

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Shaun Tan wins Astrid Lindgren Prize

The world's richest children's literature award

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011: Lothian Children's Books are proud to announce that Australian author-illustrator Shaun Tan is the winner of this year's Astrid Lindgren award – the richest children's literature prize in the world, worth 5m kroner (£490,000).

Tan is the second Australian to be awarded the prize in its nine-year history, following Sonya Hartnett's win in 2008.



In a live webcast from Sweden, the jury's citation called Tan, "a masterly visual storyteller, pointing the way ahead to new possibilities for picture books. His pictorial worlds constitute a separate universe where nothing is self-evident and anything is possible. Memories of childhood and adolescence are fixed reference points, but the pictorial narrative is universal and touches everyone, regardless of age. Behind a wealth of minutely detailed pictures, where civilization is criticized and history depicted through symbolism, there is a palpable warmth. People are always present, and Shaun Tan portrays both our searching and our alienation. He combines brilliant, magical narrative skill with deep humanism."

Tan has illustrated more than 20 books including *The Rabbits*, *The Red Tree* and *The Arrival*. At this year's Academy Awards, he won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film for *The Lost Thing*, based on his book of the same title.

The Astrid Lindgren prize was set up in 2002 and is administered by the Swedish Arts Council to honour writers, illustrators and story-tellers, or those active in the promotion of reading. Shaun will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

For more information on Shaun's works, go to: [www.thearrival.com.au](http://www.thearrival.com.au)

