

# Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

The World's Largest Children's Literature Award

## Posts Tagged 'Tor svae'

### Shaun Tan at the IJB in München

May 28, 2011

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (<http://www.alma.se/en>) cooperates with the International Youth Library (<http://www.ijb.de>) (IJB) in München, Germany. The past three years the winner has held a lecture at the IJB on the way to picking up the award. The IJB is a magical place. Situated in a castle, it is the world's largest library of books for children and young adults. Astrid Lindgren was an honorary member and visited the library personally.

This year's event proved to be extra special as H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria (<http://www.royalcourt.se>) and Prince Daniel also came to the IJB. This gave the Crown Princess an opportunity to meet with Shaun Tan before presenting the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award to him on Tuesday the 31st.

On the way to München, at Arlanda airport, we ran into artist Tor Svae who was busy building a special Junibacken (<http://www.junibacken.se>) lounge for children travelling alone in terminal 5. Tor Svae gave us a quick tour of the giant mushrooms before we boarded our flight.



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-med-tor-svae.jpg>).

Once in München, Dr. Christiane Raabe, the director of IJB gave Shaun Tan and the Crown Princess with entourage a brief tour of the library before a reception with especially invited guests. Both the Swedish ambassador to Germany, Staffan Carlsson as well as the Crown Princess herself held speeches congratulating Shaun Tan.

In the evening the program continued with the first Astrid Lindgren-speech, held by critic and translator Joachim Kalka. The Astrid Lindgren-speech is an annual event where a leading personality in the field of culture holds a speech concerning reading and children's books. Joachim Kalka held a much appreciated talk with the title: *Just so and completely different. The child reads its books*, after which Shaun Tan made a presentation about his work. Shaun Tan spoke about how he aspires to inspire emotional readings of his work. He avoids the direct intellectual references and intentionally seeks expressions of the subconscious. Shaun Tan wants his books to deepen life's mysteries – not attempt to answer them. Just as the water buffalo in *Tales from outer suburbia*, he, as an artist, wants to point vaguely in the distance instead of submitting clear answers. To do this he uses what he calls "slippery metaphors"

At the following reception Shaun Tan met up with fellow Australian writer – and Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominee – Morris Gleitzman. Morris Gleitzman (<http://www.morrisgleitzman.com>) was in Germany to receive the Catholic Church's book award for his critically acclaimed novel *Once*.



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-with-morris-gleitzman.jpg>).

We also met up with illustrator Judith Drews (<http://www.judithdrews.de>), representative of the German nominating body Illustratoren Organisation (<http://www.io-home.de>).



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-with-judith-drews.jpg>).

Many of the guests wanted to have their books signed by Shaun Tan, who kept on signing as the sun was setting.



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-signing-in-mc3bcnich.jpg>).

The morning after Shaun Tan left München for Lillehammer, Norway. On the way to the airport we travelled together with Claus Humann from Carlsen Verlag, Shaun Tan's German publisher. The car with the ALMA-logo on the side was graciously provided to us by BMW (<http://www.bmw.se>).



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-with-claus-humann.jpg>).

Tags:Astrid Lindgren, Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, BMW, Carlsen Verlag, Christiane Raabe, Claus Humann, H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria, Illustratoren Organisation, International Youth Library, Internationale Jugendbibliothek, Joachim Kalka, Judith Drews, Kronprinsessan Victoria,

## Shaun Tan's award lecture

May 28, 2011

Tuesday evening, the auditorium at Kulturhuset in Stockholm was filled to the last seat with an enthusiastic audience listening to Shaun Tan's Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (<http://www.alma.se/en>) lecture. Katti Hoflin welcomed the audience and Kennet Johansson, Director General of the Swedish Arts Council, welcomed Shaun Tan on stage.



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-and-katti-hoflin.jpg>)



<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/kennet-johansson-kulturhuset.jpg>

Shaun Tan spoke about his work, his inspiration and his thoughts on stories and art. Below is an excerpt where Shaun Tan speaks about how great art asks well crafted questions rather than delivers answers:

*“A good creative idea is little more than a hunch, an intuition that something meaningful is out there, over in the darkness beyond the houses, trees and power-lines. It can’t be spoken of directly: explanation or advice won’t work here. For an idea to really weave itself into the fabric of your memory, it must be experienced first-hand: you have to find your own resolution. This is what good literature offers the reader, and especially the young reader, encountering so much of this world for the first time, and children will happily respond to anything that respects their own insight, without telling them what to think.*”

*The surrealism of my stories and pictures is partly a confession of ignorance, an acknowledgement that life is weird and mostly undiscovered. It’s okay to be uncertain, puzzled and not have all the answers.”*



<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-kulturhuset.jpg>



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-with-the-arrival.jpg>).

After the lecture, as Shaun Tan exited the auditorium, a very long line of readers were waiting to have their books signed. In the foyer, artist Tor Svae had made an installation inspired by Shaun Tan's book *The Arrival* and his animated film *The Lost Thing* was screened.



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-signing-1.jpg>)



(<https://astridlindgrenmemorialaward.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/shaun-tan-signing-kulturhuset.jpg>)

For anyone who missed the event, the complete lecture will be broadcasted by UR Samtiden (<http://www.ur.se/samtiden>) on 30th of May at 17.30. It will also be available on demand here (<http://www.urplay.se>).

*All photos by Stefan Tell*

Tags:[Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award](#), [Katti Hoflin](#), [Kennet Johansson](#), [Kulturhuset](#), [kulturrådet](#),  
[Shaun Tan](#), [Swedish Arts Council](#), [The arrival](#), [the lost thing](#), [Tor svae](#)  
Posted in [Shaun Tan](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

[The Kubrick Theme](#). [Blog at WordPress.com](#).  
[Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#).

Follow

Follow “Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award”

Powered by [WordPress.com](#)