



TIGRESS PRODUCTIONS REDISCOVERS *TITUS* **FOR THE BBC AND WNET**

Wins commission for ambitious new documentary

Bristol, May 2008: Leading independent factual producer Tigress Productions has been commissioned by BBC2 and US broadcaster WNET to produce an ambitious new high definition natural history film. The 1 x 60-minute documentary follows the compelling story of one of the most successful mountain gorillas ever – a huge silverback called **Titus**.

Commissioned by Tim Martin at the BBC and Fred Kaufman at WNET, **The Gorilla King** will be executive produced by Tigress' Jeremy Bradshaw, produced by Linda Bell and directed by David Allen. It is scheduled to debut on BBC2 later this year in the Natural World series.

The Gorilla King reveals Titus's extraordinary life. Titus's father was murdered by poachers in front of his very eyes and his mother abandoned him in the subsequent chaos. His family disintegrated and he should have died.

But somehow Titus survived, and researchers from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund have now followed his life almost every day for thirty years. The film finds him today – a king being challenged by his second in command. The unfolding drama climaxes with rare footage of the gorillas at the very top of their mountain world on the Virunga Volcanoes. Titus's present day trials and tribulations take the viewer back in time to reveal key moments in his history. Using eyewitness testimony, the film re-lives one individual mountain gorilla's extraordinary battle for existence.

Tim Martin says:

Jeremy Bradshaw, Executive Producer at Tigress Productions adds: "**Titus's** story is the thirty year biography of a legendary animal. His life is one, initially, of unimaginable tragedy, but ultimately one of huge triumph.