

Easton man gets book published

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EASTON A New Jersey native's first book, created in his Easton home among his collection of creatures, three kids, two dogs and one wife, reaches stores today.

Random House Children's Books released 35,000 copies of Timothy Young's 14-page pop-up book, *I'm Looking for a Monster* and Young has had his fingers crossed for months.

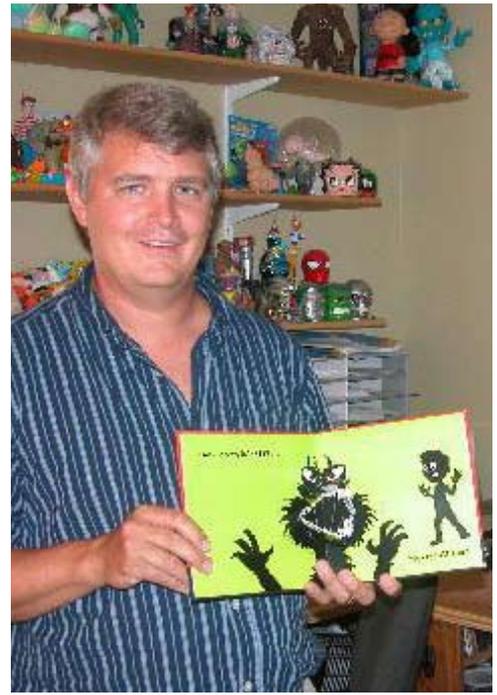
"I hope the kids like it," Young said. "I finally have something out there with my name on it." For years, Young freelanced, creating toys and characters for various agencies in New York City, New Jersey and London. Young designed the character Penny for "Pee-wee's Play-

house" and Simpson toys for fast food restaurants, worked on Peter Gabriel's video *Big Time* and Nickelodeon's *Doug* and created several *Meanies*, spin-offs of the *Beanie Baby* craze in the 1990s. He also did animated commercials and 3-D images for magazine covers.

Young thought he would never leave his last stint as design director for a New Jersey-based toy company, but found himself uninspired creatively. He realized he needed to venture out on his own if he wanted to stop creating someone else's ideas.

Over the years, Young said he saw ideas similar to his sell, which left him thinking, "if only I had gotten there first." Eventually, he gained enough confidence in his ideas and moved to High Banks, a development between Easton and Denton, to work for himself. He lives there with his wife, Melanie, and their three children, Annabel, Ian and James.

Young formed his company, *Creatures and Characters, LLC*, and started working on his ideas, but didn't know which one would catch on first.



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A chance meeting with an editor at Random House plotted his course when the agent liked Young's company logo and asked for a book based on the design. Young produced *I'm Looking for a Monster* and the publisher picked the book up one month later.

But Young is not an overnight sensation it took 25 years to get his own creation published.

As a young adult, Young got in trouble for doodling in school and "accidentally" attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., as an illustration major. His parents didn't think he could earn a living drawing pictures.

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When he graduated from Pratt, Young had an apartment filled with sculptures and headed to an animation company for a job. The head of the company kept putting him off, so Young sculpted a can of sardines with his name and number on it. It worked. Young scored an appointment and a job sculpting models for Penny.

When Young's name rolled down his parent's television screen in the credits of "Pee-wee's Playhouse," his dad took a picture of the screen and sent it to him.

Young's sculpture collection followed him across two continents before landing on the shelves in his

High Banks home office. The toys in his collection need story lines, he said, and Young has ideas for an animated series, more books and toys.

He knows there are no guarantees, but intends to keep trying.

"I wasn't focused for a long time," he said. "Then I realized I can have a career doing creative things. I hope to get to a point where people like my work."

Young never followed a straight path and hasn't always made the most sensible business choices, he said, but he's at his most creative here on the Eastern Shore.

"I'm not very corporate," Young said. "It's positive as long as I continue to evolve and grow."

Young will host a book reading at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Talbot County Free Library on Dover Street in Easton and will sign books from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 12 at the Olde Town Creamery on Goldsborough Street in Easton.

Order information, contests and other fun stuff are available at the book's Web site at www.imlookingforamonster.com. Pictures of his creations are available at www.creaturesandcharacters.com.
