

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sam Patch—daredevil extraordinaire—leaps off the page in this dynamic, exciting biography!**

New York, NY—March 2009—**SAM PATCH: Daredevil Jumper** (Holiday House/\$16.95), a captivating picture book about a nineteenth-century daredevil from critically acclaimed author and illustrator Julie Cummins and Michael Allen Austin, will have young readers jumping with excitement.

Sam Patch is underappreciated in the ranks of daring men and women; but in this beautiful picture book biography by Julie Cummins, gorgeously illustrated by award-winning illustrator Michael Allen Austin, he gets the recognition he deserves. Folks said that when Sam Patch was born, he jumped right into his mother's arms. That was just the beginning! As a young boy working in a cotton mill, he jumped off the mill roof into the river below. When he was older, he jumped off cliffs and onto a ship, earning a reputation as a true daredevil. Then on October 17, 1829, Sam jumped into Niagara Falls! News of his death-defying leaps, and his trademark black scarf, swept the nation. **SAM PATCH: DAREDEVIL JUMPER** tells the story of this American legend.

“Sepia-infused acrylics set a tone alternating between whimsical and haunting.”—  
*Publishers Weekly*

“The details that Cummins highlights should help readers picture Sam's early 19th-century world. Austin's illustrations likewise are appropriately energetic. Exaggerated features and odd perspectives emphasize Sam's lanky frame and the daring heights to which he aspired.”—  
*Kirkus Reviews*

**Julie Cummins** was coordinator of children's services for the New York Public Library for several years. Her thrilling biographies for children have received excellent reviews, with *School Library Journal* calling her writing “spellbinding.” She lives thirty miles south of where Sam made his last jump, in upstate New York.

**Michael Allen Austin** is the award-winning illustrator of several children's books. *Publishers Weekly* has exclaimed that his illustrations are “wild and wily,” and *Booklist* has called his art “unusual and exuberant.” His website is [www.austinillustration.com](http://www.austinillustration.com).

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### **SAM PATCH: Daredevil Jumper**

By Julie Cummins, illustrated by Michael Allen Austin

Holiday House • Ages 4-8 • 32 pages • \$16.95

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