



Marvo Entertainment Group LLC
101 East Main Street
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"We Bring Extraordinary Stories To Life"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's All About "America's Darling" in Iowa

PRINCETON, KY— July 2, 2012—It's all about Iowa as production continues on Marvo's latest national television project. *America's Darling* is the true story of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876-1962), a small town cartoonist who changed America by influencing her presidents, shaping her landscapes and winning the hearts of her people.

We are pleased to introduce our newest partner organization, Friends of Des Moines Parks, who have been working to help develop the project in Iowa. Friends of Des Moines Parks president, Jane Hein, said, "The Friends of Des Moines Parks Foundation is pleased to be a supporter of the upcoming documentary, *America's Darling*. This film will celebrate the life and legacy of twice Pulitzer Prize winner Jay Norwood 'Ding' Darling He lived in Des Moines most of his life where he donated land for Prospect Park. The Friends is proud to carry on his tradition of support for parks in Des Moines."

The Marvo team recently traveled to Iowa to film interviews and footage, connect with friends of the project, and continue to conduct research. Interviewees included Des Moines artist Maynard Reece, Florida artist Christopher Still, playwright and songwriter Dan Hunter, editorial cartoonist Brian Duffy, "Ding" Darling Award Recipient Paul Skrade, and former Leader of the Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Iowa State University, Dr. Erwin Klaas. Samples of the clips from these interviews can be found at the following links:

<http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/productions-new/in-production/americas-darling-j-n-ding-darling/video-updates>

<http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/productions-new/in-production/americas-darling-j-n-ding-darling/updates/contemporary-artists>

Darling's grandson, Christopher "Kip" Koss, was delighted with the preview of the Maynard Reece interview: He said, "I found the interview with Maynard Reese magical. Maynard captures so well my memories of my grandfather, 'Ding' Darling. Maynard says Darling was 'gruff' in appearance and voice. I fondly remember those characteristics as 'crusty.' Maynard's recollection of being told if he would 'sketch five drawings a day for five years and you will become an accomplished artist' fits right in with Darling's work ethic. He firmly believed that a person could achieve whatever he or she wished in life, 'so long as they worked hard and kept at it.' I might add that Darling was not talking about eight-hour days and five-day weeks. He thought a forty-hour week was downright irresponsible and seriously wondered how anything worthwhile could be accomplished with such little effort."

Marvo would also like to welcome three new Iowa partners in underwriting, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the City of Des Moines, and Humanities Iowa. Funding for the documentary is now completed as preparations are made to finalize production and move toward the project's edit phase.

Community Foundation Board Chair Allison Fleming discussed the importance of preserving Darling's legacy. "The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines is honored to be a part of preserving the history and legacy of Ding Darling who spent his childhood living in Iowa," she said. He was an early leader in the areas of wildlife restoration, conservation and environmental issues. We are proud to support this documentary that will inspire future generations to continue Ding Darling's passion for the conservation of our nation's natural resources."

Humanities Iowa Executive Director Chris Rossi feels it is important to create awareness of Darling's life and achievements. "The Humanities Iowa Board is very excited to support America's Darling, the story of J. N. "Ding" Darling," he said. "Darling was not only a great Iowan, but a great American. We share the enthusiasm that is moving across the country as production continues and look forward to the fall release and premieres of the documentary."

Marvo is excited to announce the date for the Des Moines premiere of *America's Darling*. The event will be Tuesday evening, October 23rd at 7 p.m. in the Grand Hall at the Temple for Performing Arts, 1011 Locust Street, in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. This event is being sponsored by the Iowa History Center at Simpson College.

Other premieres around the country are being planned and will be announced in future press releases as well as an upcoming event page on the Marvo website.

Marvo Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky was thrilled with the team's time in Iowa. "Informative, inspirational, and iconic--this is what we found in Iowa," he said. "In a spirit of enthusiasm and support which I believe matches Ding's drive and candor, we captured some of our most outstanding material for our project. And why wouldn't we? We were once again on Darling's turf and with some of those who knew him as a friend and mentor. *America's Darling* has truly led me on a path with Darling's footprints which is allowing me to know some of the best that this planet has to offer! Does this not speak volumes on his work and the "new Darlings" that continue his work today?"

We are also excited to introduce the launch of Marvo's Facebook page – **America's Darling: The Story of Jay N. "Ding" Darling**. Stay informed about the project and our upcoming events as we continue to unfold this extraordinary story. Like our page, share our story, and be sure to join the conversation!

A Kentucky native, Marvo Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky's work is inspired by a passion for stories, history, preservation, and the environment. Over the past twenty years, he has produced numerous documentaries in Europe and the United States and has worked with PBS, the History Channel and the Documentary Channel. He may be contacted by phone at (270)625-6815 or email at sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com.

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