



## PBS INTERNATIONAL ACQUIRES RIGHTS TO “BECOMING...THE BEATLES”

(Boston, Massachusetts USA): PBS International has acquired the worldwide television and home video rights for *Becoming...The Beatles*, a new documentary showcasing the lesser-known story before the fame and fortune, of the six young men who would—and wouldn’t—grow up to become The Beatles.

The Beatles endure as the greatest popular music band of all times. Their music and lyrics have transcended the decades influencing generations of musicians and fans across the world. Produced by Paul Clark (Formative Productions), *Becoming...The Beatles* begins in the hardscrabble streets of working class Liverpool in the 1950s, where an unremarkable group of young men met and began to create music that would literally change the world. Exploring the childhoods of John, Paul, and George, as well as that of their friends and former band mates, Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best, and delving into the club scene in Hamburg, Germany, where the band truly learned how to make music, this documentary establishes the launching pad for Beatlemania and the band’s phenomenal success.

“We’re pleased to be growing our catalogue with programs and series that reach a broad audience,” says Tom Koch, Vice President, PBS International. “Documentaries on iconic figures are a mainstay of our catalogue and stay true to the nature of the kind of programming PBS brings to the world.”

“We are actively seeking independent producers of high quality documentaries who want representation by one of the most respected worldwide distribution companies,” adds Charles Schuerhoff, Director of Acquisitions for PBS International. “We work with a wide array of talented and award-winning filmmakers and have success licensing their shows across a spectrum of genres such as History, Science, and Arts & Culture just to name a few.”

In addition to *Becoming...the Beatles*, PBS International will showcase a solid line-up of new films and series at MIPCOM including Ken Burn’s latest epic, *The Dust Bowl* (4x52 HD), chronicling the worst man-made ecological disaster in American history; *Ultimate Mars Challenge* (1x53 HD) following the rover, *Curiosity*, to Mars to see what it will discover on the red planet; and *Trial by Fire: Lives Re-Forged* (1x52, 1x86 HD), a moving documentary that honors the courage and strength of burn survivors as they reclaim their lives and dreams after the devastation of fire.

### About PBS International

PBS International, widely recognized for bringing high-quality documentary, lifestyle and children’s programming to the international marketplace, is the worldwide co-production and distribution division of PBS Distribution, a joint venture of PBS and WGBH-TV Boston—one of the largest producers of primetime programming for PBS in the United States. PBS International licenses PBS, WGBH, and independently-produced programs from such award-winning producers as WGBH (NOVA, FRONTLINE, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE), Ken Burns, Ondi Timoner, Alex Gibney, Martin Scorsese and David Grubin.

CONTACT: Sarah Daniels, PBS International, 617-208-0747, [sedaniels@pbs.org](mailto:sedaniels@pbs.org)

2100 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA 22202 | 10 Guest Street Boston, MA 02135

