

## Literary Agent of the Year

### THIS YEAR'S SHORTLIST



**Jo Unwin: Conville & Walsh**

A former writer for children's television, bookseller and literary consultant, Unwin has only been an agent for two years, but in that time has made a big impact wooing high-profile clients such as Eddie Izzard, Charlie Brooker and Vic Reeves. She has also found some treats on the slush pile, such as Rebecca James' *Beautiful Malice*, rights to which have now been sold in 35 languages.



**Jonny Geller: Curtis Brown**

After 15 years at Curtis Brown, Geller who is head of the books department, had his most successful year in 2009 overseeing the transfer of John le Carré from Hodder to Penguin and purchasing the book of the 2009 Frankfurt Book Fair—Nelson Mandela's *Conversations with Myself*. With top notch skills in career management, his list of clients is unsurprisingly high profile including Tony Parsons, Tracy Chevalier and Lisa Jewell.

**Last year's winner  
Jonathan Lloyd, Curtis Brown**



## Winner for 2010: Luigi Bonomi—LBA

In a challenging year for literary agents, Luigi Bonomi stood out in this category for his entrepreneurial approach to clients and deals.

The judges were particularly impressed with Bonomi's involvement in the People's Author Award, sponsored by Orion and promoted by Alan Titchmarsh on his TV chat show. The search for feel-good and inspirational stories quickly produced 1,600 entries, 16 finalists, one overall winner—whose book was stocked in large numbers by Tesco—and several more

- Expert understanding of publishers' needs
- Imaginative repositioning of established authors
- Discovery of writers via the People's Author Award
- Brokering new collaborations with film companies

authors, now represented by Bonomi.

The panel admired his flexible, "can do" approach to agenting, close attention to detail and imaginative use of old and new media to promote authors and find new ways of selling content. They noted several examples of Bonomi's resourceful thinking about his authors,

including repositioning military thriller specialist Peter Smith as an author of Second World War and archaeological adventure stories, and encouraging a re-jacketing of Josephine Cox's novels with HarperCollins to reinvigorate her sales.

"Good agents have to be dealmakers and diplomats, and Luigi is both," commented one judge.

"He is always extremely creative in working out where he can take his authors—and instead of waiting for things to happen he goes out and gets them."

### AWARD SPONSOR



The Orion Publishing Group was established in 1991. It is made up of two divisions: Orion and Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Since 1998 it has been owned by the French company Hachette Livre. In 2005, Orion Publishing was voted Publisher of the Year at the British Book Industry Awards. In 2010 we are proud to sponsor the Literary Agent of the Year Award.