

HI OPIE! IS BACK FOR MORE ADVENTURES IN KINDERGARTEN AS SEASON TWO ENTERS PRODUCTION

May 11, 2015 (Toronto, Canada) – Awarding-winning content creator **marblemedia** is pleased to announce that its hit live-action preschool series, *Hi Opie!* returns to production for a second season (39x7). Developed in partnership with **TVOKids** and produced in association with **The Jim Henson Company**, the series has been renewed by **TVO** (Ontario) **City Saskatchewan** (Saskatchewan) and **Knowledge Network** (British Columbia). Start of principal photography has commenced in Toronto for Season 2.

The series centres around the social, emotional and intellectual escapades of Opie, a puppet custom-built by the experts at **Jim Henson's Creature Shop™**. As a kindergartner, Opie helps to show kids how to make the transition from home to school, teaching them skills needed to have a successful start in their educational careers. With each new day, Opie learns more about himself, his real kid friends and his teachers. Each story marks a new chapter in his personal growth as he learns through the process of play – having fun, asking questions, learning the consequences of one's actions and of course, being curious.

Season 2 is set to have new interactive elements that will expand on the popularity of the current website and feature new activities including games and a mobile app.

"We were very excited by the positive response we received throughout the first season both during broadcast and online," said **Mark Bishop** Co-CEO and Executive Producer, marblemedia. "We are eager to bring new episodes to audiences so they can embark upon more adventures with Opie!. The new playground location is especially exciting as it will provide a new place for motor skill development as well as mental and environmental learning."

"TVO is thrilled to help teach preschoolers how to navigate their way through full-day kindergarten with a second season of *Hi Opie!*," said Pat Ellingson, Creative Head of Children's & Parents' Media, TVO. "A strong foundation can be set in kindergarten and *Hi Opie!* is a perfect example of how TVOKids' educational content inspires Ontario's youngest minds to excel both inside and outside the classroom."

The series will be produced by marblemedia in association with The Jim Henson Company under Executive Producers **Mark Bishop** and **Matt Hornburg**. Other executive producers include **Pat Ellingson**, TVO's Creative Head of Children's & Parents' Media, creator **Barbara Slade** (*Angelina Ballerina*, *Rugrats*) and The Jim Henson Company's **Halle Stanford**, Executive Vice President of Children's Entertainment. Returning for Season 2 is Co-Producer **Lowell Dean** of **Lolofilms Productions Inc.**, series Producer **Lawrence S. Mirkin** (*Fraggle Rock*) and Executive Story Editor **Kate Barris** (*Max & Ruby*, *Captain Flamingo*). marblemedia's **Mik Perlus** will also serve as Co-Executive Producer on the series.

Season 1 of the series was recently licensed to **Netflix** in the **United States**, **United Kingdom**, **Australia** and **New Zealand**. Worldwide distribution is handled by The Jim Henson Company, other than in Canada, Australia and France, which is administered by **Distribution360**, a marblemedia company.

For more information and updates, follow [@HiOpie_TV](https://twitter.com/HiOpie_TV) or "like" *Hi Opie!* on Facebook.com/HiOpie.TV and join the conversation with the hashtag #HiOpie.

About marbledmedia

marbledmedia develops, produces and distributes engaging multiplatform entertainment experiences for audiences around the world. With nearly 250 hours of programming distributed in more than 200 territories, marbledmedia has been honoured by Playback Magazine with the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award, in addition to being named Transmedia Producer of the Year (2011) by the publication. marble has won a Canadian Screen Award, two Gemini Awards, been nominated for an Emmy® Award and was identified as a Next Generation Content Producer (2009) by The Hollywood Reporter. The company owns a 50-acre production ranch, operates a Toronto-based studio, home to 50 staff, and an L.A. office. The company was co-founded by Mark Bishop and Matt Hornburg in 2001. www.marbledmedia.com | [@marbledmedia](https://twitter.com/marbledmedia) | [Facebook.com/marbledmedia](https://www.facebook.com/marbledmedia)

About TVO

As the technological extension of Ontario's public education system, TVO's vision is to create a better world through the power of learning. TVO provides learning opportunities for Ontarians through innovative educational products, in-depth current affairs, groundbreaking documentaries, and award-winning TVOKids resources both inside and outside the classroom. TVO is funded primarily by the Province of Ontario and is a registered charity supported by sponsors and thousands of donors. For more information, visit tvo.org.

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 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*, as well as the CG-animated preschool series *Doozers*. Features include *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*, the reality competition, *Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge*, and Henson Alternative's *No, You Shut Up!* currently airing on Fusion.

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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