

ANDREW MILLER WINS 2011 COSTA BOOK OF THE YEAR

London, 20.30pm 24th January 2012: Novelist Andrew Miller has won the 2011 Costa Book of the Year, his first major literary award, for his sixth novel, *Pure*. Set in pre-revolutionary Paris in 1785, *Pure* is the story of Jean-Baptiste Baratte, an ambitious young engineer, who is assigned the task of emptying the noxious, overflowing Parisian cemetery Les Innocents, and of demolishing its church.

The announcement was made this evening (Tuesday 24th January) at an awards ceremony held at Quaglino's in central London.

Miller beat bookmakers' odds-on favourite, poet and debut biographer Matthew Hollis for his work *Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas*, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy for *The Bees*, debut writer, Christie Watson, for *Tiny Sunbirds Far Away* and first-time author, Moira Young, for *Blood Red Road*, to win the overall prize and a cheque for £30,000 at the awards ceremony.

Geordie Greig chaired a final judging panel that included actor and comedian Hugh Dennis, actress Dervla Kirwan, broadcaster Mary Nightingale, novelist Patrick Gale, author Jojo Moyes, historical biographer Flora Fraser, author William Fiennes and children's writer, Eleanor Updale.

The Costa Book Awards recognise the most enjoyable books of the last year by writers based in the UK and Ireland. Originally established by Whitbread PLC in 1971, Costa announced its takeover of the sponsorship of the UK's prestigious and popular book prize in 2006.

2011 marks the 40th year of the Book Awards which, due to its unique category system, has seen 187 awards being given to writers since its launch in 1971, including literary giants such as Iris Murdoch, Roald Dahl, Ian McEwan, JK Rowling, Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, Philip Pullman, Salman Rushdie, Claire Tomalin, Michael Frayn, William Boyd, Michael Morpurgo and Beryl Bainbridge.

Pure, published by Sceptre, is the tenth novel to take the overall prize. Irish novelist Sebastian Barry was the last author to win the Book of the Year with a novel. He took the prize in 2008



for *The Secret Scripture* which went on to sell over 300,000 copies and has become the fastest-selling book in the history of Faber and Faber.

Since the introduction of the Book of the Year award in 1985, it has been won ten times by a novel, four times by a first novel, five times by a biography, five times by a collection of poetry and once by a children's book.

Costa Short Story Award

Costa is expanding the Costa Book Awards to introduce a new Short Story Award in 2012. The announcement was made by John Derkach, Managing Director, Costa, at tonight's presentation ceremony. The new Costa Short Story Award will run in association with the Costa Book Awards but the winner will not be judged alongside the other five category winners in Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book. The competition will be officially launched later this year.

For more information please visit www.costabookawards.com.



- Ends -

For further press information or to arrange an interview with Andrew Miller, please contact:

Amanda Johnson

Costa Book Awards Press and Publicity

Telephone: 020 7400 1909 (direct line) or 07715 922 180 (mobile)

Email: amanda@amandajohnsonpr.com

or

Nikki Barrow

Sceptre

Email: nikki.barrow@hodder.co.uk

Telephone: 0207 873 6440

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 stands at £55,000. 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.
- To be eligible for the 2011 awards, books must have been first published in the UK or Ireland between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011.
- The 2010 winner of the Costa Book of the Year was Jo Shapcott for *Of Mutability* (Faber).

About Costa:

The UK's favourite coffee shop

Awarded "***Best Branded Coffee Shop Chain in the UK and Ireland***" by Allegra Strategies for two years running (November 2010 & November 2011).

"Best Branded Coffee Chain in Europe" Allegra Strategies November 2011

- Costa was founded by Italian brothers Sergio and Bruno Costa in 1971.
- 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 the nation's favourite coffee shop brand and has grown to become the sector leader within the UK and the second largest international coffee shop operator.
- At present the company has more than 2,000 stores in 25 countries: Bahrain, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Ireland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
- The Costa Foundation was set up in 2006 to give something back to the communities within the countries from which Costa sources its coffee beans. The Costa Foundation works with an independent charity partner, Charities Trust, and is operating under the auspices of Charities Trust's registered charity number 327489.
- Costa Ltd is part of the Whitbread Group PLC.

Further Background

Pure by Andrew Miller

Sceptre

About the book:

Deep in the heart of Paris its oldest cemetery is, by 1785, overflowing. Its stench hangs in the air, tainting the very breath of those who live nearby. The over-filled graves pop and burst, filling people's basements with bones and spreading disease across the capital. But the cemetery's roots are embedded deep in the hearts and minds of the people, for whom the graveyard has long provided a backdrop to their daily lives. Into their midst comes Jean-Baptiste Baratte, a young, provincial engineer charged by the king with demolishing it. At first Baratte sees this as a chance to clear the burden of history. But before long, he begins to suspect that the destruction of the cemetery might be a prelude to his own.

About the author:

Andrew Miller was born in Bristol in 1960. He has lived in Spain, Japan, Ireland and France, and currently lives in Somerset.

His first novel, *Ingenious Pain*, won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Grinzane Cavour prize in Italy. The book has been translated into 36 languages.

He has since written five novels: *Casanova*, *Oxygen*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award and the Booker Prize in 2001, *The Optimists*, *One Morning Like a Bird* and *Pure*.

What the judges said:

“A structurally and stylistically flawless historical novel, this book is a gripping story, beautifully written and emotionally satisfying. A novel without a weakness from an author who we all feel deserves a wider readership.”

Judges

Patrick Gale

Novelist

Emma Milne-White

Owner, The Hungerford Bookshop

Michael Prodger

Critic and former Literary Editor, Sunday Telegraph

Shortlist, selected from a total of 149 entries:

Julian Barnes

The Sense of an Ending

Jonathan Cape

John Burnside

A Summer of Drowning

Jonathan Cape

Louisa Young

My Dear I Wanted to Tell You

HarperCollins

Previous Novel Award winners include:

Maggie O'Farrell

The Hand That First Held Mine

2010

Colm Toibin

Brooklyn

2009

Sebastian Barry

The Secret Scripture

2008

A.L. Kennedy

Day

2007

William Boyd

Restless

2006

Ali Smith

The Accidental

2005

Andrea Levy

Small Island

2004

Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the

2003

Night-Time

**Previous Winners of the
Book of the Year**

2010	<i>Of Mutability</i>	Jo Shapcott	Poetry
2009	<i>A Scattering</i>	Christopher Reid	Poetry
2008	<i>The Secret Scripture</i>	Sebastian Barry	Novel
2007	<i>Day</i>	A.L. Kennedy	Novel
2006	<i>The Tenderness of Wolves</i>	Stef Penney	First Novel
2005	<i>Matisse: the Master</i>	Hilary Spurling	Biography
2004	<i>Small Island</i>	Andrea Levy	Novel
2003	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Mark Haddon	Novel
2002	<i>Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self</i>	Claire Tomalin	Biography
2001	<i>The Amber Spyglass</i>	Philip Pullman	Children's Book
2000	<i>English Passengers</i>	Matthew Kneale	Novel
1999	<i>Beowulf</i>	Seamus Heaney	Poetry
1998	<i>Birthday Letters</i>	Ted Hughes	Poetry
1997	<i>Tales from Ovid</i>	Ted Hughes	Poetry
1996	<i>The Spirit Level</i>	Seamus Heaney	Poetry
1995	<i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i>	Kate Atkinson	First Novel
1994	<i>Felicia's Journey</i>	William Trevor	Novel
1993	<i>Theory of War</i>	Joan Brady	Novel
1992	<i>Swing Hammer Swing!</i>	Jeff Torrington	First Novel
1991	<i>A Life of Picasso</i>	John Richardson	Biography
1990	<i>Hopeful Monsters</i>	Nicholas Mosley	Novel
1989	<i>Coleridge: Early Visions</i>	Richard Holmes	Biography
1988	<i>The Comforts of Madness</i>	Paul Sayer	First Novel
1987	<i>Under the Eye of the Clock</i>	Christopher Nolan	Biography
1986	<i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro	Novel
1985	<i>Elegies</i>	Douglas Dunn	Poetry