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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Embark on a thrilling journey to the Moon with ‘Apollo 11: First Steps Edition,’ a special giant screen version for science centers and museum theaters of Todd Douglas Miller’s critically acclaimed documentary**

*Timed to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NASA’s celebrated first lunar landing, ‘Apollo 11: First Steps Edition’ features newly discovered 70mm footage and audio recordings from NASA and the National Archives*

**HARTFORD, CT (May 14, 2019)** –Audiences will experience one of humanity’s greatest achievements when **Todd Douglas Miller’s *Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*** opens at the **Connecticut Science Center’s Maximillian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Science Theater** on Friday, May 17, 2019 . Produced by Statement Pictures in partnership with CNN Films and distributed by MacGillivray Freeman Films, ***Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*** is a special giant screen version, made exclusively for science centers and museum theaters, of Miller’s critically-acclaimed theatrical documentary *Apollo 11*. The film is timed to the much-anticipated celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA’s Apollo 11 mission – the first to put men on the Moon.

“The Apollo 11 mission was humanity’s greatest adventure and we’re pleased to be bringing this edition to science centers and museums everywhere,” says director **Todd Douglas Miller**. “This film was designed to take full advantage of the immersive quality of IMAX and giant screen theaters.”

“We aimed to honor the original Apollo 11 mission by creating a film event that would capture the spectacle of this most extraordinary of human achievements,” says **Courtney Sexton**, executive producer and vice president of CNN Films. “Todd’s ambitious ***Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*** will thrill museum-goers with an incredible, unprecedented experience.”

Crafted from a newly-discovered trove of never-before-seen 70mm footage and more than 11,000 hours of uncatalogued audio recordings, ***Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*** puts audiences at the center of NASA’s historic lunar landing. Miller and his team crafted ***Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*** entirely from archival materials. As the team was working closely with NASA and the National Archives (NARA) to locate all existing Apollo 11 footage, NARA staff members made a startling discovery that changed the course of the project: an unprocessed collection of 70mm large format footage, never before seen by the public, containing stunning shots of the launch, the inside of Mission Control, and recovery and post-mission activities. The other unexpected find was a massive cache of audio recordings that captured individual tracks from 60 key mission personnel throughout every moment of the mission.

The film will run May 17 through September 22, 2019, with special space-themed programming throughout the month of July. Activities include Live Science demonstrations, hands-on activities, and a commemorative patch. Plus,

visitors can explore the Connecticut Science Center's permanent exhibition, Exploring Space Gallery, presented by the United Technologies Corporation, with some 1500 square feet of interactive experiences for all ages.

"We are thrilled to present this special edition film to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic first steps on the moon," said Tracy Shirer, Connecticut Science Center Director of Marketing. "This film will anchor the programming for the Connecticut Science Center's month-long celebration of this amazing human accomplishment. We are looking forward to celebrating Connecticut's role as an aerospace pioneer and a global leader while highlighting careers in STEM fields."

"**Apollo 11: First Steps Edition** is a cinematic event and we cannot wait to see audiences experience the thrill of walking on the Moon with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and becoming a part of history as the world celebrates this greatest of human accomplishments," said **Shaun MacGillivray**, President of MacGillivray Freeman Films.

**Apollo 11: First Steps Edition** is a family friendly film and runs 47 minutes. For more information, tickets and showtimes, visit [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org).

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**About the Connecticut Science Center:** The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving over 3 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries. Covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org) or (860) SCIENCE.

#### **About Statement Pictures**

Statement Pictures LLC was formed in 2011 in Brooklyn, NY to produce independent feature-length motion picture films and visual content. It is co-owned by filmmakers Todd Douglas Miller and Thomas Petersen. The company's first feature film, *Dinosaur 13*, premiered on opening night at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Lionsgate and CNN Films for theatrical and broadcast exhibition, winning an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Science and Technology Programming.

#### **About CNN Films**

CNN Films produces and acquires documentary feature and short films for theatrical and festival exhibition and distribution across CNN's multiple platforms. **Amy Entelis**, executive vice president of talent and content development, oversees the strategy for CNN Films; **Courtney Sexton**, vice president for CNN Films, works day-to-day with filmmakers to oversee projects. For more information about CNN Films, please visit [www.CNN.com/CNNFilms](http://www.CNN.com/CNNFilms) and follow [@CNNFilms](https://twitter.com/CNNFilms) via Twitter. CNN Films previously collaborated with Todd Douglas Miller for its presentation of [DINOSAUR 13](#). Recent acclaimed CNN Films include [RBG](#), directed by Betsy West and Julie Cohen; [LOVE, GILDA](#), directed by Lisa D'Apolito; and [Three Identical Strangers](#), directed by Tim Wardle.

**About MacGillivray Freeman Films**

[MacGillivray Freeman Films](#) is the world's foremost independent producer and distributor of giant-screen 70mm films with more than 40 films for IMAX and giant-screen theatres to its credit. Throughout the company's 50-year history, its films have won numerous international awards including two Academy Award® nominations for *The Living Sea* and *Dolphins* and three films inducted into the IMAX Hall of Fame, including *Everest*, the highest grossing giant screen film of all time. MacGillivray Freeman's films are known for their artistry and celebration of science and the natural world. It is the first documentary film company to reach the one-billion-dollar benchmark for worldwide box office.