



THE SPECSAVERS CRIME THRILLER AWARDS 2009 EYE UP SHORTLIST LINE-UP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, Monday 7th September, 2009—Specsavers, Cactus TV and ITV3 in partnership with the Crime Writers' Association (CWA) are pleased to announce the shortlists for the **Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards 2009**, celebrating the crème de la crème of Crime & Thriller fiction.

The culmination of a six-week season of ITV3 crime and drama programming, the **Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards 2009** are due to take place on Wednesday, 21st October at London's Grosvenor House Hotel and will be televised on ITV3 later that month.

ITV3 viewers will also have the chance to vote for a brand new award, the **ITV3 Bestseller Dagger, sponsored by Specsavers** from a shortlist of 5 bestselling crime genre authors. Dick Francis, Alexander McCall Smith, Nicci French, Harlan Coben and Martina Cole will all be competing for the coveted award.

The **Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards 2009** category shortlists are as follows:

- **CWA GOLD DAGGER 2009, SPONSORED BY BOOKSDIRECT - for the best crime novel of the year**
 - *When Will There Be Good News?* by Kate Atkinson (BLACK SWAN/TRANSWORLD)
 - *In the Dark* by Mark Billingham (LITTLE, BROWN)
 - *Hit and Run* by Lawrence Block (ORION)
 - *A Whispered Name* by William Brodrick (LITTLE, BROWN)
 - *The Coroner* by MR Hall (PAN MACMILLAN)
 - *Dark Times In The City* by Gene Kerrigan (HARVILL SECKER)

- **CWA JOHN CREASEY (NEW BLOOD) DAGGER 2009, SPONSORED BY LOUISE PENNY AND MICHAEL WHITEHEAD - *for first books by previously unpublished writers, awarded in memory of CWA founder John Creasey***
 - *Sweetsmoke* by David Fuller (ABACUS)
 - *Bad Catholics* by James Green (LUATH PRESS)
 - *No Way To Say Goodbye* by Rod Madocks (FIVE LEAVES)
 - *Old City Hall* by Robert Rotenberg (JOHN MURRAY)
 - *Echoes from The Dead* by Johan Theorin (DOUBLEDAY)
 - *The Blood Detective* by Dan Waddell (PENGUIN)

- **THE CWA IAN FLEMING STEEL DAGGER 2009, SPONSORED BY IAN FLEMING PUBLICATIONS LTD - *for the year's best thriller***
 - *The Brass Verdict* by Michael Connelly (ORION)
 - *Dark Places* by Gillian Flynn (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)
 - *The Last Child* by John Hart (JOHN MURRAY)
 - *Calumet City* by Charlie Newton (BANTAM PRESS)
 - *Moscow Rules* by Daniel Silva (MICHAEL JOSEPH)
 - *The Tourist* by Olen Steinhauer (HARPERCOLLINS)
 - *The Interrogator* by Andrew Williams (JOHN MURRAY)

- **THE FILM DAGGER 2009 - *for the best big-screen crime thriller story***
 - *Gran Torino* (WARNER BROS.)
 - *Quantum of Solace* (SONY PICTURES)
 - *Changeling* (UNIVERSAL)
 - *Public Enemies* (UNIVERSAL)
 - *State of Play* (UNIVERSAL)

- **The TV DAGGER 2009 - *for the best small-screen crime thriller drama***
 - *Wallander* - Left Bank Pictures (BBC ONE)
 - *Red Riding* - Channel 4 Films (CHANNEL 4)
 - *Spooks* - Kudos (BBC ONE)
 - *Place of Execution* - Coastal Productions (ITV1)
 - *Ashes to Ashes* - Kudos (BBC ONE)

- **THE INTERNATIONAL TV DAGGER - for the best TV crime thriller drama from around the world**
 - *The Wire* - HBO (BBC TWO)
 - *Dexter* - Clyde Phillips Production (FX)
 - *Wallander* (Swedish) - Yellow Bird Films (BBC FOUR)
 - *The Mentalist* - Warner Bros (FIVE)

- **THE BEST ACTRESS DAGGER - for the female star of a crime thriller drama**
 - Juliet Stevenson for *Place of Execution* - Coastal Productions (ITV1)
 - Keeley Hawes for *Ashes to Ashes* - Kudos (BBC ONE)
 - Hermione Norris for *Spooks* - Kudos (BBC ONE)
 - Emilia Fox for *Silent Witness* - BBC (BBC ONE)

- **THE BEST ACTOR DAGGER - for the male star of a crime thriller drama**
 - Dominic West for *The Wire* - HBO (BBC TWO)
 - Kenneth Branagh for *Wallander* - Left Bank Pictures (BBC ONE)
 - Tom Hardy for *The Take* - Company (SKY1)
 - Philip Glenister for *Ashes to Ashes* - Kudos (BBC ONE)
 - Paddy Considine for *Red Riding* - Channel 4 Films (CHANNEL 4)

On the night Colin Dexter, Lynda La Plante, Ian Rankin, Ruth Rendell and Val McDermid will be joining PD James in the Hall of Fame, which honours the achievements of the genre's greatest exponents, past and present. Each award of the evening will be presented by celebrity faces with a connection to the world of crime fiction – last year's presenter's included Dame Helen Mirren and Alan Davies.

Amanda Ross, Managing Director Cactus TV, says: "This shortlist is a fabulous reflection of the incredible talent both on screen and on the bookshelves in the crime genre. It's one of the bestselling book categories and spawns some of the most popular Films and TV shows. Our documentary series leading up to the Awards event on ITV3 features the authors behind fantastic shows like *Wire in the Blood*, *Rebus*, *Inspector Dalgleish*, *Wexford*, *Prime Suspect* and *Morse*, and will also encourage the public to vote for their favourite bestseller of the year. The "black" carpet will certainly be full of stars, as some of the best known talents in crime fiction are up to win the coveted Dagger Awards. Join us on ITV3 in October to see who wins..."

Notes to Editors:



About Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards

The **Specsavers Crime Thriller Awards 2009** will take place on Wednesday, 21st October at London's Grosvenor House Hotel and will be televised on ITV3 later that month.

Shortlist judging information:

- The 3 book categories are taken from the normal judging procedures from the Crime Writers' Association. The ITV Bestseller Dagger, sponsored by Specsavers, has been created to enable ITV3 viewers to vote for their favourite bestselling author. The votes will be subject to the usual TV adjudication processes.
- The TV and Film category shortlist are based on shortlists drawn from submissions from TV and Film production teams. Winners will be selected from votes from the Academy of British Crime Writing (Publishing, TV and Film).

The ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards 2008 achieved an average audience of 314,000 viewers and a 3.1% share and reached 589,000 people on the 6th October. It performed +1.2 points above the slot average. The repeat on 9th October brought the overall audience up to 377,000, and brought the reach up to 716,000. For ABC1 Adults, the awards show performed half a share point above the 2008 slot average.

The 2008 black carpet event attracted stars from page and screen including Dame Helen Mirren, Emilia Fox, Ricky Gervais, Robson Green, David Hayman, Helen Worth, Marie Helvin, James Dreyfuss, Lisa Maxwell, Lucy Speed, Alex Walkinshaw, Bettany Hughes, Pauline Moran, Orla Brady, Gyles Brandreth, Miranda Raison, Pam Ferris, Paul Morley, Keeley Hawes, Simone Lahbib, Juliet Aubrey, Nicholas Farrell, Bill Paterson, and many more.



About Cactus TV:

Cactus TV is a member of the ALL3MEDIA group and run by husband and wife team Simon and Amanda Ross. Productions include Saturday Kitchen for BBC1, Hairy Bikers Food Tour of Britain for BBC2, Rachel Allen, Galaxy British Book Awards and 8 years of the Richard & Judy show live from Cactus studios.



About ITV3:

ITV3 is the UK's second most popular digital channel and has been watched by over 35 million people so far in 2009. ITV3's focus on character driven narrative and drama helps the channel attract an upmarket audience – with 67% of ABC1 adults watching the channel in 2009. ITV3 is available on Freeview (channel 10), Freesat (115), Sky Digital (119) and Virgin Media (116).



About Specsavers:

Specsavers was founded by Doug and Dame Mary Perkins in 1984 and is now the largest privately owned opticians in the world. The couple still run the company, along with their three children. Their eldest son John is joint managing director.

Specsavers has more than 1,340 stores throughout the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Spain and Australia. The group plans to continue its successful international expansion by opening stores in New Zealand. Annual turnover for the Specsavers Group is forecast to reach a record £1.4 billion in 2009.

Specsavers was voted Britain's most trusted brand of opticians for the eighth year running by Reader's Digest in 2009.



About the Crime Writers' Association:

The Crime Writers' Association has a membership of over 450 writers of fiction and non-fiction. Its main aims are to promote the crime genre and to support professional writers. The CWA has been providing social and professional support for its members for more than half a century, as well as administering the prestigious Dagger Awards. The Daggers name and Crossed Daggers logo are registered Trade Marks of the Crime Writers' Association, and are used under licence.

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