

# JANET FILLINGHAM ASSOCIATES

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## KAREN WALLACE – July 2008 ([www.karenwallace.co.uk](http://www.karenwallace.co.uk))

Karen Wallace was born in Canada and grew up in a log cabin in the backwoods of Quebec. She spent her early days messing about on the river, climbing trees and building toboggan runs in the winter.

She came to England when she was eleven and went off to a boarding school in Sussex. This experiment didn't last long. Eighteen months later she left and finished her secondary education at a day school in Surrey. After a design course and a few months in France, Karen took a BA Hons Degree in English at London University. Shortly afterwards she and her husband went to Toronto and worked in the publishing business.

A few years later, Karen and her family (now including two small sons) moved to Southern Ireland and they returned to England in 1982. Since then, Karen has made a living singing cabaret, running a regional publishing company and even making pizzas. She began writing for children full time in 1991.

Since then she has written over ninety books ranging from dramatized natural history picture books, short funny fiction, humour, historical fiction and a number of full length novels. She has won many awards on both sides of the Atlantic. Her novel **WENDY** (Simon & Schuster, 2003) was inspired by the world of Peter Pan. It tells the story of the home life of Wendy Darling who is intrepid, outspoken and wilful and always getting into trouble. Recent novels include: **THE UNRIVALLED SPANGLES** a teenage love story set in a Victorian circus (2005) and **THE SECRET OF THE CROCODILES** (2005); **THE MAN WITH TIGER EYES** (2006) and **THE DIAMOND TAKERS** (2007) the first three in a four-book series about Lady Violet Winters a thirteen-old Edwardian detective (Simon & Schuster).

Karen continues to raise the bar with her stories for early readers including the adventures of Alice the Anteater for A&C Black (2006-7) and **MONSTER MOUNTAIN** an 8-book series about Thunderbelle the Dinosaur for Orchard Books (2007).

Karen also writes for childrens' television. Her scripts include live action, animation, natural history commentary as well as the development of her own projects. She was part of a team that won a Bafta award in 2001 for the **HOOPS** series. She was on the writing team for Platinum Films' cookery show for the 6-9's for CBBC **PLANET COOK** (tx autumn 2004/spring 2005). Recent animation work includes projects for Nesta Futurelab, Aardman Animation and Novel Entertainment. Karen is currently on the writing team for Aardman's new pre-school show **TIMMY**.

**KAREN WALLACE – July 2008 / page 2**

Karen wrote the commentary script for Diverse Productions' contribution to the Peter Pan centenary celebrations **HAPPY BIRTHDAY PETER PAN** (tx BBC1 January 2005).

***Television:***

***WIZADORA*** for Workhouse Productions / Producer Catherine Kirkwood (1996/97)

***MAKE BELIEVE MOMENTS*** for Disney / Producer Catherine Kirkwood (1997)

***TEDDYBEARS*** for Meridian / Producer Richard Morss (1997)

***WILD ISLANDS*** for Performance Films (1998)

***MOPATOP'S SHOP*** for Carlton/Henson / Producer Jocelyn Stevenson (1998)

***TIMOTHY GOES TO SCHOOL*** for Nelvana / Producer Diana Manson (1999-2000)

***THE HOOPS*** for Henson/Channel 4 / Producer Mellie Buse (2000)

(Winner of a Bafta Award 2001)

***POLICE CAT FUZZ*** for Banjax Productions / Producer Richard Morss

(Original series in development)

***PLANET COOK*** for Platinum Films / CBBC / Producer Nigel Stone (2004-5)