

Press Release

London, UK – January 17th 2012

An exhibition entitled *As Large as Life* by Quentin Blake, the much loved illustrator of many of Roald Dahl's books, has opened at London's Foundling Museum. The exhibition shows 60 previously unseen works specially commissioned by four hospitals in the UK and in France. The series took five years to complete and coincides with the recent release of a commemorative collection of stamps depicting Blake's most famous illustrations used in the Roald Dahl classics.

Anyone interested in learning more about Quentin Blake should visit the Web of Stories website at www.webofstories.com/quentin.blake, which contains video recordings of Blake telling his life story and talking about how he started work on this ambitious project.

The *As Large as Life* project began in 2006 when Blake was approached by the South Kensington and Chelsea Mental Health Centre to create a set of pictures for their newly refurbished wards. Blake accepted because he had become very interested in the concept of enlarging illustrations that normally appeared only in books. Here he describes the difference it makes to a picture when it is enlarged:

"What is nice about it is that because the line is still very scratchy and the watercolour goes on in a rather irregular sort of way, all of that is enlarged and so it gives it hope, you know, it gives it a sort of a texture and quality".

Web of Stories hosts Quentin Blake's video archive which viewers can watch, listen to, comment on, and share with their friends and colleagues. The videos are also free for embedding into personal blogs and websites. We invite everyone to watch these recordings, which include stories in which Blake talks about his work for *The Spectator* and *Punch* as well as the famous Roald Dahl books.

Web of Stories also invites everyone with their own stories to tell, to use Web of Stories' very simple recorder that permits anyone to record their story using the camera and microphone now available in most computers and notebooks.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About Web of Stories:

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and a web was slowly being created of connected stories. After a while we also invited famous people outside the field of science to tell their life stories.

Web of Stories is also open to the public to record their stories for the world to view and share. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear. The great thing about Web of Stories is that anyone can come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, it is an account of their experiences as they remember them.

We hope to provide lasting, first-hand accounts of people's experiences – imagine that in a hundred years' time your grandchildren or great grandchildren will be able to watch you telling stories about your life today!

Contact:

For more information on Web of Stories or any other video interview with Web of Stories please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or email press@webofstories.com
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