

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday 9 Feb 2011**

## **Caine Prize 2011 judging panel announced**

The judges of this year's Caine Prize for African Writing were announced today. The panel will be chaired by award-winning Libyan novelist Hisham Matar. Joining him are Granta deputy editor Allah Allfrey, Georgetown University Professor and poet David Gewanter, publisher, film and travel writer Vicky Unwin, and the award-winning author Aminatta Forna.

This year 126 qualifying stories have been submitted to the judges from 17 African countries. The judges will meet in early May to decide on the shortlisted stories, which will be announced shortly thereafter. The winning story will be announced at a dinner at the Bodleian Library in Oxford on Monday 11 July.

Last year the Caine Prize, described as Africa's leading literary award, was won by Sierra Leonean writer Olufemi Terry. Chair of judges Fiammetta Rocco said at the time "ambitious, brave and hugely imaginative, Olufemi Terry's *'Stickfighting Days'* presents a heroic culture that is Homeric in its scale and conception. The execution of this story is so tight and the presentation so cinematic, it confirms Olufemi Terry as a talent with an enormous future."

### **Notes for editors**

The Caine Prize, awarded annually for African creative writing, is named after the late Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker plc and Chairman of the Booker Prize management committee for nearly 25 years. The Prize is awarded for a short story by an African writer published in English (indicative length 3,000 to 10,000 words). An "African writer" is normally taken to mean someone who was born in Africa, or who is a national of an African country, or whose parents are African, and whose work has reflected that cultural background.

The African winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer and J M Coetzee, are Patrons of The Caine Prize, as is Chinua Achebe, winner of the Man Booker International Prize. Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne is President of the Council and Jonathan Taylor is the Chairman.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Jenny Casswell  
Raitt Orr & Associates  
Tel: 0207 836 4644 / Mob: 07796 131447  
[jenny@raittorr.co.uk](mailto:jenny@raittorr.co.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: [@CainePrize](https://twitter.com/CainePrize)  
and Facebook  
[www.caineprize.com](http://www.caineprize.com)