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Jackson Wild Selects Final Jury for 2023 Media Awards

JACKSON, Wyo. – Jackson Wild is proud to announce the final jury for this year’s Media Awards competition. Selected for their knowledge and expertise in nature and science storytelling, these individuals will decide the winners of the 2023 Jackson Wild Media Awards, considered the highest bar of achievement in natural history filmmaking.

The Jackson Wild Media Awards celebrate excellence and innovation in nature, science, and conservation storytelling. This year’s competition saw over 1100 category entries filmed in 74 different countries, with films competing for 30 content, craft, program, and special jury awards, as well as the Grand Teton Award, awarded to the overall best film in competition.

Winners will be announced on Thursday, September 28 during the Grand Teton Awards Gala at the Jackson Hole Center for the Arts, the culminating event of the 2023 Jackson Wild Summit. To learn more and attend the Jackson Wild Summit, visit jacksonwild.org/attend.

- **René Araneda** is a Chilean Director/Producer developing the natural history film production in South America for the past decade by telling stories, building connections and working alongside many international teams, production companies and multiple platforms. Almost 30 hours of content developed over the last 12 years -many of them award winning films- exploring different formats from Blue Chip to presenter driven with himself being on camera for some (Animal Planet, Smithsonian Channel, CuriosityStream or CNN). René has specialized in Patagonia and South America, always finding new fascinating stories, usually working on remote and tough locations.

He has garnered several nominations, awards and recognitions (including Jackson’s Emerging Talent Award back in the day), and recently helped launch South America’s first wildlife film festival Santiago Wild in Chile (a partnership between Jackson Wild & Ladera Sur, along with other supporting partners).

- **Pippa Ehrlich** is a journalist and filmmaker specializing in stories about conservation, science and the relationship between people and the natural world. She is the co-director of *My Octopus Teacher* – South Africa's first Netflix Original documentary. The film garnered attention from celebrities, conservationists, and scientists all over the world, and has won more than 20 international awards, including an Oscar and a BAFTA, as well as the prestigious Jackson Wild's Grand Teton Award and Wildscreen's Golden Panda. Pippa has just completed her second feature documentary and is currently in development on her third.

For the last seven years, she has been a part of the Sea Change Project, documenting and exploring the underwater forests of Cape Town, to capture stories that will assist in its long term protection.

- **Rita Mullin** is the former EVP and General Manager of Science Channel, which produced such core science series as *Through the Wormhole* and *How the Universe Works* and brought a new, younger audience to the genre with *Outrageous Acts of Science*. During her career at Discovery, she developed and oversaw programming for many channels, including Discovery Health, TLC, and the Oprah Winfrey Network.

As Senior Creative and Content Director at Vulcan Productions, she oversaw a team that produced *Body Team 12*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for short form documentary in 2016, and *The Ivory Game*, which was short-listed for an Academy Award in 2017.

- **John Smithson** is an Academy Award® Nominee, BAFTA, Emmy, Peabody, and Grierson winner, and one of the most respected and influential executives in worldwide non-scripted content.

His work includes multiple award winning films such as *Touching the Void*, *127 Hours*, *Deep Water*, *Thrilla in Manila*, *Falling Man*, *Sherpa*, and *River*.

He is Creative Director of London-based Arrow Pictures and specializes in premium feature documentaries and series.

About Jackson Wild

For over 30 years, Jackson Wild has been a catalyst for accelerating and elevating impactful storytelling at the nexus of nature, science, and conservation. Through innovative and collaborative community gatherings, skill-building initiatives, and mentorship programs, Jackson Wild creates an inclusive forum for

storytellers to more deeply illuminate connections to the natural world and our collective responsibility to the wild.

Jackson Wild's international board members include: African Wildlife Foundation, ARRI, ARTE France, BBC Studios, Blue Ant Media / Love Nature, Conservation International, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Doclights, GBH, Gorongosa Restoration Project, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Geographic Content, National Geographic Society, Nature/WNET, Netflix, NEWF (Nature, Environment, Wildlife, Filmmaking), Off the Fence Productions, ORF Universum, PBS, RED Digital Cinema, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Smithsonian Channel/Paramount, Sony Electronics, The Nature Conservancy, Terra Mater Studios, Wanda Films, Wildstar Films, and World Wildlife Fund US.

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