



WILLIAM MORROW ANNOUNCES THE FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION OF

MIRRORMASK

A Jim Henson Company Production

Written by Neil Gaiman/Directed by Dave McKean

OCTOBER 6, 2004

From Neil Gaiman, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *American Gods*, and Dave McKean, the award-winning illustrator of *Coraline*, comes **MIRRORMASK**, an upcoming Jim Henson Company film written by Gaiman and directed by McKean, slated to premiere in 2005.

Merrilee Heifetz of Writers House, acting as agent for Gaiman, McKean, and The Jim Henson Company, negotiated a book deal with HarperCollins *Publishers* for two **MIRRORMASK** projects. **MIRRORMASK**, an oversized, beautifully designed volume, containing the complete script and storyboards, and augmented by notes and observations by the creators, as well as full-color art from the film, will be published in the summer of 2005 by William Morrow/An Imprint of HarperCollins *Publishers*. A **MIRRORMASK** picture book for younger readers, also written by Gaiman and illustrated with art from the movie, will also be published by HarperCollins Children's Books not long after.

Destined to become a classic for fans of Gaiman, cinema, and fantasy alike, **MIRRORMASK** tells the story of Helena, a fifteen-year-old girl who works for her family's circus. Helena juggles, sells popcorn, and wishes that she could run away from the circus and join the "real world." Then, one day she wakes up to find herself in a magical world filled with fantastic beings and creatures, an alternate reality. It is a land of opposing kingdoms, one perpetually existing in light, the other in constant darkness. These lands have existed in perfect balance, until now. And Helena finds herself about to embark on a most remarkable journey.

MIRRORMASK is a new fantasy feature film in the tradition of *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*. Gaiman wrote the screenplay and McKean directed, using a combination of live-action and CG animation. Lisa Henson, Michael R. Polis and Martin G. Baker are Executive Producers and Simon Moorhead is Producer. The film stars Stephanie Leonidas as Helena, Gina McKee as Helena's mother Joanne, as well as the two Queens, Rob Brydon as Helena's father and Jason Barry as Valentine. To see the most recent trailer from this one-of-a-kind cinematic adventure, go to www.mirrormask.com. Publicity stills are available at <http://digital.henson.com/mirrormaskpr/index.html>.

"Dave McKean and I created the story and the script for **MIRRORMASK** in the Henson family home in London, surrounded by memorabilia and artifacts from Jim Henson's astonishing career in television and fantasy filmmaking," says Gaiman. "It was a true challenge and inspiration to try to make something today that would be as visually rich, creative, funny, and as moving as Jim Henson's original works."

"Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean are pillars of creativity within the fantasy genre, and all of us at The Jim Henson Company are thrilled to partner with them on **MIRRORMASK**," said Lisa Henson, Executive Producer and co-CEO of The Jim Henson Company. "We are especially pleased that this film will mark the first time that Neil's remarkable writing and Dave's stunning artistic vision have met in a feature film. We have no doubt that this collaboration will result in a wonderfully entertaining movie."

NEIL GAIMAN is the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of the novels *American Gods*, *Neverwhere*, *Stardust*, *Coraline*, the short fiction collection *Smoke and Mirrors*, and the children's books *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish* and *The Wolves in the Walls* (*NY Times* Illustrated Book of the Year), both of which were illustrated by McKean. He lives in the United States. Visit his website at www.neilgaiman.com.

DAVE MCKEAN is an award-winning, world-renowned mixed media artist, illustrator, and director. A longtime collaborator and friend of Neil Gaiman, McKean is famous for his distinctive work on the covers for the entire run of Gaiman's CD/Vertigo "Sandman" comic book series. He lives in England.



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 launched 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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