



THE ASTRID LINDGREN
MEMORIAL AWARD

©Illustrations: Björn Berg. Ingrid Vang Nyman. Ilon Wikland

Press Release 29 March 2011

**The recipient of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2011 is
Shaun Tan**

Shaun Tan is an illustrator and author, born in 1974, who lives and works in Australia. The jury's citation reads as follows:

Shaun Tan is 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.

Shaun Tan has illustrated more than 20 books, notable among them *The Rabbits* (1998), *The Lost Thing* (2000), *The Red Tree* (2001), *The Arrival* (2006) and *Tales from Outer Suburbia* (2008).

Shaun Tan has reinvented the picture book by creating visually spectacular pictorial narratives with a constant human presence. He uses a variety of means of artistic expression: lead pencil, Indian ink, coloured pencil, painting and various print techniques. Shaun Tan sees every book as an experiment in visual and verbal storytelling.

Shaun Tan also collaborates on animated film, musical and theatrical adaptations of his works, as well as producing fine art and murals.

Shaun Tan has received a number of literary awards, including the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in 2009 for *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books award in 2007 for *The Arrival*. At this year's Academy Awards, Shaun Tan won the Oscar for best animated short film for *The Lost Thing*, based on his book of the same title.

His works have been translated into more than 10 languages, including German, Swedish, Spanish and Chinese.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award will be presented at a ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on 31 May 2011.

STATENS KULTURRÅD • SWEDISH ARTS COUNCIL

Box 27215, 102 53 Stockholm, Sweden Office: Borgvägen 1-5, Stockholm

Tel: +46 8 519 264 00 Fax: +46 8 519 264 99 E-mail: litteraturpris@alma.se Web: www.alma.se

More information and examples of Shaun Tan's illustrations can be found at www.alma.se. Press releases in French, Spanish, Italian and German can also be found on the website. For additional images and interviews with the award recipient, please contact the award office: helene.andersson@alma.se, +46 76 540 10 17, or rebecka.svensen@alma.se, +46 76 540 10 20.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest prize for children's and young adult literature. The award, which amounts to SEK 5 million, is awarded annually to a single recipient or to several. Authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and those active in reading promotion may be rewarded. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature, and in children's rights, globally. An expert jury selects the winners from candidates nominated by institutions and organisations worldwide. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council.