

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FIVE CONTINENTS, TWO YEARS
AND ONE UNIFYING THEORY OF LIFE:**

THE SACRED BALANCE

a vision of humanity's place in nature...

July 11, 2003, **TORONTO** -- **The Sacred Balance**, a groundbreaking four-part documentary series produced by Kensington Communications and hosted by David Suzuki, will debut in the U.S. on PBS September 3 (check local listings).

A PBS prestige series of the fall season, **The Sacred Balance** celebrates a new scientific world-view -- an inclusive vision of nature in which we human beings are intimately connected to all life processes on Earth.

Based on the book of the same name written by Dr. Suzuki, eminent geneticist, environmentalist, and broadcaster, together with longtime collaborator, Amanda McConnell, **The Sacred Balance** presents a new vision of the human place in nature, achieved over almost fifty years of Suzuki's research and reflection. The series is an important milestone in science programming: it presents an awe-inspiring picture of the world and our part in it, in an effort to change the choices we make every day.

In development and production for nearly five years, and filmed over a period of two years on five continents, **The Sacred Balance** challenges long-held assumptions, offers startling perceptions on the interrelated nature of all life -- and ultimately leaves one with a renewed sense of wonder for the miracle that is life on Earth.

In the series, on-camera host and guide Dr. Suzuki argues that we have been trapped in a set of dangerous false premises that isolate us from the rest of life on Earth, and limit our ability to understand where we belong. Somehow, we have come to think that we humans are separate from nature, that reason is the only route to truth, that experimental science alone describes reality, and that spirituality is optional.

The Sacred Balance sets out to re-examine these embedded ideas, believing that once we reclaim our ancient understanding of the intimate, indissoluble connection between ourselves and our planet, we will change the way we act towards it. Romantic? Nostalgic? Quixotic? No: the latest discoveries of experimental science confirm the interconnectedness of all life. What we do to the Earth we do to ourselves.

Just as we need air and water, fire and earth, we need spiritual connection; we need to understand where we belong. In search of this first-hand information and a global, universal perspective, **The Sacred Balance** uses the four elements as markers on the

quest for this understanding - a quest which takes us across Canada and the United States, and to Brazil, India, Peru, South Africa, England, Bali and Australia.

With Suzuki as our guide, we visit the best minds of our age. Philosophers, scholars, priests, and shamans all share their visions and perspectives of the universe into which we're born. Scientists such as E.O. Wilson, Ary Goldberger, Brian Goodwin, Wade Davis, Stephen Lansing, Elaine Ingham and James Lovelock outline their work, share their experiences, and reveal the meaning behind their perceptions and discoveries. We hear astonishing tales of the world's infinite complexity, and of both the achievements and the limitations of the scientific method. Through many knowledgeable eyes, guided by many wise hearts, we glimpse the mysteries lying beyond understanding, and remember who we are: creatures of the Earth, biological beings completely dependent upon the planet's life support systems.

In the course of a long career as a geneticist, broadcaster, and ecologist, Dr Suzuki has collaborated with many of the world's major scientists. In addition, he is an adopted son of the Haida people on Canada's west coast, deeply committed to the cause of native people around the world, and conscious of their spirituality and knowledge of the Earth. It was his experiences among the Haida that first awakened Dr. Suzuki to the awareness of another way of looking at ourselves and our place on Earth.

A culmination of Dr. Suzuki's own long career as a scientist, the series argues that only by remembering our relationship to the Earth, by celebrating the wonders of the world of which we're a part of, and by acknowledging the sacred balance that created and still maintains life, can we understand and solve the problems threatening our future.

Employing the latest 3-D animation techniques and stunning HDTV film footage of the natural world, **The Sacred Balance** combines science, art, traditional knowledge and human spirituality into a new vision of the human place on Earth.

The Sacred Balance is presented by geneticist, environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki, and written by Amanda McConnell, based on the book of the same title she and David Suzuki co-authored. Directors of the series are Michelle Metivier, Harvey Crossland, Len Gilday, Robert Lang, Henry Less, and Barry Greenwald. Amanda McConnell is creative producer. Supervising producer is Maribeth Daley. Executive producer is Robert Lang.

The Sacred Balance is supported by an extensive website, www.sacredbalance.com, which includes 12 filmed-on-location webcasts with David Suzuki, interactive online games, and a link to the world renowned David Suzuki Foundation. The Sacred Balance is also supported by an extensive outreach campaign at www.sacredbalance.com/outreach

David Suzuki will be making appearances in cities across the country in support of **The Sacred Balance**, including Washington, D.C. (Sept 2); New York (Sept 4); St. Louis (Sept 5); Berkeley, CA (Sept 7); Dallas (Sept 9); Atlanta (Sept 10). Please check www.sacredbalance.com for times, locations and additional or revised tour information.

The Sacred Balance is a production of Kensington Communications Inc., in association with Sacred Balance Productions Inc., the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Public Broadcasting Service, the National Science Foundation, Canal D, and Vision TV, in cooperation with the Wildlands Project, and with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund created by the government of Canada and the Canadian cable industry, CTF: Licence Fee Program, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program, the Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation, the David Suzuki Foundation, Rogers Telefund, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, and the Ontario Film and Television Credit. **The Sacred Balance** is distributed worldwide by Filmoption International.

Kensington Communications is a Toronto-based producer with a reputation, earned over twenty years, for high-quality, award-winning non-fiction television. Kensington's projects have ranged from human-interest stories, performing arts and music documentaries to international and environmental programming. Recent projects include five seasons of the highly successful Discovery and CTV series, Exhibit A: Secrets of Forensic Science, and a one-hour program for CBC's Life and Times on Canadian singer/songwriter, Bruce Cockburn. Other films include River of Sand, A Place in the World, and the Gemini and CableACE Award-winning Separate Lives. The company just recently completed a one-hour documentary for CBC's Nature of Things called Almost Home, which revisits a Canadian aboriginal community living on the edge of survival after forced removal from their homeland, and is developing Faces of Justice, a series of one-hour documentaries which investigates attempts to establish transitional justice in four emerging democracies. More information about Kensington Communications is available at www.kensingtontv.com.

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Please check out our 1-minute “must see” animated introduction to The Sacred Balance under FAQ on the top right corner of the homepage of www.sacredbalance.com

For additional information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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