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MAN BOOKER LONG LIST AUTHORS AT BOOK FESTIVAL

Edinburgh International Book Festival is delighted to welcome five of the long listed authors for the prestigious Man Booker Prize to Charlotte Square Gardens this summer. Visitors to the Book Festival will have the chance to hear Sebastian Barry (21 August), Linda Grant (23 August), Mohammed Hanif (12 August) and Philip Hensher (13 August) speak about their latest books. Salman Rushdie (24 August), who won the Prize with *Midnight's Children* in 1981, the Booker of Bookers in 1993 and the Best of the Booker earlier this year, will present his new, long listed novel, *The Enchantress of Florence*.

In addition, the Book Festival is holding an event on Saturday 23 August to celebrate 40 years of the Man Booker Prize, where Margaret Atwood, winner in 2000, 2008 judge and novelist Louise Doughty, and John Mullan, judge for The Best of the Booker, will consider the impact of the prize, considered to be the most important literary award in the English language.

Catherine Lockerbie, Director of the Book Festival, said "This is a wonderfully diverse and interesting list, and quite unexpected, with some major literary names left off and some fresh new names in there alongside Booker veterans. I'm delighted that five of these authors will be appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival this summer - big literary names but also lesser known authors I chose for the excellence of their fiction as well as their vital and eye-opening perspectives on other cultures. It is particularly gratifying when new work and international work, which we champion at EIBF, is given the seal of approval of the Man Booker Prize also."

"I'm specially pleased that one of the debut novelists in our wide-ranging East and West series, Mohammed Hanif - a Pakistani-born writer - has been chosen. And it goes without saying that the giant on the list is Salman Rushdie. I am personally overjoyed to see him there - it would have been unthinkable not to include him. He has of course already twice been voted the Booker of Bookers, with *Midnight's Children*; and his latest novel *The Enchantress of Florence* is as rich, sumptuous and captivating as his very finest work."

Full details of the Edinburgh International Book Festival programme, event availability and ticket booking can be found on www.edbookfest.co.uk. Tickets can be booked on-line, over the phone (0845 373 5888) or in person at Waterstones in George Street (Mon to Sat, 10.00am to 5.00pm until Friday 8 August).

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