



The Jim Henson Company, TOKYOPOP, and Neil Gaiman Set to Bring *MirrorMask* and Classic Fantasy Titles to Manga

Original Graphic Novels Based on *MirrorMask*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Labyrinth* Scheduled for Fall 2006 Release

Los Angeles, CA (July 15, 2005) – The Jim Henson Company has partnered with TOKYOPOP Inc., the #1 publisher of manga in the U.S., in an exclusive manga publishing deal to bring three of its fantasy titles to fans. Most notable among them is *MirrorMask*, the feature film from Dave McKean and Neil Gaiman due for release on September 30 th of this year. TOKYOPOP's *MirrorMask* prequel manga story will be plotted by Gaiman, the award-winning writer of the highly successful *Sandman* comics as well as the novels *Good Omens* and *Coraline*. Also included in the deal will be all-new original graphic novel series for the immensely popular properties *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*.

The *MirrorMask* prequel will tell the story of the princess' escape from the Dark Palace and how she came to acquire the MirrorMask.

TOKYOPOP also plans to release a sequel manga to *Labyrinth*, which first hit the big screen in 1986, remained a fan favorite over the years and also served as an inspiration for *MirrorMask*. Its manga version will follow a 13-year-old Toby as he journeys back to the Labyrinth to assume his role as the heir to the Goblin Kingdom. Manga writer Jake Forbes will write this series.

The final title will be a prequel to 1982's *The Dark Crystal*, the classic tale of good versus evil that broke ground as the first fully animatronic feature. Henson also recently announced that it is in reproduction on a sequel theatrical film of this cult classic.

Gaiman said, "As soon as I heard that Henson wanted to do manga versions of *Labyrinth* and *The Dark Crystal*, I immediately wanted to include *MirrorMask* as well. Having the leader of manga handle all three titles seems like the perfect way to present them to readers around the world."

"TOKYOPOP has consistently had innovative publishing and entertainment programs," said Michael Polis, Senior Vice President of Marketing for The Jim Henson Company. "Knowing the devoted followers these different titles have had over the years, we are thrilled to more fully explore these much-loved worlds with all-new manga series ."

"*The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth* movies are so loved and iconic, and I have no doubt that *MirrorMask* will achieve the same status -- so it's a joy for me and for TOKYOPOP to be able to work with The Jim Henson Company and Neil Gaiman on these great titles," said TOKYOPOP editor Rob Valois.

About TOKYOPOP®

As the largest English-language publisher of manga in the world, TOKYOPOP is hailed as a leading youth-oriented entertainment brand. TOKYOPOP's innovative product extensions include its pioneering Cine-Manga ® book format, which features colorful flavors of pop culture's hottest films, television shows and music videos. The company has expanded its property reach beyond publishing—TOKYOPOP's television series have been broadcast in the United States on Cartoon Network, Showtime and G4Media, and are released on DVD, with consumer products available at all major retail outlets. The company's global reach has recently expanded to Europe, with new offices in the UK and Germany, in addition to its Los Angeles and Tokyo operations. With nearly 28 million books in print, TOKYOPOP's award-winning catalogue of

licensed and original properties features more than 200,000 pages of manga compiled over nearly 1,000 manga volumes. Visit www.TOKYOPOP.com for additional information.



THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

The Jim Henson Company has remained an established leader in family entertainment for over 50 years and is recognized worldwide as an innovator in puppetry, animatronics and digital animation. Best known as creators of the world famous Muppets, Henson has received over 50 Emmy Awards and nine Grammy Awards. Recent credits include the Emmy® nominated "Sid the Science Kid," "Dinosaur Train," "Wilson & Ditch: Digging America" and "Pajanimals." Features include "The Dark Crystal," "Labyrinth," "MirrorMask," and "Unstable Fables" and television productions include "Fraggle Rock" and the sci-fi cult series "Farscape."

With additional locations in New York and London, The Jim Henson Company is headquartered in Los Angeles on the historic Charlie Chaplin lot, complete with soundstage and postproduction facilities. Independently owned and operated by the five adult children of founder Jim Henson, the Company is also home to Jim Henson's Creature Shop™, a pre-eminent character-building and visual effects group with international film, television and advertising clients, as well as Henson Recording Studios, one of the music industry's top recording facilities known for its world-class blend of state-of-the-art and vintage equipment. The Company's Henson Alternative brand has recently announced the national tour of "Stuffed and Unstrung," a live puppet improvisational show named one of the top 10 "Best Stage Shows of 2010" by *Entertainment Weekly*.

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