

Tigress Announces Leadership Changes

- **Dick Colthurst, Managing Director retires after 35 years in the industry including twelve at Tigress**
- **Dragonfly's Sarah Swingler moves to Tigress to become Managing Director**
- **Catherine Welton from RDF West has been appointed Creative Director, following the departure earlier this year of Pete Lawrence**

Bristol, London, 5th May 2016- Tigress Productions, the leading producer of innovative adventure, wildlife, specialist factual, features and factual entertainment programming, today announce changes to the leadership team.

Following a career spanning 35 years, including twelve at Tigress Productions as Managing Director, Dick Colthurst, has decided to retire from television in the autumn to live in the Alps. Stepping into the MD role, and joining the existing management team, is Sarah Swingler who has been an Executive Producer with sister company, Dragonfly, for six years, recently heading up the Cardiff based operation of Dragonfly West.

Also joining Tigress Productions is Catherine Welton from RDF West, who has been appointed Creative Director. This post was formerly held by Pete Lawrence who joined Tigress in December 2013 with a remit to expand the company's innovative features and factual entertainment programming. After the success of his first book, 'The Allotment Cookbook', Pete recently left the company to pursue his own television and writing projects.

Dick Colthurst comments: "The realisation that I could soon be travelling to meetings in London on a Senior Railcard makes it time to hand over to someone new and Sarah will do a brilliant job taking Tigress forward."

He adds; "I doubt many people have had as much fun going in to work every day as I've had over the last 35 years so I feel incredibly fortunate. I'll miss the fantastic team at Tigress and the hugely talented supporting cast in Bristol, but my wife and I are off to live in the Alps so it's not so bad really."

Richard Johnston, CEO at Endemol Shine UK says; "I'd like to thank Dick on behalf of us all for the contribution he has made to build Tigress to the company it is today and we wish him all the best in his greatly deserved retirement from the TV industry. Over the last few years, together Dick and Pete have grown the programming slate significantly. We're thrilled to have Sarah and Catherine on board; they both have the skills and experience to lead Tigress to even greater heights."

Recent credits for Tigress include *Marooned with Ed Stafford* (Discovery) *A Year in the Wild: Loch Lomond* (Channel Five); *My Life on a Plate* (BBC One), *Nigel Slater: Eating Together* (BBC One), *Medical Mysteries* (Channel 5) and *John Bishop's Gorilla Adventure* (ITV). They also produce ambitious programmes such as three series of *Everest: Beyond the Limit*; *Countdown to the Rains* for BBC Two, *The Elephant: Life after Death* and the award-winning *Hippo: Nature's Wild Feast*, both for Channel 4. The company is also behind adventure programmes such as *Naked and Marooned with Ed Stafford* for Discovery and *Alone in the Wild* for Channel 4.

Sarah Swingler joined Dragonfly's London office in January 2010 and has headed up the

company's regions and nations based operation since 2012. She has run key programmes such as *One Born Every Minute (Channel 4)* and *The Hotel (Channel 4)*, and will continue to consult on the regions and nations output for the company in her new role. Other credits include BAFTA nominated *The Ipswich Murders (Channel 4)*, *Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections (BBC Two)*, and *Tsunami: Caught on Camera (Channel 4)*.

Catherine Welton joins Tigress from Bristol based RDF West where she has been an in-house Executive Producer since 2014, with credits including *Choose The Right Puppy For You (BBC Two)*. Prior to this Catherine was a Features and Factual Entertainment Executive Producer at the BBC working across shows such as *Hairy Bikers Asian Adventure*. Catherine has also previously worked as an Executive Producer at Endemol Shine Group companies Shine TV and Remarkable Television.

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