July 11, 2000

FARSCAPE'S LATEST 3-EPISODE STORY ARC, LOOK AT THE PRINCESS, BEGINS JULY 21

SCI FI's Hit Original Series is "Critic's Choice for Best Sci-fi Series of 1999" — TV Guide

Pasadena, CA — *Farscape*, SCI FI Channel's weekly original series, has captured and exhilarated TV audiences with its inventive characters, cinematic special effects and imaginative writing. The hit series, created by Rockne S. O'Bannon (*Alien Nation*), now in its second breakout season was just recently picked up for a thrilling third. With a devoted fan following and much critical acclaim, *Farscape* will celebrate with its first fan convention in August. Now, on <u>Friday, July 21st at 9pm ET</u>, SCI FI will begin an innovative three-episode story arc: *Look at the Princess*, which will delight fans with revelations about the evil Scorpius's abominable heritage and Moya's mysterious builders.

Look at the Princess finds Crichton, Aeryn, Rygel, D'Argo, and Chiana on a planet about to crown their new monarch. The problem is, the Princess Katralla, cannot ascend unless she finds a mate genetically compatible to her poisoned DNA. Her brother, Prince Clavor, is over his head in a bargain with the Scarran Diplomat, Sastaretski Cargn, to ascend the throne in her place...whatever the cost. Enter Crichton, unawares of the game of thrones taking place around him. Spurned by Aeryn (again), he takes to the native culture of testing his genetic compatibility with the local women, which is a sort of kissing litmus test. The trouble starts when he kisses the princess and is found to be the only person ever to be compatible with her which could save the monarchy.

Meanwhile, Scorpius' warship arrives in orbit around the planet, forcing Zhaan to flee in Moya, only to discover a greater peril at the hands of Moya's builders — god-like creatures with the power of life and death over their creations.

Trapped on the planet, Crichton is forced to make a decision: marry the princess or be turned over to Scorpius, who has been pursuing Crichton across the galaxy. One of the many drawbacks to being crowned is that he will have to spend eighty cycles as a statue, absorbing knowledge of the state's parliament until it is time for he and his wife to rule.

From The Jim Henson Company and Hallmark Entertainment, *Farscape's* 22-episode second season airs regularly on Fridays at 9 p.m. ET as part of "SCI FI Prime," the Channel's successful Friday night block of original programs. The lineup also includes *Invisible Man* at 8 pm ET and *LEXX* at 10 pm ET. *Farscape* replays at 12 pm ET.

Farscape stars **Ben Browder**, **Claudia Black**, **Anthony Simcoe**, **Virginia Hey** and newcomer **Gigi Edgley**, following the adventures of astronaut John Crichton (Browder), who joins a motley band of escaped renegades traversing the universe in Moya, a living ship.

SCI:FI

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Farscape: Look at the Princess

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A home base for *Farscape* fans, SCI FI's award-winning Web site SCIFI.COM extends access to the *Farscape* universe with exclusive background information, showcasing behind-the-scenes footage and downloadable audio cast interviews. In addition to regular live scheduled chats with the cast and crew based in Sydney, Australia, the chat room has been known to feature their surprise appearances.

Farscape has quickly become recognized for its feature film quality special effects and technologically innovative creature design from the Academy Award-winning Jim Henson's Creature Shop[™]. Filmed in Sydney, Australia, *Farscape* is executive produced by David Kemper, Brian Henson, Rod Perth and Robert Halmi, Jr. Naren Shankar and Richard Manning are co-executive producers. O'Bannon serves as executive consultant. Sue Milliken is producer.

The Jim Henson Company, an established leader in family entertainment for more than 40 years, is an independent multimedia production company; one of the top character licensors in the industry; a leading publisher of children's books; and home to Jim Henson Television, Jim Henson Pictures, Jim Henson Interactive and Jim Henson's Creature ShopTM. The company is headquartered in Los Angeles with offices and production facilities in New York and London. The Jim Henson Company website is located at: <u>www.henson.com</u>. Henson's official *Farscape* website, <u>www.farscape.com</u> was developed by Jim Henson Interactive and the *Farscape* production team. The site includes exclusive imagery, screensavers and coming soon, web-only interactive expanded show content.

Hallmark Entertainment is the world's leading producer and distributor of miniseries and television movies, owner of the Hallmark Entertainment Network, the rapidly growing 24-hour international pay television film service and a leader in home video with Hallmark Home Entertainment. The company's acclaimed list of credits, include an impressive 122 Emmy Awards, which is comprised of such memorable television events as *Gulliver's Travels* (produced in conjunction with The Jim Henson Company), *Lonesome Dove, The Odyssey, Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Poor,* and most recently, the highly-rated miniseries *Moby Dick* and *Merlin.* Hallmark is a subsidiary of Hallmark Cards, Inc.

SCI FI Channel, owned and operated by USA Cable, a division of USA Networks, Inc.'s Entertainment unit (NASDAQ: USAI), transmits fantastic images to over 63 million human homes. Launched in 1992, SCI FI features a continuous stream of cinematic hits, new and original series, and special events, as well as classic sci-fi, fantasy, and horror programming. Check out SCIFI.COM, the SCI FI Channel's award-winning Web site, at <u>www.scifi.com</u>.

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