

J.K. Simmons joins Cinema Management Group TIFF animation sales title 'Seal Team' (exclusive)

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J K SIMMONS

J.K. Simmons has joined the voice cast of the animation *Seal Team*, which Cinema Management Group (CMG) will continue to offer to worldwide buyers Toronto.

Simmons, who won the best supporting actor Oscar in 2015 for *Whiplash*, joins previously announced Jessie T. Usher (*Independence Day: Resurgence*) and Sharlto Copley (*District 9*).

British musician Seal and John Kani, who voices Rafiki in global smash *The Lion King*, have also joined the feature from South African studio Triggerfish Animation (*Adventures In Zambezia, Khumba*), which is currently in production under the direction of Greig Cameron (*Supa Strikes* series).

Seal Team tells the story of an orphan seal who spends his days off the coast of South Africa eluding great whites until he decides to assemble a scratch team of like-minded seals to turn the tables on the sharks. Cameron co-wrote the screenplay with Brian and Jason Cleveland, and Wayne Thornley.

Simmons will play the seal team's grouchy, military-trained veteran, Claggart. Usher is cast as the hero, Quinn, while Copley plays the master of inventions, Switch. Patrick Warburton (*Ted, Family Guy*) plays the

vain Geraldo, and Kristen Schaal (*Toy Story 4*, *The Last Man On Earth*) is the fast and funny Beth.

South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation, the Department of Trade and Industry and CMG are financing the project. CMG handled worldwide sales on *Adventures In Zambezia* and *Khumba*.

Triggerfish is also in production on *Mama K's Team 4*, Netflix's first animated original series from Africa, which came out of the 2015 pan-African talent search, The Triggerfish Story Lab. The studio is also finishing animation on children's adaptation *The Snail And The Whale*.