



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL DRESSES UP FOR HALLOWEEN WITH MARATHON OF SPINE TINGLING SERIES AND SPECIALS

WASHINGTON, DC, October 2, 2009 – **Smithsonian Channel** is bringing out the creep factor this Halloween with a marathon of series and specials that are sure to make anyone shriek. With scary tales of vampires, monster fish, mummies and more, all presented in stunning HD and Dolby Digital 5.1 sound, there is no better place to sit back with a bagful of treats than the only network offering original programming inspired by the world's largest museum complex, the Smithsonian Institution.

Smithsonian Channel Halloween Marathon Lineup:

NICK BAKER'S WEIRD CREATURES: THE REAL GREMLIN - Friday, October 30 at 11pm & Saturday, October 31 at 5pm

Nick goes traipsing through one of the most bizarre and untouched jungles in the world in search of the "Real Gremlin." One of the tiniest primates in the world, the tarsier is famed for huge eyes and ferocious hunting skills. But despite their reputation, they're still one of the most appealing furry animals Nick has ever seen. Naturalist Nick Baker is the perfect person to go in search of some of nature's weirdest creatures, from an elusive armadillo that swims through sand dunes to a lizard that squirts blood from its eyes. For Nick, these are the unsung heroes of evolutionary biology. Nick has also been featured as one of *People* magazine's most beautiful people, sings in a blues band, and keeps leeches in his refrigerator.

NICK BAKER'S WEIRD CREATURES: THE FRANKENSTEIN FISH – Saturday, October 31 at 1pm & Sunday, November 1 at 1am

Nick hooks up with his father, Steve, an experienced angler, to help him track down the biggest freshwater fish in the western world, the Wels Catfish. Until this journey, his father's record catch had been a five-pound brown trout, a record soon blown out of the water as Steve hooks an 80-pound monster catfish.

THE TOMB DETECTIVES: PLAGUE MUMMIES – Saturday, October 31 at 11:30am & 11:30pm

Nearly two hundred perfectly preserved mummies have been found in a church crypt in the Hungarian town of Vac. One in particular could be the key to curing tuberculosis and is now stored in the Natural History Museum in Budapest.

THE TOMB DETECTIVES: BATTLEFIELD OF BONES – Saturday, October 31 at 12:30am & 6:30pm

Outside a small village in northern France, a routine archaeological dig unearths thousands of human bones. Most shocking of all is that there are no skulls.

THE TOMB DETECTIVES: VAMPIRE GRAVES – Saturday, October 31 at 11am & 11pm

Excavations of an abandoned cemetery uncover a grave dating from the 1800s in which the bones had been re-arranged in the pattern of the 'skull and cross bones.'

THE TOMB DETECTIVES: BOG BODIES – Saturday, October 31 at 10am & 7pm

Tollund Man is perhaps the world's most famous bog body. Recovered from the eerie bog lands of Northern Europe, his mummified remains date back more than 2,500 years.

THE REAL STORY: THE AMITYVILLE HORROR – Friday, October 30 at 8pm & Saturday, October 31 at 2pm

On November 13, 1974, police discovered six members of the DeFeo family - father, mother and four of their five children - shot dead, at 112 Ocean Avenue in the quiet village of Amityville, New York. Ronald, the eldest son, was found guilty of the murders. With the help of eye witness accounts, extraordinary archival footage and psychological drama, learn the facts and reveal new evidence behind the "Horror."

THE VAMPIRE PRINCESS: Friday, October 30 at 9pm & Saturday, October 31 at 8pm

Full-length episode will be streamed on smithsonianchannel.com

Two skeletons were found in Schwarzenberg Castle, Bohemia. Their decapitated heads were between their legs, weighed down by stones, and wooden stakes were driven through chest cavities. They may help decipher the spine-chilling story of an infamous Austrian princess. Princess Eleanor was not only a main character in the original version of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, but she was also notable for keeping captive wolves and bathing in their milk. Now the notes of her extraordinary autopsy have been found, and they help reveal why she became an infamous recluse and how she died. Modern forensic science uncovers the myth and the reality behind the Vampire Princess.

GHOSTS OF DUFFY'S CUT – Friday, October 30 at 10pm & Saturday, October 31 at 4pm

In 2002, two Pennsylvania brothers cleared the attic of their grandfather's home. Among his papers they found a file that no one was ever meant to see. Join the investigation as we uncover a conspiracy to hide the fate of fifty-seven Irish immigrants who disappeared without a trace. Travel back to "Duffy's Cut" as a team of DNA experts, archaeologists and forensic scientists join in the hunt for the missing men and the solution to an age-old mystery.

THE TRUE STORY OF MARY CELESTE – Saturday, October 31 at 12pm & 9pm

On December 5, 1872, the brigantine *Mary Celeste* was found adrift in the Atlantic, its captain and crew nowhere to be found. The mystery of this "ghost ship" has remained unanswered for over 135 years. Now, with the help of a newly discovered transcript documenting the ship's final five days, Smithsonian Channel brings this unsolved case to a close. Why was there no evidence of tampering with the cargo? How could the bodies of the crew, if dead, simply disappear? For over a century blame passed hands, and finally, the truth is revealed.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

Smithsonian Networks (SN) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that will showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The networks will feature original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com.

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