



A LIFE OF CRIME
Stephen Booth on Birmingham Polytechnic, journalism and how he writes his bestselling novels

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
Meet Birmingham City University's first five Alumni of the Year

GOING GLOBAL

Graduates talk about the highs and lows of an international career

GOING FOR GOLD



Porter Novelli PR Agency

School of Jewellery graduate Jonathan Olliffe has struck gold by winning a national competition to design a commemorative coin celebrating the 2012 Olympics. The challenge – set by the Royal Mint – was to design new 50 pence coins to commemorate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Jonathan designed not just one, but two of the 29 winning designs. His designs for gymnastics and aquatics were picked from nearly 30,000 entries by people from across the UK.

Jonathan is delighted: "I can't believe it! To think how many people entered the national competition and to have my designs made and circulated around the nation is very exciting. When I saw the competition advertised I thought it was a great opportunity to use my skills as a designer and silversmith. To have the opportunity as a designer to collaborate with a company as prestigious as the Royal Mint is a truly one-off experience and knowing that the two coins I have designed will be collected and be part of collections nationwide makes it very special."



Are you involved in London 2012 in any way?
Let us know at alumni@bcu.ac.uk!

Composers from Birmingham Conservatoire will also contribute four of the 20 outstanding pieces of new music which will feature centre stage at the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad as London hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 20 works commissioned for New Music 20x12, each lasting 12 minutes, will be broadcast by BBC Radio 3 and tour the UK – ensuring as many people as possible have the opportunity to enjoy excellent new music as part of the 2012 celebrations.

Dr Joe Cutler, Head of Composition at Birmingham Conservatoire, and one of the 20 composers to receive a commission himself, said: "It is very exciting to have four members of our team – myself, Michael Wolters, Howard Skempton and Richard Causton – contributing to such an important, world-class event. That four such diverse composition projects have been selected from composers working within the same institution really shows the range and profile of the work that goes on at Birmingham Conservatoire. We're delighted to have this acknowledged in such a public way, which reflects so positively on Birmingham."

Congratulations to the *Class of 2010*

The graduating class of 2010 has swelled the ranks of our alumni community to over 40,000!

Symphony Hall was once again a glorious spectacle as they all took to the stage in the University's colours to receive their awards. As always, our warmest congratulations to all of our new graduates and welcome to the Alumni Association.



Honorary Doctorates were conferred this year upon:

John Caudwell, Phones4u entrepreneur and philanthropist, in recognition of his charitable work as Founder and Chairman of Caudwell Children.

Peter Blakemore, Managing Director of AF Blakemore and Sons Ltd, in recognition of his distinguished business achievements.

Charles Morgan, CEO of Morgan Motor Company, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to British automotive engineering and his long-standing relationship with the University.

Trevor Beattie, founding partner of Beattie McGuinness Bungay, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in media and advertising.

Paul Thandi, Chief Executive of the NEC Group, in recognition of his outstanding business achievements.

The Rt Hon Lord Fowler, in recognition of his distinguished achievements in public life and his past service to the people of the West Midlands as a Member of Parliament for Sutton Coldfield.

Cynthia Bower, Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission, in recognition of outstanding achievements within the NHS.

Julie Walters, CBE, actress, in recognition of her outstanding achievements in drama.

Oliver Knussen, in recognition of his distinguished achievements as a composer.