

# LOVABLE VIRTUAL COMPANION, FIN FIN, POPS UP IN ANIMATED STORYBOOK

**Fujitsu Interactive's latest CD-ROM helps kids have fun while learning the value of kindness**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA Oct. 1, 1997** — Fin Fin shares his world with a friend in "A Fin Fin Story Book, To Teo and Back with Jack™" Debuting this month, Fin Fin and his new pal Jack teach each other important lessons about friendship. As the companion title to Fujitsu Interactive's PC CD-ROM "Fin Fin The REAL Computer Creature™", "To Teo and Back With Jack™" also features the loveable half-dolphin, half-bird Fin Fin, the world's first Artificial Life-based virtual companion. The interactive storybook adds a second way for children to experience the beloved flying dolphin in a story that expresses an important lesson about how to get along with other beings.

"I love what I do," Fin Fin explained through spokesperson Naoko Koike-Climer, Producer for Fujitsu Interactive. "I love when people come to their computer to visit me and I even do backflips and sing when I make friends with them. But," the virtual creature added, "I also want to show the world — both of our worlds — that I have more to offer to children. This storybook gives me a new opportunity to entertain America's kids while teaching them about the value of friendship."

With 3D animation sequences, interactive screens containing over 100 clickable animation bits, and a compelling story in rhymed couplets that is both narrated and presented in text for young readers, the Fin Fin Story Book follows the adventures of a boy named Jack. Jack shares the desire of many kids who wish they could burst through the computer screen to be in the same world with Fin Fin, so he builds a homemade spaceship and rockets to Teo in the hopes of finding Fin Fin and bringing him back to Earth. But Jack learns that friendliness wins over selfishness any day, and that the way to appreciate Teo's creatures is to enjoy them in their natural habitat.

- The electronic pop-up storybook features not only Fin Fin and Jack but also the full panoply of Teo's rich and exotic ecosystem, including bird-like creatures, animals and fish and as well as an array of unusual flowering plants. Here's a handful of examples: In the Amile Forest scene, a Hawachi Bird, Pepperfish, Tree Cat and Fin Fin play a game of now-you-see-me-now-you-don't.
- In a scene in the mysterious Tsubu Woods, an elephant/dinosaur combo named V-Rex gives Jack and Fin Fin a nasty — but momentary — fright.
- In a night scene in the Tsubu Woods, a carpet of glowing flowers creates an enchanting dance of light.
- In "The Magic Floating Flora Ride," Jack catches a lift on airborne flowers to ride the sky with Fin Fin.
- Most stunningly, in the final animation sequence all of the animals and sound-producing plants weave the natural sounds they make into a foot-tapping, speaker-shaking, heart-stopping rendition of "Fin Fin's Theme."

As the first CD-ROM title developed start-to-finish by Fujitsu Interactive, "To Teo and Back With Jack" builds on the beloved character developed in the labs of parent company Fujitsu, Ltd., Japan's largest computer maker. "Beloved" may seem a strange word for a being that "lives" in a computer, but that was part of the intention behind the development of Fin Fin. Besides the massive investment in time and money that went toward research into Artificial Life and related technologies, the key to Fin Fin's success as an emotionally believable character is his appearance. He was designed to be a creature with which people could identify, toward whom they could empathize. A combination of "cuteness" and an ability to register feelings visibly is one key to his

appeal.

Another key is the sheer beauty of the 3D animation and the otherworldly splendor of the sound and music. Fujitsu Interactive has taken the results of its parent company's work — Fin Fin, his fellow Teo critters, and the exquisitely detailed and complete world of Teo itself — and added new creations, such as Jack and his spaceship, with the same rigorous artistic approach. The Fin Fin Story Book creative team includes an impressive roster of film and 3D animators, children's software developers, screenwriters, sound designers and composers, digital musicians, video game developers and software engineers. All are geared toward the same goal: engaging children's imaginations with 3D graphics so beautiful and lush with eye-popping color that kids can't help but be drawn in, characters that kids care about and want to watch, and music that captures the spirit of another world.

### **Product Availability/System Requirements**

Intended for kids ages 4 and up, A Fin Fin Story Book "To Teo and Back With Jack™" is available October 1997. The suggested retail price is \$19.95

### **Fin Fin Story Book runs on the following systems with these requirements:**

#### **PC System: Windows 95:**

486/66 MHz or higher, 16 MB RAM, at least 8 MB RAM available; 256 color display; double-speed CD-ROM drive (quad speed recommended); 16-bit SoundBlaster or compatible sound card, Mouse.

**Macintosh System:** 68040 or higher; 8 MB RAM (recommended 16 MB RAM); 13" 256 color display; System 7.0.1 or later; double-speed CD-ROM drive (quad-speed recommended).

### **About Fujitsu Interactive**

Fujitsu Interactive's corporate mission is to be a world leader in publishing innovative current and next-generation computer-based multimedia software, with a focus on development in its pioneering new category, "Artificial Life." The company's long-term goal is to redefine and transform the computer-user interface and enable users actually to build a relationship with computer characters through Artificial Life technology.

Incorporated in May 1996 and headquartered in San Francisco, California, Fujitsu Interactive, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fujitsu, Ltd., Japan's largest computer company. For more information about Fujitsu Interactive and its line of interactive entertainment products, please refer to the company's web site at <http://www.fujitsu-interactive.com>. # # #

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