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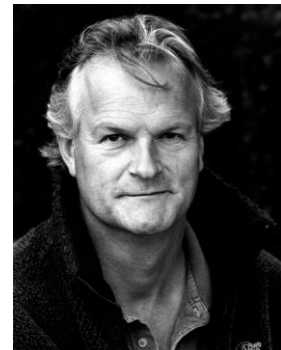
Actor Clive Mantle Takes Children's Adventure Fiction to New Heights!

Award Publications, the Nottinghamshire based award-winning independent children's publisher, to release actor Clive Mantle's debut novel for children on the 24th May 2018.

Clive Mantle is a much-loved British actor, a star of both stage and screen for over 40 years. He is perhaps best known for playing Little John in Robin of Sherwood, Great Jon Umber in Game of Thrones and Mike Barratt in Casualty. His voice is also well known from his work on over 180 audio books, and voicing animated characters, including Gator in Thomas the Tank Engine.

In the first of *The Adventures of Freddie Malone* series, *The Treasure at the Top of the World* Freddie receives an intriguing and unusual thirteenth birthday present from his Uncle Patrick. The ancient world map goes straight up on his wall, but Freddie fast discovers that the map is much more than just a decorative historic artefact. Freddie, and his best friend, Connor, are soon plunged into a mountainous adventure, on a path that leads to a long-buried mystery, pursued by ruthless adversaries who'll go to any lengths to get what they want.

Of his debut novel, Clive said, "Everest has been my passion since childhood, when my Father enthused me with its many tales. Years later, I realised a lifetime's ambition and set foot on the mountain myself, and the magnificence of the experience is with me every day. I have woven a tale of adventure in the past and present against the wondrous backdrop of Nepal and its people. I am thrilled that the story I wrote for my own son to pass on the flame has now found a wider audience, who will hopefully have their imaginations stimulated as mine was as a young boy."



Literary agent, Penny Luithlen, discovered Clive's writing, "When a contact at BBC Audiobooks to whom Clive had shown the manuscript, called and said, 'I think you should see this!' I loved everything about it and was immediately excited. It's a classic, thrilling adventure that effortlessly took me half way around the world: I couldn't stop turning the pages!"

Anna Wilkinson, Managing Director of Award Publications said, "We are thrilled to be publishing Clive's debut novel. Without exception, the team has thoroughly enjoyed working on all aspects of this project and we can't wait to share it with the rest of the world!"

Notes for editors

George Mallory disappeared with his climbing partner, Andrew Irvine, during their attempt to summit Everest in May 1924. His remains were discovered by American climber and mountaineer Conrad Anker and his team in 1999. Controversially, within Mallory's belongings was *not* the photo of his beloved wife, Ruth, that he had intended to leave on the summit of Everest should he and Irvine succeed. This has led many to believe that Mallory and Irvine may well have been the first to summit the Top of the World – albeit not with a successful return to Base Camp.

ENDS

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About Award Publications

Established in 1972, Award Publications is an independent, award-winning children's publisher. Based in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, the creative team produce over 30 titles annually for children from birth to teens, across early learning, gift, picture story and fiction ranges. Supplying the UK and international markets for over 4 decades, they export to over 70 countries around the world.

About the author:

Born in Barnet, Clive Mantle has been a well-loved British actor for nearly 40 years. As a boy in the 1960s he sang with St John's College Choir Cambridge, went to the National Youth Theatre and trained at RADA in the 1970's and has been a fixture on stage and screen ever since.

Clive's passions are walking and fresh air, in the wonderful Wiltshire countryside. Clive's inspiration to write what is now the first in the series of the Freddie Malone stories came during a trek to the Mount Everest Base Camp for the charity 'Hope and Homes for Children'. He has since returned to the Himalayas and completed the Annapurna circuit.