

October 2004

## ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND APPOINTMENT

Diran Adebayo has been appointed to the national Council of the Arts Council England. His four-year term began on 20 October.

Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said: "I am delighted to welcome Diran Adebayo to the Arts Council. He brings with him an enormous range and depth of expertise and experience. He is one of our most original and gifted writers and a leading ambassador for British culture."

Diran Adebayo has been hailed as one of our most original literary talents. His first novel, *Some Kind of Black*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize and won him the Saga Prize, a Betty Trask Award, the Authors' Club's 'Best First Novel' Award, and the Writers' Guild's New Writer of the Year for 1996. His second novel, *My Once Upon A Time*, was also highly acclaimed. Diran has also written for television and radio, has been a columnist for *New Nation* newspaper, and writes frequently on social and cultural issues in the national press. He recently co-edited *New Writing 12* (Picador), an annual anthology that showcases contemporary UK and Commonwealth writing, and is currently working on his third novel, *The Ballad of Dizzy and Miss P*, and a book of essays, *Here is a Protest*. Diran Adebayo has toured extensively internationally, reading from his work and speaking on contemporary British culture. In this country he has worked on collaborations with DJs in clubs, to events in schools, prisons and the literary festival circuit.

Speaking on his appointment, Diran Adebayo said: "I'm very pleased to be appointed. I look forward to discussing with my new colleagues ways to improve the lot of artists, and ways to deepen our (artists') relationships with the wider public."

### **Background**

Arts Council England is the major national development agency for the arts in England, responsible for the allocation of funding from Government and the National Lottery.

National Council Members receive no remuneration.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice.  
Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.