



Sylvia Earle Documentary *Ocean Odyssey* Opening October 22 in the AutoNation® IMAX® Theater at the Museum of Discovery and Science

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (October 18, 2021) – New Giant Screen Format Film *Ocean Odyssey*, host-narrated by Sylvia Earle, will open on October 22 in the AutoNation® IMAX® Theater at the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS). With award-winning cinematography, the film will whisk audiences away to some of the most stunning locations along the East Australian Current, made famous by Nemo and just as wonderous in real life. Viewers will journey through the “blue heart of the planet,” the ocean, to follow a three-month-old baby whale on a great migration in the E.A.C.’s flow, from the warm tropics to the frozen ice floes of Antarctica and discover how the ocean and ocean currents make all life possible.

“We invite audiences of all ages to take a deep dive into the AutoNation® IMAX® Theater to view *Ocean Odyssey*,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO at MODS. “The Museum is home to the largest screen in south Florida, large enough to show a whale life size. Moviegoers will be in awe and ready to take action for our oceans as this epic migration across our blue planet unfolds.”

Dr. Earle, legendary oceanographer and “Joan of the Arc of the ocean” in the words of James Cameron, returns to the screen, this time in the immersive IMAX/Giant Screen medium, to continue her lifelong work of inspiring exploration and care for the oceans. The film will support the work of Sylvia Earle, her organization Mission Blue and other ocean conservation groups towards the protection of 30% of the world’s oceans by 2030. In the words of Sylvia Earle, “The next 10 years will shape the next 10,000 years. This film not only shows what is out there, down there, why we should care, but also what we can do while there is still time to make a difference.”

Director Nick Robinson adds, “We wanted to make a film not about the individual creatures, but about the connectivity between creatures, ecosystems and the planet as a whole.” Audiences will meet scientist characters including internationally recognized plankton researcher and devotee Gustaaf Hallegraeff, and Lord Howe expert Ian Hutton, known for over a decade of dedicated research on plastics in seabirds. These characters will connect with audiences through their passion, and make the film’s strong science content engaging. The film is perfect for field trips and also will be accompanied by a classroom guide for elementary and middle school students, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration’s Ocean Literacy Principles.

The filmmakers’ vision was to strike a balance between science and awe to help people understand and appreciate the ocean. The team set out to portray the submarine world in the most visually

compelling way they could---from the famous Great Barrier Reef, to the lesser known kelp ecosystems that cover one fourth of the world's coastlines. Along the way they immerse in the microscopic world of plankton, glide over anemone gardens, swim with playful fur seals, and explore an ocean cavern alongside numerous grey nurse sharks. To capture shots when the water, light and biological conditions were at their best, the team sometimes needed to show up at a moment's notice. Cinematographer and professional diver Jon Shaw recalls a particularly spectacular shoot at Montague Island, "You're in the water with a thousand seals burning around you and the water that weekend was just crystal clear... when you get good visibility and you get good animals, it's amazing. Super special."

A deep love for the ocean motivated director Robinson to study marine biology in university, spend countless hours filming underwater with his crew, and bring these experiences to audiences worldwide through the giant screen and 3D. "It's the perfect way to view a film about the ocean", Robinson notes, "a world that so few have the opportunity to know, let alone understand. My hope is that films like these help people all over the world to know and love the ocean and the creatures that live there, even if they never see it in person."

Ocean Odyssey, locally sponsored by Meike and Dominick Miniaci, is produced by Wild Pacific Media and Definition Films, in association with K2 Studios. The film is distributed by K2 Studios in Giant Screen/IMAX theaters at science centers and aquaria worldwide. A portion of ticket sales will support the work of Mission Blue.

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ABOUT OCEAN ODYSSEY:

Follow a three-month-old baby whale on a magical journey down one of the Earth's great ocean highways to discover the incredible world of ocean currents - hidden marine rivers that flow around the Earth. As our young whale goes with the flow of the current on a great migration from the warm tropics to the frozen ice floes of Antarctica, she meets the curious creatures that call the current home, and discovers how the ocean nurtures all life on earth, from the smallest fish...to us. For more information, please visit oceanodysseyfilm.com.

ABOUT DR. SYLVIA EARLE:

Dr. Sylvia Earle is the president and chairman of Mission Blue, an explorer in residence at the National Geographic Society and former Chief Scientist of NOAA. She is the subject of the Emmy® Award Winning Netflix documentary, *Mission Blue*, and the recipient of more than 100 national and international honors and awards including being named Time Magazine's first Hero for the Planet, a Living Legend by the Library of Congress, 2014 UNEP Champion of the Earth, Glamour Magazine's 2014 Woman of the Year, member of the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark, and winner of the 2009 TED Prize, the Walter Cronkite Award, and the National Geographic 2013 Hubbard Medal.

ABOUT THE AUTONATION® IMAX® 3D THEATER:

The AutoNation® IMAX® 3D Theater is owned and operated by the Museum of Discovery and Science. The Theater showcases IMAX dual 4K laser projectors and a 15/70mm projection system, which revolutionizes the way guests experience films on the six-story-high screen with an immersive 12-channel sound system featuring 114 speakers capable of 52,000 watts of digital sound. Whether it's a pin drop or feeling the heart palpating force of a volcano, audiences will

experience a new kind of visceral sound experience. The AutoNation® IMAX® 3D Theater is the only place in South Florida where you can experience the power of IMAX® with Laser and is one of only three Certified Giant Screen® theaters in Florida by the Giant Screen Cinema Association. For showtimes, please visit mods.org/showtimes. Private screenings are available, please inquire by emailing booking@mods.org.

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ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE:

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science. The Museum encompasses more than 150,000 square feet of interactive exhibits. This includes all of our permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as our outdoor Science Park. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more. In addition to daily hours, MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming. MODS' STEMobile delivers STEM education on location across South Florida! A STEMobile experience ranges from one-hour to full-day with programming for pre-kindergarten through adult and is available for schools, community centers, corporate team building and special events! All programs can be customized for time, group size and age group. Book a STEMobile visit today. Free programs and scholarships are available!

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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