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CAPITOL'S "FIVE CHILDREN AND IT"
WITH KENNETH BRANAGH, EDDIE IZZARD AND ZOE WANAMAKER
- PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY UNDERWAY

Capitol Films announced today that filming has begun on its latest project FIVE CHILDREN AND IT, adapted from the much loved and magical children's classic of the same name by E Nesbit ("The Railway Children"), cited as the author who most inspired JK Rowling ("Harry Potter").

FIVE CHILDREN AND IT tells the story of a group of children sent away to stay with their uncle in a strange and dilapidated mansion by the sea. While exploring they dig up an 8,000 year old sand fairy that is prepared to make their wildest dreams come true... at a price. FIVE CHILDREN AND IT is an action-packed summer adventure blending magic, fun and perilous exploits with strong family values.

Award-winning stand-up comedian and actor EDDIE IZZARD ("Shadow of the Vampire") is the voice of 'It', the cranky Psammead, the main child is played by FREDDIE HIGHMORE who will soon appear on screen in the title role of Peter Pan in "JM Barrie's Neverland", with KENNETH BRANAGH ("Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets", "Rabbit-Proof Fence") as the eccentric Uncle and ZOE WANAMAKER ("Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone", "Wilde") as Martha, the friendly but crazy housekeeper. Other cast includes TARA FITZGERALD ("I Capture the Castle"), JOHN SESSIONS ("Gangs of New York") and ALEX JENNINGS ("The Wings of the Dove").

FIVE CHILDREN AND IT is a Capitol Films project in association with Endgame Entertainment (US), The Isle of Man Film Commission and The UK Film Council's Premiere Fund. This magical world is brought to life by Jim Henson's Creature Shop™ ("Babe", "101 Dalmations", "Cats and Dogs") using a combination of animatronics, live action and CGI. The Producers are Nick Hirschhorn and Lisa Henson, the Director is John Stephenson ("Animal Farm") from a screenplay by David Solomons. Shooting is taking place over a ten week period on the Isle of Man and at Shepperton Studios.

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Jim Henson's Creature Shop™ provides performed digital visual effects, animatronic creatures, animation and soft puppets to the international film, television and advertising industries. Based in Los Angeles and New York with satellite shop capabilities internationally, the Shop is known for designing and building some of the world's best-known characters including Elmo from "Sesame Street," Miss Piggy from "The Muppet Show," the Baby from "Dinosaurs," Rygel from "Farscape," and the Skeksis from "The Dark Crystal." Other credits include "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," "Are We There Yet?," "Five Children and It," the critically acclaimed television series "Farscape," "The English Patient," "101 Dalmatians," and "Cats and Dogs."

A recipient of more than 9 Emmy Awards for its outstanding work building puppets for "Sesame Street," the Shop also received an Academy Award for its visual effects work on the film "Babe." Other awards include a Scientific and Engineering Academy Award for the Henson Performance Control System, a powerful custom-based interface for puppeteers as well as the Computer Graphics World Innovation Award and the prestigious Computerworld Honors 21st Century Achievement Award, which recognizes innovative applications of technology that benefit society. Both computer awards were given to the Shop for its work in developing the Henson Digital Puppetry Studio, a patented control system technology that enables puppeteers to physically perform computer generated (CG) characters in real time.

Jim Henson's Creature Shop is currently in production on "Sid the Science Kid," a 40 episode animated preschool series to air on PBS in the fall of 2008 featuring Henson Digital Puppetry Studio technology and Season 38 of "Sesame Street" for Sesame Workshop.