

## JUDGES: 2012

### **Bernardine Evaristo (Chair)**

Bernardine Evaristo is the author of six books of fiction and poetry and the editor of two recent anthologies and a special issue of *Wasafiri: Black Britain:-Beyond Definition*. Her book reviews appear in the *Times*, *Guardian* and *Independent* and she teaches creative writing at Brunel University. She has received and judged several literary awards, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Arts and she was made an MBE in 2009.

### **Nima Elbagir**

Nima Elbagir is an award-winning International Correspondent for CNN. She has led CNN's coverage from Somalia at the height of the Horn of Africa famine; she was granted an exclusive phone interview whilst in Tripoli with Safia Gadhafi, the former Libyan leader's wife; following the revolution in Egypt, Elbagir interviewed the Justice Minister Mohamed Abdelaziz al-Juindy, who called for former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to face the death penalty; she reported from South Sudan as the new African country celebrated independence, and she has been at the forefront of CNN's coverage of the growing violence led by Islamic militancy in Nigeria.

### **Maya Jaggi**

Maya Jaggi is an award-winning cultural journalist and an influential critic on international literature, who writes for the *Guardian*, *the Economist* and *Newsweek* among other publications, and contributes to BBC radio. She has interviewed 12 Nobel prizewinners in literature and been a judge of literary awards including the Orange prize, the David Cohen prize, the Commonwealth Writers prize, the Guardian fiction prize, the Saif Ghobash-Banipal prize for Arabic literary translation, and the Harvill Secker/Foyles Young Translator's prize. She previously served as a judge in 2006.

### **Samantha Pinto**

Samantha Pinto is Assistant Professor of English at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where she teaches African literature, African American literature, postcolonial theory, gender and sexuality studies. She is currently writing a book on race, gender, and literary aesthetics in 20th century African Diaspora writing entitled *Difficult Diasporas: Reading Aesthetics in Transnational Feminist and Black Atlantic Thought*. She is the recipient of an NEH Enduring Questions grant on comparative notions of equality and justice in Africa and the West, and a postdoctoral fellowship in African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas. She previously served as a judge in 2010.

### **Chirikure Chirikure**

Chirikure Chirikure is a performance poet and cultural consultant. He is a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe and an Honorary Fellow of Iowa University, USA. He worked with one of Zimbabwe's leading publishing houses as an editor and publisher for 17 years, until 2002. His book, *Hakurarwi - We Shall not Sleep*, was selected as one of the 75 Best Zimbabwean Books of the 20th Century and received a prize as one of the best five Shona publications of the 20th Century. He currently lives in Berlin, Germany, as a fellow under the 2011/12 DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm (Artists in Berlin Programme).

## JUDGES: 2011

### **Hisham Matar (Chair)**

Hisham Matar is a Libyan novelist. His first novel, *In the Country of Men*, was shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize, the Guardian First Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award in the US. It won six international literary awards and has been translated into twenty-eight languages. Matar's

articles and essays have appeared in *Alsharq Alawsat*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The New York Times*, *El Pais* and the *New Statesman*. His second novel *Anatomy of a Disappearance* will be published in March by Viking.

### **Ellah Allfrey**

Ellah Allfrey is deputy editor of Granta magazine. She has published many distinguished African writers including Ngugi wa Thiongo, Chinua Achebe, Brian Chikwava, Peter Akinti, Dinaw Mengestu and Yaba Badoe.

### **Aminatta Forna**

Aminatta Forna's most recent novel *The Memory of Love* was selected as one of the Best Books of the 2010 by the *Sunday Telegraph*, the *Financial Times* and *The Times*. Her previous novel *Ancestor Stones* won the Hurston Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction, the Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize, the Literaturpreis in Germany and was nominated for the International Dublin IMPAC Award. *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, a memoir of her dissident father was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize and serialised on BBC Radio. Aminatta is a trustee of the Royal Literary Fund and sits on the advisory committee of the Caine Prize for African Writing. She has previously acted as judge for the Samuel Johnson Prize and the Macmillan Prize.

### **David Gewanter**

David Gewanter is a professor of English literature at Georgetown University. He is author of three books of poetry, *In the Belly*, *The Sleep of Reason* and most recently *War Bird*. He is co-editor of *Robert Lowell: Collected Poems*, and has received awards from the Academy of American Poets, the US Library of Congress, and The English Speaking Union (US).

### **Vicky Unwin**

Vicky Unwin was Publisher of Heinemann's African Writers Series for eight years in the late 1980s and early 90s, and published many of the greatest names in African literature. She has worked in Africa for most of her life, latterly as Media Director for the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, responsible for the Kenya-based Nation Media Group. She is Chairman of Art First, a contemporary gallery in London, but lives in Geneva, where she writes on film and travel, and is researching a book about her family.

## **JUDGES: 2010**

### **Fiammetta Rocco (Chair)**

Fiammetta Rocco is a third-generation Kenyan. She was educated at Oxford University where she read Arabic. Her investigative journalism has won awards on both sides of the Atlantic. She is now the literary editor of *The Economist* and the author of "The Miraculous Fever Tree: The Cure that Changed the World".

### **Ellah Allfrey**

Ellah Allfrey is deputy editor of Granta magazine. She was previously Senior Editor at Jonathan Cape, Random House, having started her publishing career at Penguin Books. She has published many distinguished African writers including Ngugi wa Thiongo and Chinua Achebe (in Penguin Modern Classics) as well as Brian Chikwava, Peter Akinti, Dinaw Mengestu and Yaba Badoe.

### **Jon Cook**

Jon Cook is a Professor of Literature and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of East Anglia. He has written a number of books of criticism and biography, including, most recently, *Hazlitt in Love* published in 2007. He has worked with a number of former Caine Prize winners during

their time as fellows or students at UEA and has been closely involved in the development of creative writing at the University over a number of years. He is a member of the Arts Council.

**Samantha Pinto**

Samantha Pinto is an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgetown in Washington DC. She has written on women's issues, Caribbean sexuality and African American literature, and teaches courses on African writing, sexuality and Global cultural studies among other subjects.

**Judges: 2009**

**Nana Yaa Mensah** (Chair),  
New Statesman chief sub-editor

**Professor Jon Cook**,  
Professor of literature at the University of East Anglia

**Jennifer Natalya Fink**,  
Novelist and Georgetown University professor

**Hannah Pool**,  
Guardian journalist and author

**Mohammed Umar**,  
Nigerian novelist, journalist and bookseller

**Judges: 2008**

**Jude Kelly** (Chair),  
Artistic Director at the South Bank Centre

**Jonty Driver**,  
South African poet and novelist

**Hisham Matar**,  
Libyan author

**Mark McMorris**,  
Jamaican poet and professor of English at Georgetown University

**Hannah Pool**,  
Guardian journalist and author

**Judges: 2007**

**Jamal Mahjoub** (Chair),  
Award winning British-Sudanese author

**Jonty Driver**,  
South African poet and novelist

**Dr Wangui wa Goro**,  
Academic, critic and writer

**Delia Jarrett-Macauley,**  
Award winning novelist

**Robert Molteno,**  
Former Zed Books managing editor

## **Judges: 2006**

**Dr Nana Wilson-Tagoe** (Chair),  
Senior lecturer in African Literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

**Aminatta Forna**  
Broadcaster, journalist and author

**Maya Jaggi,**  
Award winning cultural journalist

**Dr Mpalive Msiska,**  
Lecturer in National and International literature, University of London

## **Judges: 2005**

**Baroness Lola Young** (Chair),  
Writer, cultural critic, public speaker and broadcaster

**Victoria Arana,**  
Professor of English at Howard University in the US

**Aminatta Forna,**  
Broadcaster, journalist and author

**Romesh Gunesekera,**  
Sri Lankan author

**Dr Nana Wilson-Tagoe,**  
Senior lecturer in African literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

## **Judges: 2004**

**Alvaro Ribeiro** (Chair),  
Associate professor of English at Georgetown University, Washington DC

**Biyi Bandele,**  
Nigerian playwright

**Bernice Rubens,**  
Booker Prize-winning novelist

**Anna Umbima,**  
Broadcaster and journalist

**Dr Nana Wilson-Tagoe,**

Senior lecturer in African Literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

## **Judges: 2003**

**Abdulrazak Gurnah** (Chair),

Novelist and professor of Literature at the University of Kent

**Shirley Chew,**

Professor of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Leeds

**John Sutherland,**

Lord Northcliffe Professor Emeritus of Modern English Literature at University College London

**Dr Nana Wilson-Tagoe,**

Senior lecturer in African Literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

## **Judges: 2002**

**Dr Ahdaf Soueif** (Chair),

Egyptian author

**Margaret Busby,**

Ghanaian author, publisher, journalist and broadcaster

**Jason Cowley,**

New Statesman editor

**Abdulrazak Gurnah,**

Novelist and professor of Literature at the University of Kent

## **Judges: 2001**

**Dan Jacobson** (Chair),

South African novelist and critic

**JM Coetzee,**

South African Booker Prize-winning author

**Jason Cowley,**

New Statesman editor

**Buchi Emecheta,**

Nigerian author

**Véronique Tadjo,**

Writer and academic from Côte d'Ivoire

## **Judges: 2000**

**Ben Okri** (Chair),

Nigerian Poet and Booker Prize-winning author

**Alvaro Ribeiro,**

Associate professor of English at Georgetown University, Washington DC

**William Boyd,**

Award winning author

**Véronique Tadjo,**

Writer and academic from Côte d'Ivoire