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"We Bring Extraordinary Stories To Life"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Boxes of Inspiration" – The Extraordinary Project

DES MOINES, IOWA AND SIOUX CITY, IOWA—November 19, 2013—Marvo Entertainment Group LLC and *The Des Moines Register* are proud to announce a new project in conjunction with Marvo's award-winning documentary, "America's Darling: The Story of Jay N. 'Ding' Darling".

"America's Darling" is the true story of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876-1962), the nationally-renowned *Des Moines Register* cartoonist who changed America by influencing her presidents, shaping her landscapes and winning the hearts of her people.

As the *Register* prepared to enter a new chapter by moving to a new building after 95 years at its Locust Street location, an important legacy came to light: 19 crates, each containing more than 200 original printing plates of cartoons by Jay N. "Ding" Darling and his colleague, Tom Carlisle.

Dating from the early 1920s to the late 1940s, each plate was carefully filed by the *Register* in a paper slipcover with the cartoon printed on the front. A neatly folded proof of the cartoon was also enclosed with each plate. See the project's website at <http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/cartoon-plates-home>

Darling's grandson, the late Christopher "Kip" Koss, had recently said of the collection, "The discovery of thousands of 'Ding' Darling's original printing plates tucked away in *The Des Moines Register* for decades offers an extraordinary opportunity to revisit the artist's skills in presenting his timeless commentary."

To preserve this outstanding archival treasure, Marvo and *The Des Moines Register* have entered into a four-year partnership titled, *The Extraordinary Project*, for the stewardship, temporary storage, cataloguing, and digitizing of the collection. Plans are also being made to create a stand-alone traveling exhibit that will be displayed in Iowa as well as nationally. The collection will also be used as a tool for educational outreach and for connecting with the general public and the organizations associated with Darling's and Carlisle's legacies. Some of the Darling cartoon plates will be included in *The Hidden Works of Jay N. "Ding" Darling* exhibit traveling in conjunction with screenings of *America's Darling*. The Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa, will be featuring the exhibit from January 25 – March 23, 2014.

"Bringing 'Ding' Darling's work to life for new generations of Americans is an important effort," said Randy Brubaker, a senior editor at *The Des Moines Register* who has worked with Sam Koltinsky and Marvo. "Many of his editorial cartoons are as relevant and valuable for public debate today as they were nearly 100 years ago. The *Register* is happy to provide access to Darling's archived works for Sam Koltinsky and Marvo Entertainment as they embark on another project related to 'Ding's' legacy."

Joining this partnership, the Sioux City Public Museum is providing the location and expertise for the cataloguing and digitizing of the collection. Darling grew up in Sioux City and started his cartooning career at the *Sioux City Journal*.

Steve Hansen, Director of the Sioux City Public Museum, underlined the project's importance. "The Sioux City Public Museum welcomes this history-making collaboration with Marvo Entertainment," he said. "An opportunity to preserve history of this magnitude is one that we do not take lightly. 'Ding' Darling is a heritage treasure of Sioux City, and we look forward to adding a new chapter to his legacy."

Editorial cartoonist Matt Wuerker, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning, said of the project, "Finding the engravers' plates to the 'Ding' Darling and Thomas Carlisle cartoons is discovering a true treasure trove from the golden age of editorial cartooning. People who love political cartoons, especially educators and scholars, will get a lot out of this remarkable collection."

Joe McGovern, President of the project's newest partner, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, feels the project has special significance. "Ding Darling was a catalyst for conservation, not only within the movement but for the entire nation," he said. "His work called attention to the importance of protecting our natural heritage and the risks we run if we do not. These plates remind us that there is still much work to be done, for his message resonates today just as much as the day they were created."

Marvo Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky is both honored and excited to be involved in the project. "We are looking forward to celebrating *The Des Moines Register's* new era with honor, respect and yes, humor through what the *Register* has entrusted with us—these special treasures of cartoon plates," he said. "It is such an exciting time for *The Des Moines Register*, Marvo Entertainment Group LLC and everyone who will be joining us in bringing *The Extraordinary Project* to life. This project is truly a great catalyst by which I can continue to preserve Darling's legacy as well as my best friend and mentor's legacy, Christopher "Kip" Koss. Kip, I am going to 'go get 'em,' as you always said!"

Interested in joining *The Extraordinary Project*? Contact Sam Koltinsky at sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com

Marvo Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky's work is inspired by a passion for stories, history, preservation, and the environment. Over the past twenty-one years, he has produced numerous documentaries in Europe and the United States and has worked with PBS, the History Channel and the Documentary Channel.

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