



**KINDLE ENTERTAINMENT, TOONZ ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIAMAX TO
CO-PRODUCE CBEBBIES AND CBBC CO-COMMISSION
JAMILLAH & ALADDIN**

**Imira Entertainment on board for worldwide distribution of brand new
live-action series**

Trivandrum. xx February 2015: Award-winning international production houses Kindle Entertainment (UK) and Mediamax (Canada), and Toonz Entertainment, a preeminent content and animation company headquartered in India, have commenced production on the joint CBeebies and CBBC co-commissioned *Jamillah & Aladdin* (52 x 14'). The series, a contemporary re-working of the classic Arabian Nights story, is co-financed by Mediamax's parent company – Canadian finance and production group Mediabiz. Filming of the series commenced on location in South Africa's Western Cape this month.

Jamillah & Aladdin has been co-commissioned by Kay Benbow, Controller of CBeebies and Cheryl Taylor Controller of CBBC. Michael Towner is the Executive Producer for CBeebies and Sue Nott is the Executive Producer for CBBC. Anne Brogan is the Executive Producer for Kindle Entertainment. The series is produced by Emma Stuart, the lead director is Rebecca Rycroft and the Head Writer is Kathy Waugh.

Imira Entertainment, a Toonz Entertainment company and Spain's leading production and distribution company specialising in kids & youth programming, is on board to distribute the series worldwide (excluding UK, Ireland and Australia).

Aimed at a young audience, the series follows Jamillah (Blossom Campbell), a 21st century London girl who stumbles upon a curious lamp in her attic, and is transported back to ancient Baghdad by the lamp's resident comical genie (Leroy Osei-Bonsu). There she meets Aladdin (Wilson Radjou-Pujalte), a street-smart young boy who knows the city like the back of his hand – who shows her a whole new world of adventure, excitement and magic. Accompanied by the genie, each episode sees feisty heroine Jamillah revisiting Baghdad where, together with Aladdin, she encounters a host of colourful characters – tricksters and travellers, fortune tellers and goat herds, and even the Sultan and his daughter the princess.

Kay Benbow, Acting Director of Children's and Controller of CBeebies says: "*Jamillah & Aladdin* will transport viewers to an enchanting world full of adventure and intrigue. The series is packed with wonderful stories, that will delight and entertain our combined audiences.

Cheryl Taylor, Controller of CBBC. says: "I am certain that children of all ages will be drawn to our two colourful protagonists. Jamillah is a modern girl who embraces each new adventure with intelligence and determination and Aladdin imbues each tale with customary mischief and charm.

Anne Brogan Executive Producer Kindle Entertainment says: "Jamillah is a wonderful heroine and a great role model for girls. She is feisty and bold, courageous and kind, and a perfect match for Aladdin. She believes she can do anything he can – though he often disagrees!"



P. Jayakumar, CEO Toonz Media Group comments: “*Jamillah & Aladdin* is an authentically Eastern story with worldwide appeal, taking elements of the mystical past and weaving them into a fresh, modern series for audiences today to enjoy. We are fortunate to be working with industry-leading partners on this project, from Kindle Entertainment and Imira to the renowned CBeebies and CBBC channels.”

Karine Martin, CEO and President of Mediabiz, says: “*Jamillah & Aladdin* takes a fresh look at a classic tale that will appeal to audiences all over the world. We are proud to participate in a production that brings together talented individuals from four different continents for whom this universal tale resonates.”

Sergi Reitg, CEO of Imira Entertainment says: “This series is a combination of everything young audiences, and by extension broadcasters, are looking for – magic, adventure, strong storytelling and compelling characters. We can’t wait to bring *Jamillah & Aladdin* to the international market.”

For further information please contact:

Aimee Norman / Monique Levine at DDA Blueprint

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7932 9800 or email aimee@ddablueprint.com / monique@ddablueprint.com

About CBBC /CBeebies

About Toonz Media Group:

Toonz Media Group and its flagship divisions Toonz Entertainment and Toonz Animation encompass dedicated divisions with activity spanning IP production, distribution and rights exploitation, digital and gaming content, licensing and merchandising as well as training.

Its production studio boasts of an enviable pedigree that has seen many successful coproduction partnerships with companies including Walt Disney, Turner, Nickelodeon, Sony, Universal, BBC and Paramount as well as the creation of India's first 2D animated TV series & 2D feature film and India's first 3D stereoscopic theatrical release.

The IP creation and distribution arm, Toonz Entertainment Pte Ltd, Singapore together with Toonz Animation, India, was established with a vision to emerge as the leader in financing, producing and distributing entertainment content across multiple media platforms. It incorporates Imira Animation, a leading production and distribution company specialising in kids & youth programming with a focus on Europe, US, Latin America and Africa markets.

The digital arm, Toonz Digital is primarily involved in Web TV and Game development along with consulting in the social media space. The web channel 'Chootoonz' is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the Indian market which provides entertainment content for kids over the web.

Toonz Academy, one of the top animation schools in India, is the animation training division of Toonz Group. The academy was established in 2002 with a vision to hone the skills of students with a passion for animation and create a talent pool of skilled workforce for the Indian animation industry.

TLA Pictures – Toonz' Live Action department is an emerging division of the Toonz family. With 2 Hollywood movies namely 'Magic Beyond Words' and 'Mostly Ghostly' on their chart, TLA is planning to expand exponentially in the immediate future.

www.toonz.co



Kindle Entertainment

Kindle Entertainment is a UK-based independent production company that produces top quality, award-winning family entertainment for audiences across the world. It was set up by industry experts Anne Brogan and Melanie Stokes in 2007.

Kindle Entertainment's portfolio has a wide range of scripted entertainment spanning pre-school, kids, teen and family shows: it includes pre-school favourites **Big and Small** voiced by Lenny Henry, and **Get Well Soon** with Dr Ranj; the internationally acclaimed CBBC series **Leonardo** which re-imagines Leonardo da Vinci as a teenage action hero; **Some Dogs Bite**, a thought provoking film about boys in care starring Thomas Sangster and directed by Marc Munden; **Nick Nickleby**, a modern retelling of the Charles Dickens classic with Adrian Dunbar; **Treasure Island** an epic action-adventure Christmas special for Sky One starring Eddie Izzard as Long John Silver and Elijah Wood as Ben Gunn; and **Dustbin Baby**, starring Juliet Stevenson and Dakota Blue Richards, a television film which premiered on BBC 1, based on the novel by best-selling author, Dame Jacqueline Wilson. **Dustbin Baby** won both an International Emmy and a BAFTA.

Recent productions include comedy, **Hank Zipzer** starring Henry 'The Fonz' Winkler; **Dinopaws** an animated comedy about a trio of dinosaurs, which won the Best Animation at the 2014 Shanghai TV Festival Awards and **Dixi**, an interactive mystery set in the world of social networking, which won the BAFTA for Best Original Interactive. Kindle Entertainment recently won their third BAFTA for Best Independent Production Company.

About Mediabiz

Founded in 2000 and based in Montreal, **Mediabiz**, is a group of companies dedicated to the development, financing and production of quality media for the global market. Mediabiz offers a unique combination of world leading production expertise and investment capabilities by co-producing and co-financing slates of projects with internationally renowned production and distribution partners. Mediabiz is run by one of the leading Canadian women in entertainment, Karine Martin, who has acted as producer, executive producer and financier for close to 40 projects since its foundation.

Mediabiz's three financial entities, **TGE Capital**, **Mediabiz Capital** and **Mediabiz Investment**, support its production division and its strategic partners by providing financial engineering, equity investments, gap and interim financing.

Founded in 2009, the production division, **Mediamax**, is the result of a decade of synergistic strategic alliances between Mediabiz and its international partners. Its mission is to acquire, co-finance and carry out the development and production of quality international TV, theatrical and multiplatform products for worldwide distribution (animation and live action).

In the past 3 years, Mediamax has produced eight film and television projects, including three major international co-productions with American, Asian and European partners. Among its projects for family entertainment, Mediamax produced the TV movie *Magic Beyond Words: The J.K. Rowling Story* (2011), which won the prize for 'Best Dramatic Mini-series or TV Movie' at the 1st Canadian Screen Awards; The feature length film *Maïna* (2013) which was nominated and won prizes in numerous international film festivals; and most recently, *Midnight Sun* (2014).
www.mediabizinternational.com

About Imira Entertainment:

Barcelona and Madrid based Imira Entertainment, a Toonz Entertainment owned company, is a leading European producer and distributor of top quality kids & youth programs. It creates innovative content with strong editorial lines, and a universal appeal. Its productions incorporate the latest technologies as properties are developed for cross media exploitation (TV, video, licensing, merchandising, mobile phones and publishing). Imira Entertainment distributes a catalogue of over 4,000 half hours of premium kids programs, including animated feature films.

www.imiraentertainment.com