



## **MISHAL HUSAIN TO CHAIR ORANGE AWARD FOR NEW WRITERS 2009**

**Orange Award for New Writers shortlist: 7 April 2009**

**Awards Ceremony: 3 June 2009**

**London, 17 December 2008:** Launched in 2005 in partnership with Arts Council England, the Orange Award for New Writers celebrates potential and emerging female literary talent throughout the world.

This year's judging panel has been confirmed as:

**Mishal Husain (Chair)**, Presenter, BBC World News

**Louise Jury**, Chief Arts Correspondent, Evening Standard

**Diana Evans**, Author and winner of the inaugural Orange Award for New Writers

Mishal Husain commented: "I'm delighted to be chairing this year's Orange Award for New Writers – it's a chance to see the range of new talent among women writers from across the world and I look forward to a voyage of discovery in finding this year's winner."

In partnership with Orange, Arts Council England is committed to providing a £10,000 bursary award for the winner of the Orange Award for New Writers. By offering a bursary to a novelist or short story writer for her first publication, the Arts Council is able to support the professional development of a writer at a crucial stage in her career

Commenting on the Orange Award for New Writers, Ian Smith, Head of Entertainment & Brand Marketing at Orange, said: "It's such an honour to have the first-ever winner of the Orange Award for New Writers, Diana Evans, on the jury panel this year. Our investment

in the future of female fiction would not be possible without the continued support of Arts Council England.”

Moira Sinclair, Executive Director of Arts Council England, London said: “The Orange Award for New Writers showcases and rewards the best contemporary writing by women today. Arts Council England is delighted to continue its partnership with Orange, investing in emerging literary talent. Prize money buys freedom, as Rose Tremain said in her Orange Prize winning speech last year, and we hope that the award in 2009 will offer a new literary voice the opportunity to develop in the most favourable conditions.”

All first works of fiction, including novels, short story collections and novellas, written by women of any age or nationality and published as a book in the UK between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 are eligible to enter. The emphasis of the award is on emerging talent and the evidence of future potential. Books can be entered for both the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Orange Award for New Writers in any given year. Judges will be looking for writers who demonstrate excellence, originality and accessibility.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Arts Council**

Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, we support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

## **About Orange**

Orange is a key brand of the France Telecom Group, providing mobile, broadband, fixed, business and entertainment services across Europe. It is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with more than 170 million customers on five continents.

In June, 2006, Orange became the single brand for mobile, broadband and multi-play offers. In addition, Orange Business Services became the new banner for business communications solutions. Orange Business Services is present in 166 countries with network reach in 220.

In the UK, Orange provides high quality GSM coverage to 99% of the UK population. At the end of June 2008, Orange had almost 16.8 million customers in the UK – 15.8 million active mobile customers and over one million broadband customers.

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Further information about Orange can be found on the Orange website at [www.orange.co.uk](http://www.orange.co.uk) or the France Telecom group international website at [www.orange.com](http://www.orange.com) and [www.francetelecom.com](http://www.francetelecom.com)

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