



Contact:
Amanda D'Acierno
212-782-9810
adacierno@randomhouse.com

AUDIO BOOK SALES RECORDS SET BY J. K. ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE

New York, NY (18 July 2005)-- HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE by J. K. Rowling sold more than 165,000 copies in its compact disc and cassette Listening Library formats on Saturday and Sunday, the largest first two-day sale in the history of the audio book medium, Random House, Inc. reports. Sales were twenty percent greater than those of the previous HARRY POTTER audio book, published by Listening Library in 2003. In another sales milestone, both Amazon.com and Bn.com have been ranking the CD version as their #2 bestselling title overall, behind the #1 bestselling hardcover, an unprecedented showing for an audio.

Listening Library is the children's audiobook imprint of Random House, Inc.

The sales achievements were announced today by David Naggar, President, Random House Diversified Publishing Group, which includes the company's audio publishing. "This weekend's audiobook sales of Harry Potter are unlike anything the industry has ever seen. It is very gratifying to watch how the fan base for J. K. Rowling's stories, narrated by Jim Dale, continues to grow and grow," says Mr. Naggar,

Listening Library published the unabridged audiobook in both cassette and CD formats with a list price of \$50 and \$75 respectively and announced a record-breaking audiobook first printing of 635,000 copies. The unabridged CD recording accounted for 68 percent of sales with the cassette format the remaining 32 percent. Adding the sales to date for HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE brings total Harry Potter audiobooks in print to more than 5 million copies.

Grammy® award-winning narrator Jim Dale read before thousands Friday night at Barnes & Noble's flagship location on Union Square in New York City. Jim Dale will tour Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., in the coming weeks to promote the audiobook editions of the Harry Potter series.

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