



## **Award winning children's author Andy Stanton launches the Big Book Babble.**

On January 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 every primary school in the UK will have free access to a brand new TV show developed by Red House and Scholastic.

Capitalising on their expertise in children books, Red House and Scholastic will be producing the new show - which will be hosted by children's comedian James Campbell and will feature guest authors, illustrators and poets. The fortnightly show, starting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, will be aired during term time. The show will be streamed live into primary schools and aimed at children aged 7-11 years, engaging viewers with authors and encouraging reading for pleasure.

The opening show features Andy Stanton, the brain behind the massive Mr Gum series, with the legendary Jacqueline Wilson and Britain's favourite Michael Morpurgo appearing in forthcoming episodes. The first show also features Liz Pichon, author of *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*, winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2011.

Broadcast from the Arts Theatre in London's West End and using a chat show-style format, there will be a live audience of approximately 240 people. Each episode will see presenter James interview the special guests, show examples of children's work and then host a Q&A for both live and virtual audiences, allowing a fully interactive experience for viewers.

The show will also serve as a valuable teaching aid in schools. Relevant, topical teaching resources - prepared by educational specialists - will be available to download from the Big Book Babble website - [www.bigbookbabble.co.uk](http://www.bigbookbabble.co.uk). These can be used in conjunction with the programme and each episode will then be archived for teachers to use at their convenience. This facility also ensures children can watch at home with their parents.

With the combined expertise of Red House and Scholastic, Big Book Babble promises to deliver an inspired, relevant and enjoyable way to engage children with the authors and illustrators they love and introduce them to new ones.

Andy Stanton said *"Red House are so crafty. Fooling kids into thinking they're watching TV, when in actual fact they're getting them into books. Genius!"*

### **Pilot**

To watch the pilot show with Charlie Higson visit  
[www.livestream.co.uk/childrensbooks](http://www.livestream.co.uk/childrensbooks)

### **Website**

[www.bigbookbabble.co.uk](http://www.bigbookbabble.co.uk)

### **Notes for editors:**

**Red House** has created an environment in which parents can, with confidence, select the books their children will take with them on their reading journey. Red House sifts through the thousands of books published each month and promotes the best through its magazines and website, taking care to select books that children themselves really enjoy. Red House provides choice without confusion, education without boredom, value without obligation and strives to make books affordable to all, with over 1000 titles half price or less.

[www.redhouse.co.uk](http://www.redhouse.co.uk)

Through **Scholastic's** Book Clubs and Book Fairs, Scholastic UK is the biggest children's specialist bookseller in the UK and Ireland. It has unparalleled reach to children through schools, increasing opportunities for reading and book ownership for children, and donating books and resources to schools. Scholastic UK is also the publisher of a wide range of books for all ages, including best-sellers and award winners such as the *Horrible Histories* series and titles by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

[www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

The **Arts Theatre** opened on 20 April 1927, one of a small number of committed, independent theatre companies. In August 1955 the [English-language premiere](#) of [Samuel Beckett's](#) *Waiting for Godot* played at the theatre.<sup>[1]</sup> This was an important turning point in modern theatre for Britain.

<http://www.artstheatrewestend.co.uk/contact>.

**For more information please contact Donna Stevenson on 01483 860215 or by email at [donna.stevenson@redhouse.co.uk](mailto:donna.stevenson@redhouse.co.uk).**