



THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENTATION OF THE CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS / PLANETE DOCUMENTARY PRIZE

Today, the presentation ceremony for the first **CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS/ PLANETE DOCUMENTARY PRIZE** was held to reward a producer/director team for their documentary project focusing on French overseas regions.

The jury, chaired by the filmmaker **Luc Jacquet** and made up of 4 other members: **Maitena Biraben**, the presenter of *Matinale* on CANAL+ and *PLANETE 2049* on the PLANETE channel; the novelist, **Francoise Bourdin**; **Antoine Heerah**, the Michelin-starred chef of *Chamarré* and *Moulin de la Galette*; and **Audrey Pulvar**, journalist and presenter of *19/20* on France 3, who met today to deliberate and choose the winner from among the ten pre-selected documentary projects.

The Jury awarded the **CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS/ PLANETE DOCUMENTARY PRIZE** to the documentary project "**WALPOLE, UNE ILE MYSTERIEUSE**" by **Eric Beauducel**, which will be produced by **Jean Louis Gerö** of **Cauri films**. (See the following page for a description of the project).

The prize winner is rewarded with funding in the amount of €75,000: €50,000 contributed by **CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS** as a co-producer and €25,000 from **PLANETE** as an advance purchase.

CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS and **PLANETE** are pleased and proud of this joint initiative and of the great success of this first edition.

CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS, a subsidiary of **CANAL OVERSEAS** created in 2002, is today one of the foremost partners of audiovisual projects in French overseas territories. **CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS** works to support the production of audiovisuals projects overseas and promoting them to a wide audience. Since its creation, **CANAL OVERSEAS PRODUCTIONS** has co-produced about one hundred hours of programmes per year and more than 250 projects.

PLANETE is the premium channel for Educational programming in the **CANAL+** Group package. Broadcast throughout France and in French overseas territories, it is available on CANALSAT, cable and pay DTTV.

Thanks to its wealth of programming, the **PLANETE** channel has the highest number of cable and satellite subscribers in France within its category. Its strength as a producer enables **PLANETE** to be an active partner in the creation of new and original documentaries.

CONTACTS:

CANAL OVERSEAS

Marianne CARADEC - Head of Marketing and Communications

01 41 86 15 22 - marianne.caradec@canal-overseas.com

Solenne ANTHONIOZ - Head of Press Relations

01 41 86 15 02 - solenne.anthonioz@canal-overseas.com

PLANETE

Daniel Maisonnasse - Head of Communications

Mathieu Besson - Press Attaché

01 71 35 24 71 - Mathieu.besson@canal-plus.com

WALPOLE

A mysterious island in the Pacific

Director: Eric Beauducel

At 42 years old, Eric Beauducel, who trained as a director of photography, has made more than 30 documentaries which bear witness to his passion for History, French overseas territories and the relationship between Man and Nature through such films as: "La rue comme horizon", 52' - FR3; "Le bataillon des guitarists", 70' - France ô, FIFO prize for documentary; "Les transportés", 52' - Histoire and Planète; as well as several series, such as "Des volcans et des hommes", a trilogy broadcast on Arte France.

Walpole... a mysterious island!

Archaeologists use the term "mysterious islands" to describe those uninhabited islands in the Pacific which still retain traces of ancient human settlement. Lost off the shores of New Caledonia, Walpole is one such island. Laid out like a citadel in the middle of the ocean, for more than thirty years it was an important site for producing guano, under conditions often deemed inhumane.

But, above all, Walpole is a place of mysteries, stories and legends which mix together to stimulate the imagination: the enigma which arose around the discovery of mysterious skeletons; traces of ancient civilisation, stories of shipwrecks, even hidden treasure...

Several attempts to explore the island, the majority of which were abandoned due to the lack of necessary means or adverse weather conditions have nevertheless provided glimpses of Walpole's rich history. The archaeologist, Christophe Sand, the last scientist to have briefly travelled through the island twelve years ago, together with his team, is setting out on a new attempt with the firm intention of finally penetrating its multiple secrets.

The filmmaker will follow him on this in-depth investigation and in doing so will tell the story of this mysterious citadel which had been completely forgotten...