

FINAL JUDGING PANEL ANNOUNCED FOR 2013 COSTA BOOK OF THE YEAR

- **Novelist Rose Tremain to chair**
- **Actor Natascha McElhone, singer songwriter Sharleen Spiteri and presenter and Endemol creative director Richard Osman confirmed as final judges**
- **Writers John Burnside, Anne de Courcy, Emma Kennedy, Matthew Cain and Gerard Woodward complete the panel**

London, 10th December 2013: Novelist Rose Tremain CBE, will chair the final judging panel which selects the overall winner of the prestigious 2013 Costa Book of the Year, it was announced today.

The Costa Book Awards is the only major UK book prize that is open solely to authors resident in the UK and Ireland and also, uniquely, recognises the most enjoyable books across five categories – First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children’s Book - published in the last year.

Originally established in 1971 by Whitbread Plc, Costa announced its takeover of the sponsorship of the UK’s most prestigious book prize in 2006. 2013 marks the 42nd year of the Book Awards.

Rose Tremain will chair a panel which includes *Ronin* and *Californication* actor Natascha McElhone, Texas singer and songwriter, Sharleen Spiteri and *BBC One*’s popular quiz show *Pointless* presenter and Endemol UK creative director, Richard Osman.

The five category judging panels are represented by writers John Burnside (Poetry Award), Anne de Courcy (Biography), Emma Kennedy (Children’s Book Award), Matthew Cain (First Novel) and Gerard Woodward (Novel).

The final judges will meet on Tuesday 28th January 2014 to select the winner of the Costa Book of the Year, which will be announced at an awards ceremony later that evening.

The ceremony, hosted by presenter and broadcaster Penny Smith, will take place at Quaglino’s in central London.

“Our judges have a tough task ahead of them,” commented Christopher Rogers, Managing Director at Costa, “but we’re delighted to have a fantastic final judging panel made up of

opinionated, strong-minded people who all love great writing and a good read to undertake the task this year.”

Former final judges have included Jenny Agutter, Mark Watson, Hugh Dennis, Elizabeth McGovern, David Morrissey, Rosamund Pike, Gary Kemp, Erin O'Connor, Alex James, Emilia Fox, Marie Helvin, Michael Morpurgo, Hugh Grant, Caroline Quentin, Ralph Fiennes, Jerry Hall, Ian Hislop, Jonathan Ross and Kirsty Young.

Recent winners of the Book of the Year include Hilary Mantel (2012), Andrew Miller (2011), Jo Shapcott (2010), Christopher Reid (2009), Sebastian Barry (2008), A.L. Kennedy (2007), Stef Penney (2006), Hilary Spurling (2005), Andrea Levy (2004), Mark Haddon (2003), Kate Atkinson (1995), Philip Pullman, Seamus Heaney and the late Ted Hughes.

Each of the category award-winning authors receives £5,000 and the overall Costa Book of the Year winner will be presented with a cheque for £30,000. This is the 42nd year of the prize. The winner of the Costa Short Story Award – now in its second year and voted for by the general public - will also be announced at the awards ceremony.

For more information on this year's Costa Book Awards, go to www.costa.co.uk/costa-book-awards .

-ENDS-

For further press information, images or to arrange an interview with a final judge, please contact:

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Notes for Editors:

About the Costa Book Awards:

- The Costa Book Awards, formerly the Whitbread Book Awards, were established in 1971 to encourage, promote and celebrate the best contemporary British writing.
- The total prize fund for the Costa Book Awards – including the Costa Short Story Award - stands at £60,000.
- The award winners from the five categories - Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book - each receive £5,000.
- The overall Costa Book of the Year is selected from the five category Award winners with the winner receiving a further £30,000.
- The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in central London on 28th January, 2014.
- To be eligible for the 2013 awards, books must have been first published in the UK or Ireland between 1 November 2012 and 31 October 2013.
- The 2012 Costa Book of the Year was *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel (Fourth Estate).

About Costa:

The UK's favourite coffee shop*

Costa is the UK's favourite coffee shop, having been awarded "Best Branded Coffee Shop Chain in the UK and Ireland" by Allegra Strategies for three years running (2010, 2011 & November 2012).

Winner of "Best Branded Coffee Chain in Europe" Allegra Strategies 2011 and 2012.

With over 1,600 coffee shops in the UK and more than 1,000 overseas, Costa is the fastest growing coffee shop business in the UK and the second largest coffee shop operator in the world. Founded in London by Italian brothers Sergio and Bruno Costa in 1971, Costa has become the UK's favourite coffee shop chain and has recently diversified into both the at-home and gourmet self-serve markets.

Just 1% of the world's production of coffee is good enough for us to choose from. Only the very best 100% RFA certified coffee available can go into creating the unique taste and aroma of our Mocha Italia blend.

Costa is committed to looking after coffee-growers. That's why we've established The Costa Foundation, a registered charity. The Costa Foundation's aims are to relieve poverty, advance education and the health and environment of coffee-growing communities around the world. So far, The Costa Foundation has funded the building of 42 schools and improved the social and economic welfare of coffee-growing communities.

2013 Costa Book Awards

Final Judging Panel Biographies

Rose Tremain CBE (Chairman): Novelist

Rose Tremain's bestselling novels have won many awards, including the Orange Prize (*The Road Home*), the Whitbread Novel of the Year (*Music & Silence*), the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Prix Femina Etranger (*Sacred Country*). *Restoration* was short-listed for the Booker Prize in 1989 and made into a film in 1995. Her short story, 'Moth', was also filmed (as the award-winning *Ricky*) by François Ozon in 2009. Her 2010 novel, *Trespass*, was a Richard and Judy Bookclub Choice and her most recent book, *Merivel, A Man of His Time*, was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize and the Wellcome Trust Prize.

Rose Tremain was made a CBE in 2007 and was appointed Chancellor of the University of East Anglia in 2013. She lives in Norfolk and London with the biographer, Richard Holmes.

John Burnside: Writer (representing the Poetry Award category)

John Burnside has published over a dozen collections of poetry, most recently *Black Cat Bone*, which won both the T S Eliot and the Forward Prizes. Recent novels include *Glister* and *A Summer of Drowning*; he has also published two prizewinning memoirs and two collections of short stories, the most recent of which, *Something Like Happy*, appeared earlier this year. John Burnside teaches creative writing, American poetry and literature and ecology at the University of St Andrews.

Matthew Cain: Writer and broadcaster (representing the First Novel Award category)

Matthew Cain became Channel 4's first-ever Culture Editor in July 2010 after seven years working on *The South Bank Show*, where he made films on Ian McKellen, Sam Taylor Wood, Will Young and Carol Ann Duffy as well as interviews with Grayson Perry, Pedro Almodóvar and Dan Brown.

Matthew has been nominated for Stonewall's Journalist of the Year award, presented the series *What Makes a Masterpiece?* for More4, written for *The Times* and continues to contribute a monthly column on gay cultural history to *Attitude* magazine. His first novel, *Shot through the Heart*, will be published by Pan Macmillan early next year under the name Matt Cain, with the second to follow.

After three years in the role of Culture Editor, Matthew left *Channel 4 News* in July 2013.

Anne de Courcy: Author (representing the Biography Award category)

Anne de Courcy is a biographer and social historian who had a long and enjoyable career in journalism, which she left to concentrate on writing books, most of which have been both published abroad and serialised in the UK. Two of her biographies - *Diana Mosley* and *Snowdon: The Biography* - have been turned into Channel 4 documentaries.

Her latest book, *The Fishing Fleet: Husband-Hunting in the Raj*, spent seven weeks in the *Sunday Times* bestseller list and has been optioned for a feature film by Scott Free, Ridley Scott's London office.

Emma Kennedy: Author, Columnist and Scriptwriter (representing the Children's Book Award category)

Emma Kennedy is a best-selling author, scriptwriter and actress. She has written nine books, five of them for children and is currently working on a new animated series for children, *Strange Hill High*. She was once the World Runner-Up Conker Champion.

Natascha McElhone: Actor

Natascha McElhone established herself as a talented leading actress when she left drama school in 1995 to star in her first film, Merchant Ivory's *Surviving Picasso*, opposite Anthony Hopkins. She quickly followed this with Peter Weir's film, *The Truman Show*; Alan J. Pakula's *The Devil's Own*, with Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford; and John Frankenheimer's action epic *Ronin*, in which she co-starred with Robert De Niro. She also played Rosalind to Kenneth Branagh's Berowne in his musical version of William Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*. In 2003, McElhone co-starred with George Clooney in Steven Soderbergh's futuristic love story, *Solaris*.

McElhone has an extensive list of TV credits from TNT's golden globe nominated mini-series *The Company*, NBC's Emmy-nominated mini-series, *Revelations* in which she starred in 2005 opposite Bill Pullman, Sky's *Thorne* alongside Eddie Marsan and David Morrissey, and the Golden Globe-winning Showtime series *Californication*, in which she co-starred with David Duchovny.

Her most recent credits include Julian Fellowes' film adaptation of the classic *Romeo and Juliet* and Stephen Brown's *The Sea*, due for release next year.

Richard Osman: Presenter and Creative Director

Richard Osman joined Endemol UK in 2000 and in 2002 he became Deputy Creative Director overseeing the creation and development of new ideas and formats across the group. He was appointed Creative Director of Endemol UK in 2005.

Richard has worked as a writer on shows such as *Have I Got News For You* and *Whose Line Is It Anyway*, and then as a producer on shows as varied as *Deal Or No Deal*, *Total Wipeout*, *8 Out Of 10 Cats* and *10 O'Clock Live*.

In addition to his role as Creative Director, since 2009 Richard has been the 'Pointless' boffin and keeper of facts and figures alongside host Alexander Armstrong on BBC One's popular quiz show *Pointless*.

Sharleen Spiteri: Singer, songwriter

Sharleen Spiteri is a Scottish recording artist and songwriter, and the lead singer of the rock band Texas. Texas began their career in 1986, and shot to fame in 1989 with their top ten single with her brother in law as lead guitarist, "*I Don't Want a Lover*" released from *Southside* (1989). Until 2003, Texas's worldwide album sales were counted at 20 million. Her debut solo album *Melody* was released in 2008, and her second solo album *The Movie Songbook* was released in March 2010. 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of Texas' first public concert and to mark the occasion, a quarter of a century later, they have released their eighth album, *The Conversation*.

**Gerard Woodward: Author and Professor of Fiction at Bath Spa University
(representing the Novel Award category)**

Gerard Woodward is a novelist, poet and short story writer. He has been shortlisted for the Man Booker and Whitbread Awards and, as a poet, twice for the T S Eliot Award. His most recent novel, *Nourishment*, was published by Picador in 2010, and a new novel will be appearing in 2014.

He is currently Professor of Fiction at Bath Spa University.

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