



WALDEN MEDIA™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALDEN MEDIA BRINGS NARNIA EDUCATION TO ORLANDO

BOSTON, MA (October 7, 2005)—Walden Media will sponsor an exhibit tour to promote Walt Disney Picture's and Walden Media's upcoming film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, an adaptation of C.S. Lewis' beloved 1950 novel, due to open in theaters on December 9, 2005. The free exhibit is open to the public and will be held at the Orlando Public Library from October 21-24, 2005. This marks the first stop in a multi-city tour that includes stops in Washington D.C., New York City, and Boston.

A press conference, which will be open to the public, will be held on Friday, October 21 at 9:30 AM at the Orlando Public Library. Assembled dignitaries will participate in a read aloud program. Following the chapter reading, children will have the opportunity to tour the exhibit, participate in educational activities, and enjoy light refreshments.

The three-day event will showcase film memorabilia consisting of larger than life statues of characters, costumes, props, and a preview of the movie trailer and behind the scenes footage.

Partnering with Walden Media are Walt Disney World, Harper Collins Publishers and *Just Read, Florida!*, Governor Jeb Bush's statewide reading initiative. This initiative, whose goal is to have every child reading at grade level or higher by 2012, is designed to guide changes at every level of education that have an impact on reading outcomes in Florida schools. Governor Bush, through *Just Read, Florida!* has recently launched a reading in the arts contest for students in grades 3-12 focused on the book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. HarperCollins Publishers is offering special discounts on bulk orders of the book to Florida educators, media specialists and librarians who are seeking to participate in the statewide book read and contests.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Walden Media will make educational donations to 200 libraries nationwide. Participating libraries will receive a Narnia Theatrical Display, copies of the novel, bookmarks, and Educator's Guides.

For more information, including a schedule of events, please contact Marilyn Hoffman at 407-835-7323. The Orlando Public Library is located at 101 E. Central Blvd.

About Walden Media LLC

Founded by Cary Granat, former president of Miramax Films' Dimension label, and education reformer Micheal Flaherty, Walden Media, a subsidiary of AFG, specializes in entertainment that sparks the imagination and curiosity of kids and provides parents and teachers with materials to continue the learning process. Walden Media and Twentieth Century Fox recently released *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a film by Wayne Wang (*The Joy Luck Club*) based on the best-selling Newbery Honor book by Kate DiCamillo. In association with The Walt Disney Company, Walden Media is producing the first live-action feature film adaptations of C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, beginning with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Directed by Academy Award® winner Andrew Adamson (*Shrek 2*), *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* will open in theatres in December 2005. Walden Media has also partnered with Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies to produce the live action / photo real CG animation adaptation of E.B. White's beloved classic *Charlotte's Web*.

About The Walt Disney Studios

The Walt Disney Studios is a unit of The Walt Disney Company (NYSE: DIS) and distributes motion pictures under Walt Disney Pictures - which includes Walt Disney Feature Animation and DisneyToon Studios - Touchstone Pictures, Hollywood Pictures and Miramax Films. Buena Vista International serves as the studio's international distribution arm. Buena Vista Home Entertainment and Buena Vista Home Entertainment International together distribute Disney and other film titles to the rental and sell-through home entertainment markets worldwide. Buena Vista Theatrical Productions is one of the largest producers of Broadway musicals, and the Buena Vista Music Group distributes original music and motion picture soundtracks under its four record labels: Walt Disney Records, Buena Vista Records, Hollywood Records and Lyric Street Records.

About Just Read, Florida!

In September, 2001, Governor Bush signed an executive order creating the Just Read, Florida! initiative. The initiative is designed to guide changes at every level of education that have an impact on reading outcomes in Florida schools. It also provides for parent, business and community involvement. The National Assessment of Educational Progress data from 2003 show Florida as the only state in the nation to demonstrate significant improvement in fourth grade reading. To learn more about Just Read, Florida!, please visit www.justreadflorida.com.

About the Orange County Library System

The Orange County Library System brings information, imagination and inspiration to library users through the downtown Orlando Public Library and fourteen Branches located throughout Orange County, Florida. Offering special programs and computer classes for both adults and children plus free delivery of materials, the library is both a physical and virtual resource for the community featuring databases, tutorials and the latest in automated materials on its website, www.ocls.info.

About HarperCollins Publishers

HarperCollins Publishers is one of the world's leading English-language publishers with headquarters in New York. HarperCollins was founded in New York City in 1817 by the brothers James and John Harper. In 1987, Harper & Row was acquired by News Corporation. The worldwide book group was formed following News Corporation's 1990 acquisition of the British publisher William Collins & Sons. Founded in 1819, William Collins & Sons published a range of reading materials, including reissued classics, expanding over the years to include legendary authors such as H.G. Wells, Agatha Christie, C.S. Lewis and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

*For bulk quantities (25 or more) and to receive a special discount on orders of the book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, please mention "Just Read, Florida!" and contact:

Jason Gordon
HarperCollins Publishers
212-207-7833
jason.gordon@harpercollins.com

Bulk orders over 5,000 - Please allow 3 weeks for delivery

About the Film

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

C.S. Lewis' timeless adventure THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE follows the exploits of the four Pevensie siblings -- Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter -- in World War II England who enter the world of Narnia through a magical wardrobe while playing a game of 'hide-and-seek' in the rural country home of an elderly professor. Once there, the children discover a charming, peaceful land inhabited by talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs and giants that has become a world cursed to eternal winter by the evil White Witch, Jadis. Under the guidance of a noble and mystical ruler, the lion Aslan, the children fight to overcome the White Witch's powerful hold over Narnia in a spectacular, climactic battle that will free Narnia from Jadis' icy spell forever.

The film marks the first live-action directorial effort for New Zealander Andrew Adamson (the Oscar®-winning "Shrek," "Shrek 2"), who also co-wrote the screenplay adaptation with Emmy Award-winner Ann Peacock (HBO's "A Lesson Before Dying") and scribes Christopher Markus & Stephen McFeeley. The film is produced by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Mark Johnson and Philip Steuer.

To bring his dazzling vision to the screen, Adamson has secured the talents of Oscar®-nominated cinematographer Donald M. McAlpine, ASC, ACS, Oscar®-nominated production designer Roger Ford, seasoned costume designer Isis Mussenden, film editors Sim Evan-Jones and Jim May and composer Harry Gregson-Williams.

Release Date: December 9, 2005

WALT DISNEY PICTURES/WALDEN MEDIA

Cast: Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, Anna Popplewell, William Moseley, Rupert Everett, Ray Winstone, Dawn French with Liam Neeson (as the voice of Aslan) and Jim Broadbent

Director: Andrew Adamson

Based on the book by: C.S. Lewis

Screenplay by: Ann Peacock and Andrew Adamson and Christopher Markus & Stephen McFeeley (credit not final)

Producers: Mark Johnson, Philip Steuer

Executive Producers: Andrew Adamson, Perry Moore

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Just Read, Florida!

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Orlando Public Library

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