

## Bryan Talbot

Graphic novelist, artist

Often hailed as 'the father of the British graphic novel' ([The Guardian](#)), Bryan's first published illustrations appeared in *Mallorn*, the British Tolkien Society magazine, in 1969. From there, he worked within the British underground comics scene, creating, writing and drawing the *Brainstorm Comix* series for Alchemy Press. The first three issues, the *Chester P. Hackenbush Trilogy* (1975 -78), were reprinted in one volume entitled *BRAINSTORM!* Hackenbush was later Americanised into Chester Williams by Alan Moore for the DC series *Swamp Thing*. Brainstorm Six featured *The Omega Report* (1978), a popular story which blended sci-fi, rock music and comedy into a private detective pastiche.

Bryan's multiverse-spanning limited series comic, *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, first appeared in *Near Myths*. The collected Luther stories, published by Never Ltd., is widely considered to be one of the first (perhaps the very first) British graphic novels ever released. The series has been reprinted multiple times and received many awards, and was adapted as a three-hour audio drama by Big Finish Productions starring David Tennant as Luther Arkwright.

Bryan has also produced a wealth of work for the renowned weekly sci-fi comic *2000AD*, including working on *Judge Dredd* by Alan Grant and John Wagner. Over the last 15 years Bryan has produced work for DC Comics on titles such as *Hellblazer* (with Jamie Delano), *Sandman* (with Neil Gaiman) and the 200 page prestige format creator-owned series *The Nazz* (with Tom Veitch). He wrote and drew *Mask*, a two-part Batman story for *Legends of the Dark Knight*, which was nominated for two Eisner awards.

In 1981 he worked with Science Fiction writer Bob Shaw on the Granada TV Arts programme *Celebration* to produce *Encounter with a Madman* (Dir. David Richardson) and in 1994 he produced the concept illustrations for a TV movie adaptation of a Ramsey Campbell story, *Above the World*.

His graphic novel *The Tale of One Bad Rat*, won a raft of awards. In 1998 it appeared in the New York Times annual list of recommended reading and is a set text in some schools and universities. It has been published in fifteen countries. The book deals with the after-effects of child sexual abuse. It is used in several child abuse centres in Britain, America, Germany and Finland. The second edition of the book was published in the UK by Jonathan Cape, as the first in their new series "Classic British Graphic Novels". It is currently in development as a feature film.

In 2008, NBM published *Metronome* by one Veronique Tanaka. This was a radically experimental piece of work, a "silent" visual erotic poem in 4/4 time. Two years later, Bryan admitted that he'd written and drawn the book and that the pen name was part of the experiment. *New York Magazine* named it as one of the ten best graphic novels of 2008.

The 320 page graphic novel *Alice in Sunderland* was published in 2007 by Jonathan Cape in the UK and Dark Horse in the USA. It was nominated for a Quill Award, an Eagle, a Harvey and an Eisner and won two Comicdom awards.

Bryan's series of five steampunk thriller graphic novels *Grandville* starring a tough detective named Inspector Le Brock (who happens to be a badger) has been published in nine countries. In 2012, the French edition of *Grandville Mon Amour* won the Prix SNCF for best graphic novel and the series has twice been nominated for a Hugo Award. The series is currently in development with Euston Films as a television series.

*Dotter of Her Father's Eyes* published in February 2012 and written by his wife, Dr Mary M Talbot, is partly autobiographical and partly about the life of Lucia Joyce, daughter of James Joyce. It won the Costa Biography Award in 2013, the first British graphic novel to win a major literary award. They have collaborated on a further three graphic novels, the latter of which Bryan is currently illustrating.

In 2000, he received the annual San Diego Comicon Inkpot Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Comic Arts".

Bryan and Mary, along with artist Sean Phillips, are the founder patrons of [The Lakes International Comics Art Festival](#), now in its 6th year, the first European-style comics festival in the UK.

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In 2014, the DVD documentary *The Graphic Novel Man: the Comics of Bryan Talbot* was released by Digital Story Engine.

For more information, including a more detailed account of Bryan's work in comics and other media, please visit his website: <http://www.bryan-talbot.com>