



Press Release

Sovereign Films is delighted to announce the acquisition of global film rights for the internationally acclaimed book, *Being a Beast*, by Charles Foster.

Being a Beast, an extraordinary true story by British author Charles Foster, was published by Profile Books in 2016. Foster, a barrister, veterinarian, Fellow of Oxford University and father of six, takes an intimate, visceral and completely radical journey exploring the life of animals in order to better understand their world and also ours. For six weeks, Foster ate earthworms and lived as a badger, then tore open bin bags when living as an urban fox in London, and was later hunted by a bloodhound as a deer. His experiences include life as an otter and even as a swift.

This truly personal story contains wonderful moments of humour and joy, but also provides profound lessons for all of us who share life on this precious planet.

'a modern classic' New York Times

'...thrilling, brilliant...' Financial Times

'..a wonderful, eye-opening, mind-expanding book..' The Sunday Times

Charles Foster, said:

*'I am enormously excited that Sovereign Films will be taking **Being a Beast** from the woods, moorlands, rivers and skies and onto the big screen. Sovereign has a wonderful record of translating ideas, images and sensations into resonant and allusive film, and it's a tremendous privilege to be working with them on this strange, wild project – a project ultimately about what it means to be a human, joyously and painfully enmeshed in the natural world.'*

Rebecca Gray, Publisher at Profile Books said:

*'Publishing **Being a Beast** has been a hugely exciting not to mention, successful journey. We are delighted that Andreas Roald and Donald Rosenfeld of Sovereign Films are now on board to make the adaptation of this much sought after and extraordinary book. Their track record creating beautiful thoughtful films, that pay great attention to character and detail with integrity and respect for the author, make them the perfect match for **Being a Beast**.'*

Donald Rosenfeld, President of Sovereign Films said:

*'**Being a Beast** is a contemporary masterpiece: Charles Foster's great vision of the Animal World is deeply compelling, utterly complex and totally unique. This will be our most challenging film to date: a project that confronts vital and fascinating questions about Nature and the necessity for Human Beings to become proper stewards of the Environment. Sovereign Films was established in order to create films that make us think and feel deeply about the ever-evolving Human Experience.'*

Notes to Editors

Being a Beast

Being a Beast by Charles Foster was originally published by Profile Books in spring 2016, published first in the UK and then globally to great acclaim.

'Illuminating and unfailingly entertaining...a tour de force of modern nature writing, and shows us how to better love the world beyond ourselves' The Guardian

Charles Foster

Charles Foster is a Fellow of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, and teaches medical law and ethics at the university. He is a practicing barrister and a qualified veterinarian with a particular interest in veterinary acupuncture and animal behaviour. A lot of his life has been spent on expeditions, many in the desert involving camels. Recent trips include the Algerian Sahara, the Western Desert of Egypt, Sinai and the Danakil Depression. He has run the Marathon des Sables (the 150 mile race in the Sahara), skied to the North Pole, and 'bled in many beautiful and desolate landscapes'. Nowadays he is more likely to be found in Devon or Greece. Foster is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He lives in Oxford and Exmoor with his wife and six children.

Sovereign Films

Sovereign Films is led by Andreas Roald and former President of Merchant Ivory Productions, Donald Rosenfeld, who created such cinematic masterpieces as *The Remains of the Day*, *Howards End*, and Terence Malick's *Tree of Life*. Sovereign Films most recent production was the ravishing film *Effie Gray*, telling the story of John Ruskin's loveless marriage, with a screenplay by Emma Thompson and an all star cast, filmed in the Scottish Highlands, London, and Venice, Italy.

For *Effie Gray*, Sovereign Films worked with cinematographer Andrew Dunn (*Gosford Park*, *The Madness of King George*) and two-time Academy Award nominated Ruth Myers (*LA Confidential*, *Emma*) designed the costumes. Paul Cantelon (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) composed the score.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact:

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