

JUTTA BAUER
Recipient of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Award

Jutta Bauer was born on January 9, 1955 in Volksdorf near Hamburg, Germany and studied illustration under professor Siegfried Oelke at the Technical Faculty of Design in Hamburg from 1975 to 1981. She was an active member of the student movement, designing posters and leaflets and drawing cartoons. In 1980 she became a member of *Hamburger Illustratorengruppe* (the Hamburg Illustrator Group).

The first book she illustrated was published in 1981. Her many years of cooperation with Hans-Joachim Gelberg, for Betz&Gelberg Publishers, started in 1983. At that time she became a freelance artist. In 1984 she established a studio of art occupying an entire floor in an old factory building in Hamburg. She made illustrations for various publishing companies and magazines, including *Brigitte* magazine which published her cartoons, illustrated stories and comic books for seven years. In 1991 she started making animated cartoons and worked for the ZDF TV channel.

She has been awarded many prizes, including one of the most prestigious awards, the German Children's Literature Award in 2009, for her complete works. She received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2010 for being a powerful story-teller who intertwines real life and stories with her illustrations. The jury appreciated her philosophical approach and original and creative communication with young readers. As the jury said "Jutta Bauer creates harmony between the verbal and visual languages, applying a philosophical approach to her original and creative art".

The artist's favourite techniques are ink, distemper and colour pencils and she is known for her simple style expressing strong sensations with tender colours and lines. Her works are described as poetic and ingenious. As Jutta Bauer said, "I do not want to hide in the books".

Her art for children and adults attests to that idea as it presents the artist's experience and view of the world. Her best books are a special, delicate story about her life's way, the back roads she took and the adventures she experienced. Her written and illustrated stories for children are full of life and far from being traditional or only idyllic. Her illustrations always are charged with genuine sensations, humour and optimism as well as unusual humbleness in the face-to-face successes and falls of life as well as the contrasts it brings.

Viera Anoškinová

DAVID ALMOND
Recipient of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Award

David Almond (1951), recipient of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for 2010, spent his childhood in Felling and Newcastle in northeast England. He was educated at the University of East Anglia and lives in Northumberland. He is a visiting professor of creative writing at Nottingham Trent University. His first literary work was for adult readers and later books for children followed. Almond employs an attractive, adventurous style to present serious topics to his readers. The philosophical dimension of his work won adult readers as well.

Almond's characters go through challenging inner crises, face situations at the brink of life and death and travel through a miraculous, mysterious and fictitious world. Michael, struggling to save his newborn sister Joy and a mysterious being named Skellig, are known to children from many countries through his novel *Skellig* (1998) or the movie bearing the same name. The book was translated into more than thirty languages. His novels *Kit's Wilderness* (1999) (Michael L. Printz Award of the American Library Association), *Heaven Eyes* (2000), *Secret Heart* (2001), *The Fire Eaters* (2003), *Clay* (2005), *Raven Summer* (2009), and *My Name Is Mina* followed (2010).

The stories of David Almond can also be perceived as parallels of hope, faith and charity. Those three values play a key role in the rescue of the angel Skellig and little Joy, are crucial in the story of little Kit facing the difficulties of his beloved grandpa's Alzheimer disease, and they are important for the orphans in a children's home, Erin, January and Mouse, who are looking for a new home. The struggle for noble values is the struggle for one's existence. The characters get to know love and friendship, a vital source that helps immeasurably and works miracles.

Timotea Vráblová