



## PRESS RELEASE

### DOCUMENTARY ON DAKTARI'S LIFE BEGINS PRODUCTION

March 2005 – Lombardo Films visit Daktari, Dr Sue Hart

Munich based Lombardo Films together with a German film crew, spent a week filming Dr. Sue Hart and the local environs in Mpumalanga, South Africa in the expectation of making a documentary about Sue's remarkable life later on in the year.

The highlight for all concerned was a visit to Tshukudu Game Lodge, situated near Hoedspruit. Tshukudu is well known for its rehabilitation programme of sick, injured or orphaned animals which are nursed back to health and re-introduced to the wild. It was a trip down memory lane for Daktari Sue whose last "hands-on" with the Big 5 and other animals was over thirty years ago.

The Lombardo Films documentary will tell the amazing story of the 'Real' Daktari. Probably the first female wildlife vet in Africa and a renowned wildlife veterinarian, conservationist, author, educator and humanitarian, Sue Hart was given the name "Daktari" by the local African people – it means 'healer' in the local Swahili language. Juliette Sanders, Managing Director of Lombardo and Producer/Director of the film said "We are honoured and excited to be producing a film about such a remarkable individual. As a female vet in Africa, during the sixties, and in such a male dominated and harsh environment she has many incredible stories to tell. We have already recorded many of these during our filming and we are planning to be taking our promotional pilot to MIP-TV in April".

Rowena Paxton, director of Daktari Productions and long-standing friend of Sue Hart, was delighted with the way things went despite the inclement weather putting a dampener, at times, on filming. She said "Lombardo had the opportunity of experiencing the 'real Hart of Africa' and we are all very excited at the prospect of bringing her remarkable life to the screen."

Not only did this visit rekindle Sue's affinity with the African bush, she experienced precious moments of rare intimacy with the great tusker

known as Becky (orphaned as a baby) and her month-old tusker calf, known as Malutka in the wild. Reflecting on these magical moments back at camp, sitting around the boma fire, Sue observed "Becky held me spellbound and for fleeting moments I was transported back to my "vet in Africa" years. Few have had the good fortune I have enjoyed over my decades in Africa to be tutored into the mysterious ways of the wild by so many bush denizens. I was the eternal learner absorbing every little thing, always marvelling, sometime disbelieving that I was at last able to fulfil my childhood dream to be a vet in Africa."

END

### **About Sue Hart**

Sue Hart moved from England to South Africa after she qualified from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, after the war and embarked on a career in what was entirely a 'man's world'.

She was probably the first female wildlife vet in Africa and her pioneering work brought her into contact and kindled friendships with some of the most famous scientists, naturalists and conservationists of that era, for whom she provided many vital services. Over the years she also produced and presented radio and TV shows, has written books for children and adults and had a long-running column in a daily newspaper.

### **About Daktari Productions**

Daktari Productions Ltd. is a company that has been created to manage and develop programming, publishing and associated merchandise based upon the remarkable life and works of Sue Hart

For more information on Sue Hart, Daktari Productions and related programming visit:

[www.daktariproductions.com](http://www.daktariproductions.com)

or contact Rowena Paxton on +44 1628 891112.

### **About Lombardo Films and Juliette Sanders**

Behind Lombardo Films is an international team with a long experience in the film business. With global contacts Lombardo produce for the international cinema and the television market with a focus on Germany, France, England and the United States. During the last 4

years, Lombardo Films produced a special documentary shot on 3 continents, both on the ground and in the air called "Celebration of Flight " by Juliette Sanders.. The film will be shown at international festivals in 2005.(for more information see [www.celebration-of-flight.com](http://www.celebration-of-flight.com)).

## PHOTO Attachment: Dr. Sue Hart



Sue experiences a precious moments of rare intimacy and reaches out to the great tusker known as Becky (orphaned as a baby). Reflecting on these magical moments back at camp, sitting around the boma fire, Sue observed "Becky held me spellbound and for fleeting moments I was transported back to my vet in Africa years".