



Developing world class talent  
through the Skills Investment Funds

Press Release  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## Icon Films Bolsters Training

Bristol based factual producer Icon Films has been awarded funding from Creative Skillset's Skills Investment Funds, which help companies invest in the development of skills and talent in the UK creative industries.

Icon Films is committed to investing in on going skills development for staff and freelancers and this industry co-investment fund will be used to boost skills and grow talent across the company. The planned activity includes Leadership Impact for Production Managers, Leadership Development, Equality and Diversity Training and Craft and Technical upskilling.

**Laura Marshall, Managing Director of Icon Films, said:** 'We are proud of our record in growing and developing our people to enable them to do their best work. This funding allows us to increase our spend in training benefitting not only Icon Films but the wider creative economy. This year we have seen a number of successes including our Commercial and Business Affairs Manager Rebecca McEwan named as a Broadcast Hot Shot, our Marketing Manager Belinda Biggam being nominated for the Brand Your Awards and Chris Stitchman nominated for Broadcast's TECH Young Talent Awards, and Leopards 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cats for BBC was awarded Best Editing at RTS West of England and Wildscreen Festival.

**Sarah Joyce, TV Partnership Manager Creative Skillset said:** "I'm delighted the Skills Investment Fund is supporting Icon Films' ongoing commitment to the development of skills for their workforce in Bristol. This project is one of many exciting initiatives we have supported working with regional television producers across the UK."

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**For further information or interviews please contact or interviews please contact Belinda Biggam on 0117 910 2030 or email [Belinda.Biggam@iconfilms.co.uk](mailto:Belinda.Biggam@iconfilms.co.uk)**

### Notes to Editors Icon Films

24 years old this year, Icon Films has produced over 290 hours of factual programming for the UK and international markets.

Icon Films brings together funders and works with broadcasters including the BBC, Channel 4, Five, ITV, National Geographic, Discovery Networks, Arte and PBS. Its work is internationally distributed by ITV Studios Global Entertainment, BBC Worldwide, Zodiak Rights, FremantleMedia International and TCB Media Rights.

Icon Films has a reputation for originality, excellence and entertainment across the breadth of factual genres including science, history, exploration and natural history.

Icon Films series for Animal Planet US, *River Monsters*, presented by angling explorer Jeremy Wade, is the best performing series in the network's history and is now in its sixth series.

Recent productions include **Spawn of Jaws 2 - The Birth** (1 x 60 Discovery Channel), **Survive The Tribe** (6 x 60 National Geographic Channels), **Africa's Giant Killers** (1 x 60 BBC), **Animals Through the Night – Sleepover at the Zoo** (1 x 90 BBC4), **Bigfoot Files** (3 x 60 Channel 4 / National Geographic US), **Hustling America** (3 x 60 Channel 5), **Bones of the Buddha** (1 x 60 National Geographic / WNET / ARTE), **Leopards: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cats** (1 x 60 BBC / Animal Planet US / BBCWW).

Icon Films is run by a senior management team which includes Creative Director Harry Marshall, Managing Director Laura Marshall, Director of Production Andie Clare and Commercial Director Lucy Middelboe.

### **About the Skills Investment Funds**

The Skills Investment Funds help companies invest in the development of skills and talent in the film, high-end TV, animation, games and visual effects industries in the UK. Managed by Creative Skillset, the Skills Investment Funds attract co-investment from the Creative Industries and UK Government. [www.creativeskillset.org/sif](http://www.creativeskillset.org/sif)

### **About Creative Skillset**

Creative Skillset empowers the Creative Industries to develop skills and talent; it does this by influencing and shaping policy, ensuring quality and by securing the vital investment for individuals to become the best in their field and for businesses to grow. As the industry skills body for the Creative Industries, Creative Skillset works across film, television, radio, animation, games, visual effects, fashion, textiles, publishing, advertising, marketing communications and performing arts. [www.creativeskillset.org](http://www.creativeskillset.org)