

STUDIOCANAL, HEYDAY FILMS and ASTRID LINDGREN COMPANY TO DEVELOP PIPPI LONGSTOCKING MOVIE

London, Paris Wednesday 2nd October.

STUDIOCANAL, Heyday Films and the Astrid Lindgren Company today announce that they are in early development on a film adaptation of PIPPI LONGSTOCKING. This project reunites STUDIOCANAL and Heyday following their successful collaboration on PADDINGTON 1 & 2.

Pippi Longstocking is the main character in an eponymous series of children's books by legendary Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. Pippi originates from bedside stories Lindgren told to her daughter Karin about an anything-but-pious girl with boundless energy. With her iconic red hair, freckles, strength, free spirit and bravery Pippi has become an icon of children's literature and a role model for generations. In fact, she was "girl power" long before the term was even invented. Pippi is the ultimate fantasy for every child, and most grownups. As the strongest girl in the world, with a bag full of gold coins, she is totally independent. She is a person with power but never abuses it. On the contrary, she's generous and kind – and she loves to have fun. Her qualities are more needed and relevant than ever.

The first three Pippi chapter books were published from 1945 to 1948, followed by three short stories and a number of picture book adaptations. They have been translated into 77 languages with over 65 million copies sold world-wide. Like all great literature, the stories of Pippi Longstocking have amused and thrilled people of all ages in all parts of the world for almost 75 years.

In an interview with TODAY Michelle Obama recalled Pippi Longstocking as the first book love of her life: *"I was really fascinated with this strong little girl that was the centre of everything. And she was almost magical in a way. I mean, she was stronger and tougher than anyone. She had superhuman strength."*

Nils Nyman, grandchild of Astrid Lindgren and CEO at Astrid Lindgren Film comments *"In David Heyman, with his impressive track-record of bringing great literary works to the screen, together with STUDIOCANAL we are confident that we have found a team that can understand and appreciate the full value of Pippi Longstocking and develop films that capture both the playfulness and the gravity in my grandmother's works. We are therefore very excited and pleased to announce this collaboration. I'm especially thrilled to announce this now, when we're in the midst of planning Pippi Longstocking's upcoming 75th Anniversary in 2020 together with a global campaign in support of Save the Children's important work for Children on the Move"*

Producer David Heyman expands *"I am thrilled to collaborate with Thomas Gustafsson, Olle Nyman and their team at the Astrid Lindgren Company and our partners at STUDIOCANAL on this film adaptation of the brilliant and timeless Pippi Longstocking. Pippi has endured and inspired families everywhere through her life force, strength of character and her irrepressible joie de vivre. Astrid Lindgren's books have been translated around the globe for many years – a testament to her vision which we are determined to honour with a new film."*

Jeffrey Clifford and Rosie Alison will also produce for Heyday. Additional collaborations between STUDIOCANAL and Heyday include Marc Munden's *THE SECRET GARDEN*, currently in post-production and the *Paddington* animated television series shooting in London.

STUDIOCANAL CEO Didier Lupfer and EVP International Production & Acquisitions Ron Halpern add "*All of us at STUDIOCANAL are admirers and fans of Pippi Longstocking. We greatly appreciate the confidence the family of Astrid Lindgren has shown in us, letting us be their partner in bringing the timeless, wonderful and joyful creation of hers to the big screen. It's a real pleasure to work again with David Heyman and the team at Heyday, bringing Pippi to audiences around the world. Pippi will play to the imaginations of adults and children alike and we are so delighted to bring her beautifully enduring stories to life.*"

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About The Astrid Lindgren Company

Astrid Lindgren's (1907-2002) is one of the world's most translated and best-selling authors. Her over 75 chapter and picture books about beloved characters such as Pippi Longstocking, Emil of Lönneberga, The Brothers Lionheart, Ronja, the Robber's Daughter, Karlsson of the Roof and others have been translated into over 100 languages and sold in more than 165 million copies. In addition to more than 70 feature films and TV productions, her works have also been adopted for stage and musicals and are still being played frequently around the globe. Astrid Lindgren was a committed humanist who fought for children's rights, for equality, ecology and animal welfare. The Astrid Lindgren Company is a Stockholm-based family company who owns and manages all related publishing, film/TV, stage, music merchandising and theme park rights to the works by Astrid Lindgren. The company owns and operates the theme-park Astrid Lindgren's World in Vimmerby in the south of Sweden.

About Heyday

David Heyman founded Heyday Films in 1996 and is the producer of the Academy Award® winning film, *Gravity*, directed by Alfonso Cuarón, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, *Once Upon a Time in...Hollywood*, directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie and Al Pacino, *Marriage Story*, directed by Noah Baumbach and starring Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson and Laura Dern, as well as the film adaptations of Michael Bond's *Paddington*, and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books.

Heyman is currently in post production on *The Secret Garden*, directed by Marc Munden, and starring Colin Firth and Julie Walters, and is in pre-production on the third of J.K. Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts* films having produced the first two films in the series.

About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL, a 100% affiliate of CANAL+ Group held by Vivendi, is Europe's leader in production, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series, operating directly in all three major European markets - France, the United Kingdom and Germany - as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, boasting more than 5,500 titles from 60 countries. Spanning 100 years of film history, this vast and unique

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catalogue includes among others the iconic *Terminator 2*, *Rambo*, *Breathless*, *Mulholland Drive*, *The Pianist* and *Belle de jour*.

STUDIOCANAL has fully financed box office hits *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, *Paddington 1* and *2*, *The Commuter* and *Shaun The Sheep Movie*. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include Marjane Satrapi's *Radioactive* featuring Rosamund Pike, *The Secret Garden* produced by David Heyman starring Colin Firth, Aardman Studios' stop-motion film *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*.

STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning European production companies, including TANDEM in Germany (*Shadowplay*), the UK's RED Production Company (*Years and Years*), Spain's BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES (*On Death Row*) and France's STUDIOCANAL ORIGINAL (*Mouche*). STUDIOCANAL is also an associate of Danish-based SAM Productions founded by Søren Sveistrup and Adam Price (*Ride Upon The Storm*) as well as of UK-based GUILTY PARTY PICTURES; Benedict Cumberbatch's production company SUNNYMARCH TV (*Patrick Melrose*) and URBAN MYTH FILMS (*War of the Worlds*).

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