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MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation Funds 3,000 Underserved Orange County Students to See “Hurricane on the Bayou” at the Irvine Spectrum IMAX[®] Theatre

Hurricane on the Bayou From Two-Time Academy Award[®]-nominated Producers MacGillivray Freeman Films Opens February 2 at the Irvine Spectrum IMAX Theatre; Shot in the Midst of Hurricane Katrina, the Giant Screen Film Sounds The Call To Restore The Vital Wetlands of Louisiana and Give Hope to New Orleans

Educational events with environmental marine life artist Wyland will take place at the Irvine Spectrum IMAX Theatre on January 27 and February 5.

Laguna Beach, California, January 25, 2007—Three thousand underserved students from Title I schools in Orange County will have the opportunity to see *Hurricane on the Bayou*, the new IMAX Theatre film from two-time Academy Award[®]-nominated film producer/director **Greg MacGillivray**, premiering February 2 at the Irvine Spectrum IMAX Theatre for a five-week exhibition.

The **MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation** will provide free admission and bus transportation for all 3,000 students as part of a program designed to provide an enriching and inspirational learning experience to the underprivileged students of Orange County. The MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization established by Greg MacGillivray to fund large format films and educational programming that promote greater preservation of the planet’s natural world and cultural heritage. The Foundation funded a similar program for Title I students in New Orleans.

“We are extremely honored to share this emotional film with the people of Orange County and specifically with 3,000 Title I students,” said film producer/director Greg MacGillivray. “It is so important that our children learn to care about the planet’s wondrous and varied natural environments, and the giant screen film medium creates a positive and powerful impact unlike any other art form. As our Foundation continues to grow, we look forward to creating new partnerships with organizations and individuals in Orange County who share our mission to create greater educational opportunities for people and children of all ages and backgrounds.”

“We are deeply grateful to the MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation for the opportunity to share with our students the powerful learning experience that is *Hurricane on the Bayou*, an experience they would not normally have,” said **Arturo Valdez**, a teacher at Wilson Elementary School in Santa Ana. “These kids are so eager to learn about the world and different cultures and environments, but their limited circumstances often inhibit their real-life experiences. We look forward to sharing with them the fascinating world of the Louisiana bayou and the rich culture of New Orleans as celebrated in this spectacular film.”

Surrounding the film launch, the Foundation is also planning a series of educational events at the Irvine Spectrum IMAX Theatre co-hosted with Orange County environmental marine life artist Wyland and the Wyland Foundation:

- **Saturday, January 27, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**—Wyland and more than 50 children from Orange County youth groups will paint a giant mural depicting scenes from Louisiana’s bayous, including alligators, turtles, frogs, dragonflies and fish. The children will use their art to create an ecosystem and learn more about it. The 10 x 20 ft. mural will be on display at the Irvine Spectrum throughout the run of the film.

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- **Monday, February 5, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**—One hundred third graders from Sepulveda Elementary School in Santa Ana will paint a giant mosaic depicting a New Orleans theme. The mosaic will be sent with letters from each student to students at a school in New Orleans. Each student will paint a portion of the 16 x 48 ft. mosaic, which was created by Wyland. The mosaic is intended to show Orange County support for the students of New Orleans.

A powerfully moving giant screen film unlike any other, MacGillivray Freeman's *Hurricane on the Bayou* carries audiences behind today's news headlines on a journey deep into the heart of Louisiana. Shot before, during and after the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina and featuring state-of-the art CGI special effects depicting the height of the storm's fury, *Hurricane on the Bayou* brings into focus the startling loss of Louisiana's rapidly disappearing coastal wetlands that are New Orleans' first line of defense against deadly storms. Told through the personal stories of four musicians who are drawing attention to this environmental calamity, and fueled by a jazz, blues and gospel-fueled score featuring many of New Orleans' greatest musicians, *Hurricane on the Bayou* is both a haunting giant screen document of Katrina's powerful effects, a profound musical celebration of the city that has been called the "soul of America," and a compelling call to restore New Orleans and protect the vital wetlands from which the city's unique identity first arose.

Hurricane on the Bayou was released nationally on December 22 and is slated to open in more than sixty major markets worldwide. The film is produced and distributed by **MacGillivray Freeman Films** (*Everest*, *Coral Reef Adventure*) with Executive Producer **Audubon Nature Institute** and presented by **The Weather Channel**.

About MacGillivray Freeman Films

MacGillivray Freeman Films is the largest, most experienced independent producer and distributor of giant screen 70mm films in the world. Throughout the company's 40-plus-year history, its films have won numerous international awards including two Academy Award® nominations for Best Documentary Short Subject for *Dolphins* and *The Living Sea*. In 1998, the company's hit film *Everest* achieved unprecedented acclaim and box office success for a large format film and is currently the highest grossing giant screen film of all time. MacGillivray Freeman's films are known for their artistry and successful blend of education and entertainment, as well as their celebration of science and the natural world.

About The MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation

The MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established to produce and fund educational IMAX® theatre films and companion programming (exhibits, education materials, outreach programs) that promote greater awareness and preservation of our planet's environmental and cultural heritage. The Foundation's mission is to educate and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to explore, discover and appreciate anew their connection to the natural world, to the cultural histories that shape our communities, and to the world society at large. The cornerstone of the Foundation's philosophy is the belief that lifelong learning is critical to an individual's development and important to a society's well-being. It is the Foundation's goal that its films and educational programs offered will galvanize people across the globe to become bold and passionate ambassadors for positive change in our world.

About The Wyland Foundation

The Wyland Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1993 by environmental marine life artist Wyland, is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's oceans, waterways, and marine life. The foundation encourages environmental awareness through education programs, life-size public arts projects, and community events.

www.hurricaneonthebayou.com