



PRESS RELEASE

Un Bambino di Nome (A Boy Called) Porro Press release, London, 01/07/2023

UN BAMBINO DI NOME (A BOY CALLED) PORRO

Each child is special, each child is loved

Porro is a boy who is named after a vegetable. He is bullied at school, lonely, and feels he is not quite good enough. Through a series of magical adventures, he meets a mysterious woman, a dormouse, a dog and penguin, and some musicians who each give him a special gift. Porro learns about life, recognises his talent, makes new friends, and finds out how to love and accept himself. A dual language book in Italian and English for children age 8-12.

Written by Penny Culliford

A Tricolore Theatre Company book

Translated by Lucia Morciano (luciamorciano.com)

Illustrated by Dilara Arin (<https://dilaraarin.myportfolio.com>)

Lyrics by Stefan Potiuk, Penny Culliford & Nadia Ostacchini

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Un Bambino Di Nome (A Boy Called) Porro was initially a bilingual English/Italian play for children premiered at The Pleasance Theatre in November 2019. See: www.tricolore.org.uk/porro.php

The book will premiere at The Turin International Book Fair from May 18, 2023 -, May 22, 2023:

www.salonelibro.it/inglese.html

PENNY CULLIFORD is an author, playwright, speaker and former primary school teacher from Kent, UK.

She is best known for the Theodora's Diary books, a series of comedy-novels, likened to a Christian Bridget Jones' Diary. She has also written *The Art of Standing Still*, a novel based in Kent, about a community that revives the tradition of medieval Mystery plays.

She writes plays and scripts, including *Warden Pie*, a ghost story set in Canterbury; *The Gingerbread Man*; *The Golden Chain*; *Saffron Hill*, a play about three generations of an Italian family in London; *A Boy Called Porro*, a children's play; and most recently, *Grimaldi's Last Act* for Tricolore Theatre Company.

She provided the scripts for children's DVD series *Henry Hand Puppet* and was Director of Drama for a children's arts organisation, facilitating children's creative writing and scripting drama.

She is experienced in speaking to writers groups, colleges and university students, at arts festivals and was jointly nominated for a Christian Broadcasting award for a programme on BBC Radio Kent.

She has a background and long experience in primary education but now works as a chaplain. She is also a licensed as a Lay Reader in the Church of England.

She has been married to Marc for almost 40 years and they have two grown up children and a grandchild.

She likes chocolate, TV sitcoms and unexpected acts of kindness. She dislikes celery, stick insects and people who take themselves too seriously. (<http://pennyculliford.com/>)

TRICOLORE THEATRE COMPANY, a non-profit venture, based in London, was founded in October 2007 by actress, voiceover artist and producer Nadia Ostacchini. Its main aim is to promote international theatre, literature and language although, as its name suggests, the primary emphasis is on Italian work, specialising in bilingual plays for children. Tricolore's first Christmas show, 'The Gingerbread Man / L'Ometto Di Pan Pepato', in a new adaptation by Penny Culliford, toured London and Rome in 2008-2009. Amongst other bilingual entertainment, such as poetry and live music evenings, performances and children's entertainment sessions, Tricolore staged a new Bolivian play, 'The Condor and the Maiden', by writer Dermot Murphy at The King's Head Theatre in 2010 and this was followed by English/Italian commedia inspired play, 'The Golden Chain / La Catena D'oro' at the Teatro Technis theatre in 2012. Two historical re-enactments at Fishmonger's Hall and Freemason's Hall (in April and June 2014) followed as part of a series of events organized by The Mazzini Garibaldi Club & Foundation in collaboration with the Italian Embassy, commemorating Giuseppe Garibaldi's historical visit to London in 1864. 'Saffron Hill', a historical London road in the borough of Camden, was written to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Arandora Star tragedy. In November 2016, a bilingual Italian community event took place at St Peter's Italian Church, Clerkenwell, exploring Italian poetry on the theme of 'War & Peace / Guerra e Pace' from Italian Unification through to the 1st and 2nd World Wars and then from the 50s to the 80s.

Tricolore's forthcoming show, will be about the life of Joseph Grimaldi, the (early 19th century) father of modern clowning. One can listen to the full version of our audio play: 'Grimaldi's Last Act', performed at The Bloomsbury Studio in 2022 and based on Joseph Grimaldi's biography by Charles Dickens, on our website: www.tricolore.org.uk/productions.html#grimaldiAudio

BACK COVER OF BOOK

With bullying in the news and children's mental health causing concern, Porro's story gently shows how self-worth can grow when opportunities and challenges present themselves.

Many of us will have had moments where we feel we are not quite good enough. We might think that everyone else is cooler, more organised, better looking and, well, just...better. The truth is, we all have our faults, but we are also all infinitely wonderful and loveable. Learning to see the best in ourselves and others can transform our lives, in the same way it transforms Porro's.

SYNOPSIS

Porro is not much good at anything, or so everyone tells him. His hair is too vertical, his ears are too small and he is always late. To top that, he is named after a vegetable. His classmates are unkind to him and he decides to run away. After all, nobody will miss him!

His only ally is his Fairy Godmother, who gives him a magic apple that transports him into a strange land. Here he meets the loving Dormouse-keeper who is in search of one of his wandering charges. It might be hard to find something that runs fast, it is even more difficult to find something that crawls off and falls asleep! Gioia is eventually found and restored to the dormouse colony with great relief and happiness. Porro learns that everyone is loved and special to someone. The Dormouse-keeper gives him a knitted hat.

After that he travels on and finds himself in a freezing cold land with snowdrifts as high as a house, where he meets a penguin. Porro, who is learning to love and accept all, is shocked to find that the Penguin hates all dogs, from Spot of the Antarctic to Queen Elizabeth II. She feels that history is dominated by dog achievements, while the poor penguin population simply waddles on, living in obscurity. When the penguin is beaten up in a flipper-fight, help comes from an unexpected source, a labradoodle named Rufo. Rufo not only rescues the penguin, scaring off the attackers, but licks the penguin's wounds and stays by her side until she is better. Porro learns that we can all be friends and neighbours. It is how we act, not what we are. The penguin gives him a pocket watch.

Moving on, Porro meets a small orchestra. They encourage Porro to sing or play an instrument, but he does not believe he has the ability. Finally, he tries the concertina and to his amazement, finds he can play it. He needs to practise, but he has a real talent. The orchestra asks him to play in their concert, but Porro is worried that he will let them down. He is finally persuaded to play and together they produce an amazing sound and bring everyone together. Porro is praised for his playing and happy that he has finally found something he is good at. He keeps the concertina. Porro finds the apple in his pocket and takes another bite. He finds himself back in his own village. When he meets the Fairy Godmother again, he tells her about his adventures but is still worried about returning home. She reassures him, and he looks carefully at his gifts – the hat that flattens his hair and covers his ears, the watch, that will help him to be on time and the concertina, which makes everyone happy.

He finds that nothing has changed - his schoolmates are still unkind to him, but Porro has the memory of his adventures to remind him that he is special and loved, that kindness is found in unexpected places, and you shouldn't try to hide your talents, and vows to share his talent and to make the changes he needs to.

A magical tale of transformation in two languages, English and Italian, to encourage and reassure children of their worth and talent and to look for kindness in unexpected places, which will appeal to youngsters from 8-12.

Tricolore's Website www.tricolore.org.uk

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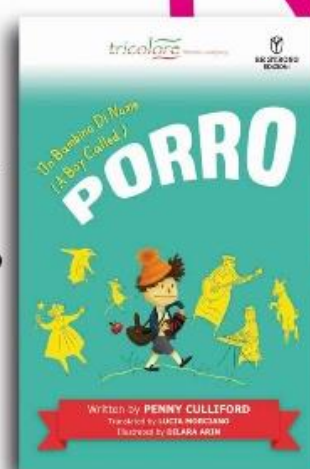
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BE BABY**

15.05.2023

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PENNY CULLIFORD
**Un Bambino di Nome
(A Boy Called) Porro**

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The book can be purchased in Italy

(Be Strong, Ibis e Amazon websites) from 15th May 2023 & in the UK (Tricolore website) from July 2023.