



**WALDEN MEDIA, FOX 2000 AND THE JIM HENSON COMPANY BRING THE  
WORLD OF EDWARD GOREY TO THE BIG SCREEN FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH  
“THE DOUBTFUL GUEST”**

*Live-action adaptation of Gorey’s beloved classic to be directed by Brad Peyton and written by  
Matthew Huffman*

LOS ANGELES (April 5, 2007) – Walden Media, Fox 2000 and The Jim Henson Company have joined forces to develop and produce a live-action feature film adaptation of Edward Gorey’s whimsical classic book “The Doubtful Guest”, marking the first time a Gorey work has been made into a feature film. The story revolves around a quirky family whose life is turned upside down when a mysterious and mischievous creature arrives unannounced and unwelcome, bringing trouble with him and wreaking havoc. Ultimately, no one’s life will be the same once they’ve met The Doubtful Guest.

The film will be released by Twentieth Century Fox and Walden Media through their Fox Walden banner. Brad Peyton (“Evelyn: The Cutest Evil Dead Girl”) is attached to direct and Matthew Huffman will write the screenplay. Producing duties will be handled by The Jim Henson Company’s co-CEOs Lisa Henson and Brian Henson, and Jason Lust, the company’s Senior Vice President of Feature Films. [Jim Henson’s Creature Shop](#), the company’s visual and special effects division, will bring the film’s title creature to life using a blend of CGI and animatronics.

Currently published by Harcourt, “The Doubtful Guest” has been a favorite worldwide since its debut in 1957. Described by *The New York Times* as “a grand master of the comic macabre”, Edward Gorey wrote more than 100 books in his lifetime and illustrated books for such writers as T.S. Eliot and Samuel Becket. He was also a very successful set and costume designer,

earning a Tony Award for his Broadway production of *Edward Gorey's Dracula*. Animated sequences of his work have introduced the PBS series *Mystery!* since 1980. Gorey died in 2000.

Walden Media Executive Vice President of Production Alex Schwartz and Senior Vice President of Production Jackie Levine will be overseeing the project for the company. Executive Vice President of Production Carla Hacken will oversee for Fox 2000. Peyton is represented by Endeavor. Huffman is represented by CAA.

### **About Walden Media**

Walden Media specializes in entertainment that sparks imagination and engages young people in the learning process. Producing both original works and adaptations of acclaimed children's literature, Walden Media projects are enhanced by comprehensive outreach and supplemental programs for teachers, librarians, and parents. In August 2006, Walden Media entered into a joint venture with Twentieth Century Fox to market and release family films for audiences of all ages.

### **About Fox Filmed Entertainment**

One of the world's largest producers and distributors of motion pictures, Fox Filmed Entertainment produces, acquires and distributes motion pictures throughout the world. These motion pictures are produced or acquired by the following units of FFE: Twentieth Century Fox, Fox 2000 Pictures, Fox Searchlight Pictures, Fox Atomic, and Twentieth Century Fox Animation

### **About 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 computer graphics. Best known as creators of the world famous Muppets (the rights to which are now owned by The Walt Disney Company), Henson is the recipient of over 50 Emmy Awards and nine Grammy Awards. Credits include the Saturn Award-winning "Farscape" and the features "MirrorMask", "Five Children and It" and "Good Boy!". 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 post-production 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 recently launched "Puppet Up! – Uncensored", a live puppet improvisational show that has played to sold out crowds in Aspen, Hollywood, Edinburgh, Sydney and Melbourne and premiered as a special on TBS. The Company has also announced the creation of Jim Henson Designs, a merchandise collection inspired by Jim Henson's earliest sketches. The Jim Henson Company's website is located at: [www.henson.com](http://www.henson.com)



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The Company is currently in production on "Wilson and Ditch: Digging America," a webisode series for PBSKIDS.org featuring the Company's Emmy-winning animation technology, and the Company's Henson Alternative brand continues to produce "Puppet Up! - Uncensored," a live puppet improvisational show that runs monthly at the Avalon Hollywood. The Company has also announced the creation of The Hub, a third party licensing banner established to acquire and service global consumer products programs for external brands and entertainment properties.

<http://www.henson.com>