

Press Release:

Embargoed until 11.00am on Tuesday 6th September

SIX GLASGOW AUTHORS SHORTLISTED FOR SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Glasgow-based children's authors have dominated the shortlist for the 2011 Scottish Children's Book Award, with six out of the total nine shortlisted authors hailing from the city.

Ross Collins is the author and illustrator of numerous picture books, and is a previous winner of a 2008 Royal Mail Children's Book Award for his illustrations in *Billy Monster's Daymare*. He was born and lives in Glasgow. Ross' picture book *Dear Vampa*, is shortlisted in the Bookbug Readers category. He said:

"I'm delighted that 'Dear Vampa' has been shortlisted for this year's Scottish Children's Books Award. It's great that the award is judged by kids - I just hope they love vampires as much as I did when I was a little bloodsucker."

Alison Murray is an author and illustrator originally from Newarthill in North Lanarkshire, who now lives in Glasgow. Her very first book for children, *Apple Pie ABC*, has been shortlisted in the Bookbug Readers category. Alison said:

"I am absolutely delighted to be shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Award. It is really exciting to have my first picture book honoured in this way."

Ross MacKenzie is the author of fantasy adventure *Zac and the Dream Pirates*, which has been shortlisted in the Younger Readers Category of the awards. Born in Glasgow, he grew up and still lives in Renfrew. Ross said:

"At the very beginning, when I found out that Zac was going to be a REAL book, I never dared dream it'd one day be nominated for such a prestigious award. So when they told me Zac had made the shortlist for the Scottish Children's Book Awards - voted for by the very people I so desperately hoped would love my story - it took a while to sink in! Some truly magical books have been nominated in the past, and to be lucky enough to be part of that makes me very proud."

Franzeska G. Ewart is a children's writer, with over 20 books in publication. She has recently moved from Glasgow to the village of Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. Her book *There's a Hamster in my Pocket* has been shortlisted in the Younger Readers Category of the awards. Franzeska said:

"When I heard 'There's a Hamster in my Pocket' had been shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards, I was absolutely thrilled. I still have moments when I think I've just been asleep and any minute now I'll wake up and say 'I just had the most incredible dream...!'"

FOR ALL PRESS QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT HELEN CRONEY:
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Teresa Flavin is a Glasgow-based children's book illustrator who has branched out into writing novels for age 9+. Her first illustrated novel, *The Blackhope Enigma*, was published by Templar Publishing in 2010 and has been shortlisted in the Older Readers Category. Teresa said:

"I am absolutely delighted that my first novel, The Blackhope Enigma, has been short-listed in the Older Readers category of the Scottish Children's Book Awards. My book was inspired, in part, by the rich landscape and history of Scotland and I am honoured to be considered for an award that is voted upon by Scottish young people."

Theresa Breslin is the critically acclaimed author of over 30 novels for children and young adults whose work is read world-wide and has been filmed for television and the Internet and dramatised on radio. Theresa won the Carnegie Medal for *Whispers in the Graveyard* in 1994. Born and brought up in a small town in Scotland, she now lives near Glasgow. Her novel *Prisoner of the Inquisition* has been shortlisted in the Older Readers Category. Theresa said:

"I was very excited to hear that my book 'Prisoner of the Inquisition' was shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. There are so many terrific children's books published every year that I was quite overwhelmed when mine was selected. Scottish Book Trust staff work hard to make this award extremely interactive and I'm really looking forward to hearing the comments and opinions of our young readers."

THE 2011 SHORTLIST CONSISTS OF:

Bookbug Readers (0-7 years)

DEAR VAMPA by **Ross Collins (Hodder)**, THE LOON ON THE MOON by **Chae Strathie and Emily Golden (Scholastic)**, APPLE PIE ABC by **Alison Murray (Orchard)**

Younger Readers (8-11 years)

ZAC AND THE DREAM PIRATES by **Ross MacKenzie (Chicken House)**, THERE'S A HAMSTER IN MY POCKET! by **Franzeska G Ewart (Frances Lincoln)**, THE CASE OF THE LONDON DRAGONFISH by **Joan Lennon (Catnip)**

Older Readers (12-16 years)

WASTED by **Nicola Morgan (Walker)**, THE BLACKHOPE ENIGMA by **Teresa Flavin (Templar)**, THE PRISONER OF THE INQUISITION by **Theresa Breslin (Corgi – RHCB)**

As Scotland's largest children's book awards, with a total prize fund of £12,000, The Scottish Children's Book Awards recognise excellence in Scottish writing and illustration for children across three age categories: **Bookbug Readers** (0-7 years), **Younger Readers** (8-11 years) and **Older Readers** (12-16 years), with the winners decided by Scottish children themselves, who will be reading and voting for their favourite books of the year.

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Jasmine Fassi, Children's Programme Manager at Scottish Book Trust said: "*Scottish Book Trust is really pleased to announce the shortlist for this year's Scottish Children's Book Awards. These Awards are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate contemporary children's books and young fiction in Scotland, and we are particularly pleased with the hugely enthusiastic participation of children, parents and teachers this year. The number of children taking part continues to grow every year, which is proof of the huge appetite for reading in Scottish schools and libraries.*"

The winners will be announced at a special award ceremony on 23rd February 2012 at Edinburgh's Lyceum Theatre.

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Notes to editors:

- Shortlisted authors/illustrators receive £500 per book, winning authors/illustrators £3,000 per book at the award ceremony, as well as a trophy created by an artist especially for the awards and a certificate.
- In 2010 16,000 children and young people from all over Scotland were registered to take part in the awards.
- It is judged in three age categories (Bookbug Readers – 0-7 yrs, Younger Readers – 8-11 yrs and Older Readers – 12-16 yrs)
- Teachers, librarians and book group leaders sign up their groups in the appropriate age group and then the young judges read, review, discuss and vote for their favourite book
- Reviews are posted on the Scottish Book Trust website by young judges to share the enthusiasm about the shortlisted books
- Videos of each author reading and talking about their book will be available at www.scottishbooktrust.com.
- 600 young judges and industry guests attended the 2010 award ceremony in February 2011 in Glasgow (watch a highlights video on our website: <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/podcasts/video/2010-royal-mail-awards-ceremony-highlights>)

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