

spotlight

on Children & the Arts

Autumn Edition

WHY STORIES MATTER: THE BIRTHDAY BOOK

by Rebecca Eastmond



Stories have always been incredibly important to me. When I was small, I read voraciously (my mother says that I was an absolute terror until I started reading – from then on I lived quietly in book-filled corners). Stories gave me a way of escaping from the world and a way of finding out about it. There's something unique about the insight that literature gives you into another person's mind – and much of the work we do as an organisation has a strong thread of "story" running through it.

This is at least partly why for the past few years, award winning author Eleanor Updale (one of Children and the Arts' ambassadors for whom stories are equally important), and I have had a conversation about how Children & the Arts really should produce a book of its own.

It wasn't until late last year that our idea began to turn into reality when we had the good fortune to meet Patrick Janson-Smith, then a literary agent. While Patrick paved the way with Random House Children's Books, Ellie and I spoke to two of our other ambassadors, Michael Morpurgo and Quentin Blake and invited them to co-edit a book that would celebrate stories and our President, the Prince of Wales's 60th Birthday. The Birthday Book was born!

In a few weeks time, The Birthday Book, a collection of fantastic, inspiring stories and poems written by some of the UK's best known writers and poets will be published. In aid of The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts The Birthday Book is shaping up to be one of the most prestigious and anticipated releases of the book world this Autumn.

Over 50 of the finest children's authors including Philip Pullman, Kevin Crossley-Holland, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo and J.K. Rowling, with new pieces from authors including Eoin Colfer, Anthony Horowitz and Eleanor Updale and illustrations from the likes of Axel Scheffler, Posy Simmonds, Emily Gravett, Michael Foreman and Quentin Blake.

To buy your copy on Amazon [click here](#). The Birthday Book will also be available from Waterstone's, Hatchards and independent bookshops nationwide.

The Birthday Book will be published by Jonathan Cape on 6th November, £16.99.



STATISTICS REVEAL THE PROVEN POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARTS ON CHILDREN

A recent survey of teachers involved in Start 2007/08 confirmed Children & the Arts' belief in the positive impact of the arts on children's lives.

94% of teachers said that pupils had improved their personal skills. **77%** of teachers reported that pupils gained confidence and **74%** reported that their pupils' self esteem increased thanks to the project.

The survey also revealed that the arts help to develop intellectual, social and emotional skills. **94%** of teachers stated that children gained communication skills, **89%** said that they improved their listening and speaking skills and **73%** said that pupils had gained social skills. **68%** also believed that their pupils' empathy skills had improved.

The arts have also impacted on the children's behaviour and attitudes to learning. **82%** said pupils gained creative thinking skills while **81%** of teachers reported that their pupils had developed academic skills through the project including literacy, teamwork and reasoning.



NEW AMBASSADORS

Children & the Arts are delighted to announce the support of two new ambassadors, Perrier Award winning comedian Tim Minchin and producer and founder of Sweet Pea Productions, Jessica de Rothschild.

Being invited to be an ambassador for the Prince's Foundation is a huge honour for me. I believe art – slowly but surely – can change people: bringing joy, opening minds, inspiring reflection, altering points of view. And I think the younger the audience, the more immediate and profound that change can be.

Tim Minchin



PRIZES GALORE AT THE ARTS & INSPIRATION AUCTION

On 20th November, Colin Sheaf of Bonhams will be hosting The Arts & Inspiration Auction at The Fleming Collection in London. All proceeds will go towards The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts.

Highlights of auction prizes include a tour of HRH The Prince of Wales' private gardens at Highgrove, an exclusive chance to see Renée Fleming perform at the Metropolitan Opera, New York and meet her after the performance and a visit to Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo's farm, with tickets to see The Young Vic's Christmas production **Amazônia**.

Young
Vic

Click here for more information on auction lots.

TUNE IN WITH MUSICQUEST 2008

After the successes of last year, Children & the Arts' 4 year major music project supported by Classic FM Music Makers Foundation and Yamaha Music UK, kicks off this autumn.

MusicQuest 2008 will bring live orchestral music to a further 5,000 children in five new areas of the country. This year's project will see the Philharmonia Orchestra travelling to Bradford, Stoke on Trent, Kilmarnock, Great Yarmouth and Middlesbrough delivering workshops in schools and performing live at concert hall venues for all the children involved.

Dear Kevin, Thank you for your wonderful conducting on Wednesday. It made me feel happy and joyful inside.

Georgia,
Stanley Primary School,
MusicQuest 2007

The project has been an outstanding success... the children have come away with a positive experience of classical music and are more inclined to want to learn music and an instrument in future.

National Campaign for the Arts, Report May 2008

The Incredible story of Classical Music by Darren Henley is also out in bookshops this autumn, and all royalties will go towards funding future MusicQuests. Filled with stories about the most beautiful sounds ever made, it is a great read - buy it for your children and then read it yourself! To buy your copy on Amazon, click [here](#).



CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Last year's Children & the Arts Carol Concert at St. James's Church, Piccadilly sold out in 24 hours. To receive an email to inform you of when tickets go on sale for this year's concert on 10th December please email Emma Blanksby at

emma.blanksby@
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with your full contact details.

