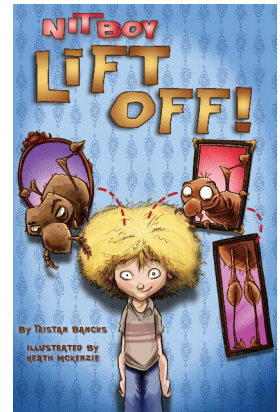
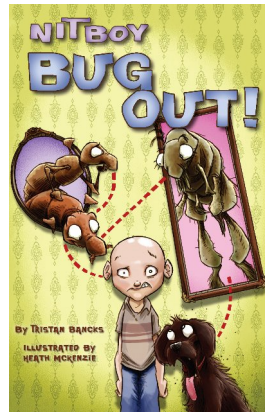


Nit Boy

By Tristan Bancks

Gun Australian author Tristan Bancks has not only created a new series, but a new genre – Nit Lit – with *Nit Boy*.

The multi-talented Bancks (actor, presenter, filmmaker and writer) reckons that writing for kids is the greatest job in the world because you can get loose, peel off the top of your head, pour stuff out and see what happens.



And that's exactly what he's done with *Nit Boy*, the hilarious story of two 'blood-brothers': Ned, a reluctant head louse and Lewis, his nit-loving human companion. With 23% of primary school kids having nits at any one time, it's certainly a topic most Australian families have had to deal with!

The series starts with *Lift Off!* and introduces us to Lewis who's had nits pretty much his entire life ... thousands of them. His teachers and mum want to shave his head but Lewis has had nits for so long that he sees them as his pets. Meanwhile, in the dense forest on Lewis's head, Ned, the first-ever jumping louse, has just been born. And the nits are poised to take over the town, the country, the world!

Bug Out! sees poor Lewis trying to cope with not only his head having been shaved, but the loss of his beloved pets (or so he thinks). Miraculously, Ned has managed to survive in the orange goo of Lewis's ear, and is on a mission to find his mother (and the answer as to why he can jump!).

Both books are packed with humour and there are loads of interesting nit facts that Tristan has woven into the story - perfect not only for all bug-loving kids, but reluctant readers too! Both books end with a little quiz, and Heath McKenzie's illustrations complement the story brilliantly.

Nit Boy ... They'll make you laugh. They'll make you cry. They'll make you itch.

About Tristan Bancks



Tristan Bancks has worked locally and internationally as an actor, presenter, writer and filmmaker. While writing about the film industry, he was approached about being part of a children's book series and has never looked back. He is the author of the *Mac Slater*, *Coolhunter* series. Tristan lives in NSW with his family and Labrador Retriever Boston.

For more information on Tristan, see over!

You can check out more cool, gross, funny nit stuff and win prizes (like this cool flea from FuzzYard) at www.nitboy.com



Tristan Bancks is highly recommended for interview

To organise an interview or giveaway, please contact:

Sue Anna Purcell on mob: 041 436 2858 or email: sueanna@optusnet.com.au

Q&A with Tristan Bancks

Why write about nits?

Why **not** write about nits? Nits rock. I don't know if that's ever been said before but not many people have spent as much time thinking about nits as I have. We've wiped out so many species on earth but no matter how many nuclear reactors, how many polluted rivers or how much carbon dioxide we release we can't get rid of these microscopic mini-beasts who are eating our kids. Now try telling me that nits aren't made of awesome.

Have you ever had nits?

Yup. I remember the bad old days of nit shampoo. I'm scarred for life. But that was back when shampoos worked. In the last ten years nits have come a long way. Kids now are dealing with intergalactic, industrial-strength super nits. These things cannot be stopped.

Do you prefer writing to acting?

I like that writers can work in their pyjamas. Whereas actors have to wait for a nighttime scene for that opportunity. I like that you don't have to wear makeup as a writer. Much more manly. I like that writers never have to get up at 4am and get thrown into the deep ocean and float there for five hours while 72 takes of a scene are filmed. But the catering isn't as good as a writer. No banana muffins. No big icy jugs of orange cordial. No women throwing themselves at you.

Do you have any pets?

A golden labrador retriever called Boston. He features in *Nitboy: Bugout* as a chocolate lab. I needed his fur to be dark so it'd be harder for the nits who land on him to make their way through the forest. If you haven't read the book yet, that probably sounds a bit weird. It is.

What's the worst thing that's ever happened to you?

I once walked into a friend's garage in the dark with bare feet and trod in dog poo. I screamed and took another step and trod in another giant steaming pile with the other foot. It squished up between my toes. That was pretty bad.



What's the best ...?

I once went on a date to the movies with the Queen. That was nice. It was the royal gala movie premiere at the Odeon in London's Leicester Square. She was late, as usual. But she looked beautiful. Old, but beautiful. There was no kissing involved, I promise. I was a gentleman. I did try to hold hands with her but security stopped me. Alright, maybe it wasn't officially a 'date'. She was sitting two rows in front of me and she may not have known that I was in the room but, to me, it was like we were the only two people there.

Most embarrassing moment?

I used to have this recurring nightmare where I was at school, doing a play and, at the end, the crowd was going wild, laughing, screaming, cheering and I was lapping it up. Then I looked down and I was naked. Does everyone have this dream? No? Just me, huh? Wonder what it means. I don't imagine it's good.

Colour-in sheet available!