

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE JIM HENSON COMPANY PROMOTES PETE COOGAN  
TO MANAGING DIRECTOR OF JIM HENSON'S CREATURE SHOP™**

Creature Shop Management Team to Also Include John Stephenson,  
Board of Directors Co-Chair and Director of Jim Henson Pictures' *Five Children and It*

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LONDON, September 19, 2003 –Pete Coogan has been promoted to Managing Director of Jim Henson's Creature Shop™. The announcement was made today by Brian Henson, Chairman of The Jim Henson Company, to whom he will report.

In his new position, Coogan will oversee all aspects of the Creature Shop's world-renowned character building and computer generated effects endeavors in both London and Los Angeles. This includes managing all of the visual effects, computer generated and animatronics work produced by the Creature Shop on an expansive array of film, television, advertising and live-action projects. A twenty-year veteran of the Company, Coogan previously served as Senior Vice President of Production.

John Stephenson, former Executive Vice President and Creative Supervisor of Jim Henson's Creature Shop, will continue his role as Co-Chair of the Creature Shop's Board of Directors, while shifting his emphasis to directing film and television projects. Stephenson is currently directing *Five Children and It*, a new Jim Henson Pictures' film in production in the UK.

"Pete and John have decades of experience with The Jim Henson Company and they have put their hearts and souls into ensuring that our work is synonymous with the highest quality visual entertainment," said Brian Henson, Chairman of The Jim Henson Company. "The UK is a vital part of our business, and we know that in their new roles, this wonderfully creative and devoted group is sure to lead us to even greater success."

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2-2-2 Jim Henson's Creature Shop Promotion

Coogan has played an integral part of many recent Jim Henson Company productions. Credits include Executive in Charge of Production on the hit SCI-FI television series *Farscape* filmed in Australia; Co-Producer on the Emmy Award-winning miniseries *Jim Henson's Jack and the*

*Beanstalk: The Real Story*; and Production Manager for the feature films *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Muppet Treasure Island*. Coogan also was part of the team that set up the Los Angeles Creature Shop in the early 1990's, while working on the Emmy Award-winning television series *Dinosaurs*.

In addition, Coogan oversaw international production for many of the Company's hit children's series including the BAFTA Award-winning *Jim Henson's The Hoobs™*, *Jim Henson's Animal Show with Stinky and Jake™*, *Mopatop's Shop™*, *Jim Henson's Construction Site™*, *Jim Henson's Mother Goose Stories™*, *Fraggle Rock™* and *Jim Henson's Secret Life of Toys™*.

Stephenson has been with Jim Henson's Creature Shop since 1984, and has operated as Designer, Art Director, Creative Supervisor, Director, Senior Vice President, and most recently Executive Director. With a flair for both the visual and the technical, Stephenson has directed numerous special effects shoots and commercials over the last several years. In 1999, he directed Hallmark's highly acclaimed *Animal Farm*, and previously was the Second Unit Director on the feature films *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and *Lost in Space*. Most recently, he was Director of Animation for all digital shots on the successful feature film *Brotherhood of the Wolf (Le Pacte des Loups)*. Stephenson has also directed episodes of the BAFTA-nominated series *Jim Henson's Construction Site* for Jim Henson Television on ITV.

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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.