



## **The Letterpress Project**

**Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?**

**I remember the first time i was thrilled and a bit scared of books was seeing Haunted House by Jan Pienkowski. It's a big colourful pop-up book, filled with all manner of ghouls and monsters, and I'd never seen anything like it before. I'm sure I read, or was read to, a lot when I was growing up, but that's the first book which really grabbed my imagination.**

**Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?**

**It wasn't really a choice, I just grew up drawing comics and cartoons all the time, so I just assumed I'd somehow make it into a job. And I'm really glad I have! I was inspired by all the books and comics I read, but also the TV and movies I watched, I found all of it just so exciting, and wanted to be able to tell my own stories too.**

**Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?**

**Ha! That's a very subjective thing. When I'm doing my work I always try to have fun characters, and interesting stories, but I do always want some stand-out moments too. Scenes which really stick in the reader's memories, set-pieces if you will. Just some super cool epic stuff happening. And if I need to reroute the story a bit to make that fit in, then I always will.**

**Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?**

**Not at all, and honestly I think it would be terrible if I did. I've only ever drawn comics to amuse myself. If I was trying to appeal to a specific audience, I think**

**that would really stifle the fun of the story. You want to tell the biggest, silliest ideas you can, to do that authentically you have to be true to yourself.**

**Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?**

**I mean E-Books had their chance didn't they, and they're still doing okay, but the boom kinda died down and a lot of people went back to physical books. I'll always love physical books, they're so much more satisfying to read. I'm sure there'll come a point one day when they're gone, replaced by holograms or whatever else, but i hope that's many thousands of years in the future.**

**Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?**

**I'm a collector in that my room is stacked with books, too many books, and yet I keep adding to the piles. But I wouldn't say I go searching for specific books, no. Often it's just if the front cover grabs me. Everyone who enjoys books knows that really special feeling of buying a new book, it's such a buzz.**