

***Revolting Rhymes* and *The Highway Rat* now streaming only on Showmax**

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- *Revolting Rhymes* and *The Highway Rat* are both first and only on Showmax in Africa
- *Revolting Rhymes* was nominated for an Oscar and won 15 major international awards
- *The Highway Rat* is in competition for Best TV Film at Annecy next week
- *Revolting Rhymes* and *The Highway Rat* both animated in Cape Town at Triggerfish



"The small girl smiles. One eyelid flickers. She whips a pistol from her knickers."

There's the story of Little Red Riding Hood that everyone knows and then there's the Roald Dahl version. Dahl may be best known for bestselling children's books like *Matilda*, *The BFG*, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, *James and The Giant Peach* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*, but it's [Revolting Rhymes](#), his collection of rebooted fairy tales, that parents love to read the most.



"I guess you think you know this story. You don't. The real one's much more gory," Dahl writes at the beginning of the first story in the collection, a subversive reworking of Cinderella. "The phoney one, the one you know, was cooked up years and years ago, and made to sound all soft and sappy, just to keep the children happy."

Now Dahl's wicked sense of humour has been brought to life in *Revolting Rhymes*, a two-part animated special that is screening first and only on [Showmax](#) in Africa. Like Dahl did, the animation has reimagined the familiar stories anew, structuring them around the friendship of the pistol-packing Red Riding Hood and her resourceful best friend, Snow White. The Big Bad Wolf, seven jockeys with gambling debts, and three property-developing pigs all feature, as does Cinderella's fairy godmother, Jack and a beanstalk and his nasty mother.

If you're looking for a story to discourage your daughter from waiting for a prince to solve all her problems, this is the animated special for you. And if you're looking for an animation to enjoy without kids, this is equally the animated special for you.

[Revolting Rhymes](#) was nominated for an Oscar and won 15 of the world's biggest animation awards, including the International Emmy Kids Award for Animation; Best Animation at the BAFTA Children's Awards; Best Animated Special at the Annie Awards; and Best One-Off Special at Kidscreen.

Quentin Blake's illustrations were brought to life in Cape Town by Triggerfish, who animated [Revolting Rhymes](#) for Magic Light Pictures alongside Magic Light's Berlin office.

[Revolting Rhymes](#) was directed by Jakob Schuh (Oscar-nominated for *The Gruffalo*) and Jan Lachauer (Oscar-nominated for *Room on the Broom*) and co-directed by Bin Han To. It's voiced by a stellar cast that includes Dominic West (*The Affair*) as The Wolf; Rose Leslie (*Game of Thrones*) as Red Riding Hood; and Gemma Chan (*Humans*) as Snow White.

[Showmax](#) now has all three of the BBC Christmas specials that Triggerfish has animated for Magic Light Pictures: [Stick Man](#) (2015), [Revolting Rhymes](#) (2016) and [The Highway Rat](#) (2017), which is also first and only on [Showmax](#) in Africa.

An adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's bestseller, [The Highway Rat](#) is a swashbuckling tale of a greedy rat who craves buns and biscuits and comes to a sticky end. People's Choice winner David Tennant (*Doctor Who*, *Broadchurch*) leads an impressive cast in the title role. After screening to 7.5 million people over Christmas on the BBC, [The Highway Rat](#) recently won the Audience Award for three- to six-year-olds at New York International Children's Film Festival.



Image: Magic Light Pictures

Next week, [The Highway Rat](#) will compete for Best TV Film at Annecy, the world's most prestigious animation festival, which runs from 11-16 June 2018 in France. This is the third year in a row that a Magic Light Pictures production with animation from Triggerfish is in line for the award; their previous collaborations, *Revolting Rhymes* and *Stick Man*, won the Grand Cristal Award in Annecy for TV in 2017 and 2016 respectively.

[Showmax](#) also has Magic Light's previous Donaldson/Scheffler adaptations, [The Gruffalo](#), [The Gruffalo's Child](#) and [Room On The Broom](#), which also all won at Annecy.

Africa's leading animation studio, Triggerfish has produced two of the top five highest-grossing South African feature films of all time: *Adventures in Zambezia* (2012) and *Khumba* (2013). Triggerfish is currently in production on their third feature film, *Seal Team*, and on *Zog*, another Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler adaptation produced by Magic Light Pictures for BBC for Christmas 2018. Jeremy Collins and Kelly Dillon's short film, *Belly Flop*, is also screening at Annecy, as part of the closing ceremony. [Start watching now »](#)

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