

PRESS RELEASE

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PUFFIN HAS RECRUITED THREE TITLES IN A BRAND-NEW BODYGUARD SERIES FROM BESTSELLING YOUNG SAMURAI AUTHOR, CHRIS BRADFORD.

Puffin is thrilled to announce that Shannon Park, executive editor at Puffin, has acquired World English rights in the first three titles in Chris Bradford's next series, *Bodyguard*, from Charlie Viney at The Viney Agency. The first title, *Bodyguard: Hostage*, will publish in March 2013. Chris Bradford's *Young Samurai* series has sold in excess of 700,000 copies worldwide, and is published in 18 languages with film rights in the 'Five Rings' sequence recently optioned to Julian Scott of Purple Pictures. Since publication of *The Way of the Warrior* in 2008, Chris Bradford has performed to over 70,000 school children in more than 250 schools in 10 countries, and enjoyed sold-out shows at Hay, Edinburgh and Bath Festivals.

The best bodyguards are the ones nobody notices, so who would suspect a teenager of being a bodyguard? Recruited by the United States Secret Service, fourteen-year-old Connor Reeves is assigned to protect the President's daughter from a terrorist plot to take her hostage...

'The bodyguard is today's samurai warrior, so this new series is a natural progression for me as a writer. The most nerve-racking aspect will be training as a professional bodyguard myself. I'm virtually throwing myself into the line of fire to research these books!' **Chris Bradford, Author**

'Puffin is delighted to announce this new series coming from Chris Bradford, one of our most in-demand touring authors. Connor's adventures across the globe are just as action-packed, pulse-racing and exciting as Jack Fletcher's in Young Samurai, and the fact that Chris is going to be a fully-qualified bodyguard to accompany the series means his fans are in for a real treat when he tours. This won't disappoint on any level!' **Shannon Park, Executive Editor**

Chris Bradford has trained in karate, kickboxing and samurai swordsmanship and he has also earned his black belt in Zen Kyo Shin Taijutsu, the secret fighting art of the ninja. Before writing the *Young Samurai* series, he was a professional musician and songwriter and has performed for HRH Queen Elizabeth II.



BODYGUARD announcement at Bologna
(Pictured above, from left to right):

Pippa Le Quesne (The Viney Agency), Stephanie Lurie (Disney-Hyperion, USA), Anna Khomiakova (AST, Russia), Nicki Kennedy (ILA), Franca Bernatavicius (ILA), Anastasia Filippova (AST, Russia), Benjamin Kuntzer (J'ai Lu, France), Chris Bradford (Author), Zosia Knopp (Puffin, UK), Marta Mazza (Arnoldo Mondadori, Italy), Charlie Viney (The Viney Agency), Iris Prael (Ravensburger, Germany), Veronica Fajardo (Ediciones B, Spain), Sarah Hughes (Puffin, UK)

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