




ANTHONY BROWNE AT THE MALBA- March 2010

María Teresa Manteo

mmanteo@supportlearning.com.ar

Meeting Anthony Browne at the Malba theatre was a dream-come-true. It was an extraordinary experience where the author, among other topics, made a preview presentation of his coming book, talked about his creative process, and also revealed why he has chosen the gorilla as the big protagonist of many of his books. He was interviewed by Alicia Salvi, ALIJA Secretary and former Christian Andersen Award jury member, who also delighted us with juicy and knowledgeable comments about his books.

Antony Browne treated us by disclosing some little secrets. For example:

-  He showed us the artwork and most of the text- in the making- of his next book: **Me and You**, based on **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. He explained to us how here he unfolds two stories in parallel, using different colour schemes for each of the stories: **sepia** for the adventures of an urban Goldilock, who loses her way and walks the streets alone– and **full colour** for the bears’ story, which departs from the original tale with Father Bear’s very funny remarks. Anthony Browne also told us about his moment of truth when he finally chose to finish the story with a close-up of the girl and mother’s re-union embrace on the last page. He explained he wanted children to revisit the book as it is always reassuring for them to read a story that ties up with a positive and life-affirming message of love.
-  Interestingly, while he was creating **Changes**, Browne did not know where the story would lead. He explained that as he drew along, the words started to come to him and the plot started to take shape in his mind. When talking about his creative process, he mentioned that a medley of images come to him - as a waking dream that sparks a situation where he finally finds not a story, but himself.
-  He also talked about “the gorilla” as his favourite character. He stressed that when you look at a gorilla, this beast simply looks back at you showing a connection that is beyond words. His lines of expression and above all, his semblance to his father, who Anthony recalls as a big yet tender man who encouraged his sons to play rugby and read books, makes Gorilla his ideal choice of a character that surrealistically helps him bring his messages home.

We also had the wonderful chance of meeting a very humble and noble spirit. When asked about the 2000 Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, he exclaimed: “Not even in my wildest dreams did I ever think I’d win the Christian Andersen Award!”

Wild dreams, small dreams, big dreams - who will be the next children’s Laureate we will have the pleasure to meet here in Argentina?

ANTHONY BROWNE is the acclaimed author and illustrator of prize-winning bestsellers such as *GORILLA*, *WILLY THE WIMP* and *VOICES IN THE PARK*. He is winner of the 2000 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, and in 2009 he became the new Children's British Laureate.

More Prizes and Awards

- 1983 **Kate Greenaway Medal** *Gorilla*
- 1983 **Kurt Maschler Award** *Gorilla*
- 1985 **Deutscher Jugendliteratur Preis (West Germany)**
- 1988 **Kurt Maschler Award** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- 1992 **Kate Greenaway Medal** *Zoo*
- 1998 **Kurt Maschler Award** *Voices in the Park*
- 2000 **Hans Christian Andersen Award**
- 2009 **Children's British Laureate**

Biodata

María Teresa Manteo holds a degree as an English Teacher for Primary and Secondary School from Lenguas Vivas Teachers' Training College, where she also completed a post-graduate course in English Literature. She has obtained a Further Professional Studies Certificate in Education Management from the University of Bristol UK as well as a Practitioner's Certificate in Neurolinguistic Programming Applied to Education.

She has taught Literature at IGCSE and International Baccalaureate levels and lectured for various publishers of English reading materials. As *Support Learning Educational Consultancy* Director, she trains teachers in affective methods in the teaching of reading and writing. She also runs SL educational programme [*Touch the Author Workshops for Children*](#) as well as their new reading project in Spanish [*Arte y Lectura*](#).

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