



ANNE WOOD

Anne Wood founded **Ragdoll Productions**, whose work is loved by children around the world, in 1984 and since then Ragdoll has produced more than 1,500 programmes aimed at the youngest viewers and won the **BAFTA CHILDREN'S AWARD for Independent Production Company 2008**.

Anne Wood was born in County Durham and qualified as a secondary school teacher. One of her early missions was to encourage her pupils to read and she became an early pioneer of a children's paperback book club scheme for schools set up by Scholastic Publications. In 1965, Anne founded a quarterly magazine, *Books for Your Children* and in 1969, she set up the *Federation of Children's Book Groups*. That same year, Anne was awarded the *Eleanor Farjeon Award* for her distinguished contribution to the promotion of children's books and became a sort-after consultant embracing book publishing, radio and television.

Yorkshire Television contracted Anne to produce *The Book Tower*, a series aimed to stimulate children's interests in books, which was awarded a *Children's BAFTA* and the prestigious international children's television award, the *Prix Jeunesse*.

After adapting Jean Kenwood's, *Ragdolly Anna* for television and producing an English version of the *Moomins* for ITV, Anne was invited to create a children's department for the commercial newcomer, TV-AM in 1981, from where she commissioned the anarchical character, *Roland Rat*. With the demise of TV-AM, Anne took the leap into independent production and in 1984 set up Ragdoll Productions.

Children's television and related media is now seen to occupy a global market place and interest has grown in Ragdoll as an innovative content provider.

Ragdoll produced series for children can be seen in more than 120 countries and territories around the world. Its children's programming has achieved international recognition and includes the phenomenally successful, BAFTA winning **Teletubbies**; double BAFTA winning **In the Night Garden**; superhero **Brum**; mischievous ragdolls **Rosie and Jim**; the adventures of **Tots TV**; the magical **Boohbah**; the bubbly **Blips**; **BadJelly the Witch**, the innovative **Tronji**; BAFTA winning **Dipdap**, whimsical **The Adventures of Abney & Teal**, the inquisitive and enthusiastic **Twirlywoos** and internationally acclaimed **Open a Door**.

Ragdoll Worldwide, a joint commercial venture between Ragdoll and BBC Worldwide set-up in 2006 to manage and develop Ragdoll programming, was acquired by **DHX Media** in September 2013 who now own the copyright for twelve Ragdoll series.

Anne and her son Christopher continue to manage and operate their own company, **Ragdoll Productions** and are currently developing a number of projects, the latest being **Twirlywoos**, a new pre-school programme for the BBC launched on CBeebies on 23rd February 2015. Combining stop-frame animation and live-action sequences set in the real world, **Twirlywoos** is innovative, nurturing, inspiring and features laugh-out-loud child-centric humour. **Twirlywoos** has won the **Best Animation / Puppetry Award** in 2015 and the **Best Children's Pre-School Award** in 2016 at the annual **Royal Television Society North-West Awards**.

With award-winning programmes to her credit, Anne was made a *Fellow of the Royal Television Society* and won *The Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award* in 1998. Two years later in 2000, she received a *Special BAFTA* for her outstanding contribution to children's television and received her *CBE* for services to Children's Broadcasting. In 2003, she was awarded *The Olswang Business Award from Women in Film and Television*; in March 2007, she received the *Harvey Lee Award* for her outstanding contribution to broadcasting from the *Broadcasting Press Guild* and in 2010 she was awarded a *Lifetime Achievement Award* by *Mother & Baby magazine*. Anne was awarded an *Honorary Doctorate of Letters* from the *University of Birmingham* in 2013 and from the *University of Sheffield* in 2015.

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About Ragdoll Productions

Ragdoll, a privately owned family company, was founded by acclaimed children's television programme maker, **Anne Wood**, in 1984 and won the prestigious BAFTA Award for Best Independent Production Company in 2008. Ragdoll has produced more than 1,500 programmes aimed at the youngest viewers around the world. Its internationally acclaimed and multi-award-winning programmes include **Teletubbies**, (seen in 120 countries and territories worldwide); the double-BAFTA-winning **In the Night Garden**; BAFTA-winning **Dipdap**; award-winning **Twirlywoos** and **The Adventures of Abney & Teal, Rosie & Jim, Brum**, the internationally award-winning **Open A Door** and the ground-breaking initiative, **What Makes Me Happy**.

In September 2013, **Ragdoll Worldwide**, a joint venture with BBC Worldwide, was acquired by **DHX Media**, a leading Canadian broadcaster, distributor and producer. DHX Media now own the rights to the early Ragdoll catalogue including **Teletubbies** and **In the Night Garden**.

For more information on Ragdoll visit website www.ragdoll.co.uk