

For Immediate Release

6 December 2004

ROALD DAHL CHARITY AUCTION AT CHRISTIE'S

13 December 2004

London – On December 13th 2004, Christie's will host a one-off charity auction of Roald Dahl's private photographs. The photographs have been developed especially for the event by Roald's 18 year-old grandson Luke Kelly. The auction also includes a "Treasure Trove" of Roald Dahl items, including original audio recordings by Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham-Carter, artwork by Quentin Blake and Gerald Scarfe, wine from Dahl's cellar and a limited-edition giant Angelpoise lamp fit for a BFG. Proceeds from the auction will benefit The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre which opens in Great Missenden in June 2005.

The photographs are a combination of pictures of Roald Dahl and his family in his childhood and pictures taken by Roald Dahl himself – with his beloved Zeiss. Dahl's own photographs make up the majority of the sale and reveal him to have been a surprisingly accomplished photographer. Many of the images were taken during his time in the RAF and complement his autobiographical writing in *GOING SOLO*. There are particularly striking shots of a Baghdad souk in 1940 and a burnt-out Hurricane plane in 1941. Dahl's photograph, from the air, of the Arch of Ctesiphon (one of the seven wonders of the world) won a silver medal in the Egyptian Salon of Photography exhibition in Cairo in 1941.

Later pictures include portraits of F D Roosevelt, Dahl's first wife Patricia Neal and the artist Henry Moore. The pictures provide an intriguing look back across time and offer fans of Roald Dahl a unique, fresh glimpse into the mind and heart of the man who became one of the world's greatest, most enduring storytellers. There are many parallels between Roald Dahl's photographs and his writing – the images are magical, mysterious, exotic, dark and, of course, have a strong sense of story.

The photos were found by the Dahl family in preparation for the transferring of the author's extraordinary archive to the forthcoming Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre. Roald Dahl's grandson, Luke Kelly, an aspiring photographer who is currently working for American Vogue, discovered the negatives nestled away in a box at Gipsy House and set up a darkroom at the family home to develop the pictures. Watching his grandfather's photographs slowly appear in the

developing dish was, says Kelly, “a surreal experience - knowing that I was seeing the exact perspective of my grandfather when he was my age 70 years ago.”

Hugh Edmeades, Chairman of Christie’s South Kensington, says: "Christie’s is pleased to hold this special Roald Dahl charity sale. Best known as one of Britain's most-loved writers, Roald Dahl was also a talented photographer. Many of the photographs offered in this auction have never been seen before in public and give a rare glimpse into his private world. We look forward to spirited bidding on the night for a wonderful cause."

The auction promises to be a glittering affair. Several members of Roald Dahl’s family will be present – including Roald’s widow Felicity, grandson Luke, daughter Ophelia and granddaughter Sophie. Other high-profile guests from the world of film and literature are expected.

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Images available on request

Visit Christie’s Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

The funds raised from the auction will benefit The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, which opens in Great Missenden in June 2005. This will be the ultimate destination for every Roald Dahl fan – child or adult. The venue will house the extensive Roald Dahl archive, which includes his ideas book, personal correspondence and every draft of every major story. Roald Dahl was a firm believer in getting others to read and write and the “story centre” will be dedicated to this end with a host of interactive activities, a writer-in-residence and a replica of Dahl’s famous writing hut. For more information, please visit www.roalddahlmuseum.org and www.roalddahl.com.

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Auction: Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT

Date: Monday December 13th 2004, 7:30 pm

Viewing: 2:00 – 4:00 pm, December 13th 2004

Attendance at auction by invitation only – for absentee bids, visit www.christies.com to view the catalogue online