



All Nippon Entertainment Works

## **RISING STAR ELLEN SHANMAN TO PEN 'TIGER & BUNNY' SCRIPT FOR IMAGINE, ANEW AND BANDAI NAMCO**

**Los Angeles, August 11, 2016** – Up and coming screenwriter Ellen Shanman is set to pen the adaptation of *TIGER & BUNNY* for Imagine Entertainment, All Nippon Entertainment Works (ANEW), and BANDAI NAMCO Pictures who are developing and producing the English-language live action feature film based on the smash hit Japanese anime series and feature films.

Ellen Shanman is the author of two novels from Random House/Bantam Dell, 'Right Before Your Eyes', and 'Everything Nice' which she adapted for Charlize Theron's Denver & Delilah Productions. Shanman also adapted the novel 'Falling Out of Fashion' (now *Liv*) for 2S Films and Alcon Entertainment—loosely based on the rise and fall of magazine sensation Jane Pratt, and non-fiction, New York Times bestseller 'Nothing Daunted' for Black Label Media. Most recently, she adapted YA superhero novel 'The Brokenhearted' for New Line Cinema and Alloy Entertainment.

"As we move forward in developing the wonderful Tiger & Bunny film, we are delighted to add a true rising star in Ellen Shanman to bring the story and characters to life," stated Ron Howard. "Ellen's strong, visionary, creative voice is a perfect match to adapt this wildly popular story for new audiences," he continued.

The live action film adaptation of *TIGER & BUNNY* is being produced by Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, ANEW's CEO Sandy Climan and Annmarie Bailey, and Masayuki Ozaki on behalf of BANDAI NAMCO Pictures, a subsidiary of Sunrise. Mr. Ozaki produced the original Japanese *TIGER & BUNNY* brand under the Sunrise banner, one of Japan's leading anime studios. Imagine's President Erica Huggins will oversee the new film on behalf of Imagine Entertainment.

ANEW's Senior Vice President of Development and Production Annmarie Bailey worked with Mr. Ozaki and BANDAI NAMCO Pictures/Sunrise's international business unit to acquire the live-action English language rights for the adaptation and co-production in a deal announced at New York ComicCon in October 2015.

The buddy hero TIGER & BUNNY storylines take place in a near-futuristic city called “Stern Bild”, where professional superheroes known as “NEXT” fight crime and save lives. When the old school veteran, Kotetsu T. Kaburagi “Wild Tiger” is forced to collaborate with the fearless but cocky rookie partner Barnaby Brooks Jr. “BUNNY” the two polar opposite characters must learn to work as a team to fight evil, protect the city and save each other.

With characters and heroes designed by manga legend Masakazu Katsura, who is known for the very popular series *Wing-man*, *Video Girl*, and *DNA²*, *Tiger & Bunny* first aired in Japan in 2011 as a late night TV series. The series finale ended with a live-viewing event at movie theaters nationwide where fans joined together to see its 25<sup>th</sup> and final episode. Two animated feature films quickly followed - *Tiger & Bunny: The Beginning* in 2012, and *Tiger & Bunny: The Rising*, in 2014. Both films were a box office success and are listed in the top 20 highest grossing Japanese films originating from TV anime since 2012. Beloved by fans, the franchise continues to excite and engage its strong and loyal following and has grown to include live action stage shows, exhibitions, concerts and merchandising through BANDAI NAMCO.

In partnership with some of Hollywood’s leading producers, ANEW’s active development slate of English language adaptations of leading Japanese IP’s include the adaptation of *6000* in association with producer Mike Medavoy, *Soul Reviver* in association with Fields Corp. and filmmaker partners Edward Zwick and Marshall Herskovitz of Bedford Falls Prods., a live action remake of Toei Animation’s robot anime *Gaiking*, with producer Gale Ann Hurd’s Valhalla Entertainment, Inc. and three projects with Chris and Paul Weitz’s Depth of Field production shingle: *Shield of Straw*, *Birthright* and *Ghost Train*.

Ellen Shanman is represented by UTA, The Law Hut and Anonymous Content who negotiated the deal.

## **ABOUT ALL NIPPON ENTERTAINMENT WORKS, INC.**

With offices in Tokyo and Hollywood, All Nippon Entertainment Works (ANEW) is a global entertainment studio that links world class filmmakers, the Hollywood creative community and studios with a consortium of major Japanese intellectual property rights holders to develop creative content, including films, books, toys, animation, and Manga, into global English-language motion pictures and television. ANEW is funded by the Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ), a public-private investment fund affiliated with the Japanese government. <http://www.an-ew.com/en/>

## **ABOUT IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT**

Imagine Entertainment was founded in 1986 by Ron Howard and Brian Grazer to create independently produced feature films, television programs and other original programming. Imagine Entertainment has been honored with more than 60 prestigious

awards including 10 Academy Awards® and 40 Emmy® awards. Past productions include the Academy Award® Best Picture winner *A Beautiful Mind*, as well as *8 Mile*, *Apollo 13*, *American Gangster*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Liar, Liar*, *Backdraft*, and *Parenthood* to name a few. Upcoming films include *Inferno*, the third installment of Dan Brown's Robert Langdon franchise, and *American Made*, starring Tom Cruise. Television productions include Fox's hit show *Empire*, NatGeo's *Breakthrough* series, NBC's *Parenthood*, NBC's *Friday Night Lights*, Fox's *24* and *24: Live Another Day*, Fox's and Netflix's *Arrested Development*, as well as HBO's *From the Earth to the Moon*, for which Howard and Grazer won the Emmy® for Outstanding Mini-Series. Upcoming television programs include Fox's *24: Redemption* and *Shots Fired*, and NatGeo's *Mars* and *Genius* series. Ron Howard and Brian Grazer began their collaboration in 1985 with the hit comedies *Night Shift* and *Splash*, and continue to run Imagine Entertainment together.

## **ABOUT BANDAI NAMCO PICTURES**

Head offices in Nerima-ku, Tokyo, headed by Yasuo Miyakawa (President and CEO). The company was established in April 2015 as a spin-off company of Sunrise, and operates under the banner name "BN Pictures". Known for producing original animation series with strong merchandising potential such as *Aikatsu!* series, *Battle Spirits* series and the *Tiger & Bunny* series. Additionally, BANDAI NAMCO Pictures also produces animations based on hit comic titles such as the *Gintama* series, and *Sergeant Keroro* series. BANDAI NAMCO Pictures' overseas business is operated by Sunrise, thus the *Tiger & Bunny* English-language live-action adaptation will be jointly run by the two companies. <http://www.bn-pictures.co.jp>

## **ABOUT SUNRISE**

Head offices in Suginami-ku, Tokyo, headed by Yasuo Miyakawa (President and CEO), established in September 1972. The Animation studio arm of BANDAI NAMCO Group, known for producing original animation including *Mobile Suit Gundam* series, *Code Geass* series, *Love Live!* series. Sunrise also manages IPs, focusing on distribution, live entertainment, and overseas expansion.

<http://www.sunrise-inc.co.jp>

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For press enquiries about the announcement and ANEW contact Maxine Leonard PR:

Maxine Leonard - [maxine@maxineleonard.com](mailto:maxine@maxineleonard.com)  
Office: 323 930 2345