

GROUNDBREAKING SERIES OF UNDERWATER SHORT TEASERS MADE BY VOLUNTEERS FOR LESS THAN THE COFFEE BUDGET FOR *THE HOBBIT*

REALM PICTURES ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF THEIR LATEST PROJECT "*THE UNDERWATER REALM*", **AVAILABLE NOW TO WATCH IN 4K RESOLUTION ON *YOUTUBE***.

"This is the most exciting project we've seen in twenty years. This project combines new technology and brilliant ideas with some deeply passionate filmmakers." Elliot Grove, Founder of Raindance Film Festival

Thousands of years ago, the most advanced civilization in the world sank beneath the waves. *THE UNDERWATER REALM* gives viewers a small step into a larger world and tells the story of five times throughout history that humanity has caught a glimpse of the survivors who still live on the ocean floor.

Created by a fully volunteer team, *THE UNDERWATER REALM* is arguably the most ambitious independent film project ever attempted. Designed as a teaser to introduce people to the potential of a feature film trilogy derived from the myth of Atlantis, the shorts were made for less than half of the coffee budget for Peter Jackson's *THE HOBBIT**. The team at Realm Pictures have recreated five different time periods, developed their own underwater lighting and speaker systems, and built a life size, fully rocking gun deck of a Spanish Galleon. The team have trained and worked with some of Britain's top SCUBA and free diving experts in order to bring this ambitious project to reality.

"We want to take our audience to a world they've never truly experienced before," explains Director David M Reynolds. "Two thirds of our planet and many of our beautiful landscapes and creatures lie hidden underwater. Too often we forget about them, and the tremendous impact our lives and pollution have on the oceans."

That is not to say that filming under the waves is easy. "Filming underwater is nothing like filming on land," explains DOP Eve Hazelton. "Light and sound behave differently, communication is difficult and every minute is vital as precious oxygen runs out."

Every step of the production has been documented via a weekly video blog, followed by the project's thousands of backers worldwide. During the month of December 2011, Realm Pictures embarked on ambitious fundraising campaign to raise \$60,000 and gave themselves 4 weeks to do it. Not only was the total reached but it was smashed with an incredible \$101,611. Backers include: Chris Anderson - the founder of TED, and Sylvia Earle - TIME magazine's first 'hero of the earth'.

THE UNDERWATER REALM is helmed by acclaimed independent filmmaker David M Reynolds, following on from his success with the award winning *ZOMBLIES*. *ZOMBLIES* has so far been watched by over four million viewers on YouTube, and attracted many influential fans, including Sir Richard Taylor, Head of WETA Workshop. Sir Richard memorably described the film as "*Bloody fantastic, beautifully shot, truly suspenseful - great zombies!*"

Begin your journey into *THE UNDERWATER REALM* with Part V here;
<http://tinyurl.com/underwaterrealm>

To play in full cinema level 4K, select the settings cog and change the quality setting to 'Original.'**

To arrange an interview with the team or to receive more information, please contact producer Alan Mandel at 020 7993 8467 or alan@realm-pictures.com

A full EPK and more information can be found at www.theunderwaterrealm.com.

* Figures courtesy of the Government of New Zealand.

** 4K quality is only available on Parts II-V. For story reasons, Part I is presented in 1080P HD only.