

For Immediate Release: Monday 25th February 2019

SF Said, Joseph Coelho and Ed Vere to become CLPE Patrons

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is delighted to announce three new patrons; author SF Said, author and illustrator Ed Vere, and poet and author Joseph Coelho. In their new role, each of the new patrons will continue to support the work of the CLPE, as it continues its work teaching and championing literacy in primary schools across the UK.

S.F. Said is the multi-award-winning author of *Varjak Paw*, which has been a key title on the CLPE's Power of Reading scheme over the last decade.

He says: "As a children's author, I've seen the life-changing power of the CLPE's work so many times on school visits; I've met so many kids who never liked reading before, but got it when they did a CLPE programme, and now can't stop. The benefits of literacy are so vast and well-documented, I think every school should be doing everything possible to help every child become a reader. That's exactly what CLPE's work is all about - and that's why I'm so honoured to be one of their Patrons!"

Ed Vere worked with CLPE's Charlotte Hacking to devise the original Power of Pictures project and is a passionate advocate of the importance of picture books and art to support the creative writing process. Ed is a regular speaker at literacy events and conferences and has taken the Power of Pictures message across the UK and beyond.

"The CLPE make ideas happen," Vere says. "Teachers and children have their lives improved by the research and practical work CLPE puts into the world. Over the last five years it's been a pleasure and a learning experience to work together making the Power of Pictures programme a reality. I've witnessed, first hand, their dedication, commitment and effectiveness. I'm honoured beyond words to have been asked to be one of CLPE's patrons and to continue that journey. Exciting times ahead!"

Joseph Coelho won the CLPE's Poetry Award, CLIPPA, in 2015 for his debut collection *Werewolf Club Rules* and shares CLPE's passion for poetry and for showing its power to teachers and to children.

"The CLPE really champions the importance of poetry in schools, and the important benefits it has for developing literacy and written skills," says Coelho. "I know myself what a powerful form of communication poetry can be and I love the work CLPE do - it is a complete honour to continue supporting their work in an official capacity."

Said, Vere and Coelho join an esteemed list of patrons who support the charity, including Roger McGough, Shirley Hughes, Aidan Chambers and two former children's laureates, Michael Rosen and Sir Quentin Blake.

For more information about the CLPE, please contact Catherine Alport (hello@catherinealportpr.co.uk/ 07843804083)

Notes for Editors:

About The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education:

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK charity dedicated to raising the literacy achievement of children by putting quality children's literature at the heart of all learning. It is a charity with a national and international reputation for excellent literacy training and resources. Visit www.clpe.org.uk for further information or follow CLPE on Twitter @clpe1.

PRESS RELEASE

About the Patrons:

SF. Said:

SF Said is an award-winning author. His first book, *Varjak Paw*, won the Smarties Prize for Children's Literature. The sequel, *The Outlaw Varjak Paw*, won the BBC Blue Peter Book Of The Year. His third book, *Phoenix*, was selected to represent the UK on the IBBY International Honour Book List, shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Award, and nominated for both the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals. All three books are illustrated by Dave McKean.

SF Said has written widely on children's and young adult literature for both the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph.

www.sfsaid.com

@whatSFSaid

Ed Vere:

Ed Vere writes and illustrates picture books, which are published worldwide.

'The Getaway', his first book, won the Highland Children's Book Award in 2007. The following year, 'Banana' was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway prize. In 2009 'Mr Big' was Booktrust's official Booktime book, reaching 750,000 British schoolchildren – the largest single print run for a picture book! In the same year, pop-up book 'Chick' won the Booktrust Early Years Award for best baby book. 'Bedtime for Monsters' was shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize in 2011 and the next year Ed had the honour of being one of the four Roald Dahl Funny Prize judges, along with Michael Rosen.

'Max the Brave' is a New York Times bestseller and was named one of The Sunday Times's '100 Modern Children's Classics'. Ed's latest book is 'How to be a Lion'.

Ed also works on many projects related to his books, from speaking at festivals from Rio to Kerala, curating festivals in the UK, to appearing onstage with the Britten Sinfonia and the Neil Cowley Trio to bring Mr Big to life with music and live drawing. Ed is currently the Artist in residence for the Born Free Foundation.

www.edvere.com

@ed_vere

Joseph Coelho:

Joe Coelho won the CLIPPA for his debut collection *Werewolf Club Rules* in 2015. *Overheard in a Tower Block* is his second solo collection and was shortlisted for the CLIPPA 2018. He has also had two picture books published; *Luna Loves Library Day*, illustrated by Fiona Lumbers, and *If all the world were...*, illustrated by Allison Colpoys. His latest collection, *A Year of Nature Poems*, published in January 2019. He is a writer, performer and co-founder of Word Pepper Theatre Company. Joe's poems have been published in several anthologies.

www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com

@PoetryJoe

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