

STUDIOCANAL AND AARDMAN ARE ANNOUNCING THE NEW AARDMAN STUDIOS FILM 'EARLY MAN' BY FOUR TIME ACADEMY AWARD WINNER NICK PARK

London, UK – STUDIOCANAL and Aardman announced today a new partnership on an exciting and hilarious new adventure from the award-winning Aardman, the creators of SHAUN THE SHEEP and WALLACE & GROMIT. This is their second film together after Shaun the Sheep the Movie directed by Mark Burton and Richard Starzak.

EARLY MAN is a stop-frame feature film by BAFTA and Academy Award winning director, Nick Park, produced by Aardman. Supported by accomplished screenwriters Mark Burton and John O'Farrell, this new film will take audiences into a dramatic prehistoric world and unleash an unforgettable cast of hilarious new characters. It also marks Park's first film since Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. Park also co-directed Chicken Run.

STUDIOCANAL is co-financing the film and will distribute it in its 5 territories and is handling international sales. The BFI (British Film Institute) is also a partner on the film. Sales will start in Cannes Film Festival.

Early Man continues the production partnership with STUDIOCANAL and Aardman following the success of Shaun the Sheep the Movie. With 20 territories still to release the film including key markets such as Latin America, China and the United States of America (by Lionsgate [on August 7th](#)), the film has been an impressive debut for the partnership.

Synopsis:

Set at the dawn of time, when dinosaurs and woolly mammoths roamed the earth, EARLY MAN tells the story of how one plucky caveman unites his tribe against a mighty enemy and saves the day!

Nick Park said: "I'm very excited to be making this film with such great partners – STUDIOCANAL and BFI. And with the support of the incredible team at Aardman – bringing this inept bunch of cavemen to life is going to be a hilarious adventure! "

Olivier Courson said: "I'm thrilled to partner again with the Aardman team. All of us at Studiocanal are such fans of everything that Aardman does. After the great experience together on Shaun the Sheep the Movie, we could not be happier than to be able to work on a Nick Park film with Aardman."

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About Aardman

Aardman, based in Bristol (UK) co-founded and run by Peter Lord and David Sproxton, is a world leader in animation. It produces feature films, series, advertising and digital entertainment for both the domestic and international market. Their multi-award winning productions are novel, entertaining, brilliantly characterised and full of charm that reflects the unique talent, energy and personal commitment of the very special people who make up the Aardman team. The studio's work is often imitated and yet the company continues to lead the field producing a rare brand of visually stunning and amusing independent and commercials productions.

www.aardman.com

About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL is a subsidiary of CANAL+ Group. It is one of Europe's leading companies in the market for co-production, acquisition, distribution of international feature films and TV series. STUDIOCANAL is behind box office hits like Paddington, Shaun the Sheep and Non-Stop. STUDIOCANAL is the only studio operating simultaneously in the three main European territories - France, the United Kingdom and Germany - as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important libraries in the world, with more than 5,000 international titles.

About the BFI

With over £26m to invest a year, the BFI is the UK's largest public investor in film - supporting first-class filmmaking through development and production, to distribution and international sales.

Recent releases backed by the BFI Film Fund include Mike Leigh's critical and box office hit, **Mr. Turner**; Matthew Warchus's **Pride**; Jonathan Glazer's **Under the Skin**; Yann Demange's **'71**; Randall Wright's **Hockney**; Lone Scherfig's **The Riot Club**; Amma Asante's **Belle**; Daniel Wolfe's **Catch Me Daddy**; Stephen Frears' **Philomena**; John Michael McDonagh's **Calvary**; Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard's **20,000 Days on Earth**; and André Singer's **Night Will Fall**.

New films supported by the BFI Film Fund include Yorgos Lanthimos' **The Lobster** premiering In Competition at this year's Cannes; Andrew Haigh's **45 Years** which

premiered in competition at the 2015 Berlin Film Festival where it won two Silver Bear awards; John Maclean's **Slow West**, Louise Osmond's **Dark Horse** and Jerry Rothwell's **How to Change the World** which all premiered at Sundance; Sarah Gavron's **Suffragette**; Ben Wheatley's **High Rise**; Rufus Norris' **London Road**; Guy Myhill's **The Goob**; Duane Hopkins' **Bypass**; Terence Davies' **Sunset Song**; Debbie Tucker-Green's **Second Coming**; John Crowley's **Brooklyn**; Richard Bracewell's **Bill**; Brian Hill's **Thomas Quick**; Jon Wright's **Robot Overlords**; Omer Fast's **Remainder**; Esther May Campbell's **Light Years**; David Farr's **The Ones Below**; Andrea Arnold's **American Honey**; and Pete Travis' **City of Tiny Lights**.

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

www.bfi.org.uk/filmfund