



Press Release

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## **Cosmic Picture announces production of *Superpower Dogs*<sup>™</sup>, a major new film for IMAX® and Giant Screen Theaters**

Cosmic Picture announced today that pre-production has begun on *Superpower Dogs*, a giant screen family adventure about extraordinary dogs that fight crime and save lives. Filmed in 2D and 3D, and presented in association with the California Science Center, the film will re-unite the creative team behind the Cosmic Picture award-winning giant screen film *Jerusalem*. Writer/Director Daniel Ferguson joins with Producers Taran Davies, George Duffield and Dominic Cunningham-Reid on this major film project for IMAX® and giant screen theaters.

Fresh from the blockbuster combo presentation of the giant screen film *Jerusalem* and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition, the California Science Center and Cosmic Picture are joining forces to develop the *Science of Dogs* exhibit, which will open alongside the film's world premiere at the California Science Center in the Spring 2018, before release to IMAX® and giant screen theaters worldwide.

The film follows five real-life canine superheroes and their human partners as they brave earthquakes and avalanches, bring animal poachers to justice, protect us from danger and lift our spirits. Location scouting and casting will begin on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Whistler, Canada at the annual training course of CARDA, the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association. Filming is planned throughout 2016 and 2017 at locations around the world, including Italy, Kenya, Switzerland, Canada and the U.S.

Specially designed camera equipment and visceral CGI will allow audiences to experience the world as never before: through the eyes, ears and nose of a dog. Audiences will discover the amazing abilities of different breeds and the remarkable ways in which humans are harnessing their cognitive, sensory and intuitive superpowers.

According to Taran Davies, Producer and Co-Founder of Cosmic Picture, "Dogs have been saving and helping humans for tens of thousands of years, but their achievements and abilities are little known to the public. This film will showcase the heroic accomplishments of search and rescue, therapy and medical detection dogs in a way that people have never seen before. Our goal is to deepen people's appreciation for these remarkable animals and to celebrate the profound bond between us."

George Duffield, Producer and Co-Founder of Cosmic Picture, promises, “this will be the most immersive and revealing film ever created about our best friends. We’ve spent over a year identifying dogs with remarkable abilities in spectacular locations that really belong on a seven-storey high giant screen. This is like nothing people have ever seen on TV or online. We’re going to put people in the heart of the action, whether it’s Newfoundland’s leaping from helicopters to save people from drowning, Labrador puppies training to rescue earthquake victims or Bloodhounds protecting endangered species in Africa. Pet lovers are going to go crazy for this experience.”

California Science Center President Jeff Rudolph notes that, “We are excited to be working with Cosmic Picture on the joint development of a film and exhibition on dogs, a subject that is near and dear to so many people around the world. The pairing of exhibits and films has proven to be effective in creating memorable experiences that enlighten and more deeply engage our guests in science learning. They will be fascinated to explore the latest science has discovered about the evolution of dogs, their behaviour, amazing capabilities, desires, memories and emotions. They will see the world through their dog’s eyes and learn about this incredibly successful interspecies partnership.”

**Get involved directly with social media and be part of this amazing film:**

From sea rescue to fetching the mail, there's a superpower somewhere in every dog and we want to find it! Share a snap of your super pooch with us on Instagram by using the hashtag #SuperpowerDogs or tagging @SuperpowerDogs in your photo, and be sure to say what your pup’s superpower is in the description of the photo. Alternatively, you can email it to [hello@superpowerdogs.com](mailto:hello@superpowerdogs.com). **Every dog has a superpower, what's yours?**

Immersing you head first into the making of a 3D giant screen movie, the Superpower Dogs social media sites will offer behind the scenes featurettes, interviews and more exclusive video content offering an insight into the giant screen movie world. Alongside this, explore top tips and facts about your dogs, and follow the stories of individual Superpower Dogs and the amazing foundations and organizations who nurture and grow their abilities. There is so much to learn about our brilliant furry friends, join the conversation:

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/SuperpowerDogs](http://www.twitter.com/SuperpowerDogs)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SuperpowerDogs](http://www.facebook.com/SuperpowerDogs)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/superpowerdogs](http://www.instagram.com/superpowerdogs)  
Web: [www.SuperpowerDogs.com](http://www.SuperpowerDogs.com)

**ENDS**

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## **Notes for Editors**

### **Cosmic Picture**

Cosmic Picture seeks to make the most compelling cinematic experiences possible and to change people's perception of the universe in unexpected ways. For more information on Cosmic Picture, visit [www.cosmicpicture.com](http://www.cosmicpicture.com)

### **California Science Center**

The California Science Center is a dynamic destination where families, adults and children can explore the wonders of science through interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, innovative programs and awe- inspiring films.

For more information on the California Science Center, visit [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org)

### **Taran Davies**

Taran co-founded Cosmic Picture in 2004 and conceived and produced the award winning giant screen/IMAX® films *Journey to Mecca* and *Jerusalem*. He has also written and directed several critically acclaimed documentary films including *Afghan Stories*, which was described by the Anthology of Cult Films as one of the best documentary films ever made. Taran studied filmmaking at Harvard ('93) and worked in finance and venture capital for several years in New York City.

### **George Duffield**

George has produced feature films such as *Milk* and *Dot the I*, starring Gael Garcia Bernal, which premiered at Sundance and won the Deauville Audience Award. He produced the feature documentary, *The End of The Line*, which has been called "An Inconvenient Truth for the Oceans" by The Economist and which won the Puma Creative Impact prize for the film that has had the most global social impact. He is the Co-Founder of the BLUE Marine Foundation, dedicated to creating effective Marine Reserves around the world.

### **Dominic Cunningham-Reid**

Dominic co-founded Cosmic Picture in 2004 and produced the award-winning IMAX® film *Journey to Mecca*, and conceived *Superpower Dogs*. Dominic has shot and produced documentary films for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Paramount Pictures, and News Corporation, and hosted the acclaimed National Geographic specials, *Diamonds of War* and *The War Next Door*. He worked as a freelance journalist for Associated Press and Reuters, covering conflicts in Africa and Afghanistan.

### **Daniel Ferguson**

Daniel has produced, written and directed films for National Geographic Studios, the National Wildlife Federation, History TV, Smithsonian Networks, France Television and Discovery Channel. His giant screen/IMAX® credits include *Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance*, *Wired to Win: Surviving the Tour de France*, *Journey to Mecca* and *Jerusalem*. His most recent film is the feature documentary, *Last of the Elephant Men*, which took top honors at FICMA Barcelona, Jeevica in New Delhi and DocsDF in Mexico City. He sits on the board of the Giant Screen Cinema Association and the Alter-Ciné Foundation, which provides grants to filmmakers in the developing world.

### **Giant screen and IMAX®**

Giant screen and IMAX® films are photographed with the highest resolution cameras and projected onto the largest screens on earth to create a unique and unforgettable immersive experience. Located in hundreds of the world's most influential educational institutions, such as the Smithsonian in Washington DC, La Geode in Paris, and the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, giant screen and IMAX® films are amongst the most successful documentary films of all time.