

Christopher Reid is a highly regarded poet, editor and lecturer. His edition of 'Letters of Ted Hughes' appeared in 2007, and his latest collection of poems, 'A Scattering', elegies for his wife, in 2009. He was Poetry Editor at Faber and Faber between 1991 and 1999. **Philip Hancock** has been widely published in magazines such as Poetry London and The Rialto, and was invited as one of the most promising new poets to read at the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival in 2007. He has just released his debut pamphlet 'Hearing Ourselves Think' with Smiths Knoll. **Doors open 7:30pm, £5/£3 concessions.**

CB1 Poetry

*'Combines exact observation
with a rich and startling
power of metaphor'*

– Bernard Bergonzi

*'Sensitive, intelligent and
highly inventive'*

– Stephen Spender

Tuesday 14 April 2009
Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, 8pm

Christopher Reid
Philip Hancock

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Christopher Reid

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A REASONABLE THING TO ASK

Please explain tears.
They must have some purpose
that a Darwin or a Freud
would have understood.

Widowed, a man hears
music off the radio –
Handel – Cole Porter –
that sharply recalls her,
and they swamp up again.

A faculty that interferes
with seeing and speaking
and leaves him feeling weaker:
what does he gain by it?

What do we gain by it –
blind to the tiger's leap,
voiceless under the avalanche?
Somebody must know.



Philip Hancock

Philip Hancock was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1966. A painter and decorator by trade, he has been widely published in poetry magazines. He also writes short stories, including the collection 'Old School Ties' (Route, 2005) and film scripts. A powerful performer of his work, he was invited as one of the most promising new poets to read at the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival in 2007. His debut pamphlet, 'Hearing Ourselves Think', has just been published by Smiths Knoll.

HOW TO CARRY A LADDER

No use trying to fang hold of it in the middle,
or grabbing it wherever suits fit:
take one end and lift.

Let the stile glide. Run it up to the sky on its heel.
Get a shoulder under it – take the weight,
become a principle of fulcrum.

Rest it upon the clavicle,
allow it to settle, horizontal.
Fist a rung, the weight is easy to support.

Traipse like an ape through long grass.
Reach one arm around it, let the other swing
by your side. Beware of washing lines.

Become a crucifix or a windmill.