

PBS ANNOUNCES “YOUR INNER FISH” FOR SPRING 2014 BROADCAST

– Based on the Best-Selling Book by Dr. Neil Shubin –



Dr. Neil Shubin with a model of *Tiktaalik roseae*, a transitional species between ancient fish and the first legged animals.
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ARLINGTON, VA; APRIL 3, 2013 – How did the human body become the complicated, quirky machine it is today? The answers can be traced back hundreds of millions of years. PBS announces an ambitious new three-part series, **YOUR INNER FISH**, which will air in 2014 on PBS stations and will explore the science of how and why we are the way we are. Produced by Tangled Bank Studios (whose award-winning head of television and film, Michael Rosenfeld, gives the MIPDoc keynote speech, “Reinventing Science Television,” on April 6), the series is based on the best-selling book by leading paleontologist Dr. Neil Shubin. In taking viewers on a cutting-edge, scientific adventure, **YOUR INNER FISH** reveals a startling truth: hidden within the human body is a history of life on Earth.

The human body carries the legacy of animals that lived millions of years ago, and from whom we inherited our most remarkable features, as well as some of our strangest quirks. Each hour of **YOUR INNER FISH** assembles evidence from comparative anatomy, fossils, genetics and embryology to solve the mystery of why we’re built the way we are.

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“PBS viewers love shows that highlight science and history in novel and intriguing ways, but **YOUR INNER FISH** takes this idea to a whole new level, by tracing the mind-boggling connections that can be made between the human form we know today and any number of now-extinct but biologically important species,” said Beth Hoppe, chief programming executive and general manager of general audience programming for PBS. “We’re pleased to bring such adventurous programming to our audience through this new and exciting series.”

“With Neil Shubin’s fascinating book as our guide, **YOUR INNER FISH** brings millions of years of history, great expeditions and cutting-edge science into the living rooms of PBS watchers and science buffs,” said Rosenfeld. “With Neil, we dive head first into a complex subject, to tell an engrossing story about how the human body evolved. PBS is a great partner to bring this type of programming to a curious nationwide audience.”

YOUR INNER FISH is produced by Tangled Bank Studios in collaboration with award-winning producer David Dugan, founder of the U.K.-based production company Windfall Films. Shubin’s book, *Your Inner Fish: A Journey Into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body*, was published in 2009. Shubin is an American paleontologist and evolutionary biologist, a professor at the University of Chicago and a former provost of the Field Museum of Natural History.

EPISODE ONE:

Where did humans get arms, legs, and hands — as well as our tendency to hiccup? In this hour, common traits are traced to an ancient ancestor: a prehistoric fish, with primitive limbs, that crawled onto land around 375 million years ago. The search takes viewers from a Pennsylvania highway to the Arctic Circle to uncover humankind’s “inner fish.”

EPISODE TWO:

How did humans wind up with skin and teeth, sweat and mammary glands, the ability to grasp and an acute sense of hearing? In this episode, Shubin traces these body features to early reptiles and a tiny mammal-like creature. His journey begins in Nova Scotia and winds up in South Africa, as he reveals humanity’s “inner reptile” and “inner shrew.”

EPISODE THREE:

Why do humans have color vision, a highly efficient gait and endless back trouble, yet no tail? To find the answers, and to look for the origins of the human brain, viewers join expeditions with legendary fossil hunters in Africa. Shubin travels back in time 50 million years on the trail of humans’ “inner ape.”

About Tangled Banks Studios

Tangled Bank Studios, LLC, is a production company dedicated to the creation of original science documentaries for broadcast, theatrical and digital distribution. Founded in 2012 by the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](#) as an extension of its longstanding science education mission, the company aims to

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produce programs that capture compelling stories of discovery across all branches of scientific inquiry. Headquartered in Chevy Chase, MD, Tangled Bank Studios partners with producers, broadcasters and distributors around the world. More information about Tangled Bank Studios is available at www.tangledbankstudios.org, or by following [Tangled Bank Studios on Twitter](#).

About PBS

[PBS](#), with its over 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches nearly 120 million people through television and nearly 28 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, pbskids.org, are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at www.pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following [PBS Pressroom on Twitter](#).

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Interviews with producers are available. For images and additional up-to-date information on this and other PBS programs, visit PBS PressRoom at pbs.org/pressroom.