

STUDIOCANAL

London, Paris – Tuesday 18th October 2016

**PRODUCER DAVID HEYMAN AND STUDIOCANAL ANNOUNCE
PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND CAST OF
PAUL KING'S**

PADDINGTON 2

HUGH GRANT AND BRENDAN GLEESON JOIN ALL STAR RETURNING CAST

Producer David Heyman and STUDIOCANAL are delighted to announce the start of principal photography for Paul King's highly anticipated PADDINGTON 2, revealing that Hugh Grant and Brendan Gleeson join the all-star returning cast of Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Peter Capaldi, Madeleine Harris and Samuel Joslin with Ben Whishaw as the voice of Paddington and Imelda Staunton as Aunt Lucy. PADDINGTON 2 is now in production.

The much-anticipated sequel to the worldwide hit family film finds Paddington happily settled with the Brown family in Windsor Gardens, where he has become a popular member of the community, spreading joy and marmalade wherever he goes. While searching for the perfect present for his beloved Aunt Lucy's hundredth birthday, Paddington spots a unique pop-up book in Mr. Gruber's antique shop, and embarks upon a series of odd jobs to buy it. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington and the Browns to unmask the thief...

Hugh Grant plays Windsor Gardens' local celebrity, PHOENIX BUCHANAN, a vain, charming acting legend whose star has fallen somewhat in recent years. Grant is a Golden Globe and BAFTA winner, best known for his memorable performances in films like *LOVE ACTUALLY* and *ABOUT A BOY*, and was most recently seen in the critically acclaimed Stephen Frears' comedy drama *FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS* opposite Meryl Streep.

Brendan Gleeson plays "KNUCKLES" MCGINTY, a notorious safe-cracker and legendary strongman who becomes an unexpected new ally for Paddington. Gleeson received an Emmy award for his portrayal of 'Winston Churchill' in HBO's *'INTO THE STORM'*, and a Golden Globe nomination for *IN BRUGES*. Other recent credits include the *HARRY POTTER* series, *EDGE OF TOMORROW* and *CALVARY*. Upcoming features include Ben Affleck's *LIVE BY NIGHT*, *ASSASSIN'S CREED*, *ALONE IN BERLIN* opposite Diane Keaton and *TRESPASS AGAINST US* opposite Michael Fassbender.

A Heyday Films and STUDIOCANAL production, Paddington's return to the big screen is helmed by BAFTA nominated director Paul King (*PADDINGTON*, *COME FLY WITH ME*, *THE MIGHTY BOOSH*) written by Paul King and Simon Farnaby (*PADDINGTON*, *YONDERLAND* and the forthcoming *MINDHORN*).

Paddington 2 is produced by multi award-winning David Heyman (producer of all eight of the *HARRY POTTER* films, *GRAVITY*, *THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS*, *FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM*).



Paul King and David Heyman comment *"It has been a complete joy to return to the world of Paddington. It was such a delight to see his first big screen adventure embraced by audiences around the world, and I couldn't be more excited about Hugh and Brendan joining the cast to bring his next outing to life. Together, I hope we can make a film worthy of this most exceptional of bears."* Paul King

"I am thrilled to be back in the warm embrace of Paddington Bear, again under the inspired direction of Paul King. And I'm delighted to welcome Hugh and Brendan to our exceptional cast." David Heyman.

With Ron Halpern, EVP of International Productions and Acquisitions for STUDIOCANAL adding *"PADDINGTON is such a beloved film for all of us at STUDIOCANAL. There really is nothing which could make us all happier than to be back with Paul King, David Heyman and this wonderful cast to begin a new PADDINGTON adventure."*

STUDIOCANAL developed the film, is fully financing and will distribute in the UK, France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand, and is handling international sales.

PADDINGTON is the highest grossing independent (non-US studio) family film of all time grossing \$270m worldwide.

STUDIOCANAL Release dates:

UK: 10 November 2017
France: 6 December 2017
Germany: 7 December 2017
Australia: 26 December 2017
New Zealand: 26 December 2017

PADDINGTON 2 is based on the best-selling and internationally adored series of children's stories by British author Michael Bond.

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About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL is Europe's leader in production, right acquisition, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series. STUDIOCANAL operates directly in all three major European markets, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. STUDIOCANAL has fully-financed recent box office hits like *Paddington*, *Shaun the Sheep* and *Non-Stop*. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include *The Commuter* featuring Liam Neeson, and Nick Park's stop-motion movie *Early Man*, with Aardman Studios.

STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning production companies including Tandem Productions in Germany (*Crossing Lines*, *Spotless*), the UK's RED Production Company (*Happy Valley*) and BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES (*Grand Hotel*, *Velvet*).

Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, with thousands of international titles.

STUDIOCANAL's parent company, CANAL+ Group, is fully-owned by Vivendi, a global media and content production and distribution group.