

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Leigh Hobbs shares films for free during lockdown

Beloved children's author and artist, and former children's laureate **Leigh Hobbs**, has just released a series of short films to enjoy online for free. Great timing for any teachers who might be madly scrambling for activity ideas to share with students, especially during periods of lockdown.

In the films, which he created with award-winning filmmaker **Katrina Mathers**, Leigh talks about the inspiration behind each of his characters, such as **Old Tom**, **Horrible Harriet**, **Mr Chicken**, **Mr Badger** and the **Freaks**, and then he draws or paints each one, explaining his process as he goes - "a line here, a line there".

The "**That's Me**" series of films provide a rare glimpse into Leigh's studio and insight into his creative process. They offer a great way for children to engage with, and be inspired by his work. He even shows original drawings from old sketchbooks where he first experimented with ideas.

The films embrace a series of positive themes, including celebrating individuality, acceptance of mistakes and differences, personality types and moods and how practise pays off. Leigh always makes mistakes, and sometimes he has to draw a character over and over until he gets it just right.

The "**That's Me**" films (5 x 2-5 mins) are suitable for teachers, families and kids of any age, anywhere around the world. They can be watched just for fun, or used in classroom settings as springboards for activity (draw your own Leigh Hobbs' character) and follow-up discussion (around identity, acceptance and creativity).

As an optional extra - you can book Leigh for an online classroom chat about the whole creative process, (or an in-person visit, hopefully soon!) Leigh used to be a school teacher, so he's well acquainted with chatting to kids and he loves to answer questions and celebrate everyone's individual approach to drawing.

That's Me films:	vimeo.com/showcase/8502276
Leigh's website:	leighhobbs.com.au
Leigh's publisher:	allenandunwin.com/authors/h/leigh-hobbs
Bookings (Australia):	nexusarts.com.au/performer/leigh-hobbs
Bookings (UK):	booksgowalkabout.com/leigh-hobbs suemartin@smithmartinpartnership.com

+++++

For additional information, access to media, or interview enquiries:

Yvette Gilfillan, Allen & Unwin (Australia)
yvetteg@allenandunwin.com