

BLAM! VENTURES, LLC ACQUIRES *PLANET OF THE APES* LICENSE

Indy studio set to bring the original film series back in a unique format in 2010

New York – July 13, 2009 – BLAM! Ventures, LLC (BLAM!) announces a two-book deal with Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. to create new, expanded stories set in the world of the immortal 1968 film *Planet of the Apes* (*POTA*) and its sequels. The deal offers BLAM! a distinctive opportunity to explore the *POTA* universe from fresh and startling points of view, in a format unlike any other seen in the franchise's history.

The original *Planet of the Apes* stars Charlton Heston as astronaut Col. George Taylor, leader of an experimental deep-space mission lost in time. Taylor and his crew (Dodge, Landon and Stewart) find themselves in what they believe to be a distant star system, stranded on a barren planet some two thousand years after they left Earth. They soon discover a primitive tribe of human savages, and—much to their surprise—the intelligent apes who rule this world.

With a shocking ending still much discussed today, as well as an underlying warning to watch how we treat the world in which we live, *POTA* went on to be a phenomenal commercial success, spawning four sequel feature films and two television series. Forty years later, there are still many stories to be told—and fans who eagerly anticipate them.

BLAM! Ventures is excited to bring one of the most beloved franchises in science fiction history back into the spotlight, under its 'Lost Tribes' imprint, and promises a product of matching quality. As the cornerstone of this new imprint, BLAM! will publish its *POTA* tales as illustrated novels, blending beautiful, full-color, full-page paintings with smaller black-and-white illustrations and rich storytelling in a hardcover book format.

The first-ever original novel based on the classic *POTA* film series, ***Conspiracy of the Planet of the Apes*** will hit both the direct market and major book and retail chains in spring 2010. BLAM! Ventures' Creative Director, Andrew E. C. Gaska, along with Editorial Coordinator Christian Berntsen and Developmental Director Erik Matthews, serve as the writing team for ***Conspiracy***.

More than twenty artists are expected to offer their amazing talents to this project. The first on board are legendary artist Jim Steranko (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *Nick Fury: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.*), renowned book cover painter Ken Kelly (*Conan*, *KISS*), Joe Jusko (*Savage Sword of Conan*, *Tarzan*), Sanjulian (*Errie*, *Vampirella*) Mark Texiera (*Ghost Rider*, *Wolverine*), Leo Leibelman (*Heavy Metal*), Matt Busch (*Star Wars*, *Battlestar Galactica*), Brian Rood (*Indiana Jones*, *Star Wars*), Tom Scioli (*Godland*), David Hueso (*G.I. Joe: Storm Shadow*) and newcomers Dan Dussault (*Critical Millennium*) and Dirk Shearer (*Mouse Templar*).

Fans interested in getting a first peek at the novel's artwork can do so at this year's San Diego Comic Con International, to be held on July 22-26, 2009. BLAM! Ventures will display a gallery of images at booth #2547, as well as making available for sale limited-edition prints of two **Conspiracy** paintings, entitled *Alpha* and *Omega* (from artists Joe Jusko and Sanjulian, respectively), as Comic Con International exclusives. BLAM! will host artist signings and answer questions regarding the upcoming novel, in addition to giving away a limited number of special **Conspiracy of the Planet of the Apes** promotional items, including character bio trading cards and replicas of Landon's dog tags.

A recognized industry leader, Twentieth Century Fox Licensing and Merchandising licenses and markets properties worldwide on behalf of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Twentieth Television and Fox Broadcasting Company, as well as third party lines. The division is aligned with Twentieth Century Fox Television, one of the top suppliers of primetime entertainment programming to the broadcast networks.

BLAM! Ventures, LLC is a multimedia company specializing in the comic book/graphic novel industry and digital media. The company's Lost Tribes imprint looks to revive many classic science fiction and fantasy movies and television shows of the '60s, '70s and '80s with a fresh approach and a reverent hand, touching the audiences of today's generation, while reacquainting previous fans with old friends. For more information, contact thehitlist@blamventures.com.

On the web at: www.blamventures.com/pota