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(Date), 2018

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**A new film about Lynn Margulis, a scientific rebel who challenged entrenched theories of evolution
to present a new narrative: life evolves through collaboration**

On _____ (date) at _____ (time), _____ (host) will host a screening of the new documentary film *Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution* at _____ (venue). This screening is part of a worldwide series of community screenings.

Symbiotic Earth is the story of a scientific rebel. A model of female empowerment, Lynn Margulis fought the male establishment and, through her persistence, triumphed. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Margulis was ridiculed when she articulated a theory that symbiosis was a key driver of evolution. Instead of the mechanistic view that life evolved solely through random genetic mutations and competition, she presented a symbiotic narrative in which bacteria joined together to create the complex cells that formed animals, plants, and all other organisms. The idea that all of life is deeply interconnected and collaborative has radical implications for how we look at our selves, evolution, and the environment.

Filmmaker John Feldman met Lynn Margulis in 2005 when making a film about evolution. With Margulis' help, he began to develop another film about new ideas in evolutionary biology, but when she died suddenly of a stroke in 2011 at the age of 73, he decided to make a more ambitious film about the scope and implications of Margulis' and her colleagues' groundbreaking new views.

Feldman's goal in making *Symbiotic Earth* was to engage audiences in rethinking their assumptions about life on Earth. In particular, the film explores how a belief in the scientific veracity of the metaphors "survival of the fittest" and "the selfish gene" has been complicit in creating a culture of greed and selfishness leading to global economic and environmental exploitation.

Symbiotic Earth explores radical ideas with a sense of humor and a deep respect for science. Daryl Taylor, the host of a preview screening in Melbourne, declared, "*Lynn's energy, optimism, good humour, mischief and awe leap off the screen.*" The filmmakers' distribution plan is focused on getting people

together in community screenings to talk about the ideas explored in the film. Individuals and organizations around the world have begun to schedule community screenings in theaters, libraries, schools, and living rooms for dates following the March premieres.

The production of *Symbiotic Earth* was made possible in part with contributions from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the T. Backer Fund, the Yip Harburg Foundation, and many generous individual donors. For more information about the film go to <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/> or contact producer Susan Davies at susandavies@hummingbirdfilms.com.