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# RANDOM HOUSE'S LISTENING LIBRARY ACQUIRES FAMED RABBIT EARS AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION FOR AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> ON SALE

(New York, January 10, 2006)—Anjelica Huston narrates *Rip Van Winkle*. Nicolas Cage performs the legend of *Davy Crockett*. Ben Kingsley reads the folktale *The Tiger and the Brahmin*. Denzel Washington narrates *Anansi*. Cher performs a rendition of *The Ugly Duckling*.

These celebrated actors lend their voices to The Rabbit Ears Collection, an awardwinning, critically acclaimed line of children's audiobooks unavailable at retail since the mid-nineties. Listening Library, a division of the Random House Audio Publishing Group, has acquired exclusive world distribution rights to the collection and will publish four quartet-story editions on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. and Canada. Additional editions will follow in 2007.

Rabbit Ears, founded in 1985 by Mark Sottnick, was celebrated for artfully combining the talents of accomplished actors with those of prominent musicians to create more than sixty audiobooks for young children through 1996. The Rabbit Ears productions were heard weekly on Saturday mornings on a regular National Public Radio broadcast in the early nineties. The Rabbit Ears Collection received two GRAMMY® Awards and eighteen nominations, twenty-one Parents' Choice Awards, a Humanitas Prize, and a National Education Association Award, among many others.

Mr. Sottnick, Founder of Rabbit Ears Entertainment, said, "Rabbit Ears' mission is to bring storytelling to life and to restore this lost art to children and their parents. I believe that imagination's greatest champion is the spoken word, and we are thrilled to be working with Listening Library, which has always been a foremost proponent of this 'most pure' storytelling format."

Tim Ditlow, Publisher of Listening Library, observed: "The Rabbit Ears Collection has long been a creative benchmark in children's audio publishing and bringing these extraordinary performances back in print for audiobook lovers and booksellers will be a labor of love for Listening Library and for the Random House, Inc. sales force." The First four Rabbit Ears Collections from Listening Library will each carry the Rabbit Ears logo and be comprised of the following selections:

## **Fairy Tales**

*Thumbelina* read by Kelly McGillis with music by Mark Isham *The Fisherman and His Wife* read by Jodie Foster with music by Van Dyke Parks

*The Talking Eggs* read by Sissy Spacek with music by Beausoleil *The Emperor and the Nightingale* read by Glenn Close with music by Mark Isham

### American Tall Tales

**Davy Crockett** read by Nicolas Cage with music by David Bromberg **Rip Van Winkle** read by Anjelica Huston with music by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason

Johnny Appleseed read by Garrison Keillor with music by Marc O'Connor Paul Bunyan read by Jonathan Winters with music by Leo Kottke

#### Fables

*The Tiger and the Brahmin* read by Ben Kingsley with music by Ravi Shankar *The Three Little Pigs* read by Holly Hunter with music by Art Lande *The Emperor's New Clothes* read by Sir John Gielgud with music by Mark Isham

The Ugly Duckling read by Cher with music by Patrick Ball

# **World Tales**

*Anansi* read by Denzel Washington with music by UB40 *East of Sun, West of Moon* read by Max von Sydow with music by Lyle Mays *Aladdin and the Magic Lamp* read by John Hurt with music by Mickey Hart *The Five Chinese Brothers* read by John Lone with music by Bill Douglass and David Austin

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