



Conservation goes to Hollywood

The Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF), in their quest to spread marine conservation messages to shores far and wide, is one of the first non-broadcasting conservation organizations to become a Hollywood mogul. Like the story behind their film, which follows the odyssey of a loggerhead turtle as she travels across the Atlantic Ocean, SOSF has beaten the odds and taken conservation to the cinema.

Turtle: The Incredible Journey, showing worldwide later this year, reaches beyond the life of a sea turtle and her battle to survive to the heart of the ocean around her. SOSF, an international marine conservation non-profit, and their partners Big Wave Productions have produced a film that not only captures the interest and imagination of their audience but also brings the very real marine conservation issues plaguing our seas to light.

“With the growing interest in cinema documentaries, entering the big screen domain of Hollywood gives us a chance to reach new audiences and raise much needed awareness about the threats to our oceans. We hope to inspire the children of today to be custodians of our marine world tomorrow, while at the same time stirring their parents to save our seas now.” says Chris Clarke, the Director of the SOSF.

SOSF believes that watching the film at the cinema will allow for a more dramatic and emotional experience than a TV production, keeping the ocean and issues such as over-fishing, destructive and wasteful fishing methods, pollution and the negative impacts of beach development at the forefront of people’s minds. “Though the popcorn may have long vanished we hope the impact on people from the film will help stop the ocean’s inhabitants from going the same way,” says Chris.

SOSF encourages the audience to track the star of the film, a loggerhead turtle named FeeBee who was released off the Florida coast in 2008, on their website (www.saveourseas.com). It also urges people to become active in helping protect sea turtles and supports several marine turtle research projects across the globe.

Turtle: The Incredible Journey is a co-production with F&ME and Big Wave, a UK-based wildlife film company, which has won numerous awards for its productions for leading international broadcasters, including Animal Planet, the BBC, Discovery and National Geographic.

It is directed by Emmy Award winner Nick Stringer and narrated by the twice-Oscar nominated actor Miranda Richardson using a script by Mel Finn (who also scripted *The Crimson Wing*, the first feature from Disney’s new DisneyNature division).

To watch the film’s trailer please visit: <http://www.saveourseas.com/turtlefilm>

Media queries

For more info, including images, please contact:

Cheryl-Samantha Owen at the Save Our Seas Foundation

sam@saveourseas.com

+27(0)797 179070

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF)

SOSF is a non-profit organisation, working internationally on a range of marine conservation projects and initiatives, including scientific research, direct conservation action and public education. Most of its previous films have been shorts, including *Rethink the Shark*, which won a prestigious Panda Award in the campaign category at Wildscreen 2008. *Turtle: The Incredible Journey* is the foundation's first full-length feature. For more details about SOSF and its work, please visit:

www.saveourseas.com

About Big Wave Productions Ltd:

Big Wave is an award-winning producer of revelatory, original and entertaining wildlife and science documentaries for broadcast worldwide, including by Animal Planet, the BBC, Channel 4, Discovery, France 5 and National Geographic. The company was set up by Sarah Cunliffe and Nick Stringer in 1997 and is based in Chichester, Sussex. For more details, please visit: www.bigwavetv.com

About Turtle: The Incredible Journey

Filming took the crew to Florida, the Arctic Circle, Sargasso Sea, Azores and Caribbean to recreate the epic distances and dangers faced by a female loggerhead turtle from the time it hatches until it returns to lay eggs on the beach of its birth 20 or so years later. The film was shot in HD, using a range of technologies, from the *Iconix* lipstick camera to view tiny turtle hatchlings to a *Cineflex* gimble for ocean panoramics.

The finished film is a Big Wave/ F.&M.E. production, directed by Nick Stringer, scripted by Mel Finn, narrated by Miranda Richardson, with original music by Henning Lohner, and cinematography by Rory McGuinness and Rick Rosenthal.

The producers are Sarah Cunliffe (Big Wave), and Mike Downey and Sam Taylor of Film & Music Entertainment (F&ME) with financial support and scientific advice from SOSF.