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**DISNEYNATURE'S JEAN-FRANCOIS CAMILLERI  
TO OPEN BLUE OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WITH SCREENING OF *EARTH* AND  
FIRST GLIMPSE OF FOOTAGE FROM UPCOMING *OCEANS***

**Blue Ocean Film Festival | Savannah | June 10-14, 2009**

May 18, 2009 (Savannah, Georgia) — Walt Disney Studios' Disneynature will open the inaugural BLUE Ocean Film Festival with a screening of its first theatrical release, *EARTH*, which set box office records for a documentary (other than concerts) when it opened on Earth Day, 2009. This screening, however, comes with unique insight as Jean-Francois Camilleri, executive vice president, Disneynature, personally shares the vision of the new Walt Disney Studios label with this first time gathering of ocean filmmakers, broadcasters and conservation leaders from around the world. Camilleri will also reveal a glimpse of spectacular footage from Disneynature's upcoming *OCEANS* release, due to hit theatres on Earth Day, 2010. The Disneynature presentation is scheduled for ***Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.***

Prior to launching Disneynature, Camilleri developed local co-productions and acquisitions for Disney's Buena Vista International (BVI) in Paris which included the Academy Award®-winning *March Of The Penguins*. Camilleri began his career in France with Warner Bros. International, joining Disney and BVI in 1990, working in the U.S. for a period, before returning to his native France.

The first film in the Disneynature series, *EARTH*, narrated by James Earl Jones, tells the remarkable story of three animal families—polar bears, elephants, and whales—as they make their amazing journeys across the planet we all call home. *EARTH* combines rare action, unimaginable scale and impossible locations by capturing the most intimate moments

of our planet's wildest and most elusive creatures. Directors Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, the acclaimed creative team behind the Emmy Award®-winning series "Planet Earth," have combined forces again to bring this epic adventure to the big screen.

Like all other film screenings for BLUE Ocean Film Festival, this special feature will also be open to the general public. Admission for to the Disneynature event will be included in all community festival patron passes, available now through [www.scadboxoffice.com](http://www.scadboxoffice.com).

"This new development provides one more reason for ocean filmmakers from around the globe to travel to Savannah next month," explained Debbie Kinder, founder and CEO of BLUE. "There is great interest in Disney's vision and our festival will offer a platform for Disneynature to share that vision with the industry."

Disney's participation underscores the global reach of this new, Savannah based film festival, which has drawn support from ocean leaders around the world. In addition to providing a stellar opening night experience, Disneynature has committed as a sponsor of the festival.

Through its industry awards competition, BLUE will bring to Savannah the world's greatest collection of ocean films and filmmakers. The festival will screen over 50 finalist films. "We hope the visibility that follows the Disney brand will help us reach larger, more diverse audiences with these magnificent documentaries," commented Mari Carswell, a Savannah resident who is Advisory Board Chairman and co-founder of BLUE. Carswell adds, "The response to EARTH clearly demonstrates the power of film to engage people in caring about the future of our planet, over 70% of which is covered by our oceans."

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### **About Disneynature**

Disneynature, the first new Disney-branded film label from The Walt Disney Studios in over 60 years, was launched in April 2008 to bring the world's top nature filmmakers together to share a wide variety of wildlife subjects and stories with theatrical audiences. EARTH, the first film to premiere domestically under the new label on Earth Day 2009, garnered a record-breaking opening weekend for a nature documentary. Walt Disney was a pioneer in wildlife documentary filmmaking, producing 13 True-Life Adventure motion pictures between 1949

and 1960, winning 8 Academy Awards (R). For more information about DisneyNature, go to: [www.disney.com/nature](http://www.disney.com/nature).

### **About BLUE Ocean Film Festival**

BLUE Ocean Film Festival is a global film and conservation event founded to “promote, honor and share films that inspire people to protect our oceans and the life within.” BLUE will simultaneously host an Industry Festival, which will draw ocean filmmakers from around the world, and a Savannah Community Festival; June 10-14, 2009 in Savannah, Georgia. Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary, located just off the coast of Savannah, is host sponsor for the event. Following the festival, the Georgia Aquarium and National Marine Sanctuaries, both sponsors of BLUE, will host BLUE on Tour in their respective locations, reaching 16 major U.S. cities. For more information on BLUE visit [www.bluefilmfest.com](http://www.bluefilmfest.com). Tickets for the general public are available through [www.scadboxoffice.com](http://www.scadboxoffice.com).

BLUE Ocean Film Festival is presented by Make A Difference Media (MADM), a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to using the power of film to make a positive impact on important global issues. MADM is headquartered in Tampa, Florida. For more information visit [www.makeadifferencemedia.org](http://www.makeadifferencemedia.org).