



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MONKEY AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**FIRST EVER CURIOUS GEORGE® HOLIDAY SPECIAL  
A VERY MONKEY CHRISTMAS  
PREMIERES NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> ON PBS KIDS®**

**Boston, MA and Universal City, CA, October 27, 2009**—Go on a holiday adventure with Curious George as he prepares for Christmas Day in *A Very Monkey Christmas*—the charming new holiday special from PBS KIDS' *CURIOUS GEORGE* making its broadcast premiere on public television stations nationwide **Wednesday, November 25** (check local listings). *A Very Monkey Christmas* marks George's first foray into the world of holiday-themed programming, and is bound to become a holiday tradition for kids from one to 92! Peppered with classic Christmas carols, *A Very Monkey Christmas* also features three original songs —“Are You Ready?”, “Something As Special as You”, and “Christmas Monkey.”

“Viewers of all ages will fall in love with *A Very Monkey Christmas*,” said Executive Producer for WGBH Dorothea Gillim. “The special features some of the series’ most beloved characters in a story that reveals the true spirit of the holiday season, and highlights the importance of spending time with those you love all year long.”

*A Very Monkey Christmas* finds George and The Man with the Yellow Hat preparing for Christmas, when they encounter a dilemma—neither can figure out what to give the other for a present! The Man finds George's wish list filled with geometric shapes, and George doesn't have a clue what to get The Man who has everything. The Man suggests that George surprise him with a homemade gift, but George isn't quite sure what a monkey can make for a man. The suspense builds as Christmas approaches. George and The Man with the Yellow Hat follow each other around town, hoping to discover a clue as to what the other would like to find under the Christmas tree. They enlist the help of Hundley, the Pisghettis, Gnocchi, Bill, Betsy, Steven, and even Professor Wiseman and her computers!

Then The Man has a dream in which he sees what life would be like for George without him; contained in the dream is the answer to George's Christmas wish list riddle. While The Man is dreaming, George begins his homemade gift — a colossal art project that poignantly explains why getting ready for Christmas is so much fun. In the end, both gift-giving predicaments are simply and beautifully resolved revealing the true spirit of the holidays, and everybody has a very monkey Christmas!



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[pbskids.org/curiousgeorge](http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge)

Following its television debut on Wednesday, November 25, *A Very Monkey Christmas* will air on PBS KIDS throughout the holiday season. Additional airings are scheduled for November 29, December 6, 18, 19, 20, and Christmas Day, December 25 (check local listings for exact air dates and times).

“We are thrilled to bring George to the small screen in this brand new special at the most wonderful time of the year,” said Senior Vice President of Animation Production for Universal Studios Family Productions Ellen Cockrill. “We anticipate families putting *A Very Monkey Christmas* on their holiday ‘must watch’ list for years to come.”

In addition to the broadcast premiere, a new holiday-themed game will debut on [PBSKIDS.org/curiousgeorge](http://PBSKIDS.org/curiousgeorge) in November. The game invites children to bring the special’s storyline to life as they figure out what gift George has drawn, then help him shop for the gift, wrap it and give it to a loved one.

To join in the celebration, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is releasing a special board book entitled *Curious George Christmas Countdown* that features George counting down the days until Christmas. *A Very Monkey Christmas* is also available on DVD in stores now and is the perfect must-have gift this holiday season.

A *VERY MONKEY CHRISTMAS* is brought to public television by Imagine Entertainment, WGBH Boston, and Universal Studios Family Productions, with the support of *Curious George* publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Currently in its fourth season on PBS KIDS, *CURIOUS GEORGE* is funded by public television viewers. National corporate sponsorship of the series is provided by Chuck E. Cheese’s®, Sun-Maid Growers, and Rainforest Cafe®.

*CURIOUS GEORGE* is a production of Imagine Entertainment, WGBH Boston, and Universal Studios Family Productions. Executive producers are Ron Howard (Imagine), Brian Grazer (Imagine), Carol Greenwald (WGBH), Dorothea Gillim (WGBH) and Ellen Cockrill (Universal). *Curious George* and related characters, created by Margret and H.A. Rey are copyrighted and trademarked by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and used under license. Licensed by Universal Studios Licensing LLP. Television series: ©2009. Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved.

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## **ABOUT THE CURIOUS GEORGE TELEVISION SERIES**

**CURIOUS GEORGE** the television series is designed to inspire kids to explore science, math, and engineering in the world around them in a fun and entertaining way. Based on the best-selling *Curious George* books by Margret and H.A. Rey, the daily series on PBS KIDS expands George's world to include a host of colorful characters and original locales, while maintaining the charm of the beloved books. Each half-hour episode includes two animated stories followed by short live-action pieces showing real kids who are investigating the ideas that George introduces in his stories. The series encourages inquiry and curiosity, promotes hands-on exploration, and shows parents and caregivers how to support children's science and math-related play.

**Imagine Entertainment** was founded in 1986 by Ron Howard and Brian Grazer to create movies, television and other original programming. Since its inception, Imagine Entertainment has been honored with more than 40 prestigious awards, including eight Academy Awards and 14 Emmys. Their past productions include the Academy Award-winning films *A Beautiful Mind*, *8 Mile*, *Apollo 13* in addition to *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Curious George*, and the Emmy and Golden- Globe-winning television series *24* and *Arrested Development*. Imagine Entertainment has a long standing production/distribution agreement with Universal Pictures.

## **About WGBH Boston**

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows, many public radio favorites, and a roster of children's programs that empower kids with innovative, entertaining, curriculum-based content. Among the WGBH-produced children's titles: *Arthur*, *Curious George*, *Postcards from Buster*, *Between the Lions*, *Design Squad*, *Martha Speaks* and *Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman*. WGBH is the number-one producer of websites on pbs.org, one of the most trafficked dot-org websites in the world, and a pioneer in educational multimedia and in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who rely on captioning or video descriptions. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards . . . even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH received a special institutional Peabody Award for 50 years of excellence. For more information, go to [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

**Universal Studios Home Entertainment** is a unit of Universal Pictures, a division of Universal Studios ([www.universalstudios.com](http://www.universalstudios.com)). Universal Studios is a part of NBC Universal, one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production, and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience. Formed in May 2004 through the combining of NBC and Vivendi Universal Entertainment, NBC Universal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment networks, a premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group, and world-renowned theme parks. NBC Universal is 80%-owned by General Electric, with 20% owned by Vivendi.

## **About Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company is a global education leader and the world's largest publisher of educational materials for pre-K–12 schools. The Company publishes a comprehensive set of best-in-class educational solutions, ranging from research-based textbook programs to instructional technology to standards-based assessments for students and educators. The Company also publishes an extensive line of reference works and award-winning literature for adults and young readers. With origins dating back to 1832, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt combines its tradition of excellence with a commitment to innovation. To learn more about Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, visit [www.hmhpub.com](http://www.hmhpub.com).

## **PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO!**

PBS KIDS, for preschoolers, and PBS KIDS GO!, for early elementary school kids, offer all children the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, online and community-based programs. With positive role models and content designed to nurture a child's total well-being, PBS's children's media and family and educator resources - including PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! television series, PBSKIDS.org, PBSKIDSGO.org, PBS Parents (PBSPARENTS.org), PBS Teachers (PBSTEACHERS.org), PBS KIDS Raising Readers and literacy events across the country - leverage the full spectrum of media, technology and community to build knowledge, critical thinking, imagination and curiosity. Empowering children for success in school and in life, only PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! have earned the unanimous endorsement of parents, children, industry leaders and teachers. In September 2008, PBS KIDS GO! launched its video player (PBSKIDSGO.org/video), featuring hundreds of video clips and dozens of full-length episodes. Since launch, the site is averaging 1.3 million streams per week. PBSKIDS.org averages 9 million unique visitors a month. PBS is a nonprofit media enterprise owned and operated by the nation's 356 public television stations, serving more than 115 million people on-air and online each month. For more information on specific shows supporting literacy, science, math, and more, visit [PBS.org/pressroom](http://PBS.org/pressroom).

