

## HILARY MANTEL, ANDRE BRINK AND EOIN COLFER CONFIRMED AS THE LONDON BOOK FAIR'S AUTHORS OF THE DAY 2010

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LONDON, 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**—The London Book Fair is pleased to announce that **Hilary Mantel** and **Eoin Colfer** will join **Andre Brink** as the three Authors of the Day for 2010. The popular Author of the Day initiative, introduced in 2006, showcases an author per day across the show and includes a variety of events such as discussions, seminars and book signings. Each author has a bespoke schedule.

#### **Hilary Mantel**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, the opening day of the Fair will feature the bestselling novelist Hilary Mantel, CBE. Hilary is the author of twelve books, including *A Place of Greater Safety*, *Giving up the Ghost* and *Beyond Black*, which was shortlisted for the 2006 Orange Prize. Her latest novel is *Wolf Hall* (2009), winner of the 2009 Man Booker Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for the 2009 Costa Novel Award.



Hilary says: *“Sometimes, astonishing things happen to authors, and the fragile constructs of an individual imagination mesh with the workings of a huge global industry. This year my long-projected novel about a Tudor politician has made it out of the privacy of my head and into an international arena. My success has coincided with inspiring, exhilarating and sometimes confusing developments in the publishing world. The London Book Fair is a great opportunity for me to shake hands with my new publishers from many countries, make vital personal contacts, and learn how I can play a part in the revolution sweeping the trade that sustains us all.”*

#### **Eoin Colfer**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April the spotlight will be cast on one of the UK's most popular and best-selling children's authors Eoin Colfer, whose *Artemis Fowl* series has sold over 4.5 million copies in the UK and Ireland and over 18 million worldwide.



Eoin comments: *“I am thrilled to be a part of the Author of the Day programme especially in the company of Hilary and Andre. I'm really looking forward to the day itself, particularly the meeting the readers parts where I get to chat with the people who make Artemis Fowl as successful as it is.”*

## André Brink

As the fair celebrates its Market Focus on South Africa this year, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April will feature André Brink, one of South Africa's key literary figures in the modernisation of the Afrikaans language novel. André began writing in Afrikaans, but when censored by the South African government, he began to also write in English and became published overseas.



André said: *“Authors are notoriously solitary creatures, so an occasion like this is a wonderful opportunity to meet one's actual readers. That is a privilege and a joy I'm looking forward to tremendously.”*

**Alistair Burtenshaw, Group Exhibition Director**, The London Book Fair says: *“We are honoured to announce Hilary, André and Eoin as our Authors of the Day 2010 and couldn't be more excited to introduce them at the Fair this spring. All three are incredibly respected in their own right, yet all complement each other perfectly as a collective of authors representing 21<sup>st</sup> century literary talent. The opportunity to bring them together is a huge privilege and we recognise that the continued success of the programme is built upon their support and the ongoing support of the industry.”*

Alongside this significant Author of the Day programme, the Fair will also welcome more than 47 authors, poets, playwrights, activists and academics, representing nine of the eleven official spoken languages of South Africa, as part of The London Book Fair Market Focus.

Furthermore, there will be over 140 seminars and events, many of which will feature leading authors. These include the English PEN Literary Café, which offers space to take time out from business at the fair to listen to authors being interviewed about their work and experiences, and The Cook Book Corner, featuring celebrity chefs from around the world demonstrating their culinary skills.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### HILARY MANTEL

Hilary Mantel was born in Glossop, Derbyshire, England on 6 July 1952. She studied Law at the London School of Economics and Sheffield University. She was employed as a social worker, and lived in Botswana for five years, followed by four years in Saudi Arabia, before returning to Britain in the mid-1980s. In 1987 she was awarded the Shiva Naipaul Memorial Prize for an article about Jeddah, and she was film critic for *The Spectator* from 1987 to 1991.

Her novels include *Eight Months on Ghazzah Street* (1988), set in Jeddah; *Fludd* (1989), set in a mill village in the north of England and winner of the Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize, the Cheltenham Prize and the Southern Arts Literature Prize; *A Place of Greater Safety* (1992), an epic account of the events of the French revolution that won the Sunday Express

Book of the Year award; *A Change of Climate* (1994), the story of a missionary couple whose lives are torn apart by the loss of their child; and *An Experiment in Love* (1995), about the events in the lives of three schoolfriends from the north of England who arrive at London University in 1970, winner of the 1996 Hawthornden Prize.

Her recent novel *The Giant, O'Brien* (1998) tells the story of Charles O'Brien who leaves his home in Ireland to make his fortune as a sideshow attraction in London. Her latest books are *Giving Up the Ghost: A Memoir* (2003), an autobiography in fiction and non-fiction, taking the reader from early childhood through to the discoveries in adulthood that led her to writing; and *Learning to Talk: Short Stories* (2003).

Hilary Mantel's novel *Beyond Black* (2005) tells the story of Alison, a Home Counties psychic, and her assistant, Colette. It was shortlisted for a 2006 Commonwealth Writers Prize and for the 2006 Orange Prize for Fiction.

Her latest novel is *Wolf Hall* (2009), winner of the 2009 Man Booker Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for the 2009 Costa Novel Award.

In 2006 she was awarded a CBE.

### **EOIN COLFER**

Eoin (pronounced 'Owen') Colfer was a primary school teacher in Wexford, Ireland up until he secured the largest ever advance for a children's novel by an unknown author in October 2000. He cast a spell on the publishing and film industries with his fantastically original novel, *Artemis Fowl*, and hasn't looked back since. Miramax and Tribeca productions teamed up for a film option before the book had even been auctioned at the Frankfurt Book Fair that year. The film is now slated to go into production next year.

Total UK sales of *Artemis Fowl* titles now exceed a staggering 4.5 million copies in the UK and Ireland and over 18 million worldwide. His work is published in 44 countries. He has achieved huge international critical acclaim in the media and the book trade and is ranked alongside Philip Pullman, Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz as one of the UK's most popular and best-selling children's authors.

Eoin is also an extremely talented performer. Recipient of a Herald Angel Award for Performance at the 2004 Edinburgh Fringe (the first author to win such an award), in April 2006 Eoin took his hilarious one man show, *Fairies, Fiends and Flatulence*, an adrenaline-fuelled exposé of teenage criminal mastermind *Artemis Fowl* to theatres nationwide. Following the sell-out success of his regional UK tour, Eoin made his West End debut at the Trafalgar Theatre in October 2006 receiving wide acclaim.

### **ANDRÉ BRINK**

One of South Africa's most distinguished writers, André Brink was born in 1935. Poet, novelist, essayist and teacher, he began work as a University lecturer in Afrikaans and Dutch Literature in the 1960s. He began writing in Afrikaans, but when censored by the South African government, began to also write in English and became published overseas. He remains a key figure in the modernisation of the Afrikaans language novel.

His book, *A Dry White Season* (1979), was made into a film starring Marlon Brando while *An Instant in the Wind* (1976), the story of a relationship between a white woman and a black man, and *Rumours of Rain* (1978) were both shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. *Devil's Valley* (1998) explores the life of a community locked away from the rest of the world, and *The Other Side of Silence* (2002), set in colonial Africa in the early twentieth century, won a Commonwealth Writers regional award for Best Book in 2003. He has also written a collection of essays on literature and politics, *Reinventing a Continent* (1996), prefaced by Nelson Mandela.

André Brink has been made a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters and awarded the Legion of Honour by the French government. In 1992 he was awarded the Monismannien Human Rights Award from the University of Uppsala, for making known the injustice of apartheid to the wider world.

He is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Cape Town. His latest novels are *Praying Mantis* (2005) and *The Blue Door* (2007). In 2009, a memoir, *A Fork in the Road*, was published.

#### **THE LONDON BOOK FAIR**

The London Book Fair is the global marketplace for rights negotiation and the sale and distribution of content across print, audio, TV, film and digital channels. Taking place every spring in the world's premier publishing and cultural capital, it is a unique opportunity to explore, understand and capitalise on the innovations shaping the publishing world of the future. The London Book Fair brings you direct access to customers, content and emerging markets. The London Book Fair 2010 will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April. For more details, please visit: [www.londonbookfair.co.uk](http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk)

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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