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SPIDERWICK: FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

**Carle exhibit explores the art of Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black's
The Spiderwick Chronicles, and follows the story's wondrous translation to the
big screen**

Amherst, Mass. (October 26, 2007) - The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art will host a special viewing of *Spiderwick: From Page to Screen* this Saturday, October 27, 2007 with a members-only reception featuring guests Tony DiTerlizzi, Holly Black and Jim Bissell, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at The Carle. Inspired by Museum Director Nick Clark's sneak peek at early plans for *The Spiderwick Chronicles* movie (coming February 15, 2008), the exhibition will run through January 27, 2008 and is the first of two exhibitions The Carle will feature as part of the Museums10 Pioneer Valley-wide cross-promotional cultural tourism initiative, *BookMarks: A Celebration of the Art of the Book*.

Curated by *The Spiderwick Chronicles* production designer, Academy Award® nominee Jim Bissell, the exhibition combines DiTerlizzi's imaginative and masterful renderings of the natural and unnatural world with the film production team's extraordinary interpretation of that creative vision. Says Nick Clark, Founding Director of the Carle, "I knew from the earliest discussions of *Bookmarks* that I wanted to do something with Tony's extraordinary art for this series. When Tony arranged for me to visit the Paramount Studios to see some of the production design by one of the masters in the profession, Jim Bissell, I knew immediately that the concept for the exhibition had to be amplified."

The exhibition considers six major themes, from introducing the history and ongoing fascination with fairy tales to examining the evolution of DiTerlizzi's art for the books and culminating field guide. Other sections articulate how the artist's illusionistic, yet two-dimensional drawings, get transformed into "actual" characters moving through "actual" space. Flat-screen monitors show the iteration from drawing to clay models [several of which are on view] to the animated form for the big screen. Whether book or movie, the common thread is the extraordinary research, attention to detail, artistry and craftsmanship that goes into bringing each finished product to fruition.

(over)

“This process—first the realization of our vision for the books, and now their painstaking and breathtaking translation to the big screen—has been wonderfully overwhelming,” states DiTerlizzi, “This exhibition proves to every kid out there that what you dream can come to life, and that imagination rules.”

The educational approach at The Carle, with its commitment to bringing the visual and verbal into balance, constitutes a harmonious reinforcement of what DiTerlizzi and Black achieve in their engrossing series of books for young readers. The story tells of three siblings—twins Jared and Simon Grace and their older sister Mallory—who are normal children thrown into a highly abnormal world of faeries, sprites, boggarts, and all creatures that go bump in the night. The Graces are cast into this otherworldly existence when they move, with their mother, to the estate of their ancestor/grandfather/great-uncle, Arthur Spiderwick, whose field guide that they discover unleashes various adventures and misadventures. Incidentally, the name Arthur serves as an homage to Arthur Rackham, the esteemed British illustrator who sits very high in DiTerlizzi’s Pantheon of artists he admires. An example of Rackham’s work, *Three Heads in the Well*, a gift to the Museum from Kendra and Allan Daniel, constitutes part of the prologue.

The exhibition *Spiderwick: From Page to Screen* has been generously underwritten by Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies, and by a grant from Triad Foundation, Inc. Additional support has been provided by Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Founded in part by Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and his wife Barbara, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the first full-scale museum in this country devoted to national and international picture book art, conceived and built with the aim of celebrating the art that we are first exposed to as children. Through the exploration of images that are familiar and beloved, it is the Museum’s goal to provide an enriching, dynamic, and supportive context for the development of literacy and to foster in visitors of all ages and backgrounds the confidence to appreciate and enjoy art of every kind.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, a popular Café, and a Museum

Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, and \$20 for a family of four. For further information and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum’s website at www.picturebookart.org.

ABOUT *THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES*

In theaters February 15, 2008. Presented by Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies. From the beloved best-selling series of books comes *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, a fantasy adventure for the child in all of us. Peculiar things start to happen the moment the Grace family (Jared, his twin brother Simon, sister Mallory and their mom) leave New York and move into the secluded old house owned by their great, great uncle Arthur Spiderwick. Unable to explain the strange disappearances and accidents that seem to be happening on a daily basis, the family blames Jared. When he, Simon and Mallory investigate what's really going on, they uncover the fantastic truth of the Spiderwick estate and of the creatures that inhabit it.

CAST: Freddie Highmore, Mary-Louise Parker, Nick Nolte, with Joan Plowright and David Strathairn and the voices of Seth Rogen and Martin Short.

DIRECTED BY: Mark Waters.

FOR GROUP TICKET SALES INFORMATION CALL: 1-877-PAR-GRP5

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