



THE JIM HENSON COMPANY SIGNS ROSTER OF DEALS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST FOR POPULAR PRESCHOOL SERIES *SPLASH AND BUBBLES* AND *DOT*.

HOLLYWOOD, CA – (March 28, 2017) -- The Jim Henson Company, an established leader in family entertainment for over 60 years, has signed broadcast licensing deals with key international partners for two new popular preschool series, the underwater CGI-animated adventure series, *Splash and Bubbles*, currently airing in the U.S. on PBS KIDS®, and the digital citizenship series, *Dot.*, based on the picture book by *New York Times* bestselling author Randi Zuckerberg, currently airing in the U.S. on Sprout.

In Europe, *Dot.*, has been acquired by **Piwi+** in France, part of the Canal+ family, Dreamia's **Canal Panda** in Portugal, and Sweden's national public broadcaster **SVT**. **Jim Jam** has acquired the series for the MENA and Benelux territories; and **Israel Education Television** will air the series in Israel.

In Canada, public broadcasters **TVO** (Ontario) and **Knowledge Network** (British Columbia) have acquired the broadcast rights to *Splash and Bubbles*.

"We have received an enthusiastic response for *Splash and Bubbles* and *Dot.*, and have secured top broadcast partners in key territories to introduce children to these engaging new characters," commented Ian Lambur, Management Consultant, The Jim Henson Company. "Splash and Bubbles' humorous adventures will inspire children everywhere to explore the ocean alongside their favorite new underwater friends, and *Dot.*, energetic and imaginative, will entertain children by showcasing the way she uses technology as a tool to enhance her everyday experiences and incorporate them into her playtime."

Created by John Tartaglia (*Imaginocean*, *Johnny and the Sprites*), *Splash and Bubbles* (80 x 11') premiered in fall 2016 on PBS KIDS®, and encourage kids ages 4–7 to explore the diversity and spectacle of our natural undersea world. Through humorous characters and fun-filled storylines, supported by lively music with a Motown flair, children everywhere will want to learn more about our ocean and the diverse life teeming within it. Developed with an advisory panel of top marine biologists, digital media innovators and preschool educators, *Splash and Bubbles* is produced using the Emmy Award-winning Henson Digital Puppetry Studio, a proprietary technology from Jim Henson's Creature Shop™ that allows puppeteers to perform digitally-animated characters in real-time, enabling the animation to be more lifelike and spontaneous, resulting in a unique and fresh look that is unlike traditional CG. *Splash and Bubbles* is produced by The Jim Henson Company (*Dinosaur Train*, *Sid The Science Kid*, *Doozers*) and Herschend Studios, the media arm of Herschend Enterprises (Dollywood, Harlem Globetrotters). Herschend Enterprises will support the series with broad-reaching location-based entertainment including a 4-D film with SimEx Iwerks Entertainment, live-shows and experiential attractions at theme parks, aquariums and other venues. The series is funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Dot. (52 x 11') first premiered in fall 2016 on Canada's CBC, and on Sprout, NBC Universal Cable Entertainment's 24-hour preschool network in the U.S., where it has been a top performing franchise since its debut. All past episodes of the series will stream exclusively on Hulu beginning April 15. An original

series for kids ages 4–7, based on the picture book by *New York Times* bestselling author Randi Zuckerberg, *Dot*. follows the inquisitive and exuberant tech-savvy Dot, who embarks on hilarious adventures to satisfy her imagination, curiosity and latest passion. For a girl as curious and creative as Dot, there’s no better way to spend the day than outside, exploring the world with her dog, friends, and any tool or tech that will help enhance their play and exploration. *Dot*. is produced by Industrial Brothers in association with The Jim Henson Company and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

About The Jim Henson Company

The Jim Henson Company has remained an established leader in family entertainment for over 60 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*, and *Pajanimals*, the CG-animated preschool series *Doozers*, the digital citizenship series for preschoolers *Dot.*, the Netflix series for young preschoolers *Word Party*, the marine biology themed animated series on PBS KIDS *Splash and Bubbles* and the Netflix Original preschool show *Julie’s Greenroom*, starring award-winning actress Julie Andrews. Features include Disney’s *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, as well as *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, and *MirrorMask*. Television productions include *Fraggle Rock*, the sci-fi cult series *Farscape*, Henson Alternative’s *No, You Shut Up!* and the TV film *Jim Henson’s Turkey Hollow*.

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. The Company is home to Jim Henson’s Creature Shop™, a pre-eminent character- building and visual effects group with international film, television, theme park 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 is currently touring *Puppet-Up! – Uncensored*, a live puppet improvisational show.

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About Corporation for Public Broadcasting

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of nearly 1,500 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television, and related online services. For more information, visit www.cpb.org and follow on [Twitter @CPBmedia](https://twitter.com/CPBmedia), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cpb), and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cpb).

About The National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress to promote the progress of science. Its goals are to advance the frontiers of knowledge, cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce, and expand the scientific literacy of all citizens. The Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program seeks to advance new approaches to and evidence-based understanding of the design and development of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; and advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments.

About Herschend Enterprises and Herschend Studios

Committed for more than half-a-century to Creating Memories Worth Repeating®, Herschend Enterprises is the largest family-owned attractions corporation in the U.S. Our team of more than 10,000 employees works daily to create wholesome, immersive entertainment experiences with soul and depth for every generation. With a focus on bringing families closer together, we create, develop and operate entertainment, tourism and hospitality properties spanning 24 locations in seven states, attracting over 14 million people annually. Herschend Studios is the media arm of Herschend Enterprises, committed to developing and producing family entertainment for television, film, and publishing.

Today, Herschend Enterprises' properties include the world famous HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS, award-winning theme parks like SILVER DOLLAR CITY in Branson, MO, and DOLLYWOOD, our partnership with Dolly Parton in Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains, including DOLLYWOOD'S DREAMMORE RESORT, top tier aquariums – NEWPORT AQUARIUM and ADVENTURE AQUARIUM, water parks, hotels, and other highly entertaining standalone attractions. For more information, visit www.hfecorp.com

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