



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“WIND RIDERS” Documentary Released in the U.S.A and Canada

New York, US, May 26, 2021 – NewbornDreamer Films and Porter Pictures partnered with Gravitas Ventures, a Red Allow Studio company, released the feature documentary, **“WIND RIDERS,”** about three inspirational balloon pilots. The film was released on several Video-On-Demand (VOD) outlets on May 26th, 2021.

“Wind Riders,” produced, directed and edited by Emi Katayama was inspired by an iconic book, **“Jonathan Livingston Seagull,”** an international bestseller written by Richard Bach in 1969. The film shows the beauty of ballooning as well as the magnificence of the human spirit by telling the poignant and inspiring stories of three American balloonists who dedicate their lives to their sport. **Richard Abruzzo** and **Carol Rymer Davis** – two of the most renowned gas-balloon pilots in the world – are a driven championship team shown competing in a high-risk quest to defend their world title. Also **Bill Hughes** is a masterful solo hot-air balloon pilot whose quiet passion transcends generations. The film follows them for several years.

The film premiered at Albuquerque's historic KiMo Theatre at a three-day screening event during the International Balloon Fiesta. It was also screened at the Beaufort International Film Festival and the Manhattan Film Festival, the latter of which recognized it as the Audience Best Documentary. The film also received other awards including Best Inspirational Film and Best Indie Filmmaker from a few more film festivals.

“Film shows the beauty and awe in ballooning,” said Jeannie Nguyen, a reporter from KRQE/CBS. Diane Kinderwater, a host from KCHF TV said, **“It's a very inspiring and poignant movie. It's a great film...”**

The director, Emi Katayama said, **“it brings awareness to this beautiful sport that's under-documented and has been in decline since the end of the 80s. Many of us don't even know the differences between hot-air balloon and gas balloon, and the majority of us never heard of the Gordon Bennett cup, a prestigious world gas balloon race. It's the oldest aviation race and high-risk sport fought by the most skilled balloonists around the world. The film provides the beautiful perspectives of ballooning while revealing the personal stories of the pilots that are poignant and inspirational.”** 5% of the filmmaker's revenue will go to animal charities.

About Director, Emi Katayama, NewbornDreamer films – Emi Katayama worked in New York on numerous news shows and television programs produced by major Japanese broadcasters for many years. She also served as a jury member for the Harlem International Film Festival. For more information about WND RIDERS, visit: www.WindRidersFilm.com, and follow Facebook @WindRidersFilm, Instagram @WindRidersDocFilm

About Gravitass Ventures – Gravitass Ventures, a Red Arrow Studios company, is a leading all rights distributor of independent feature films and documentaries. Gravitass Ventures has distributed thousands of films into over a hundred million homes in North America – over one billion homes worldwide. Recent releases include Loopers: The Caddie’s Long Walk, narrated by Bill Murray; Colin Hanks’ All Things Must Pass; Our Friend starring Casey Affleck, Dakota Johnson, and Jason Segel.

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For more information contact:

For more information, please visit gravitasventures.com, and follow @GravitassVOD on Twitter and @gravitasventures on Instagram.

Jeff Porter, Porter Pictures, jeff.porter@porterpictures.com, (310) 407-9457

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