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THE LAST REEF: CITIES BENEATH THE SEA
EXPLORES MYSTERIOUS CITIES OF THE DEEP

Underwater 3D Adventure debuts at the Connecticut Science Center Next Week

Hartford, CT- March 14, 2013- *The Last Reef: Cities Beneath The Sea* is the newest 3D film to make a splash at the Connecticut Science Center. *The Last Reef* is a thrilling underwater journey that uses unprecedented 3D cinematography to bring the teeming world of coral reefs to life. The film debuts on **March 29** in the Science Center's Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Theater. To celebrate the opening, local sponsor **WFSB** will be on hand with some familiar faces from the Eyewitness News team from 1PM to 3PM. The team will be giving out free mini-movie posters as they meet fans, sign autographs and pose for photos.

Film goers are in for a treat as they view stunning 3D imagery on the Science Center's state-of-the-art giant screen. The film explores our connection with ocean's complex, parallel worlds, revealing a habitat more diverse and more colorful than ever imagined. Viewers will be immersed in these communities beneath the sea. The film reveals the behavior and relationships of countless ocean denizens—from well-loved species like spotted dolphins, to reef sharks and stingrays, to lesser-known but equally fascinating reef residents, such as crocodile fish, colorful nudibranchs and delicate flatworms. Shot on location in Palau, Bahamas, Cancun, French Polynesia and New York, *The Last Reef* takes us from the heart of the city to the heart of the reef. As these ancient, exotic havens face the threat of extinction, this uplifting film inspires audiences with a vision of the reef's incredible—yet fragile—power to rebuild.

The Last Reef reveals coral worlds in incredible detail, captured by world's first underwater 4K macro photography rig, created specifically for this shoot. Using this groundbreaking new technology, miniscule creatures appear massive on the giant screen while retaining brilliant clarity. Fly across iridescent tropical reefs, brush through a cloud of a million jellyfish and consider what it would mean if one of these wonderlands were to become the last reef, a very real danger being faced today.

The Last Reef is the newest giant screen film from the makers of *Wild Ocean 3D* and creators of STOMP. Directors Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas have teamed up again on a global journey to explore the undeniable connection of our cities on land to the vibrant parallel world beneath the sea. "We've always been passionate about diving and exploring the hidden worlds underwater," said Cresswell. "Shooting digitally for *Wild Ocean*, we were thrilled to be able to capture the incredible drama of the struggle for survival in the open sea. With *The Last Reef*, we

wanted to take a unique, but very different approach that would allow audiences to experience the color, diversity and interconnectedness of life in reef communities,” he said.

McNicholas said, “Underwater macro photography in 3D is something that’s never really been seen in any format, let alone on the giant screen. It’s the perfect tool to truly immerse viewers in these ‘alien’ worlds that are as vital to our existence as the rainforests—and are at risk of being the first ecosystem to be lost as a result of human activity.”

The Last Reef was shot over a period of three years, with much of the underwater footage captured on the reefs of Palau, 500 miles west of the Philippines. Palau is a beautiful archipelago of limestone rock islands sheltered by a massive reef, with a multitude of easily accessible coral formations in clear, calm waters. Individual sites in the film include Jellyfish Lake, Blue Corner, the German Channel and Mandarin Fish Lake. Mangrove footage was mainly shot in Bimini, with the added advantage of lemon sharks, reef sharks, stingrays and some excellent wreck sites. The reef aerials were shot in 15/70 large format film, over the French Polynesian islands of Bora Bora, Maupiti, Tupai and Rangiroa atoll.

Reefs possess a dizzying bustle of sea creatures that rival mankind’s most populated regions. Illustrating how these seemingly distant undersea cities are surprisingly like our own communities, many unexpected urban locations appear in *The Last Reef*. New York became the city reference point in the movie, but other time-lapse sequences were shot in Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami, London, and Southampton (UK). To bring the story full circle, images of the work of Jason deCaires Taylor, a British sculptor based in Cancun, Mexico appear as a coda. His life-size sculptures, casts of real objects and real people, form underwater sculpture parks in Mexico and Belize. They encourage new reef growth while drawing tourists away from protected areas, connecting humanity to the underwater world in a more positive way.

Daily Movie Schedule: Now Playing in the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Science Theater

Immerse yourself in an unforgettable 3D movie experience at the Connecticut Science Center featuring the most advanced digital and audio technologies. Stadium seating ensures there isn't a bad seat in the house as the 3D action comes to life on the 30'x40' giant screen with an 18,000-watt Dolby® sound system. \$7 Adults/\$6 Youth (Ages 4-17)/\$6 Seniors/\$5 Members. General Admission Combo Ticket pricing is also available.

www.CTScienceCenter.org/movies.

March 29 - September 1, 2013

11:00AM: Meerkats 3D – WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS & SUMMER ONLY

12:00PM: The Last Reef 3D – (39 minutes)

1:00PM: Flying Monsters 3D – (40 minutes/Recommended ages 8+)

2:00PM: Meerkats 3D – (40 minutes/Recommended ages 5+)

3:00PM: The Last Reef 3D – (39 minutes)

4:00PM: Flying Monsters 3D – (40 minutes/Recommended ages 8+)

The Last Reef is a production of Giant Screen Films, Yes/No Productions and Liquid Pictures. The film is written and directed by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas, the Academy Award®-nominated creators of the international sensation STOMP. Cresswell and McNicholas have previously teamed with Giant Screen Films on the award-winning giant-screen films *Wild Ocean* and *Pulse: a STOMP Odyssey*. Photography is by award-winning director of photography, D.J. Roller. Original music by Cresswell and McNicholas with sound design and mix by Mike Roberts and Brian Eimer. This film is suitable for all audiences; running time 39 minutes.

For more information including hours of operation, please visit www.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. With more than 1,000,000 people served since opening in 2009, visitors experience more than 150 exhibits in ten galleries and 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 café, and ongoing events and lectures 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. More information: **www.CTScienceCenter.org** or 860.SCIENCE.