

Tim Turnbull

Red Squirrel Press



Tim Turnbull, author of the newly published *Avanti!* (Red Squirrel Press, 2018, ISBN: 978 1 910437 43 8), is now booking for festivals, readings and events in 2018-19.

- Author of acclaimed collections and pamphlets
- Experienced workshop tutor with PhD in Creative Writing (novel) from Northumbria University, M.A. Creative Writing (poetry) from Sheffield Hallam University
- Highly experienced performer, veteran slammer and slam judge
- Nominations for Forward Best First Collection and Best Poem Awards
- Winner of 'The Contenders' – a £10,000 prize for performance poets awarded by the Arts Foundation
- Novelist and short story writer with collection of supernatural tales from Postbox Press
- Artist working in oil paint and digital media



Biography

Tim Turnbull was born in north Yorkshire in 1960 and lives in rural Perthshire. For a number of years he worked in forestry, before returning to education and then working as a freelance writer, tutor and workshop facilitator. His first collection of poems, *Stranded in Sub-Atomica* (Donut Press, 2005), was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection in the Forward Poetry Prizes 2006 and he was awarded an Arts Foundation fellowship in the same year.

His poem 'Ode on a Grayson Perry Urn', from his second collection *Caligula on ice and Other Poems* (Donut Press, 2009), was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem and was subsequently included in *Poems of the Decade* (Forward 2011 & 2015). It is now a set text in the Pearson Edexcel English Literature 'A' Level.

A selection of his poems was also included in *Identity Parade: New British & Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe Books, 2010). His poems have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. *Avanti!* is his third collection.

Performance

Turnbull was among the first slam poets in the UK competing in and winning many early competitions. He was a member of British teams who toured the USA in 1996 and 1998. After winning the Arts Foundation's Fellowship in performance poetry in 2006 he created two ground-breaking solo stage shows – *Caligula on Ice* and *Tales of Terror* – which he toured around Britain. He has performed at pop festivals, in theatres, schools and prisons for over twenty years.

Contact

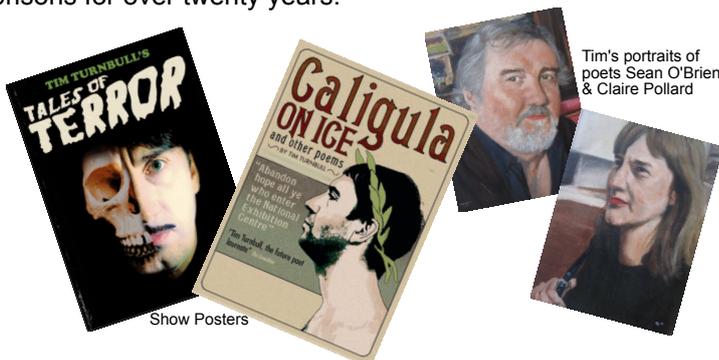
Tim Turnbull
Kirkbrae Cottage
Dalguise
Dunkeld
Perthshire
PH8 0JU

Phone: 07962 073528

Email: timturnbull@me.com

Website: <http://www.timturnbull.co.uk>

Artworks: <https://timturnbull.artmoi.me>

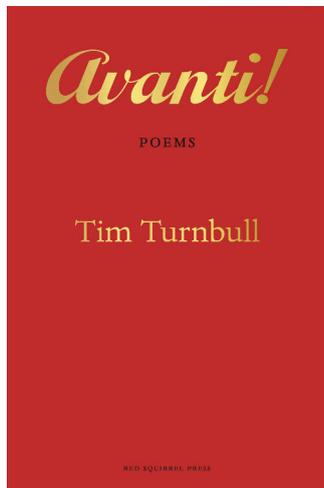


Show Posters

Tim's portraits of poets Sean O'Brien & Claire Pollard

Landscapes from Tim's solo exhibition





Tim Turnbull's *Stranded in Sub-Atomica* (2006) introduced a wonderful new satirical voice and was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. The pitch-black poems of *Caligula on Ice and Other Poems* (2009) attracted further admirers, with 'Ode on a Grayson Perry Urn' chosen as a poem of the decade by the Forward Arts Foundation.

Those who encounter Turnbull's work for the first time in *Avanti!* will enjoy the author's sharp eye and ear, his feel for the grotesque, his uproarious humour; while initiates will be dazzled by the range – of form, theme, tone and emotion – displayed throughout. In the rollercoaster title sequence, poems often inhabit familiar Turnbull territory – youth lived at the edge of violence, adult lives blighted by human and political folly – though formal aspects such as line, syntax and diction have been manipulated to achieve a startling shift of expressive mode.

A deeper engagement with place and landscape, with domestic intimacy and tenderness, is evident, and while mystery and mortality haunt the pages of *Avanti!*, a sense of renewal finally emerges.

Scarecrow

They have brought him indoors again, Scarecrow,
propped him in the armchair, poured him a nip
of Laphroaig (doubles for themselves) and toast
and laud him, fine splendid fellow that he is:

for did he not bring them glories unbekent
in their lifetimes, class and outright victory
at Scarecrow Festival; did not the beer tent
glow all night, song swell through the district

over misted fields and greening woodland.
Hail to thee, O Flay-crake! O Hodmedod!
O Bogle! they cry, glasses in raised hands,
in honour of their straw-stuffed half-a-god,

and Scarecrow tilts his head as if perplexed:
their panegyric's tintured with derision,
and rough-handling, not kindness or respect,
distinguishes their weekly depositions.

Tonight a boot was left among the furrows;
tomorrow they'll drag him out and nail him
back up again, nursing filthy hangovers,
and leave him to the mercy of the wind.

Praise for Tim's Poetry

"Tim Turnbull's pitch perfect fable in terza rima ... is an accomplished exploration of the angle at which art stands to what it is made from." Andrew McCullough, TLS on 'The Camden Art Redemption Miracle':

"Turnbull is eminently accessible. He does bold rhymes, caustic commentary and mucky jokes, all in an affable deadpan. Comparisons to Tony Harrison are understandable but specifically, this is Harrison translating Martial, seamlessly transposed to Daily Mail Britain. Whether it's kids, suicides or office managers running amok, Turnbull has a smart rhyme and a punchline for it, and though he's particularly adroit when it comes to epigrams, he can also maintain his wit for pages at a time." Jon Stone, Dr Fulminare on *Caligula on Ice*.

"This is extraordinary writing. Throughout *Stranded In Sub-Atomica* Turnbull uses traditional form to handle contemporary subject matter. The apparent ease of his voice is underpinned by craft and subtlety." Anna Woodford, Magma on *Stranded in Sub-Atomica*.

"At his best, Turnbull is capable of vicious satire and unflinching honesty, can seamlessly stitch the crude to the magnificent, and draw out a fresh, canny perspective on a subject. Beneath all this, and the crafted bricks and mortar of form and structure, beats a big, warm heart." Gareth Jones, The Slab on *What was that?*

"Turnbull is a deft storyteller with a cinematographic eye, continually offering a unique view. We eavesdrop on a world of many voices, populated by the most extraordinary, everyday people, characterised by the strength of these voices." Irene Hossack, NHI

"His dancing's not up to much." Hugo Williams, TLS