

BRITISH SHORT FILMMAKER WINS OSCAR!

Suzie Templeton's animation *Peter and the Wolf* scoops Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film

LOS ANGELES. British filmmakers **Suzie Templeton** and **Hugh Welchman** have won the American Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for their animated short film version of **Peter and the Wolf**.

Backed by Channel 4, *Peter and the Wolf* is an animated film version of Prokofiev's classic work directed by BAFTA winning director Suzie Templeton and produced by Hugh Welchman, set to a special new recording by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Director Suzie Templeton says, "I accepted the Oscar on behalf of all the people who worked with such passion and dedication to bring the dream onto the screen in such a beautiful way. I'm really proud of the whole crew who worked so hard through some very difficult times."

"This is so great for everyone involved in the film. This is something that everybody involved can be proud of," says Hugh Welchman, the film's producer. "Peter and the Wolf has resonated with children for generations. I hope this award will help it resonate for many more generations to come. This incredible award will allow Peter to captivate and thrill children worldwide, just as as a child it captivated and thrilled me. When they read out my name at the Oscars everything went into slow motion and I felt like I was floating on air. I was so excited, I couldn't stop grinning. I still can't."

It was filmed at Oscar®-winning Se-Ma-For Studios in Poland using stop-frame model animation. The world premiere, supported by the Russian bank UNIASTRUM in September 2006 accompanied with a live performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra. It was then first broadcast on Channel 4 during Christmas 2006.

Prokofiev's story has resonated deeply with over five generations of children worldwide, enchanted by its power and sense of fun. This new film re-works Prokofiev's popular tale, giving it some 21st century twists and an environmental theme, whilst staying true to the original story.

Templeton has won over 30 international awards for her previous two films including a BAFTA Award - Best Animation for her short film *Dog*.

Welchman's film 'Crowstone' won the Cinefoundation Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. He has also produced two films for and starring the Monty Python team.

BreakThru Films has since made 4 award-winning short films and a feature-length documentary.

Oscar-winning Se-Ma-For Studios in Poland has made over 1,400 films and won over 300 international awards.