

February 25, 2000

## **FARSCAPE SOARS!**

### ***SCI FI's Hit Original Series Premieres Its Second Season March 17***

*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*), returns for its second breakout season on **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. ET.** With a phenomenal fan following and much critical acclaim for its freshman season, *Farscape* was named "Critic's Choice for Best Sci-fi Series of 1999" by *TV Guide*.

From The Jim Henson Company and Hallmark Entertainment, *Farscape's* 22-episode second season airs regularly on Fridays at 8 p.m. ET as part of "SCI FI Prime," the Channel's successful Friday night block of original programs. The lineup will also include *good vs. evil* at 9 p.m. ET and *LEXX* at 10 p.m. ET. *Farscape* replays at 11 p.m. ET.

The series stars **Ben Browder, Claudia Black, Anthony Simcoe, Virginia Hey** and newcomer **Gigi Edgley**. *Farscape* follows the adventures of astronaut John Crichton (Browder), who joins a motley band of escaped renegades traversing the universe in Moya, a living ship. His companions include estranged military Peacekeeper Aeryn Sun (Black), brutish alien warrior D'Argo (Simcoe), mystical high priestess Zhaan (Hey), Rygel XVI - the Hynerian Dominar (voice of Tim Mievil), and the impetuous Chiana (Edgley). Unwillingly bound together, Moya's crew attempts to evade a vengeful hunter, Captain Crais (Lani Tupu) and an even more sinister new arch-villain, Scorpius (Wayne Pygram). This season, as their quest toward home continues, new twists will arise concerning the main characters' various dark pasts, the latent powers of the living starship's new baby, and a host of other treacherous alien threats.

*Farscape's* increasing popularity has made it a phenomenon with online users as well as TV viewers. In the tradition of *Star Trek's* legion of "Trekker" fans, *Farscape* fans have proudly dubbed themselves "Scapers." This year, fans can look forward to the release of licensed *Farscape* action figures and trading cards. Additionally, a *Farscape* trailer can be seen in movie theaters beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>.

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. Furthermore, SCIFI.com's extremely active main *Farscape* bulletin board posted an estimated 6,000 articles and replies the weekend following the series' season one finale.

*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 Shop™. 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: [www.henson.com](http://www.henson.com). Henson's official *Farscape* website, [www.farscape.com](http://www.farscape.com) 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 Networks, a USA Company (NASDAQ: USAI), transmits fantastic images to over 60 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 [www.scifi.com](http://www.scifi.com).

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