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PETER JACKSON OPTIONS DEL REY'S TEMERAIRE SERIES

**Academy Award®-Winning Director of *Lord of the Rings* In Deal for
Naomi Novik's Saga of Dragons in the Napoleonic Wars**

"Enthralling reading...[a] great new book." –*Time*

"Terrifically entertaining...[a] wonderful, arresting novel." –Stephen King

"Editor's Choice...A completely authentic tale, brimming with all the detail and richness one looks for in military yarns as well as the impossible wonder of gilded fantasy." –*Entertainment Weekly*

**"The Temeraire series has already proven to be a terrific success for Del Rey. Now to see the perfect project matched up with the perfect filmmaker--we're absolutely delighted for Naomi and can't wait to see the first film!"
–Betsy Mitchell, Editor-in-Chief, Del Rey**

NEW YORK, NY (September 11, 2006) – Peter Jackson, the Academy Award-winning director of the *Lord of the Rings* films and *King Kong*, announced today that his company, Wingnut Films, has reached an agreement to option *Temeraire*, the recently launched historical fantasy series by first-time novelist Naomi Novik. The *Temeraire* saga reimagines the world of the Napoleonic Wars with an air force of dragons and valiant aviators, adding a new dimension to the epic battles of the era.

The *Temeraire* books are published by Del Rey, an imprint of Random House: *His Majesty's Dragon* was published in March 2006, *Throne of Jade* was published in April 2006, and *Black Powder War* was published in May 2006.

"As I was reading these books, I could see them coming to life in my mind's eye. These are beautifully written novels - not only fresh, original and fast paced - but full of wonderful characters with real heart - that's the key to these stories," says Jackson, "Temeraire is a terrific meld of two genres that I particularly love - fantasy and historical epic. I can't wait to see Napoleonic battles fought with a squadron of dragons. That's what I go to the movies for. *Temeraire* also offers great possibilities beyond cinema - new forms of interactive entertainment are emerging, and I'm looking forward to guiding these imaginative stories into this exciting new world."

Scrupulously researched and written in prose authentic to the period, the Temeraire saga tells the story of British sea captain Will Laurence who captures a French ship and discovers a precious, unhatched dragon egg in its hold, a gift from the Emperor of China intended for Napoleon himself. When the dragon hatches while still at sea, Laurence is

forced to give up his naval career and all prospects of a normal life to become captain of the extraordinary dragon he names Temeraire.

His Majesty's Dragon follows Laurence and Temeraire through their training in the British Aerial Corps and their trial by fire in combat. In the second volume, *Throne of Jade*, Laurence and Temeraire undertake the long and dangerous journey to China, where they face the wrath of an Imperial Court determined to separate them and reclaim Temeraire. The third volume, *Black Powder War*, tells the story of Laurence and Temeraire's perilous return to Europe by way of Istanbul, with the brutal forces of Napoleon's armies standing between them and home. Naomi Novik is currently working on the fourth volume in the series, whose title has not yet been announced.

"I couldn't imagine a filmmaker better able to bring *Temeraire* to the screen than Peter Jackson," said Ms. Novik. "He has an astonishing ability to ground fantasy in historical reality, to make it not only believable but emotionally powerful."

Naomi Novik is represented by Cynthia Manson of the Cynthia Manson Literary Agency in New York, and Joel Gotler and Justin Manask of the Intellectual Property Group in Los Angeles. The property was brought to the attention of Jackson's manager, Ken Kamins of Key Creatives by Lucas Foster who was working in association with IPG. Foster and Kamins will serve as executive producers of the series.

Novik was additionally represented by attorneys Bruce Ramer and Jeff Mandell of Gang, Tyre, Ramer and Brown. Jackson was represented by Kamins and attorneys Peter Nelson and Eric Suddleson of Nelson, Felker, Toczek, Davis. Foster was represented by Peter Nichols of Lichter, Grossman, Nichols and Adler

About Peter Jackson and Wingnut Films

Peter Jackson made history with *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, becoming the first person to direct three major feature films simultaneously. *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King* were nominated for and collected a slew of film awards from around the globe, including 17 Academy Awards®, 12 British Academy of Film and Television Awards and four Golden Globes.

Jackson previously received widespread praise for his 1994 feature *Heavenly Creatures*, which received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Screenplay. Other film credits include *The Frighteners*, starring Michael J. Fox; the adult puppet feature *Meet the Feebles*; and *Braindead*, which won 16 international science fiction awards, including the Saturn. Jackson also co-directed the television documentary *Forgotten Silver*, which hit the film festival circuit.

Born in New Zealand on Halloween in 1961, Jackson began at an early age making movies with his parents' Super 8 camera. At 17 he left school and, after purchasing a 16mm camera, began shooting a science fiction comedy short—which, three years later, had grown into his first feature called *Bad Taste*.

Along with his partner Fran Walsh and co-writer Philippa Boyens, Jackson is currently working on his next feature film project, an adaptation of Alice Sebold's acclaimed novel *The Lovely Bones*. The film is slated for production next year by WingNut Films. Formed in 1987, WingNut Films is Walsh and Jackson's own Production Company. WingNut Films is also set to Executive Produce, in partnership with Producers Mary

Parent and Scott Stuber, an adaptation of X-Box's highly popular electronic game Halo for Universal Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox, and Dambusters, a factual WW2 story with Universal Pictures and StudioCanal.

About Naomi Novik

An avid student of history with a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Brown University and a master's degree in Computer Science from Columbia University, Naomi Novik began writing *Temeraire* after completing work as technical lead and designer on the popular computer game *Neverwinter Nights: Shadows of Undrentide* for Atari. She currently devotes full time to writing and researching her novels, most recently traveling to Istanbul to inspect the harem quarters of the Topkapi Palace for a daring escape scene in *Black Powder War*. Novik, 33, lives in New York City.

For more information about *Temeraire*, visit www.temeraire.org.