

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALEF BROWN AND JOHN A. ROWE HEADLINE STORYOPOLIS' 2005 MASTERS OF ILLUSTRATION ARTISTS' STUDIO SERIES

LOS ANGELES, CA (January 26, 2005) -- Storyopolis Art Gallery & Bookstore, the nation's largest collection of children's literature and illustrations, announced today that Calef Brown, local children's author/illustrator extraordinaire, and John Alfred Rowe, one of England's most famous political cartoonists and children's illustrators, will headline a new series of evening exhibitions called the 2005 Masters of Illustration Artists' Studio Series. The first evening in the series begins on Thursday night, February 17th, from 7pm – 10pm. Rowe will also appear on Saturday, February 19th, for a craft and story time afternoon for children.

The 2005 Masters of Illustration Artists' Studio Series is a Thursday evening, monthly cocktail party that enables grown-up kids and art enthusiasts alike to meet and greet with some of the world's top editorial and storybook artists, many of whom will travel to the United States in order to introduce their work to the public for the very first time. Saturdays following the evening events feature a host of children's activities, including book signings, readings, and art demonstrations by the artists showcased the Thursday evening prior. 20% of all proceeds during this series will be donated to Storyopolis' special collaborative partner, Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation.

"We have been presenting American artists' work for years," said Storyopolis owner, Matthew Abramowitz, "but this is the first time we are flying in internationally-known illustrators to exhibit their brilliant and critically acclaimed work to an American public."

Calef Brown is the author and illustrator of the best-selling *Polkabats and Octopus Slacks* (1998) and *Dutch Sneakers and Flea Keepers* (2000), both of which received glowing reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*. National Public Radio's Daniel Pinkwater and Scott Simon read *Polkabats* on "Weekend Edition" in 1998, and deemed it a "masterpiece...of mania and inspiration." Calef's illustrations can also be seen in *Rolling Stone*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *TIME*, *Newsweek* and *The Los Angeles Times*, as well as on book covers, CDs, and soda cans. He lives in the Los Angeles area.

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CALEF BROWN AND JOHN A. ROWE HEADLINE ARTISTS' STUDIO SERIES

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John Alfred Rowe was born in Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey, England, and studied art in England and Austria. His colorful illustration and eccentric compositional style have won him much acclaim, and his artwork has been exhibited around the globe. His previous books include *Baby Crow*, *Jasper the Terror*, and *Monkey Trouble* which was nominated for the German Young Readers Prize. His latest work is an incredible collection of colorful characters in a recreation of Hans Christian Anderson's tale, *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Rowe lives in England with his wife and his dog, Mr. Murdock.

To attend the festivities, you must RSVP at 310-358-2512. The cocktail party will be held on Thursday, February 17th, from 7pm – 10pm. The Saturday craft and story time will be held on Saturday, February 19th, at 11:30am. Both events will take place at Storyopolis, located at 116 North Roberson Blvd., Plaza A, Los Angeles, CA 90048. For more information, please visit www.storyopolis.com or call 310-358-2500. The national toll-free line is: 1-800-95-TALES.

About Storyopolis

The Storyopolis family believes in the importance of “Opening a Child’s Imagination, One Book at a Time.” With over 6,600 square feet of gallery and retail space, Storyopolis is the premier art gallery and children’s bookstore in Los Angeles. The store caters to families, the entertainment industries, and an international clientele through educational and cultural enrichment programs. Storyopolis is home to the finest collection of children’s illustrators, representing over 100 different artists from around the world. In addition to hosting a variety of private events, the trendy art gallery and bookstore brings stories to life, hosting regular readings with dedicated authors, illustrators, celebrities, and royalty, as well as providing weekly themed story times. For more information, visit www.storyopolis.com

About Starlight Starbright

The Starlight Starbright Children’s Foundation is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to brightening the lives of seriously ill children and the people who love and care for them. Through an impressive menu of programs and products designed to empower, educate, inspire, and entertain, Starlight Starbright helps heal the spirits of over 180,000 suffering children and their families each month. Learn more about the organization at the website, www.starlightcan.org.

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