



**STXFILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION ON 'THE SECRET GARDEN' FROM
STUDIOCANAL & HEYDAY FILMS**

***Colin Firth, Julie Walters and Young Actor Dixie Egerickx Star in the Upcoming Family
Adventure***

LOS ANGELES— March 25, 2019 – STXfilms, a division of Robert Simonds global, next-generation media company STX Entertainment, today announced it has acquired North American distribution rights on STUDIOCANAL and Heyday Films' upcoming film THE SECRET GARDEN starring Colin Firth and Julie Walters alongside Dixie Egerickx as Mary Lennox.

THE SECRET GARDEN tells the story of Mary Lennox (Dixie Egerickx, *Genius, The Little Stranger* and *A Royal Winter*), a prickly and unloved 10-year-old girl, born in India to wealthy British parents. When they suddenly die, she is sent back to England to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven (Academy Award® and BAFTA-winner Colin Firth – *A Single Man, The King's Speech, Kingsman: The Golden Circle, Bridget Jones's Baby*) on his remote country estate deep in the Yorkshire moors. There, she begins to uncover many family secrets, particularly after meeting her sickly cousin Colin (Edan Hayhurst – *Genius, There She Goes*), who has been shut away in a wing of the house. Together, these two damaged, slightly misfit children heal each other through their discovery of a wondrous secret garden, lost in the grounds of Misselthwaite Manor. A magical place of adventure that will change their lives forever.

Academy Award® nominated and BAFTA-winning Julie Walters (*Paddington 1 & 2, Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool*) plays Mrs. Medlock, the head housekeeper at Misselthwaite, with Amir Wilson (*The Kid Who Would Be King*) joining the stellar cast as Dickon, alongside Isis Davis (*Guilt, Electric Dreams*) as Martha.

THE SECRET GARDEN is a new take on the classic children's novel of the same name written by Frances Hodgson Burnett, brought forward to a new time period in 1947 England, on the eve of Partition in India, and in the aftermath of WW2 in Britain. BAFTA-winning Marc Munden (*National Treasure, Utopia*) directs this new adaptation, from a screenplay by multiple award-winning Jack Thorne (*Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*).

“The original *Secret Garden* novel continues to be beloved by both children and adults around the world,” said Adam Fogelson, Chairman of STXfilms. “We’re thrilled to partner with STUDIOCANAL and Heyday, who together have worked on some of the most popular and well received family films of the last decade and look forward to bringing a fresh take on this fantastical story to life for audiences around North America.”

“We are delighted to have found the perfect home for the film with STXfilms, and we look forward to US audiences being able to enter the magical world of THE SECRET GARDEN” said Didier Lupfer, CEO of STUDIOCANAL.

David Heyman (*Harry Potter* franchise, *Paddington 1& 2*) and Rosie Alison (*Paddington 1 &2*) are producing and Jane Robertson (*The Danish Girl*, *Bridget Jones’s Baby*) will co-produce. STXfilms will distribute SECRET GARDEN in the U.S. and Canada. STX’s Jordan Lichtman and Carolyn Steinmetz negotiated the deal on behalf of the studio with Anna Marsh, EVP of International Distribution and UK Managing Director at STUDIOCANAL.

STXfilms’ 2019 slate includes, BEST OF ENEMIES (April 5), UGLYDOLLS (May3), POMS (May 10), 17 BRIDGES (July 12) and THE BOY 2 (July 26).

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About STXfilms

STXfilms is a division of STX Entertainment, a global, next-generation media company whose mission is to unlock the value of the direct connection stars have with their fans through the development, financing, production, marketing and distribution of film, television, VR, digital video, music and live entertainment content. It is the industry leader in transforming beyond traditional platform-driven content to creating talent-driven enterprises.

The company is led by accomplished businessman and entrepreneur Robert Simonds. Investors include the global private investment firm TPG Growth; Hony Capital, a leading private equity firm in China; PCCW, Southeast Asia's largest Internet and cable services provider; Tencent Holdings, China's leading provider of online products and services; Liberty Global, the world’s largest distribution platform; Dominic Ng, Chairman of East West Bank; New Enterprise Associates (NEA); DNS Capital (representing the business interests of Gigi Pritzker and her immediate family); and Beau Wrigley, former Chairman and CEO of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, among others. With these strategic relationships, the company is uniquely positioned to maximize the impact of content worldwide, with direct passage into the China market.

For more information, please visit <http://www.stxentertainment.com>.

About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL, a 100% affiliate of CANAL+ Group held by Vivendi, is Europe's leader in production, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series, operating directly in all three major European markets - France, the United Kingdom and Germany - as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, boasting more than 5,500 titles from 60 countries. Spanning 100 years of film history, this vast and unique catalogue includes among others the iconic *Terminator 2*, *Rambo*, *Breathless*, *Mulholland Drive*, *The Pianist* and *Belle de jour*.

STUDIOCANAL has fully-financed box office hits *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, *Paddington 1 and 2*, *Non-Stop* and *Shaun The Sheep*. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include Marjane Satrapi's *Radioactive* featuring Rosamund Pike, *The Secret Garden* produced by David Heyman starring Colin Firth, Aardman Studios' stop-motion film *Shaun the Sheep 2*.

STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning European production companies, including TANDEM in Germany (*Take Two*) and the UK's RED Production Company (*Years and Years*). STUDIOCANAL is also an associate of Danish-based SAM Productions founded by Søren Svestrup and Adam Price (*Ride Upon The Storm*) as well as of UK-based GUILTY PARTY PICTURES; Benedict Cumberbatch's production company SUNNYMARCH TV (*Patrick Melrose*); URBAN MYTH FILMS (*War of the Worlds*) and Spain's BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES (*Instinto*). In 2018, STUDIOCANAL launched a new label in France, STUDIOCANAL ORIGINAL.

Media Contact:

Mari Dwyer
STX Entertainment
818-524-7041

mdwyer@stxentertainment.com