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For Immediate Release
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Caroline_Underhill@spe.sony.com***"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within"* Makes History as the First Digital Cinema 8 Channel SDDS Release**

Culver City, CA: On July 11, 2001 history will be made as Columbia Pictures and Square Pictures release *"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within"* in over 2500 theatres, with seven theatres premiering the sci-fi action-adventure in Digital Cinema format using 8 Channel Sony Dynamic Digital Sound (SDDS) modified for electronic format. SDDS equipment currently installed in theatres will reproduce the 8 Channel Digital Cinema audio in seven cities: AMC Empire, New York City; Edwards Spectrum, Irvine; AMC Media 6, Burbank; Cinemark Legacy, Dallas; Famous Players Paramount, Toronto; AMC Barrington, Chicago; and the AMC Van Ness, San Francisco. The movie will also premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square, London in Digital Cinema format using electronic 8 Channel SDDS, with further European locations to be announced.

Developed by Sony Cinema Products Corporation, the innovative SDDS Motion Picture Soundtrack format provides the unique ability to convey up to eight channels of sound around the audience. With SDDS-8, an additional pair of Left-Center and Right-Center Loudspeakers — located on either side of Center Speaker — provides many creative and technical advantages for today's directors and filmmakers. Over 1270 screens worldwide are currently equipped to play 8 Channel SDDS films. The original 8 Channel SDDS mix for *"Final Fantasy"* will be the first exhibited in Digital Cinema format in 8 Channels, remaining faithful to the filmmakers' intent.

The motion picture's producer Jun Aida, and director Hironobu Sakaguchi, made the decision to utilize the premium 8 Channel audio format to enhance their ground breaking images. Mixed at Skywalker Sound by Oscar winning sound designer Randy Thom and Gary Rizzo, the audio contains complex layers inspired by the sci-fi story created entirely from today's most advanced computer graphics. The additional stereo pair behind the screen allowed the sound designers to add more depth, texture and detail to subtle elements as well as complex sounds, and to widen the dynamic range for big effects with specific point source location on the big screen.

The first Final Fantasy set on Earth, *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within* emerges from its successful interactive game roots to deliver an exciting new breed of motion picture adventure. A fresh take on the sci-fi genre, the film blends its spiritual underpinnings and the universal concerns of man vs. nature with the energy of the digital gaming medium and the scope of the motion picture environment. Final Fantasy game creator Hironobu Sakaguchi's vision now comes to the big screen—a feast of concept, motion, design and imagination featuring all new-characters in an all-new adventure. The picture features the voices of Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Peri Gilpin, Ming-Na, Ving Rhames, Donald Sutherland and James Woods, among others.

Upcoming films scheduled for release during 2001 and 2002 in 8 Channel SDDS include:

“Glitter,” directed by Vondie Curtis-Hall and starring Mariah Carey, Max Beesley and Terrence Howard; releasing on August 31 from 20th Century Fox.

“Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone,” directed by Chris Columbus and starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, John Cleese, and Robbie Coltrane; releasing on November 16 from Warner Bros.

“WindTalkers,” directed by John Woo and starring Nicolas Cage, Christian Slater, Adam Beach and Peter Stormare; releasing on November 21 from MGM.

“Oceans 11,” directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Brad Pitt, and Casey Affleck; releasing on December 14 from Warner Bros.

“Ali,” directed by Michael Mann and starring Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, and Mario Van Peebles; releasing on December 7 from Columbia.

“Rollerball,” directed by John McTiernan and starring Chris Klein, LL Cool J, Jean Reno and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos; releasing first quarter of 2002 from MGM.

“Black Hawk Down,” directed by Ridley Scott and starring Josh Hartnett, Tom Sizemore, Eric Bana and Sam Shepard; releasing on March 1, 2002 from Columbia/ Revolution.

“Spider-Man,” directed by Sam Raimi and starring Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe, James Franco and Kirsten Dunst; releasing May 3, 2002 from Columbia.

“Men In Black 2,” directed by Barry Sonnenfeld and starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Johnny Knoxville and Rosario Dawson; releasing on July 3, 2002 from Columbia.

Sony Cinema Products Corporation supplies the cinema exhibition industry with advanced technologies and products. The company's launch product, SDDS, was introduced in August, 1994. Due to its high-quality performance, SDDS has become widely popular with over 8,000 systems installed in movie theatres throughout the world. Designed exclusively for the cinema, SDDS is regarded as *the* premium digital sound format by leading film directors and sound professionals.