

**BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, 53<sup>RD</sup> EDITION  
FROM 4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF ROALD DAHL  
An international convention to pay tribute to the gifted British author  
in collaboration with the CRLI of the University of Bologna**

**Coordinating the round table discussion will be Maria Russo of *The New York Times***

One hundred years after the birth of Roald Dahl, a giant of children's literature, the **Bologna Children's Book Fair**, in collaboration with the **University of Bologna's Centre for Research into Children's Literature (CRLI)**, have chosen to commemorate the irreverent and gifted British writer with a special event, a high profile cultural appointment that will bring together around the same table, authors of the most important research into the life and works of the creator of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and other gems of children's literature. Meeting at BolognaFiere will be **American philosopher Jacob Michael Held** (author of the essay *Roald Dahl and Philosophy*), **linguist Susan Rennie** (Lecturer at the University of Glasgow and curator of the *Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary*) and the **director Donald Sturrock** (author of the biography *Storyteller - The Life of Roald Dahl*), will discuss the fantastic and magical stories that Dahl created for children. The event will be chaired by **Maria Russo (Children's Books Editor of the New York Times)** and **William Grandi** (lecturer in Children's Literature at the University of Bologna). The round table will take place at **2.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** at the Sala Notturmo, in the Service Centre in Block D.

Dahl was a complex author: he always maintained a close relationship with the memory of his own childhood and thanks to that viewpoint he is able to speak to the children of today through his profound philosophical intuition and fun linguistic approach.

The British author has enchanted generations of young readers, shining a light on the grotesque, comical and sometimes cruel aspects that children may encounter on their pathway towards growing up. Without pretence or hypocrisy Dahl told true and important stories that knowingly opposed the conformity and violence of an adult world that is often incapable of comprehending the genuine needs of childhood: the fun revenge of *Matilda* and the fantastic adventures of *Little Bill* are, in fact, the fruit of 'glittering eyes' and the curiosity of children who do not submit to the dreariness of insensitive adults.

One hundred years have past since Roald Dahl's birth but the magic of his incredible books is as strong as ever.