



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 18, 2006

**NAVARRE'S BCI OFFERS A GALAXY OF ACTION AND  
ADVENTURE WITH THE FIRST 33 EPISODES OF THE  
CLASSIC ANIMATED SERIES**

***“DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH”  
Volume One***

**Further Adventures of  
*Flash Gordon, The Phantom, and Mandrake the Magician*  
Available in Five-Disc Set on October 10<sup>th</sup> For \$39.98**

Los Angeles, CA – From out of the skies, rockets ignite, signaling the return to Earth of its greatest space champion, Flash Gordon. Now, the iconic interstellar hero has teamed up with his legendary comic strip and film companions for thrilling adventures in “*Defenders of the Earth*,” the animated series originally created by Marvel Productions. BCI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Navarre Corporation, and Hearst Entertainment, are proud to announce the DVD release of “*Defenders of the Earth: Volume One*,” a five-disc set featuring the first 33 episodes of the series, available October 10<sup>th</sup> at a suggested retail price of \$39.98.

“*Defenders of the Earth*” follows the continuing story of Flash Gordon, who returns to Earth in the near future, to defend the planet against the evil Emperor Ming. In the exciting battle between good and evil that follows, Flash teams up with Mandrake, the master of illusion, the powerfully strong Lothar, and The Phantom, who has the ability to summon the strength of the jungle animals in his battle against evil. The dazzling quartet

of heroes is joined by their young offspring: handsome and headstrong Rick Gordon; Jedda Walker and her panther sidekick; tough and smart Lothar "L.J." Jr.; and orphaned Kshin with his outer-space pet Zuffy. Together, the team of heroes must battle against evildoers from their pasts and future, including Ming and his underlings, as well as super villains, marauding aliens, destructive demons, and sultry enchantresses! United as a team, they protect mankind as the Defenders of the Earth.

*“Defenders of the Earth”* features Flash Gordon, who was created for comic strips in 1934 by Alex Raymond. Soon launched into Hollywood and beyond, Flash Gordon became one of the most popular and well-known space heroes ever created. The Phantom debuted in 1936 from creator Lee Falk, and the purple-clad "Ghost Who Walks" has been published worldwide ever since, as well as starring in feature films and animation. Mandrake the Magician (with sidekick Lothar) debuted in 1934, also the creation of Lee Falk, and his suave adventures were translated into film, radio, and a stage musical. When the quartet of heroes was united in the 1986 series by Marvel Productions — the creative minds behind Spider-Man, the Hulk, and X-Men — the result was *“Defenders of the Earth.”* Over the course of 65 syndicated episodes, the series led to a 1987 comic book adaptation published by Marvel, a line of books, and a popular toy line from Galoob.

As it has done with its previous award-winning animated boxed sets, BCI will include in the five-disc collection a series of dazzling Special Features. The deluxe set will be packaged in a brilliantly-designed fold-out box with slipcase.

Special features for *“Defenders of the Earth: Volume One”* include:

- Interviews with *“Defenders of the Earth”* producers David J. Corbett and Bill Hutten, voice actors Peter Mark Richman and Loren Lester, and historian Rick Norwood.
- Full episode audio commentary track for *“Defenders of the Earth”* Episode 1 - “Escape From Mongo” featuring supervising producer David J. Corbett, producer/director Bill Hutten, story editor and episode writer Bryce Malek, voice

actor Loren Lester (Rick Gordon), and episode storyboard artist Michael Swanigan. Commentary hosted by special features producer Andy Mangels.

- Image gallery of “*Defenders of the Earth*” original model sheets and sketches, plus a gallery of presentation artwork and backgrounds uses in the series.
- Original Presentation Pilot for “*Defenders of the Earth*” featuring alternate characters and animation
- Detailed profiles of various characters
- Two exclusive collectible 4x6 “*Defenders of the Earth*” art postcards by acclaimed comic book artists Michael Allred and Rafael Kayanan
- DVD-ROM Features – a selection of complete scripts and storyboards (PDF format, PC/Mac readable)
- “*Defenders of the Earth*” Trivia and Fun Facts

Under its **Ink & Paint** brand, BCI has to date announced the following titles:

*The Best of He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*<sup>®</sup>

[2005 TV DVD Award for Best 1980’s Series release]

*He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*<sup>®</sup> *Season One Volumes I & II*

*He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*<sup>®</sup> *Season Two Volumes I & II*

*The Best of She-Ra, Princess of Power*<sup>®</sup>

*He-Man and She-Ra: A Christmas Special*

*Flash Gordon*

*Prince Valiant*

*Space Sentinels & The Freedom Force — The Complete Series*

*Blackstar — The Complete Series*

*Groovie Goolies — The Saturday “Mourning” Collection*

And now:

*Defenders of the Earth — Volume One*

About Navarre Corporation

Navarre Corporation (Nasdaq: NAVR) is a publisher and distributor of physical and digital home entertainment and multimedia products, including PC software, CD audio, DVD and VHS video, video games and accessories. Since its founding in 1983, the company has established distribution relationships with customers across a wide spectrum of retail channels which includes mass merchants, discount,

wholesale club, office and music superstores, military and e-tailers nationwide. The company currently provides its products to over 18,000 retail and distribution center locations throughout the United States and Canada. Navarre has expanded its business to include the licensing and publishing of home entertainment and multimedia content, primarily through the acquisitions of Encore Software, Inc., BCI Eclipse Company, LLC, FUNimation Productions, Ltd. and the FUNimation stores, Ltd. For more information, please visit the company's web site at <http://www.navarre.com>.

### About BCI

BCI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Navarre Corporation, is an independent entertainment video and audio supplier. BCI has continually redefined the standards and concepts of this industry, often introducing national success categories through its marketing programs. Its vast collection of titles represents both exclusively licensed titles from around the world, as well as in-house produced CDs and DVDs. Under its *Ink & Paint* brand, it releases classic animation on award-winning DVD sets. [www.InkAndPaintDVD.com](http://www.InkAndPaintDVD.com)

### About Hearst Entertainment

Hearst Entertainment has an extensive award-winning movie library, representing the work of more than 75 top independent producers in more than 250 films. In addition, Hearst has a variety of reality and lifestyle series and specials and an animation catalog of over 600 half hours of programming including such classic characters as Popeye, Flash Gordon, Prince Valiant, Betty Boop and Blondie. Hearst Entertainment Productions has become one of the leading producers of documentary and reality programming producing over 100 hours of award-winning and highly rated shows each year. Through its wholly owned subsidiary, Actuality Productions, HEP has structured a creative unit that produces top-flight entertainment in a number of genres. Among the new projects on the company's slate are "The Big Build," and "Sahara," for The History Channel, "The Newspaper" for Bravo, "Garden Police" for Discovery Home and "Anatomy of a Natural Disaster" for The National Geographic Channel. Returning shows include The History Channel's "Modern Marvels," one of the networks highest rated series and "Engineering Disasters." For more information, please visit <http://www.hearstcorp.com/>.

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### **Defenders of the Earth — Volume One**

**Street Date:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**Order Date:** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**Catalog #:** 46987-9  
**Retail Price:** \$39.98