



TNA Wrestling's Rockstar Spud becomes an Ambassador for Starlight

Starlight Children's Foundation is delighted to announce that TNA wrestler Rockstar Spud has become an Ambassador for the charity, which grants wishes for seriously and terminally ill children and provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

The former two-time TNA X-Division Champion is the charity's first ever pro wrestling Ambassador and joins Matt Smith, Keira Knightley, Rupert Grint and Sienna Miller as a Starlight Ambassador.

Rockstar Spud granted a wish for six year old wrestling mega-fan Reegon in July this year. Reegon was born with severe heart defects and wished to meet his wrestling idol. With the help of TNA, Starlight arranged for the two of them to spend the day together. Rockstar Spud was incredibly moved by the experience and described the meeting as the "best day of my life".

Commenting on becoming an Ambassador, Rockstar Spud said: *"When Starlight approached me to become an Ambassador for their charity it dawned on me that this is the first time a professional wrestler born in the United Kingdom has been given such an amazing opportunity to work with a charity like Starlight, who grant wishes for terminally ill children across the UK."*

"The best gift this industry has given me is the ability to put smiles on people's faces. Professional wrestling gives children a window to forget all of life's problems, live vicariously through their heroes on the screen and express their emotions."

"I have seen first hand how much of an impact a Starlight Wish can have on a seriously ill child; it really does make a massive difference to them and their family. I am so proud to be able to call myself a Starlight Ambassador and I'm excited about the possibilities this partnership will bring."

Starlight and TNA Wrestling have already worked together on four projects over the last year, with children meeting wrestling heroes and international superstars including Rockstar Spud, Jeff Hardy, Matt Hardy and Drew Galloway.

Rockstar Spud added: *"Most recently, Starlight, TNA and Scottish based promotion ICW all teamed up to arrange for a young lad by the name of Mackenzie to spend time in a wrestling ring with Drew Galloway. He was given his own wrestling name of 'Stomper MacKenzie', entrance video and contract. Basically what every young wrestling fan dreams of. That is what this is all about!"*

In his ambassadorial role, Birmingham-born Rockstar Spud will help grant wishes, attend Starlight's Escape Days and encourage more TNA Stars and other wrestlers to support the charity.

Neil Swan, Chief Executive of Starlight Children's Foundation, said, *"We are thrilled to welcome Rockstar Spud on board as an Ambassador. It is fabulous to have someone as passionate and dedicated to our cause as Rockstar Spud. He really is a true role model to so many of our Starlight children and we sincerely look forward to working with him."*

ENDS

CONTACT DETAILS

STARLIGHT: Laura Thomas on laura.thomas@starlight.org.uk and 020 7262 2881 # 231 / +44 7781 221 1772

TNA WRESTLING: Simon Rothstein on simon@srxconsultancy.com and +44 7740 647 764

ABOUT STARLIGHT

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 92p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

For more information, please contact Laura Thomas, laura.thomas@starlight.org.uk/ 020 7262 2881 # 231.

ABOUT TNA ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

TNA Entertainment, LLC, is a privately held sports entertainment company represented by United Talent Agency and based in Nashville, Tennessee, specialising in television properties, events, products, merchandise and music, as well as the management and promotion of professional wrestlers.

The roster features such greats as Jeff Hardy, Kurt Angle, EC3, Matt Hardy, Lashley, Bobby Roode, the high-flying X-Division including Tigre Uno, and Gail Kim and the lovely and lethal Knockouts, through its highly successful flagship IMPACT WRESTLING weekly broadcast. The product is the world's most innovative experience in professional wrestling and is broadcast in more than 120 countries.

For more information, visit www.IMPACTWRESTLING.com or follow @IMPACTWRESTLING on Twitter.