



## **THE JIM HENSON COMPANY AND ARCHAIA COMICS FORM GRAPHIC NOVEL PUBLISHING PARTNERSHIP**

***NEW COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS WILL BE BASED ON FAVORITES FROM THE JIM HENSON COMPANY'S LIBRARY AS WELL AS ORIGINAL CONCEPTS***

*Hollywood, CA (June 22, 2009)* –The Jim Henson Company and Archaia announced today that they have entered into a partnership that will publish comic books and graphic novels based on popular Henson titles as well as new co-branded original properties.

The multi-year partnership will draw from The Jim Henson Company's extensive film and television library, including *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, *Mirrors*, *The Storyteller* and other titles. The agreement also allows The Jim Henson Company and Archaia to partner with talent in the comic book, television and film industries to create brand-new stories under a co-branded banner, building on the legacy of quality and creativity of The Jim Henson Company brand and strengthening Archaia's relationships within the entertainment sector.

"Some of the best storytellers in the world are flocking to comic books and graphic novels, making them the foremost platform for innovative and imaginative storytelling," said Joe LeFavi, Director of Publishing and Development at The Jim Henson Company and who will serve as story editor on all the books. "Archaia has always epitomized artistic integrity, and their passion and support for our brands ensure that fans will receive the very best from the properties they know and love as well as from the new stories we will tell."

"This is a truly groundbreaking agreement, as it is not just a licensing deal but a partnership in every sense of the word," said Stephen Christy, Archaia's Director of Development. "To work with the entire Jim Henson Company and with new talent to create the next generation of Jim Henson Company fan favorites is an unprecedented opportunity, and a dream come true for all of us at Archaia. Creating comics that become a part of the incredibly rich Jim Henson Company legacy is an exciting challenge, and I think fans will share our excitement when they see the talent we're bringing in to help make these comics a reality."

Representatives from Archaia and Henson will announce creative teams and a release schedule for the initial slate at San Diego Comic-Con International, with the first title tentatively scheduled for winter 2009.

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***About Archaia***

Founded in 2002, Archaia has built an unparalleled reputation for producing meaningful content that perpetually transforms minds. With a slate including such popular Eisner-Award winning titles as *Mouse Guard* and *The Killer*, as well as *Awakening*, *Gunnerkrigg Court*, *Robotika*, *Killing Pickman*, *Artesia* and the Publisher's latest additions *Titanium Rain*, *God Machine* and Gene Roddenberry Productions' *Days Missing*, Archaia has become synonymous with quality content. For more information on Archaia or any Archaia titles please visit **[www.Archaia.com](http://www.Archaia.com)**.

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The Jim Henson Company has remained an established leader in family entertainment for over 50 years and is recognized worldwide as an innovator in puppetry, animatronics and digital animation. Best known as creators of the world famous Muppets, Henson has received over 50 Emmy Awards and nine Grammy Awards. Recent credits include the Emmy® nominated "Sid the Science Kid," "Dinosaur Train" and "Pa-janimals." Features include "The Dark Crystal," "Labyrinth," "MirrorMask," and "Unstable Fables" and television productions include "Fraggle Rock" and the sci-fi cult series "Farscape."

With additional locations in New York and London, The Jim Henson Company is headquartered in Los Angeles on the historic Charlie Chaplin lot, complete with soundstage and postproduction facilities. Independently owned and operated by the five adult children of founder Jim Henson, the Company is also home to Jim Henson's Creature Shop™, a pre-eminent character-building and visual effects group with international film, television and advertising clients, as well as Henson Recording Studios, one of the music industry's top recording facilities known for its world-class blend of state-of-the-art and vintage equipment.

The Company is currently in production on "Wilson and Ditch: Digging America," a webisode series for PBSKIDS.org featuring the Company's Emmy-winning animation technology, and the Company's Henson Alternative brand continues to produce "Puppet Up! - Uncensored," a live puppet improvisational show that runs monthly at the Avalon Hollywood. The Company has also announced the creation of The Hub, a third party licensing banner established to acquire and service global consumer products programs for external brands and entertainment properties.

<http://www.henson.com>