

Omnifilm and The Jim Henson Company Are Ready to Ride Dinosaurs

October 16, 2018 - Omnifilm Entertainment and The Jim Henson Company are joining forces to develop the live-action kids/family series **KNIGHTS OF PANTERRA**, based on a series of novels written by Jeff Norton and set in a fantasy world where dinosaurs never went extinct. As evil descends on the small town of Brim, four ill-equipped teens facing impossible odds combine their unique skills to become freedom fighters and save their kingdom from ruthless invaders. This great responsibility brings many adventures – both scary and entertaining – because to become a Knight of Panterra, they must learn to ride DINOSAURS!

Showrunner Simon Barry (*Ghost Wars*, *Van Helsing*, *Continuum*) was brought on board to executive produce and oversee the writing of two scripts, with support from the Shaw Rocket Fund. “When Omni approached me about **Knights of Panterra**, I immediately saw the potential for a family series that would set itself apart in scope and technical challenges. With The Jim Henson Company as our partners, I know we will be able to deliver on the promise of this ambitious adventure,” said Barry. Sam Ruano (*Killjoys*, *Lost Girl*) and Rachel Langer (*Ghost Wars*, *The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco*) wrote the scripts, with strategic input from executive producer and lead director Zach Lipovsky (*Kim Possible*, *Mech-X4*). Jamie Piekarz (*Super Mighty Makers*) is also an executive producer and key creative contributor to the series.

Lisa Henson, CEO and President of The Jim Henson Company and Stanford will serve as executive producers. Brian Hamilton, Principal and Executive Producer at Omnifilm Entertainment, Simon Barry, Jamie Piekarz, Jeff Norton, and Zach Lipovsky will also service as Executive Producers.

Omnifilm partner and Executive Producer Brian Hamilton approached The Jim Henson Company knowing that they are the best in the world at what they do. Explains Hamilton, “The key to success for **Knights of Panterra** will be portraying rich and believable emotional relationships between the dino creatures and the human characters. The creative team at The Jim Henson Company excels in finding unique and ingenious ways to bring out genuine emotion in each one of their creatures.”

“It’s every kid’s dream to have a dinosaur as a pet and **Knights of Panterra** realizes that dream with beautiful realism,” said Halle Stanford, President of Television for The Jim Henson Company. “At Henson, we knew we had to be part of this world to life. It is a privilege to play in this fantastical realm that Simon Barry has so expertly crafted, as well as work with the incredibly talented people at Omnifilm. Their expertise in this space and passion for this project make them perfect creative partners.”

Jeff Norton explains, “The inspiration for the book series came from playing with my son and watching him place his toy knights onto the backs of dinosaurs. From there it evolved into an epic chapter-book filled with bravery, chivalry...and dinosaurs. I wrote the series to inspire young people to read voraciously and I couldn’t be happier that Omnifilm and The Jim Henson Company have assembled a dream team of creative professionals to bring these ‘**Knights of Panterra**’ characters to the screen in a way that will blow audiences away.”

The project is being pitched in the coming weeks.

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 *Julie’s Greenroom* (Netflix), *Dot.* (Universal Kids /Hulu), *Splash and Bubbles* (PBS), *Word Party* (Netflix), *Doozers* (Hulu/ Sprout), and the Emmy®-nominated *Sid the Science Kid* (PBS), *Dinosaur Train* (PBS), and *Pajanimals* (Universal Kids). Television productions include *Fraggle Rock*, *The Storyteller* and the sci-fi cult series *Farscape*. Features include Disney’s *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, as well as *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, *MirrorMask*, and *Jim Henson’s Turkey Hollow*. The Company is currently in production on the upcoming Netflix original series *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*. Projects in development include the highly anticipated film *Fraggle Rock*.

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. 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, and its feature *The Happytime Murders*, starring Melissa McCarthy, was released this summer.

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About Omnifilm Entertainment

Omnifilm Entertainment has recently completed *The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco*, a spin-off of the hit ITV period mystery series, which is now airing on Britbox, ITV, Citytv and coming soon to Netflix. Additionally, in the live-action kids space, the company has just delivered season 2 of *Mech-X4* for Disney XD, is in post-production on the Disney Channel Original Movie *Kim Possible*, is in production on the Disney Channel Series *Gabby Duran*, and is in post-production of the Disney Channel Series *Fast Layne*.

Other current productions include Season 3 of *Wild Bear Rescue* for Animal Planet, and Season 5 of *Jade Fever* for Discovery Canada. Omnifilm's past scripted series include: *Arctic Air* which garnered the highest premiere for a CBC 1-hour drama in over a decade; *Primeval: New World* (CTV/Space, SyFy Channel, ProSieben, and UKTV); *Defying Gravity* (ABC, CTV-Space, ProSieben, and BBC); *Dragon Boys* (CBC); and long-running dramedy *Robson Arms* (CTV). One of Omnifilm's earliest dramas, the Emmy-nominated *The Odyssey*, featured a young Ryan Reynolds in one of his first starring roles. Omnifilm's teen drama *Edgemont*, discovered both Kristin Kreuk (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Smallville*) and Grace Park (*Hawaii 5-0*, *Battlestar Galactica*).

Based in Vancouver, Omnifilm is a vertically-integrated content company handling development, production and post-production, delivery, and distribution of our brands on both traditional television and digital/VOD platforms.

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