award for New Works in Poetry for her dramatic retelling of *Persians*, produced by National Theatre Wales in their inaugural year. Other prizes include The Peggy Ramsay Award, The Wales Theatre Award, the Manchester Theatre Award, an Honorary Commendations for the Jane Chambers Award and an Elliot Hayes International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy. She was a finalist in the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for women playwrights and has been shortlisted twice for the international James Tait Black Prize for Drama. Her work has been produced in fifteen countries worldwide, most recently Told by the Wind, Lie with Me and peeling. Her critically acclaimed selected plays Atypical Plays for Atypical Actors (2016) and The 'd' Monologues (2018) are both published by Oberon. She teaches dramaturgy at the Intercultural Theatre Institute in Singapore and is patron of DaDaFest.

[www.kaiteoreilly.com](http://www.kaiteoreilly.com/)|[www.kaiteoreilly.wordpress.com](http://www.kaiteoreilly.wordpress.com) | [@kaiteoreilly](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/azf6CgJwWHqk8ki2wcuw)

**How do I apply?**

To apply for a space on this course, we will ask you to:

* Read the [FAQs](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist-opportunity-for-deaf-and-or-disabled-writers/reinventing-the-protagonist-frequently-asked-questions/)
* Fill out this <application form> which will ask you for your details.
* Tell us in your own words why you want to take part in this course. We will also invite you to upload a short extract (1,000 words or up to 5 poems) of your original creative work. This can be poetry, prose, non-fiction or a script.

To help you prepare your application, you can download the application form below to read through the questions beforehand. Dyslexia Friendly and a Large Print Version are also available below. If you would rather fill out one of these forms rather than the application form on SurveyMonkey, please return your form to post@literaturewales.org.

If you would like to chat to a member of staff before applying, please email Literature Wales on post@literaturewales.org or call us for a chat: 01766 522 811 (Tŷ Newydd Office) or 02920 472266 (Cardiff Office).