

For Immediate Release

Reel Time Images presents

## **UNTANGLING ALZHEIMER'S**

***A rare and personal look at a one of the most elusive diseases affecting Canada's aging population, through the lens of David Suzuki's family history***

**Premieres on CBC Television's *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki*  
Thursday, November 14, at 8p.m. (8:30 NT)**

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**Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, TORONTO – Reel Time Images is pleased to announce that *Untangling Alzheimer's*, a one-hour documentary about one of the great enigmas facing medical science, will air on **Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm ET (8:30 NT)** on **CBC Television's** landmark program ***The Nature of Things***.**

A dramatic and inspiring medical investigation driven by David Suzuki's journey to understand the science of Alzheimer's and the surprising new insights into its cause, ***Untangling Alzheimer's*** gives viewers a rare glimpse into David Suzuki's personal life and family history.

In ***Untangling Alzheimer's***, Suzuki reveals his profound interest in the disease - his mother, aunt, and two uncles died of it. In the program, audiences join David on an intimate journey as he explores the newest breakthroughs in this devastating disease as well as his own chances of contracting the cruel condition.

"Alzheimer's is one of the most frightening medical problems Canadians can face," comments writer/director Roberto Verdecchia. "That's why David's willingness to expose himself and his family background with the disease is so courageous. With this show, audiences will look at the disease in a very intimate way, and because David is so open and vulnerable about his own fears and uncertainties they'll get a unique insight into what those suffering from Alzheimer's experience. This is a truly special episode of *The Nature of Things*."

Alzheimer's today is the only leading cause of death that cannot be cured, prevented or even slowed. Worse, it's the only leading cause of death that is on the rise – and *not* simply because baby-boomers are getting older. Studies show that the increase is absolute across all age groups, and death rates continue to climb. With a new case developing every 69 seconds, scientists now speak of the *Alzheimer's epidemic*.

Despite decades of work and millions of dollars invested in research, to this day no one knows what exactly causes this most deadly dementia. But surprising new theories about the roots of Alzheimer's may now be untangling the mystery.

***Untangling Alzheimer's*** is directed and written by Roberto Verdecchia. His work has covered many intriguing subjects from the arms trade to ultra-high energy particle

physics. Most recently, his CBC documentary on how the Andes might just save the world won Best Environmental Documentary at the 2013 Banff World Media Festival.

***Untangling Alzheimer's*** is produced by Daniel and Donna Zucketbrot of **Reel Time Images**, whose previous award-winning documentaries for CBC's *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki* include, ***My Nuclear Neighbour*** and ***Bugs, Bones and Botany: The Science of Crime***. They are currently in post-production on ***A Dog's Life: A dog's perspective on daily life***.

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### **About David Suzuki**

In the age of Darwin and reality television, Canada's longest-running documentary series is the ultimate "survivor," says David Suzuki. Having recently celebrated his 30th anniversary as the host of the award-winning *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki*, some might say the same of David Suzuki himself.

For three decades, Canadians have trusted David Suzuki and *The Nature of Things* on issues of the environment, wildlife, technology and medicine. *The Nature of Things* - and David Suzuki himself - have paved the way for a greater understanding of the increasingly complex world in which we live.

David points out how the nature of things has informed his own world-view. Indeed, his perspective has changed from seeing the world as existing for humanity's sake to recognizing that humans are simply one part of the natural world. He says, about this profound shift in thinking, "it was a huge realization for me."

Before his life as a broadcaster, David Suzuki was a distinguished professor and geneticist. He has authored 40 books, received 24 honorary degrees and has been recognized by the UN for his environmental leadership. David is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a Companion of the Order of Canada. He is founder of the influential non-profit organization, the [David Suzuki Foundation](#). A Canadian icon for many years, Canadians bestowed on David the humbling status of fifth [Greatest Canadian](#) in 2004.

David began his career in television because of his passion to provide audiences with a way to understand the complex world of science. He soon realized that the "social ramifications of science can be immense," and he began to ask the questions no one else was asking. When the nature of things presented environmental degradation, satellite technology and birth control, the show raised the controversies and dilemmas and explained the potential social impacts. David proudly notes "The Nature of Things has been bringing that home for years."

For more than a generation, *Nature Of Things* viewers have seen fast-paced change: genetic engineering transformed and computer technologies becoming extensions of ourselves. "Computers were monsters when I started out in television." But in David's opinion, some issues haven't advanced enough. In 1988, *The Nature of Things* interviewed a group of scientists calling for a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases

over 15 years. "Imagine if we had done it, we would be way past Kyoto by now."

What about the future? Canada's foremost environmental conscience acknowledges the challenges ahead, but hand wringing is not an option. "I want to say I did the best I could. That means you can't give up."

### **About *The Nature of Things***

*The Nature of Things* is one of the most successful series in the history of Canadian television. Hosted by the world-renowned geneticist and environmentalist, David Suzuki, the program is in its 53rd season, a landmark by any standard.

Every week, the influential program presents stories that are driven by a scientific understanding of the world. Stories full of adventure, drama and insight. Our programs entertain and provoke audiences by engaging with the people and personalities behind the science.

From the search for other life in the universe to the psychology of babies, from the furry animals that invade your backyard to the consequences of human progress, *The Nature of Things* throws open the door to the wonder and accomplishments of science.

### **About Reel Time Images**

Located in Toronto, Reel Time Images produces award winning documentary films and television series for clients in Canada and around the world.