



## BFI IMAX press release

# LIONS 3D

ROAR OF THE KALAHARI



### Dramatic New Wildlife Film Opening 9 February

**Lions 3D: Roar of the Kalahari**, a compelling giant-screen 3D film by Tim Liversedge for National Geographic, opens at the BFI IMAX on 9 February. Filmed entirely in the wild and made possible in part by the support of the Republic of Botswana, *Lions 3D* carries the audience deep into the stark expanse of Botswana's Kalahari Desert where the life-and-death struggle between a real lion king and a fierce, young contender determined to oust him from his throne unfolds. Viewers will be shaken in their seats by one of nature's loudest sounds - the roars of duelling lions - delivered by one of the most powerful cinema sound systems in the world.

The drama poignantly weaves together the day-to-day life of lions with the suspense of rivalry in an epic story of power and dominance, success and failure. Here, one of the largest lions to walk the arid lands of the Kalahari - a 10-foot giant - reigns with his lionesses and cubs. A nomad comes to claim the territory for his own, gradually encroaching until an ultimate battle between the two determines the fate of all.

More than 40 years of experience in the region allowed filmmaker Tim Liversedge to capture in unparalleled detail the natural behaviour of lions, their prey and the incredible profusion of life congregated at a single water source for 100 miles around.

"*Lions 3D* is set around an isolated watering hole teeming with wildlife" says Liversedge. "Powerful, close-up images and a complex sound design put the audience right there at the site. Zebra herds trot by close enough to touch. An elephant trumpets thunderously from the screen. A soaring flight is taken over vast and harsh landscapes.

My aim was to give audiences the experience of what it is like to be gazing up at the star-filled skies over the Kalahari, to have the thrill of hearing two lions engaged in a roaring duel, or to sit at the edge of a water hole a few feet from elephants bathing in the moonlight."

Liversedge had to contend with relentless dust storms and surface temperatures that soared to 130°F. "Filming *Lions 3D* was one of the most challenging and exciting times of my life," he said. "The lions were so close at times that they brushed my tripod and used me and my camera as cover to hide behind to try and get closer to their prey. Perhaps the most spectacular shot I got was captured when a springbok leapt 10 feet straight up into the air to be brought down by a lioness right in front of my 70mm camera. They both crashed to the ground a few feet in front of me."

**For further information please contact:**

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Running time: 40 mins approx

Cert: PG

[www.bfi.org.uk/lions](http://www.bfi.org.uk/lions)

[www.nationalgeographic.com/lions3d](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lions3d)

**Notes to editors**

**Cinema information**

The BFI IMAX is located at South Bank, London SE1. Nearest tube is Waterloo. Tickets can be bought in advance from the ticket desk or by telephone on 0870 787 2525 or online from [www.bfi.org.uk/imax](http://www.bfi.org.uk/imax). Tickets for *Lions 3D* are priced as follows: Adults £8.50, Children (up to and including age 14) £5.00, Concessions £6.25.

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**About Lions 3D: Roar of the Kalahari**

*Lions 3D: Roar of the Kalahari* is a Tim Liversedge production for National Geographic Television and are distributed by National Geographic Giant Screen Films. Tim Liversedge is the director, executive producer and director of cinematography. Lisa Truitt and Tim Kelly are executive producers. June Liversedge and Jini Durr are producers. Eleanor Grant is the writer. Richard Jones is a cinematographer. Music is composed by James S. Levine. Editors are Lori Petersen Waite and Mark Fletcher.

National Geographic Giant Screen Films is part of National Geographic Ventures (NGV), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Geographic Society. Founded in 1888, the National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest non-profit scientific and educational organizations, with a mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge while inspiring people to care about the planet. Building on its global reputation for remarkable visuals and compelling stories, National Geographic Giant Screen Films produces original 2D and 3D productions for the world's largest screens. National Geographic Giant Screen Films also retains distribution rights to a portfolio of 25 films. More information is available at [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com).

Tim Liversedge Productions is a Botswana-based natural history film production company that has made seventeen films for international television as well as the giant screen film *Roar*.

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