

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE MAGNIFICENT VOYAGE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS,*
A TWO-HOUR DOCUMENTARY FROM WGBH, SETS SAIL
ON PBS JUST IN TIME FOR COLUMBUS DAY**



BOSTON, MA, July 23, 2007: Christopher Columbus changed the world in a way that few others have, bringing together the unknown and the known. Yet remarkably, the great explorer went to his grave ignorant of his great accomplishment, unaware that he had discovered two vast continents. On October 8, 2007 (check local listings), *The Magnificent Voyage of Christopher Columbus*, an exciting two-hour documentary, will recount the history and epic adventure of Columbus' first Atlantic crossing, as a modern-day crew retraces Columbus' voyage, sailing replicas of his famous fleet.

The forces that Columbus unknowingly set into motion brought about a profound transformation of America and Europe, and, in short order, Africa and Asia. His voyage initiated a tremendous trans-oceanic migration of peoples, plants, and diseases that, for better, and often for worse, affected the entire globe.

Executive Producer and Director, Zvi Dor Ner comments: "When we were filming this first voyage aboard the replicas of the Pinta, the Nina, and the Santa Maria, and recreating Columbus' passage through the Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola, we were very conscious of the need to tell the great adventure story of the European discovery of America. But we but also wanted to give our viewers a sense of the great drama that was about to engulf the people Columbus encountered."

The Magnificent Voyage of Christopher Columbus is produced for PBS by WGBH/Boston. The film is adapted and upgraded to high definition broadcast from the original, critically acclaimed seven-part series, *Columbus and the Age of Discovery* (1991), which was co-produced with the BBC/United Kingdom, SEQC and TVE/Spain, RAI/Italy, RTP/Portugal, NHK/Japan and NDR/Germany, and funded by Xerox and by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Arthur Vining Davies Foundation, George D. Smith Fund, Lowell Institute and public television viewers.

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of fully one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup, along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows and children's programs and many public radio favorites. WGBH is the number one producer of Web sites on pbs.org, one of the most trafficked dot-org Web sites in the world. WGBH is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who rely on captioning or video descriptions. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards...even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH was honored with a special institutional Peabody Award for 50 years of excellence. For more information visit www.wgbh.org.

For more series information and photography, visit pressroom.wgbh.org or pbs.org/pressroom.

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