

Malcolm Donaldson 1949-2024

Malcolm Donaldson, who was fondly known as Dr Gruffalo, has died aged 75. Married to author Julia Donaldson he joined in the literary fun at weekends and holidays bringing her stories to life.

He was the guitar playing enthusiastic singer at book festivals and zshows. The eminent doctor spent large parts of his time in children's wards, all countered by the fun of being on the road.

Alison Ruane, MD of Macmillan Children's Books, said: "We will remember Malcolm for his kindness, warmth and extraordinary commitment to children – as part of Julia's world of storytelling, but also as a widely respected paediatrician, academic and teacher. He had many friends at Macmillan Children's Books, those fortunate to spend time with him participating in the shows he and Julia staged, singing along with his guitar as he entertained children in Julia's signing queues, or talking about the delightful business of books over lunch.

"Malcolm was hugely supportive of the children's publishing industry and made many friends among the authors and illustrators he met over the years. He always went above and beyond for Julia and for her team, particularly during her tenure as Children's Laureate (2011-2013) when he accompanied her on a tour of libraries from John O'Groats to Land's End. He'd always take the cast photo after one of their performances and never failed to thank everyone who helped to

make the event a success. Malcolm will be deeply missed and our heartfelt sympathies are with Julia and her family at this difficult time.”

[Read more here.](#)

