

## ABOUT BRIAN SELZNICK



Photo by Jamey Mazzie

Born and raised in New Jersey, Brian Selznick cannot remember a time when he was *not* drawing and making things. His mural of a dinosaur on his fifth grade classroom wall was a big hit, and he had a one-man show in junior high school.

He graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with the intention of becoming a set designer for the theater, but a job designing window displays at Eeyore's Children's Bookstore in New York City changed his mind. Working at the store became a crash course in children's literature, and his first book was published while he worked there.

Soon he left to pursue a full-time career in children's book illustration; he also has designed theater sets and is a professional puppeteer. His first book, *The Houdini Box*, was inspired by a fascination with the famous magician and his secrets. He has illustrated both novels and picture books for other writers, including the Sibert Honor books, *When Marian Sang* by Pam Muñoz Ryan and *Walt Whitman: Words for America* by Barbara Kerley. His illustrations for Barbara Kerley's *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* won a Caldecott Honor Award in 2002; and in 2008, his groundbreaking and breathtaking *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* was awarded the Caldecott Medal.

He divides his time between Brooklyn, New York, and San Diego, California.