



Great Ormond Street Hospital
Children's Charity | GOSHCC

PRESS RELEASE
18 December 2006

**Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
Entrusts Film and TV rights to
PETER PAN IN SCARLET
To
BBC Films, UK Film Council and Headline Pictures**

Amidst strong competition, the film and television rights to Geraldine McCaughrean's *PETER PAN IN SCARLET*, the official sequel to JM Barrie's *Peter Pan*, have been entrusted to a British consortium comprising Headline Pictures, the UK Film Council and BBC Films, it was announced today by the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children's Special Trustees. The deal was brokered on behalf of GOSH by Charlotte Mann of The Rod Hall Agency Ltd.

"We could not be happier than to be partnering with Headline Pictures, UK Film Council and BBC Films in this exciting new development with *PETER PAN IN SCARLET*," said Charles Denton, Executive Director of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSHCC). "We have no doubt that they will help to build on the ongoing success of Geraldine McCaughrean's brilliant sequel which will continue to raise vital funds for GOSH in the way JM Barrie had intended when he gifted the copyright to *Peter Pan* to the Hospital."

"We are absolutely thrilled that we and our friends at the UK Film Council and BBC Films have been entrusted with the rights to *PETER PAN IN SCARLET*," said Stewart Mackinnon of Headline Pictures. "We firmly believe that our three companies can really combine effectively to do justice to a project of such scale and ambition. This will be a most exciting ride!"

Jenny Borgars, Head of the UK Film Council's Development Fund said: "We are delighted to be supporting Stewart and Mark at Headline Pictures, a British production company, in securing the rights to this great project in a market which is highly competitive for projects which have global brand value, and also to be partnering BBC Films."

"It's exciting for BBC Films to be working again with Headline Pictures and the UK Film Council and to have GOSH as a partner," said Jane Wright, BBC Films' Head of Rights and Commercial Affairs. "The BBC has a real connection with family audiences and BBC Films is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to co-develop this project for the big screen by GOSH."

In August 2004, the Special Trustees of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital launched the worldwide search for a sequel to Barrie's timeless masterpiece. The Special Trustees own the copyright and other intellectual property rights to Peter Pan and, to mark the centenary of the original, they authorised the creation of a new work that would share the same enchanting characters and bring as much pleasure to children and adults around the world. In March 2005, Geraldine McCaughrean was announced as the winner and her book PETER PAN IN SCARLET was published in October of this year. Geraldine is an award-winning writer who has written over 130 books and plays both for adults and for children. She recently won the Whitbread Children's Book Award for the third time with her latest book, *Not the End of the World*.

In PETER PAN IN SCARLET, grown-ups become children again, as Wendy, John and the Lost Boys join Peter Pan for more adventures. Neverland is sadly changed but the spirit of Captain Hook lives on... Wendy and the Lost Boys are dreaming of Neverland. Strange...because they have all grown up. Tootles is a portly judge; Curly is a doctor; Slightly is a baronet. Wendy, now a wife and mother, decides that Neverland is in trouble. They must find a way to go back. And so these respectable mothers and fathers put on their children's clothes to become children again. (Alas, Tootles has only daughters, so he becomes a little girl). Armed with fairy dust and Tinker Bell's replacement, Fireflyer, they take flight.

Notes to Editors:

1. **Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children** (GOSH) opened its doors on 14 February 1852 with just twenty beds. It was the first children's hospital in Britain and quickly acquired the Patronage of Queen Victoria and wide public interest, Today GOSH is a centre of excellence in the treatment of sick children, the training of doctors and nurses, and research into childhood illness which benefits many more children than the 100,000 who are treated here each year.

Sir James Barrie bequeathed the copyright to Peter Pan to GOSH in 1929, later confirmed in his will on his death in 1937. Income from Peter Pan remains a tightly-guarded secret, in keeping with Barrie's wishes. But thanks to the enduring popularity of Peter, Wendy and Tinker Bell, not forgetting Captain Hook and the ticking crocodile, and now the success of Peter Pan in Scarlet, the hospital can look forward to many more years of public support. These funds are never more needed as Great Ormond Street Children's Charity (GOSGCC) faces a major challenge as it fundraises to bring the hospital's facilities up to 21st century standards. For more information, visit www.gosh.org.

2. **Headline Pictures Limited** is a producer of high quality television drama, and feature films with headquarters in Newcastle upon Tyne as well as a London office. Originally incorporated in 1995 as Common Features Limited, the name of the company was changed to Headline Pictures Limited in January 2005, following the restructuring of shareholdings, changes in key personnel and a re-launch. The restructured company was launched by the three principal founders, Kevin Hood, Stewart Mackinnon and Mark Shivas, all highly experienced and award-winning filmmakers. The experience and contacts at the very highest levels of the three principal founders in both the UK and the US, combined with a strong commercial ethos and regional base, have contributed to the significant progress the company has made in its first year of operation. A deal is in place with the Weinstein Company to make Alec and May - a feature film written by Kevin Hood scheduled for production in 2007, and Headline is developing a major event drama about the ending of the Cold War with BBC Television and HBO.

3. **BBC Films**, the feature films arm of the BBC, has a number of co-productions currently on release, including Nick Hytner's *The History Boys*, Andrea Arnold's *Red Road*, and Tom Vaughan's *Starter for Ten*. Soon to be released are Richard Eyre's *Notes on a Scandal* and Richard Linklater's *Fast Food Nation*. Among BBC Films' high-profile production slate are Justin Chadwick's *The Other Boleyn Girl*, starring Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman and Eric Bana; David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises*, starring Naomi Watts and Viggo Mortensen; Gillian Armstrong's *Death Defying Acts*, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Guy Pearce, and Richard Laxton's *The Allotment*, starring Benedict Wong, Eddie Marsan and Omid Djalili.

4. The UK Film Council's **Development Fund** aims to broaden the quality, range and ambition of UK film projects and talent being developed, bringing together screenwriters, script editors, directors, producers and a mixture of other creative talents to increase the number of quality scripts moving to production. With £12 million to invest over three years the fund is building creatively focused relationships with a breadth of talent from 'first-timers' to experienced practitioners and is enabling British film companies to grow their businesses.

Projects supported by the fund include *The Other Boleyn Girl* (dir. Justin Chadwick, wr. Peter Morgan), *When Did You Last See Your Father* (dir Anand Tucker, wr David Nicholls), *Becoming Jane* (dir Julian Jarrold, wrs Kevin Hood & Sarah Williams), *Red Road* (dir. Andrea Arnold, wrs Andrea Arnold & Anders Thomas Jensen), *The Proposition* (dir. John Hillcoat, wr. Nick Cave); *Kidulthood* (dir. Menhaj Huda, wr. Noel Clarke); *Anita & Me* (dir. Metin Hüseyin, wr. Meera Syal); *The Magdalene Sisters* (wr/dir. Peter Mullan); *Severance* (dir. Christopher Smith, wr. James Moran & Christopher Smith); *A Woman in Winter* (wr/dir. Richard Jobson); *The Dark* (dir. John Fawcett, wr. Simon Maginn and Stephen Massicotte); *Straightheads* (wr. & dir. Dan Reed); *Life & Lyrics* (dir. Richard Laxton, wr. Ken Williams), and *Sparkle* (wr/dir. Tom Hunsinger and Neil Hunter).

About the Author: Geraldine McCaughrean was born and educated in Enfield, North London, the third and youngest child of a fireman and a teacher. She trained as a teacher, worked for ten years in publishing, and in 1988 became a full-time writer. Since then, Geraldine has written 139 children's books and has won the Carnegie Medal, Guardian Children's Fiction Award, Whitbread Children's Book of the Year (three times), Smarties Bronze (four times), UK Readers' Association Award, and wrote the Blue Peter Book of the Year 2000. In 2002, *The Kite Rider* and *Stop the Train* were both shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, with the latter being Highly Commended. Her most recent novel, *The White Darkness*, was shortlisted for the 2005 Whitbread Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal. Geraldine lives in Berkshire with her husband John and their daughter, Ailsa.

Peter Pan in Scarlet by Geraldine McCaughrean is published in the UK by Oxford University Press and the US by Simon & Schuster, as well as over 30 different editions worldwide. For more information, visit www.peterpaninscarlet.com

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