

## STEADFAST STRENGTHENS CREATIVE TEAM

(London Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January) Steadfast Television, the indie set up by former Mentorn boss, Charles Thompson, continues to strengthen its creative team with the appointment of Ex BBC Series Producer, Ben Fox. The company has also announced the appointment of Oliver Manley, ex-Leopard Films, as a Development Producer.

Ben recently executive produced *Revealed: Boudica's Treasures* for Channel 5 and Mentorn. Previously he executive produced and directed on *Earth Shocks* the major million pound Hi Def /CGI and Drama science co-production between WGBH Boston, Channel 5, National Geographic, CBC and TV2.

At the BBC he series produced *The World's Most Powerful* presented by Alvin Hall, and wrote and directed the successful and highly acclaimed RTS award-nominated drama documentary, *If the Lights Go Out*, which won an audience of 3.2 million. Ben also produced and directed BBC1's landmark flagship science series *Wild Weather* hosted by Donal McIntyre. The series opener gained an audience of well over 5 million and was nominated for a BAFTA.

Ollie Manley is a former Head of Development at Ronin Entertainment, where he was heavily involved with the development and production of Ronin's entire catalogue, including *Alter Ego* and *The Impressionable Jon Culshaw* for ITV1.

Most recently Ollie worked at Leopard Films as a Development Producer for Ruth Wrigley and Bernard Periatambee, with a brief to develop entertainment and factual entertainment formats for Leopard's push into primetime.

Making the announcement, Steadfast Chief Executive, Charles Thompson, said: "The appointments of Ben and Ollie demonstrate, once again, our commitment to rapidly establishing Steadfast as a major player in the popular factual and entertainment genres. Ben's expertise in popular science will be invaluable as we develop this field as one of our specialisms. Ollie brings to our table a track record in developing factual entertainment projects and is an emerging talent in the tricky business of inventing tv hits."

### Background on Steadfast

Steadfast Television was set up by Charles Thompson and Chris Rowlands to develop factual entertainment programming in July 2005 focussing on three genres: popular factual, science and international formats. The company already has a first-look and development deal with Channel 4 International (C4I) and already has a fulltime staff six.

### Background on Apace

Apace Media plc was founded in 2002 and admitted to AIM in April this year. The business specialises in:

- the creation, distribution + exploitation of intellectual property in television and recorded music;
- the development and distribution of advertiser funded programming.

In November, Apace announced a successful £7 million fundraising and the acquisition of Diema, the leading Bulgarian satellite and cable broadcaster. Funds from the fundraising will also be used to develop Steadfast programming. In addition to Steadfast Television and the Bulgarian broadcasting assets, the Apace group of companies include, Apace Sports, SET (Sports & Entertainment Television), Apace Music and Proactive Television.

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