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Waterstone's Names the Best New Writers of 2009

Waterstone's kick-starts the literary awards season today with the announcement of its **New Voices** for 2009. These are the books from emerging writers that Waterstone's believes will go on to feature, and even win, the highest profile literary awards and events of 2009.

Waterstone's claims the success of last year's **New Voices** means that this year's selection should be taken very seriously by readers and critics. "There are a huge number of novels published every year and it is very difficult to say which will strike awards gold and which will not, but we had a fantastic hit rate last year," says Toby Bourne, Waterstone's Fiction Category Manager. Included in the 2008 selection were Aravind Adiga's **The White Tiger**, which won the Man Booker, Sadie Jones' **The Outcast**, which won the Costa First Novel Award and was shortlisted for the Man Booker, as well as other novels which featured in Richard and Judy's Book Club selections and in other awards shortlists. "We are incredibly proud of the success of last year's New Voices, especially of Aravind Adiga for winning the Man Booker, the big beast of book awards," says Bourne. "He has set the bar for 2009's **New Voices**."

Novels from British, American and Asian writers, all bar one of which are debuts, make up 2009's **New Voices**. "Even more so than last year, debut fiction dominates our list, with only the precociously talented Richard Milward two novels into his career," says Janine Cook, the Waterstone's Fiction Buyer who helped choose the list. "Our booksellers read scores of new novels and this final twelve contains the books they loved the most. The writers may be new, but they have huge talent and these books deserve to compete with those from more established writers for both the attention of readers and for the big prizes." Cook also notes that half the books on the list come from the independent publishing sector. "This is an invaluable opportunity for these authors to reach the widest possible audience. **The Outcast** and **The White Tiger** have gone on to sell hundreds of thousands of copies between them since inclusion in **New Voices** 2008, so the rewards can be very high."

Discover more at <http://www.waterstones.com/newvoices>.

Waterstone's New Voices 2009

A Kind of Intimacy by Jenn Ashworth – Arcadia Books

Ablutions by Patrick DeWitt – Granta
An Equal Stillness by Francesca Kay – Weidenfeld & Nicholson
Black Rock by Amanda Smyth – Serpent’s Tail
Days of Grace by Catherine Hall – Portobello
Guernica by Dave Boling – Picador
The Street Philosopher by Matthew Plampin – HarperCollins
Ten Storey Love Song by Richard Milward – Faber & Faber
The Earth Hums in B Flat by Mari Strachan – Canongate
The Piano Teacher by Janice Y K Lee – Harper Press
The Rescue Man by Anthony Quinn – Jonathan Cape
The Vagrants by Yiyun Li – 4th Estate

Waterstone’s New Voices will be featured in Waterstone’s stores and at Waterstones.com from March 5th. “

For further information please contact:

Jon Howells at Waterstone’s Press Office

Telephone 0208 996 4385 Email jon.howells@waterstones.com

Notes for editors

Waterstone’s was founded in 1982 and is now the UK’s largest specialist bookseller, with over 300 branches across the country and the website Waterstones.com. As well as stores in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, Waterstone’s Bookstores can be found on Jersey and the Isle of Man, and in Brussels and Amsterdam. Waterstone’s was named Bookselling Company of the Year at the Bookseller Retail Awards in September 2008.