



## ***ALL ABOARD!*** **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE™ IS COMING TO TOWN**

### ***Day Out With Thomas™ 2007: All Aboard Tour To Visit 47 North American Cities Bringing Fun To Every Stop***

**New York, NY – February 11, 2007** – Don't miss the train! Everyone's favorite #1 engine, Thomas the Tank Engine, calls 'All Aboard' as he steams across the nation visiting heritage railroads in 47 North American cities as part of the ***Day Out With Thomas 2007: All Aboard Tour*** presented by HIT Entertainment. This fun-filled event offers preschoolers and their families the opportunity to take a ride on a 15-ton replica of **Thomas the Tank Engine**, star of the *Thomas & Friends™* series, on PBS KIDS® and PBS KIDS Sprout<sup>SM</sup>, and features a variety of *Thomas & Friends*-themed entertainment. Each year the tour grows, traveling to new destinations, adding new activities and welcoming new visitors. Rolling out of the station for its 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the tour begins in March and is expected to welcome more than one million passengers through December 2007 (see attached schedule).

For the first time ever, a new guest will pay a visit to five ***Day Out With Thomas*** events as everyone's favorite builder, Bob the Builder™, stops by to help his friend. In a 20-minute performance, Bob the Builder will ask for the help of aspiring Can-Do Crew members to build a shed for Thomas to sleep in while he's visiting the railroad.

Additional highlights of the ***Day Out With Thomas 2007: All Aboard Tour*** include:

- The opportunity to meet and take a photo with **Sir Topham Hatt™**, Controller of the Railway on the Island of Sodor
- An inflatable Percy will be available for photos (in select cities)
- **Thomas & Friends Imagination Station:** featuring hands-on arts and crafts activities, coloring sheets, temporary tattoos and engineer certificates
- Storytelling, video viewing and live music
- A variety of activities that reflect the local flavor of each stop!

For general information or to find a ***Day Out With Thomas 2007: All Aboard Tour*** event near you, visit [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

**For media use only:**

For high-resolution downloadable artwork or additional information please go to [www.hitnewsonline.com](http://www.hitnewsonline.com), and select ***Day Out With Thomas 2007: All Aboard Tour***.

**About Thomas & Friends**

Created by a father for his son, *Thomas & Friends*, the #1 preschool toy property in the US (source: The NPD Group/Consumer Panel Tracking: YTD November 2006) invites children to enter a world of imagination through the tracks of a train and the words of a story. Today, families in more than 100 countries enjoy fun and adventure with their engine friends while experiencing timeless life lessons of discovery, friendship and cooperation.

*Thomas & Friends* is making tracks to great destinations on PBS KIDS® and PBS KIDS SproutSM. For more information about the world of *Thomas the Tank Engine* and his friends, please visit [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

**About HIT Entertainment:**

HIT Entertainment, owned by private equity investment group Apax Partners since June 2005, is one of the world's leading independent children's entertainment producers and rights-owners. HIT's portfolio includes internationally renowned children's properties, such as *Bob the Builder*™, *Barney*™, *Thomas & Friends*™, *Pingu*™, *Rubbidubbers*™ and *Angelina Ballerina*™. HIT acts as a representative for *The Wiggles*® in the UK, US and Canada and as worldwide representative for The Jim Henson Company's library of classic family brands, including *Fraggle Rock*™. HIT also owns the Guinness World Records™ publishing and television property and *Fireman Sam*™, a joint venture with S4C. Launched in 1989, HIT's lines of business span television and video production (including studios in the US and the UK), publishing, consumer products licensing and live events. With a catalog of more than 1,000 hours of young children's programming, HIT sells its shows to more than 240 countries worldwide, in more than 40 different languages and has operations in the UK, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Japan. In 2005, the Company joined Comcast Corporation, PBS and Sesame Workshop to launch PBS KIDS SproutSM, a 24-hour digital cable channel and VOD service for preschoolers. For more information, visit [www.hitentertainment.com](http://www.hitentertainment.com).

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