



## ORION PICTURES AND SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS SETS SAIL WITH PHILIPPA LOWTHORPE'S SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS

**Los Angeles – April 26, 2017** — Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films have secured the North American rights to director Philippa Lowthorpe's **SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS**. The film, based off of the 1930's classic novel by Arthur Ransome of the same name, stars Rafe Spall (*The Big Short*, *The BFG*), Andrew Scott (*This Beautiful Fantastic*, TV's *SHERLOCK*) and Kelly Macdonald (*No Country for Old Men*).

**SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS** follows four children who dream of escaping from the tedium of a summer holiday. They are overjoyed when finally given permission to camp without supervision on a remote island in the middle of a vast lake. But when they arrive, they discover they may not be alone and a desperate yet whimsical battle for ownership of the island ensues, where both skill and luck play a hand. Simultaneously, the dangers of an adult world, on the brink of war, encroach on their paradise and intertwine with their lives, in the form of a mysterious pair of Russian spies hot on the tail of the enigmatic Jim Turner. The children must ban together from both groups, learn skills of survival, responsibility, and the all-important value of friendship to save a family member. Steeped in the wonder of a child's imagination and set against a breath-taking backdrop, this is an exhilarating adaptation of a treasured classic.

"I believe it's important to bring a good family film to the market, and that's what I found in **SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS**. The film has a talented cast, and I know this will be a classic like the original book," says Peter Goldwyn, President of Samuel Goldwyn Films.

**SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS** was written by Andrea Gibb and produced by Harbour Pictures' Nicholas Barton and BBC Films' Joe Oppenheimer. The film was produced by Harbour Pictures Productions in association with HanWay Films, Studio Canal, BBC FILMS, BFI, Screen Yorkshire, Electric Shadow Company and Maiden Investments.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn on behalf of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Mark Lane of HanWay Films on behalf of the filmmakers.

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### **About Orion**

Orion, an arm of MGM, is focused on distributing films across multiple platforms.

### **About Samuel Goldwyn Films**

Samuel Goldwyn Films is a major, independently owned and operated motion-picture company that develops, produces and distributes innovative feature films and documentaries.

The company is dedicated to working with both world-renowned and emerging writers/filmmakers and committed to filmed entertainment that offers original voices in uniquely told stories. This is best exemplified by the Academy Award® nominated THE SQUID AND THE WHALE, SUPER SIZE ME, AMAZING GRACE and Julie Delpy's hit comedy 2 DAYS IN PARIS. Past Goldwyn titles include: HARRY BROWN starring Michael Caine, the box office smash FIREPROOF and the 2010 independent hit MAO'S LAST DANCER. Samuel Goldwyn Films also released THE WHISTLEBLOWER, a powerful, ripped-from-the-headlines thriller starring Academy Award® winner Rachel Weisz, and the 2012 critics' darling ROBOT & FRANK, starring Academy Award® nominee Frank Langella and Academy Award® winner Susan Sarandon.

Additional Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: Gilles Bourdos' RENOIR, the lush film about the famous painter's later years and France's official submission for the 2014 Academy Awards®; Jason Wise's films SOMM & SOMM: Into the Bottle; 2015 Academy Foreign Language Film Award® nominee TANGERINES; the Sundance cult-hit LILA AND EVE starring Academy Award® winner Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez; and Morgan Matthews compelling drama A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND. Current Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: festival favorite CHICKEN PEOPLE, directed by Nicole Lucas Haines about three show chicken competitors; TRANSPICOS, the directorial debut and 2016 SXSW Audience Award Winner by Greg Kwedar; Ian Old's award-winning BURN COUNTRY with Academy Award® winner Melissa Leo, James Franco and breakout lead Dominic Rains; Carles Torrens' physiological thriller PET starring Dominic Monaghan; and YOUTH IN OREGON, the dramatic comedy of a 3,000 mile journey about life with Academy Award® nominated Frank Langella, Billy Crudup, Christina Applegate, Mary Kay Place, and Josh Lucas; the contemporary fairy tale THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Academy Award® nominated Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott, and Jeremy Irvine. Upcoming films include Avi Nesher's Israeli box office hit PAST LIFE; the family film A COWGIRL'S STORY starring Bailee Madison and Pat Boone; and Daniel Y-Li Grove's neo-noir gangster film THE PERSIAN CONNECTION.

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