



ANIMATION FLASH

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Creative Keynotes Announced

Ze Frank, Internet legend and pioneer, comedian, presenter and lecturer, and Gary Carter, president, Creative Networks and CCO, FMX of FremantleMedia, will deliver a joint keynote on creativity at MIPCOM 2008, on Tuesday, October 14 in cooperation with the Entertainment Master Class, The Format Academy for Entertainment Television.

Entitled "A Million Dying Flowers: Popularity, the Network and the Next

[See Keynotes, Page 3]

Eisner to be Keynote Speaker

Michael Eisner, the former CEO of the Walt Disney Company and now the driving force behind online content companies Vuguru and Veoh, will deliver a keynote at MIPCOM

In his speech, Eisner will share his vision of a digital entertainment industry that brings the consumer, the producer and the distributor closer together. With his new ventures, Vuguru, a production and distribution company for videos on digital platforms, and Veoh, an Internet TV broadcasting system, Eisner is aiming to foster innovation, to launch new talents, to produce new quality scripted content, and to distribute short formats sold direct to the consumer.



Michael Eisner.

Eisner began his career at ABC, where he helped take the network from Number Three to Number One in prime-time, daytime and children's television with such landmark shows as *Happy Days*, *Barney Miller*, *Rich Man Poor Man* and *Roots*. In 1976, he became president of Paramount

Pictures, turning out such hit films as *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Saturday Night Fever*,

[See Eisner, Page 3]

Tudou Chief to Reveal Web Entertainment Future in China

Gary Wang, founder and CEO of Tudou, China's leading video-sharing platform, will deliver a keynote at MIPCOM 2008. The address will be given on Thursday, October 16,



Gary Wang.

within the framework of a day of debate

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And More...

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[Eisner from Page 1]

Grease and Terms of Endearment.

This string of critically acclaimed and blockbuster films led the studio to become number one in box office and profitability in both theatrical movies and network television production. In 1984 he assumed the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company and, in the ensuing 21 years, transformed it from a film and theme park company with \$1.8 billion in enterprise value into a global media empire

valued at \$80 billion.

In 2005, Eisner founded the Tornante Company; a privately held company that makes investments in and incubates companies and opportunities in the media and entertainment space. Through the Tornante Company, he created Vuguru, a new media studio that produces Internet content and emerging digital platforms. Vuguru's first production, *Prom Queen*, quickly became an Internet sensation and was later nominated for a Broadband Emmy.

The series was such a huge success it spawned a 15 episode spin-off series, *Prom Queen: Summer Heat*, which combined, garnered 20 million views over the course of its initial run. *Prom Queen* is now available in multiple territories and languages globally, including Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, New Zealand, Russia (including the Commonwealth of Individual States), Scandinavia and The United Kingdom.

Tornante holds an ownership stake in Veoh Networks, an innovative, new independent Internet television broadcasting system and wholly owns Team Baby Entertainment, the premier producer of an award winning series of officially licensed sports themed children's DVDs.

In October 2007, Tornante and Madison Dearborn Partners acquired The Topps Company, a leading creator and marketer of sports and related cards, entertainment products, and distinctive confectionery items. Eisner plans to transform Topps, through the media of filmed entertainment, Internet and television, into a full-fledged sports media company. Eisner and Topps are presently developing a film featuring the iconic eye-patch wearing comic hero Bazooka Joe.

In January 2008, Vuguru announced a ground-breaking partnership with world-renowned author Robin Cook. A 50-episode online prequel series will account the days leading up to the launch of his new novel, *Foreign Body*, a first-of-its-kind collaboration that will debut in May 2008.

In addition, Vuguru recently launched its second original web series *The-All-For-Nots*, a comedy that follows a documentary crew filming a fictional indie rock band as they travel the U.S. on an underfunded and poorly planned tour.

MIPCOM 2008 will be held October 13-17, 2008 at the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, France.

[Keynotes from Page 1]

Big Thing," the two will explore the digital divide between old and new media. Lobbing bombs across this no man's land, and some at the audience, they will discuss ways in which new technology is enabling a new public creativity, and try to imagine business models that will enable, not shut down, new forms of content. Together, Frank and



(L to R) Frank Ze and Gary Carter.

Carter will try to ascertain, once and for all, if there is a difference between "traditional" and "new" media. Frank made his name creating viral Web content after the surprise success of an online birthday party invitation entitled "How to Dance Properly." His personal site, www.zefrank.com, has garnered a Webby and has been featured in *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and many other publications around the globe. His daily video blog "The Show" has seen a similar success. He has twice spoken at TED, and has

taught widely, including at ITP/NYU, and Parsons School of Design.

According to Carter, Ze Frank's success is due to his capacity to bypass traditional players. "His work online has been a fascination of mine for some time, so you could say I've been a stalker of his for a while — that's how I introduced myself to him when he was speaking at TED. Thanks to the Web, we are seeing an expression of creativity from people who previously had neither tools nor access to distribution."

[Tudou from Page 1]

dedicated to the convergence between TV, video-sharing online communities and video games.

Tudou, often referred to as both the YouTube and the Hulu of China, currently delivers over 100 million videos daily to more than 10 million visitors. Wang will present MIPCOM participants with the details and dynamics at the heart of

this activity in a country that now has more than 250 million web users.

As young Chinese "netizens" are increasingly favoring their computers over their TVs as a source of video entertainment, Wang will look at the development and growth of this market in China, the implications for the movie and audiovisual industries, and will reveal his vision of the future.

4Kids to Launch 4 New Properties at MIPCOM

Dinosaurs and Invasions

Dinosaur King

4Kids Ent. has set MIPCOM 2008 for the premiere of 26 all-new half-hour episodes of *Dinosaur King*.

The global broadcast lineup for the top-rated *Dinosaur King* series includes Mediaset (Italy), RTL2 (Germany), France 3 (France), Canal J (France), TV2 (Denmark), TV4 (Sweden), MTV 3 (Finland), TVI (Portugal), LNK (Lithuania), Neljas (Estonia), Jetix (UK, Scandinavia, Spain and Latin America), MNET (South Africa) and YTV (Canada), among many others. New markets expected to close at MIPCOM include the U.K., Ireland, Australia and a number of central European countries.

In the U.S., *Dinosaur King* airs Saturday mornings in the 4KidsTV block on FOX, where it has earned strong ratings in the kids' 6-11 demo since its September 2007 premiere.

In addition, the *Dinosaur King* property will be supported with a video game, a trading card game and an extensive toy line, all expected to roll out in spring 2009.

The fantasy adventure series, a compelling combination of traditional cel and CGI animation, chronicles the adventures of Max, Rex and Zoe, known as the "D Team," who race around the world to uncover secrets that bring dinosaurs back to life. The biggest challenge for the three young heroes in this unforgettable global race is to find all the dinosaur cards before the nefarious Alpha Gang. Set in the present time, Max, Rex and Zoe are able to transport themselves anywhere in the world to hunt down the coveted cards that have been lost by the time-traveling Dr. Z and his bumbling team of bad guys.

Chaotic: M'Arrillian Invasion

This series' enchanting stories will take audiences to an exciting new level within the *Chaotic* gaming experience. Twenty-six half-hour episodes of the high definition production will be available for broadcast sale, with delivery commencing



Terry from *Dinosaur King*.



Chaotic: M'Arrillian Invasion.

this month and concluding April 2009.

The *Chaotic* series is currently broadcast in the U.S. on TheCW4Kids and Jetix. International broadcast partners include: Teletoon Canada, TEN Network (Australia), Jetix Latin America, RTBF (Belgium), Canal+ Cyfrowy (Poland), SIC (Portugal), Children's Channel (Israel), MNet (South Africa), ABS-CBN (Philippines) and Kids Central (Singapore).

Enter the Code and experience the explosive next season of *Chaotic: M'Arrillian Invasion*. *Chaotic's* got a fierce new look: it's all-out action for every blistering Battle, every Creature clash and every slamin' Scan Quest. As Tom and Kaz delve deeper into *Chaotic*, they quickly confront freaky new Creatures, uncover strange new locations and scan awesome new BattleGear and Mugic. Their games take a

shocking, world-rocking turn when a mysterious new tribe, the M'arrillians, are accidentally unleashed. Will the force of their mega-mental powers let them conquer the Tribes and rule Perim?

The new season is produced in HD and traditional cel animation by 4Kids Ent.

Calon TV Takes Three Major Projects to MIPCOM

Calon is taking three major projects to MIPCOM this year. The Cardiff-based production company has been building on the success of its animation series *Hana's Helpline* for S4C, Five, ZDF and the Wales IP Fund. Their MIPCOM projects reflect their innovative animation for young children and older audiences.

Igam Ogam

Calon has greenlighted their Jurassic preschool adventure *Igam Ogam*. This 26x10 stop-motion animated comedy series features the prehistoric adventures of curious cavegirl Igam Ogam and her friends. More active than a volcano, more inquisitive than a Curiosauros, Igam Ogam is a charming little pigtailed cavegirl, who faces the daily challenges of prehistoric life with a great sense of adventure.

Each episode follows Igam Ogam and her friends Doggy the dinosaur, Monkey Boy, Birdie and Triple Tog, as they explore their world, learning about typical preschool situations like dealing with friendship, sadness and thoughtlessness. They're all watched over by Big Daddy.

The series is produced by Calon, in co-production with S4C, Five, MG Alba and

the Wales IP Fund. ZDF Enterprises — the commercial arm of Germany's public broadcaster — has recently signed to handle international distribution.

The series is currently in production and will be delivered next year. At MIPCOM Calon will be screening a short trailer and looking to secure further presales.

Abercadabra

Abercadabra is an animated comedy-adventure series for boys and girls aged 6 to 9. Set in the most magical town in Wales, the series features a group of school friends and magicians, The Cadabras, who always have a trick to get out of trouble. The group is led by 10-year-old mind reader Millie Mesmo, her best friend Vince Vanish the illusionist, magic expert Katie 'Hover' Kraft and her brother Kevin, a magic wannabe. The characters also include Katie and Kevin's parents who are professional magicians, and Grandpa Kraft, an old stagehand.

Every episode will feature an actual magic trick that the young viewers can master. Calon is working with TV conjuror Michael J Fitch, who will be giving advice on how to teach children magic tricks.

These tricks will be animated using motion capture techniques.

"We will be doing tricks that children can learn at home, but it's not Harry Potter-style magic, it's more like David Blaine or David Copperfield," said Calon's Managing Director Robin Lyons.

Calon will be screening a preview trailer at MIPCOM in the hope of securing financing from co-producers to develop the series.

Spot and Splodge

A joint venture with Sweden's ZigZag Animation, *Spot and Splodge* is a stop-motion animation aimed at preschool children.

Based on the award-winning children's books by Lotta Geffenblad, Spot and Splodge are two rabbit-like creatures whose adventures are set to music. A seven-minute pilot is currently in production and at MIPCOM Calon will be screening a trailer and looking for co-production partners.

Robin Lyons and the rest of the Calon team will be based at the U.K. Indies stand (LR4.15) at MIPCOM.

9 Story Ent. Finds Comedy in the Mob

Toronto-based production and distribution studio 9 Story Ent. is bringing their "goodfella," Jimmy Falcone, out of hiding at MIPCOM with the introduction of *Fugget About It*, the company's first prime-time animated project.

9 Story will present buyers with a first look at the pilot of the hilarious new animated sitcom. *Fugget About It* follows the misadventures of a powerful former New York mob boss and his family, who are relocated to a sleepy Canadian town upon entering a witness protection program. Jimmy Falcone, former head of a large crime syndicate, is a typical mobster — used to always getting his way and helping himself to anything he wants. But, in his new surroundings, cul-

ture clash is an understatement as this quick-tempered "goodfella," along with his wife Cookie, bombshell oldest daughter Theresa, intellectual Birkenstock-wearing son Anthony, tough-as-nails 10-year-old daughter Gina, and, of course, half-crazy Uncle Cheech, all do their damndest to get used to a new and extremely subdued lifestyle. It's a breeding ground for unbelievable situations that erupt into comedy of the highest order.

The pilot has been commissioned for The Detour on TELETOON, the network's teen and adult programming block.

"This is an incredibly humorous and extremely entertaining animated comedy, that is certain to hit a nerve with

audiences around the globe," said Vince Commisso, CEO of 9 Story Ent. "The proven popularity of stories about the mob provides a perfect launching pad for this hilarious look at the seemingly endless struggle of strong and criminal personalities who must suppress their usual more uncontrolled side in order to survive in a world of more civilized folk."

A co-production with Darius Films, the series is co-created and written by Darius Film's Willem Wennekers (*Weirdsville*) and executive produced by Commisso along with co-creator and executive producer Nicholas Tabarrok of Darius Films (*The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico*).

Ameba Heads to MIPCOM to Introduce Pioneering Kids Entertainment Portal AmebaTV.com

Ameba, the Winnipeg-based IPTV system for kids entertainment, will be attending MIPCOM and MIPCOM Jr. for the first time to introduce themselves to international attendees. Ameba consists of an entertainment portal — AmebaTV.com, an efficient and low-cost Internet delivery system, and an HD set top box, which all work seamlessly to deliver children's entertainment directly from the content rights holder to the viewer's television.

AmebaTV.com is the pioneering entertainment portal that allows parents to

take control of their children's viewing habits, while empowering them with the power of choice. Parents select titles from the AmebaTV.com website and download content to the Ameba set top box. Their children select titles they want to watch from this filtered list on their TV — all with one simple click. The company is seeking new content for Ameba, both international and North American-based properties in any language.

"Ameba is a complete distribution platform for children's programming for content rights holders," says President Tony

Havelka. "We let rights holders control every aspect of the direct delivery of their properties to the viewer's TV by making it simple to administer and very low cost."

Ameba offers a diversity of delivery and revenue models to meet particular rights holders' distribution interests. Ameba grants rights holders complete control of delivery, cost and terms of rental, regional availability, and Digital Rights Management — this newest distribution system enforces your rules, collects fees, creates reports, and generates revenue.

Adness Closes Major Deal With U.S. Broadcaster For *Kamen Rider* Heading Into MIPCOM 2008

Heading into this year's MIPCOM, Adness Ent. announces a major pre-market sale for the live-action series *Kamen Rider Dragon Knight*. The series has been licensed to 4Kids Ent. and will begin airing on TheCW4Kids, its Saturday morning kids' block on The CW Network, during the 2008-2009 television season.

Produced by Adness Ent., *Kamen Rider Dragon Knight* is being adapted for the U.S. in high definition with fast-paced action sequences and stunning CGI special effects. The story follows the heroic ad-

ventures of teenager Kit Taylor, who discovers a mysterious deck of Advent Cards that grant him the power to transform into an ancient armored warrior called a Kamen Rider. He joins a team of 12 other Riders, who along with their corresponding Advent Beasts, must battle the renegade warlord General Xaviax and his army in both the real world and an alternate reality called Ventara, or Mirror World.

Kamen Rider Dragon Knight is based on the original series *Kamen Rider Ryuki*, produced by Toei Company and aired in Ja-

pan in 2002. Written by Shotaro Ishinomori, *Kamen Rider* is the most popular and successful live-action series for kids in Japan of all time. First introduced in Japan in 1971, it is still a top-rated show after 37 years and counting. It has spawned an unprecedented number of television and theatrical sequels.

At MIPCOM 2008, Adness Ent. will be at Booth # R35.15.

BabyFirst Launches BFTV Prods.

BabyFirst has formed BFTV Prods., an in-house unit established to produce original television programming expressly for the preschool market.

Now reaching 100 million homes worldwide, BabyFirst is a commercial-free 24/7 channel designed for babies and toddlers and their parents. Arik Kerman, SVP of programming for BabyFirst and the executive responsible for the channel's programming, will serve as general manager of BFTV Prods. Programming produced by BFTV Productions will be of-

fered to preschool broadcasters worldwide.

Making its debut at MIPCOM's kids' pre-market venue MIPCOM Jr., BFTV Prods. rolls out with two original preschool properties, *The Greenies* and *Hello Around the World*.

The Greenies (5x26) is a unique non-dialogue series that presents three lovable characters who learn to appreciate and protect our planet in various funny adventures. *Hello Around The World* (3x39) teaches young viewers how to say hello

in different languages.

"The original productions produced by BabyFirst's in-house production unit, such as *I Can Sign* and *Harry the Bunny*, have won numerous awards from parenting organizations and acclaim from child development experts and pediatricians throughout the world. We feel it is a natural evolution for us to expand into the creation of quality preschool programming for the global marketplace with the formation of BFTV Productions," said Kerman.

American Greetings Brings *Yummy, Whiskers* and More

American Greetings Properties' is actively bringing a new generation of characters to life, and is looking to expand its international presence

American Greetings is the birthplace to some of the most successful licensed char-

acter and entertainment properties — *Care Bears*, *Strawberry Shortcake* and *Holly Hobbie* — which have each been recently re-launched through new original entertainment and merchandise.



Maryoku Yummy

Genre: Comedy/Fantasy

Property Overview: Lots of kids make lots of wishes every day. What happens to all these wishes? Where do they go? Who keeps track of them? That's where Maryoku and her Wish-Sitter friends come in! Caring for wishes is a full-time job in the magical and whimsical world of the Yummy.

Target: Preschool

Length: 26x22 or 52x11 in HD. Currently in production.

At MIPCOM 2008, American Greetings Properties' featured roster will include *Maryoku Yummy*, a charming new animated preschool series featuring the whimsical adventures of a wish-granting fantasy world, currently in production with partner DQ Ent.; *Twisted Whiskers*, the comically contorted pets, currently being developed into a multi-platform entertainment brand with Mike Young Prods. and DQ Ent.; *Holly Hobbie & Friends*, a contemporary evolution of a beloved icon; and *TinPo*, a series of 30-second shorts that encourage children to "think out of the box" to find creative solutions to everyday problems.

AGP will be showcasing the first completed high-definition episodes of *Maryoku Yummy* and *Twisted Whiskers*, as well as the newest *Holly Hobbie & Friends* special and *TinPo* shorts. Additionally, AGP will be presenting *Yonderhood* and *Packages from Planet X* to a select group of pro-



Twisted Whiskers

Genre: Comedy

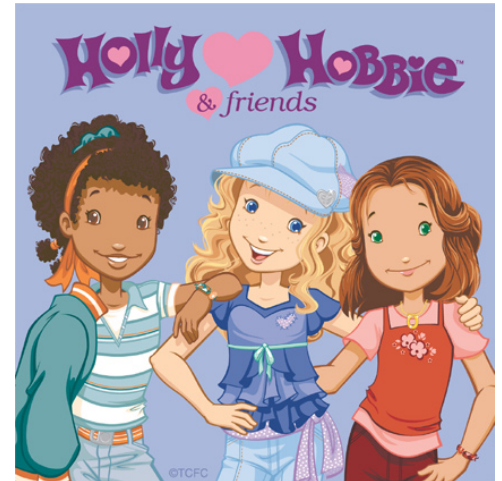
Property Overview: *Twisted Whiskers* is cats and dogs being stupid and crazy. First and foremost they act like pets, but when the need arises, they can act like humans behaving badly! Different members of our pet ensemble star in each episode, which is handled like a self-contained, mini-movie. There is a "twist" at the end of every episode, and every fur follicle will be rendered in glorious HD.

Target: Boys and girls 8-12 years old

Length: *Twisted Whiskers* shorts: 9x:30 (for mobile and online); *Twisted Whiskers* series: 26x22 (52x10 episodes, 52x:30 shorts) in HD. (Currently in production).

Fish Market Frenzy

Synopsis: Scratch and Sniff, our furry feline criminals, case a fish market and begin their heist — only to be faced with a guard dog dedicated to eradicating cats from the face of the earth.



Holly Hobbie & Friends: Christmas Wishes, Fabulous Fashion Show, Marvelous Makeovers, Surprise Party, Secret Adventures and Best Friends Forever on DVD

Property Overview: Follow the adventures of the 10-year-old great-granddaughter of the classic, original "Blue Girl." Today's Holly Hobbie has a contemporary look, but her core attributes and values maintain her family legacy. Holly Hobbie is a bright, optimistic and creative girl from the big city who sometimes adventures out to the countryside of Clover, home to her best friends and favorite relatives. Synopses for the four newest specials are below.

Target: Girls 4-9 years old

Length: 6x44 DVD specials

Christmas Wishes

Christmas calls for doing extra-special good deeds! And this year, Holly and her best friends Amy and Carrie know exactly what they can do to help spread the Christmas spirit. With music from Grammy Award winner LeAnn Rimes, join the Hey Girls Club as they go caroling, make snow globes, and bring Christmas cheer to a special family in need.

Fabulous Fashion Show

"Inside Out"

Holly and her New York friend Portia jour-

[See American Greetings, Page 8]

Geronimo Makes His Debut at MIPCOM

Geronimo Stilton, the much-anticipated animated children's TV series based on the award-winning, multi-million-selling international series of kids' chapter books of the same name, will be introduced to buyers and broadcasters for the first time in a promotional trailer to be shown at MIPCOM.

Atlantya Ent. and MoonScoop Prods., co-producers of *Geronimo Stilton* (in association with Mike Young Prods.), will present this initial trailer of the new series at the international television programming market this October in Cannes. Twenty-six episodes will be available for the fall 2009 broadcast season. Taffy Ent. and Atlantya will jointly distribute the series worldwide.

Atlantya Ent., the original rights holder of the *Geronimo Stilton* brand and all of its character spinoffs, retains all worldwide publishing rights and consumer products rights in Italy. Taffy Ent. will oversee consumer products licensing in the rest of the world.

"*Geronimo Stilton* is an incredibly popular children's book across the globe," said Nicolas Atlan, CEO of MoonScoop and executive producer of the series. "We have now brought the same great mix of comedy and adventure to the TV series and we look forward to giving broadcasters a glimpse of what they can expect when the completed episodes are available after the end of the year."

Geronimo Stilton (26x22) is directed by Guy Vasilovich (*Growing Up Creepie*, *Iggy Arbuckle*) and centers on the life and adventures of the famous Geronimo Stilton — head of a veritable media empire, erudite mouse, and klutz extraordinaire — and Benjamin Stilton, his fearless young nephew. Geronimo is an intellectual mild-mannered mouse who would rather spend his days reading or playing chess with his nephew Benjamin. But then, adventure always comes knocking on their door, launching them paws-first into capers in New Mouse City or in exotic locales around the world. They are often

joined in these adventures by Trap, Geronimo's cousin — the ultimate pack rat and consummate prankster — and Thea, Geronimo's sister who is a daring special correspondent.

The *Geronimo Stilton* books are published worldwide and are available in over 30 languages, including Italian, published by Edizioni Piemme (Mondadori Group); in English, published in the U.S. by Scholastic; in French, by Albin Michel Jeunesse; and in Spanish, by Editorial Planeta.



[American Greetings from Page 7]

ney to Clover to help with the Clover Library auction by putting on a special Hey Girls Fashion Show. When Carrie and Amy back out because Portia's teasing gets mean, they all learn that understanding each other and forgiveness are the stitching that holds their friendship together.

"Hats Off"

Holly's best friends Carrie and Amy come to visit her in New York. As the girls meet up with Portia to explore the city, Carrie gets homesick. The Hey Girls help Carrie to find her bravery and to discover that "home is where your hat is."

Marvelous Makeovers

"Cover Girl"

Holly moves to Clover and can't wait to start school with Amy and Carrie! Holly then befriends an unpopular "geek" named K.T. and soon becomes an outcast, while Amy and Carrie find troubles of their own. With everyone feeling left out, the

Hey Girls learn that sticking together makes being different cool.

"Reboot"

When Clover Elementary holds its annual Open House, K.T. wants to submit a project but is too self-conscious to do so. Holly, Amy and Carrie encourage K.T., but not everyone is happy about her competing! With some fashion advice and a makeover from the Hey Girls, K.T. finds the confidence to share her talents with everyone.

TinPo

Property Overview: *TinPo* is an interstitial series of 30-second shorts that encourage children to "think out of the box." The *TinPo* characters (Frek, Duxx, Sync, Seeb, Trey and Fimb) live in a minimalist world and work together to solve everyday problems. In each episode, the chunky Chaplinesque *TinPo* characters encounter and deal with a problematic situation. In a whimsical way, they entertain and inspire children to explore alternate solutions when faced with

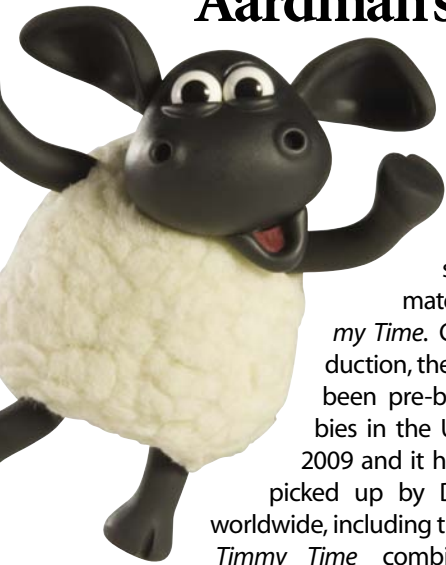


life's everyday predicaments.

Target: Boys and girls, 4-11 years old
Length: 10x:30 shorts

American Greetings will be at booth 26.02 at MIPCOM.

Aardman's *Timmy Time* Springs Into MIPCOM 2008



Aardman International will be heading to MIPCOM 2008 with its new preschool stop-motion animated property *Timmy Time*. Currently in production, the 52x10 series has been pre-bought by CBeebies in the U.K. for debut in 2009 and it has recently been picked up by Disney Channels worldwide, including the U.S.

Timmy Time combines Aardman's world-class stop-motion style with the colorful simplicity of classic preschool animation. The character designs for Timmy are based on sketches by Academy

Award-winning animator Nick Park.

Timmy made his first television appearance in Aardman's hit animated series *Shaun the Sheep*, which has racked up television sales and licensing deals in over 150 territories and has won several prestigious accolades.

Aimed at both boys and girls, *Timmy Time* will be dialogueless, but will feature a variety of animal noises, comedy, fun and strong character animation. Aardman's Jackie Cockle is creative producer and Supervising Director, and Miles Bullough is executive producer.

Timmy, age 3 (in sheep years), is adorable, but he's a little lamb with a lot to learn. Each episode will follow a day in the life of Timmy in nursery, as he learns something about himself and all his friends — an assortment of bright young

animals, some farmyard, some domestic, some wild.

Timmy Time is also proving to be a major hit with licensees, having recently secured a number of key deals. Vivid Imaginations has come on board as master toy partner and will be launching products for autumn/winter 2009.

Egmont has picked up U.K. and Commonwealth publishing rights to *Timmy Time*, and in a separate deal, Titan Magazines will be producing a monthly comic for the U.K. and Eire.

Aardman also has a strategic relationship with HIT Ent. in the U.S., which has been expanded to include the consumer products roll-out of *Timmy Time* in North America in all key categories, including home entertainment, toys, games, publishing, apparel and accessories.

CarpeDiem and Planet Nemo Bring *Silly Bitty Bunny*

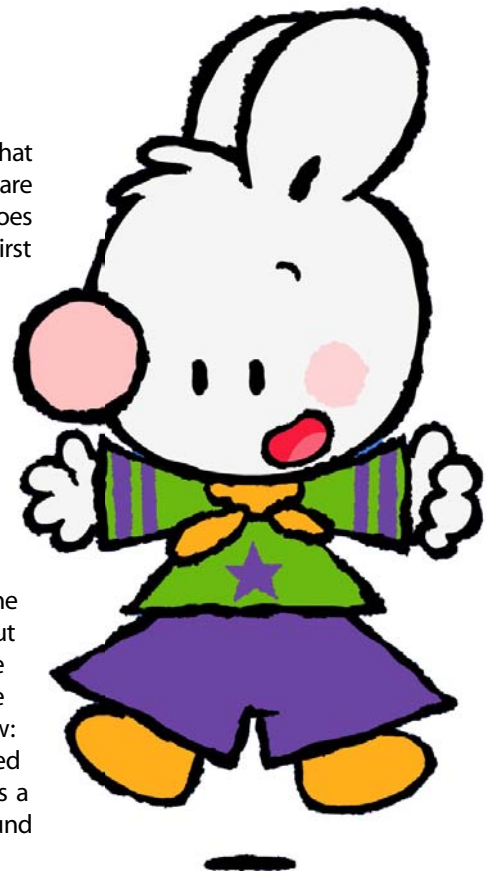
Canadian producer CarpeDiem and Paris-based Planet Nemo Animation have signed a co-production deal for Planet Nemo's brand new preschool series *Silly Bitty Bunny*. The companies will be heading to MIPCOM 2008 seeking more broadcast partners for the 78x3 2D-animated series based on the best-selling *Petit Lapin Blanc* books.

Aimed at 3- to 5-year-olds, the series features a visual style that stays loyal to the original series of twenty books published by Les Editions Hachette, which have sold over 3 million copies worldwide.

Silly Bitty Bunny focuses on "first times" as experienced by the eponymous hero; those key moments, at once difficult and exhilarating, that are the hallmarks of growing up. Like the first time he manages to climb up to the top of the big kids' slide (going down it is a whole different story!) or the first time he dresses up like a

flower for a party and then finds out that the theme is knights in armour. Some are adventurous, like the first time he goes camping and sleeps in a tent, or the first time he thinks he's seen a ghost. First times can also be moving, like when he realizes he's lost, or that he knows where he is again, or simply that he has made a friend for life.

Silly Bitty Bunny is at the center of each episode. The "first time" in each story often presents him with a dilemma, to which he must figure out how to react. He asks advice from those around him and also from the viewing audience. He tells them about his fears and upsets, and about the funny thoughts that spring up inside him when he discovers something new: "The first time I saw a cabbage, I wanted to look inside it to check if there was a baby. I was so disappointed! All I found were baby snails!"



Chorion Brings *Olivia* to International Buyers

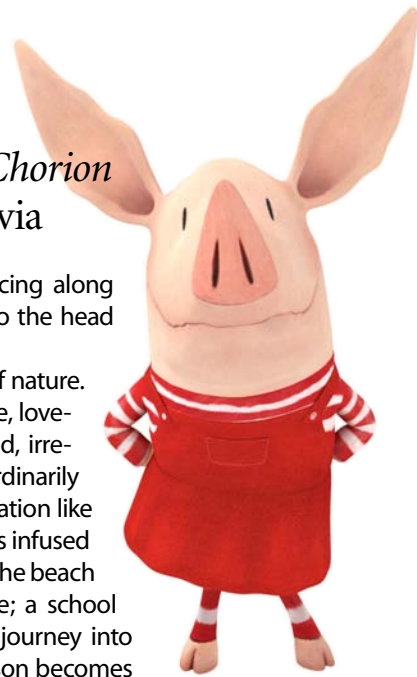
Family entertainment producer and distributor Chorion is headlining with brand new preschool series Olivia

The 52x11 series is currently in production with delivery scheduled for autumn 2008. It was commissioned by Nick Jr. in the U.S. and has already been picked up by Five's Milkshake! in the U.K. In addition, Chorion has signed a number of new international pre-sales with ABC Australia, YLE Finland, SVT Sweden, NRK Norway and RUV Iceland.

Based on the bestselling, award-winning books written and illustrated by Ian Falconer, *Olivia* is a 3D CGI series animated by the Academy Award-nominated company Brown Bag Films. Chorion's Diana

Manson is executive producing along with Pat Resnick, who is also the head writer.

At 6-3/4, Olivia is a force of nature. She is charming, indomitable, loveable, confident, strong-willed, irresistible, funny and extraordinarily imaginative. With an imagination like Olivia's, her everyday world is infused with fantasy: a family trip to the beach becomes a pirate adventure; a school science project becomes a journey into outer space and a piano lesson becomes a world-class concert.



Olivia.



Rahan.

Xilam Unveiling Episode of *Rahan*

Making its debut at MIPCOM, and being screened for the first time at MIPCOM Jr., is Xilam's epic animated adventure series, *Rahan* (26x30), packed with comedy, fantasy and intrigue.

Produced by Xilam (France) in association with Castelrosso Films (Italy), *Rahan* has already been commissioned by four major European broadcasters: France 3 and Canal + (France), RAI (Italy) and ZDF (Germany). At MIPCOM, Xilam, which handles worldwide distribution rights, is aiming to lock down further international sales.

Set in a prehistoric world, and aimed at 7- to 13-year-olds, *Rahan* is based on the famous French comic, created by Roger Lecureux, published in the 1960s. Rahan is an impulsive, ambitious and heroic teenager, who sets out to restore peace and harmony in the world. Guided by the quirky creature Ursus, Rahan attempts to foil the evil plans of the Shadow Queen, and falls in love with the beautiful, dark-haired Noama.

Also new on Xilam's MIPCOM roster is the comedy animated sitcom *Mr BaBy* (48x4), starring a precocious 15-month-old who speaks with the sharpened mind

of a 50-year-old misanthrope. The series is currently in production in Paris, with three episodes available for screening in Cannes. Despite his acerbic tongue, and outrageous demands, Mr BaBy's witty eloquence makes him a loveable character. Set entirely in the family kitchen, the series, aimed at a family audience, is designed as a stand-alone show, in a prime-time or access time slot.

Xilam, which has already secured French broadcaster France 3, is looking to finalize further international pre-sales or co-finance deals at MIPCOM. Worldwide distribution rights for *Mr BaBy* are handled by Xilam.

More animated comedy is available from Xilam with the third season of *Oggy and the Cockroaches*, which now totals 200 episodes or 65x30. The long-running, family-skewed series tracks the explosive confrontations between the big blue cat Oggy and three ugly cockroaches, Joey, Dee Dee and Marky. Airing this fall on French pay TV broadcaster Canal +, *Oggy and the Cockroaches* has already been screened in more than 150 countries, and ranks as one of the top French animation exports.

New Spooky Investigations Series Debuts Fall 2010

Bejuba! Ent. has partnered with Skaramoosh London and Creative Visual Media to develop *Spooky Investigations*, an all-new animated series designed to continue the comedic adventures of the popular *Spooky Sisters* shorts produced by Skaramoosh for Disney U.K.

Bejuba! will serve as exec producer and distributor of the series, in addition to seeking out co-production partners and securing financing for the production of

new half hours, or 52x11 episodes, slated for broadcast in 2010.

Most recently, the original *Spooky Sisters* series of shorts enjoyed successful runs on ABC in Australia and Binweevils.co.uk, the U.K.-based children's online entertainment platform that boasts over 850,000 visitors per month. These shorts will be available for screening at MIPCOM Jr.

While retaining all the comic hallmarks

of the original shorts, the new production will follow the adventures of the intrepid sisters, Amelia and Cecelia Spooky, as they form a self-styled paranormal investigation agency especially for kids. Together with their cousin Boris, a 200-year-old teenage vampire who turns into a bat, the sisters will investigate any spooky mystery which grownups consider too farfetched to believe.

Cookie Jar Ent. to Unveil New Animated Series

Cookie Jar Ent. is headed to MIPCOM 2008 with a wide range of shows to offer global broadcasters. The slate includes two original animated adventure series, *Metajets* and *Noonbory & the Super 7*, and a holiday special, *Gotta Catch Santa Claus*, featuring William Shatner as the voice of Santa.

Cookie Jar will offer international buyers new episodes of *Horseland* (13x30), *Sushi Pack* (13x30), *Dino Squad* (26x30) and Richard Scarry-inspired *Hurray For Huckle!* (26x30). Preschool favorite *Strawberry Shortcake* will also be featured.



Metajets

For thrill-seeking boys, *Metajets* fuels the need for speed and sport in the skies with high-flying competition and combat. In a world where aviation is paramount, young flying aces compete on the Aeronautical Racing Circuit while secretly waging a high-stakes battle for air supremacy. A mix of 2D and CG anima-

tion, 40 half hours of this Sunwoo co-production are scheduled to begin airing on Canada's TELETOON in 2009.

Noonbory & the Super 7

A Cookie Jar and Daewon Media co-production, the series is set in the enchanting, Technicolor world of Toobaloo, where a group of energetic "Borys" use their heightened senses, imagination and teamwork to solve everyday problems. The Borys may be small, but each possesses a very important and sensational skill. When there is trouble in Toobaloo, the Borys, led by "common sense" Noonbory, sense it and spring into action utilizing their heightened senses to save the day. Twenty-six half-hour episodes of *Noonbory & the Super 7* will air in Canada on BBC Kids, Knowledge, Access Television and SCN.

Gotta Catch Santa Claus

Twelve-year-old Trevor believes in his heart of hearts that Santa Claus exists. He was content in his belief and didn't much care what the other kids thought, until his very best friend challenged him. Her doubts send Trevor on a mission to catch Santa Claus, prove his existence to the media, and put everyone's doubts to rest once and for all. Unfortunately, he isn't the only one out to catch Santa. Santa has a cold-hearted dim-witted ice monster nemesis out to get him. His thirst to get off his icy comet or-

biting Earth and catch Santa himself puts Trevor's task at risk. This engaging CGI holiday film features the voice of William Shatner as Santa. Cookie Jar and Enemes co-production will air on TELETOON this winter.

Horseland

The series follows the adventures of four amazing kids and their horses, who come together in an incredible place called Horseland. As these friends strive to become the best competitive riders they can possibly be, the kids and their equine companions must learn to deal with difficult situations and confront an array of problems that put their honesty, integrity, self-confidence and sometimes even their friendship to the test. It has been sold to more than 20 countries in the EMEA and has aired and/or currently airs on France 5 (France), Kika and ZDF (Germany), Jetix (Dutch-speaking Benelux), VT4 (Belgium), Pop Girl (UK), TV2 (Norway), SVT (Sweden), TV Ontario (Canada), TG4 (Ireland), RAI2 (Italy) and Network Ten (Australia).

Sushi Pack

The series follows five crime-fighting pieces of sushi that protect Wharf City from over-the-top diabolical villains. It airs in France (France 5), the US (CBS), Switzerland (TSR) and Poland (Canal+/Zip Zag). In 2009, it will debut on France's TELETOON.

[See *Cookie Jar Ent.*, Page 12]

Cats and Dogs From Delphis Films

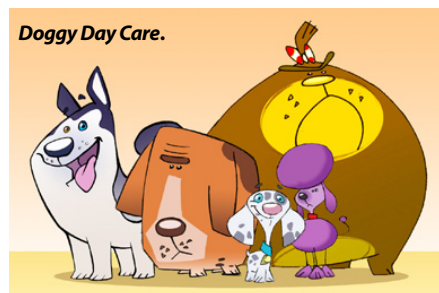
Delphis Films, a Montreal-based world sales agent of family entertainment, will be attending MIPCOM Jr. and MIPCOM 2008 with a slate of exciting kids and family-friendly series and films.



The Adventures of Pim & Pom.

The Adventures of Pim & Pom

From award-winning Dutch family film powerhouse BosBros, *The Adventures of Pim & Pom* (26x5, Nickelodeon Channel Benelux) is an original and endearing animation series with two mischievous cats that turn everything and every day into an adventure.



Doggy Day Care

Doggy Day Care (26x11), from a concept by Cathy Moss (*Franny's Feet*), is a preschool animation series set in a day care center for dogs. Commissioned by Radio-Canada, English Canadian broadcasters, Nickelodeon Latin America and Canal Cul-

tura Brazil, the series has appeal for toddlers as well as dog fans.



Dragon

Dragon, the lovable blue friend, is back with a third season filled with loads of fun. The popular stop-motion brand (78x12) was the top-rated preschool show by a number of major broadcasters, aired on the NBC Network in the U.S. and is on its way to a global licensing and merchandising roll-out, following plush toys scheduled to hit stores at the beginning of 2009 in North America.

In Cannes, Delphis Films will also promote its ever-growing family film collection *Tales for All*, which amounts to 75 children's films that have won more than 400 awards and honors.

Delphis Films will be at stand #C1.05 at MIPCOM.

[Cookie Jar Ent. from Page 11]

Dino Squad

Five quirky, highly disparate teenagers suddenly gain the power to transform into dinosaurs. These unlikely teammates must learn to get along despite their differences as they struggle to balance the ordinary adolescent challenges of schoolwork, friendships, extracurricular activities and family life with the extraordinary responsibility of being dinosaur heroes who must keep their powers and identities a secret as they work together to fend off the efforts of a mad scientist (actually a prehistoric dinosaur in human disguise) who is creating "mutant-saurs" and accelerating global warming in his quest to bring back the Age of the Dinosaurs.

Hurray For Huckle! (Busytown Mysteries)

Inspired by the best-selling children's author Richard Scarry, who sold more than 150 million books worldwide, *Hurray For Huckle! (Busytown Mysteries)* blends humor and learning by following the lives of six characters who try to solve everyday life mysteries in Busytown. The show airs on Kids' CBC (Canada) as *Busytown Mysteries* and has been licensed to Nickelodeon (Italy), France 5, ZDF (Germany), SVT (Sweden), Radio-Canada, YLE (Finland), RUV (Iceland), DR (Denmark) and NRK (Norway).

Strawberry Shortcake

The show follows the good-hearted and lovable adventures of Strawberry Shortcake and her friends who live together in the "berry sweet" world of Strawberryland. With darling and mischievous characters like her sister, Apple Dumplin', her friends, Huckleberry Pie, Ginger Snap, Orange Blossom and Angel Cake, and her pets, Custard and Pupcake, Strawberry Shortcake and her friends grow better all the time, exploring whimsical new lands while learning valuable lessons.

Cookie Jar Entertainment will be located at stand 17.01 at MIPCOM.

DECODE Adds *Martha Speaks* to MIPCOM Lineup

DECODE Enterprises, the distribution subsidiary of DHX Media, is bringing a diverse range of programming for all ages to MIPCOM 2008, including debut show *Martha Speaks*, from Studio B Prods. and WGBH Boston. Also on its market slate are new episodes of established shows, alongside brand new programming from DHX Media's production subsidiaries and third-party producers.

Preschool series include *Bo on the GO!*, *Mighty Jungle* and *Animal-Mechanicals* from Halifax Film and *Super WHY!* from Out of the Blue Enterprises, in conjunction with DECODE Ent. Programming for older kids includes *Martha Speaks*, aimed at 4- to 7-year-olds, plus the DECODE Ent. and Aardman Animation co-production *Chop Socky Chooks* and Studio B's *Kid vs Kat* for the 6-11 demographic. Also headlining the MIPCOM slate is *Clang Invasion* for kids 8-12 from DECODE Ent., Scrawl Studios, and Agogo Ent., and new episodes of DECODE's teen live-action hit *Latest Buzz*.

Martha Speaks is an animated series based on the best-selling books by Susan Meddaugh that have sold nearly one million copies in the U.S., and have been widely translated throughout the world.

Airing on PBS KIDS in the U.S. from September, *Martha Speaks* has also sold to a trio of Canadian broadcasters: TVO, Knowledge Network and SCN will also launch all 40 half-hour episodes of the series starting in September. The series follows the adventures of Martha, a loveable dog whose appetite for alphabet soup gives her the power of human speech.

DECODE Enterprises represents all television and home video rights to Halifax Film's *Bo on the GO!* (40x22), and will be debuting brand new episodes at MIPCOM. Using motion capture technology and CG, *Bo on the GO!* promotes an active lifestyle and an active mind for preschoolers. It is currently one of CBC's highest rating preschool shows and has sold around the world.

Also from Halifax Film and new for MIPCOM is the puppet series *Mighty Jungle* (26x11). Commissioned by CBC in Can-

ada, the preschool show is set in a world deep in the mighty jungle. Through leafy vines and under a canopy of chattering birds is a world for preschoolers to explore. Through the use of lively colorful puppet animals, *Mighty Jungle* reflects the spirit of its preschool audience through adventure and play.

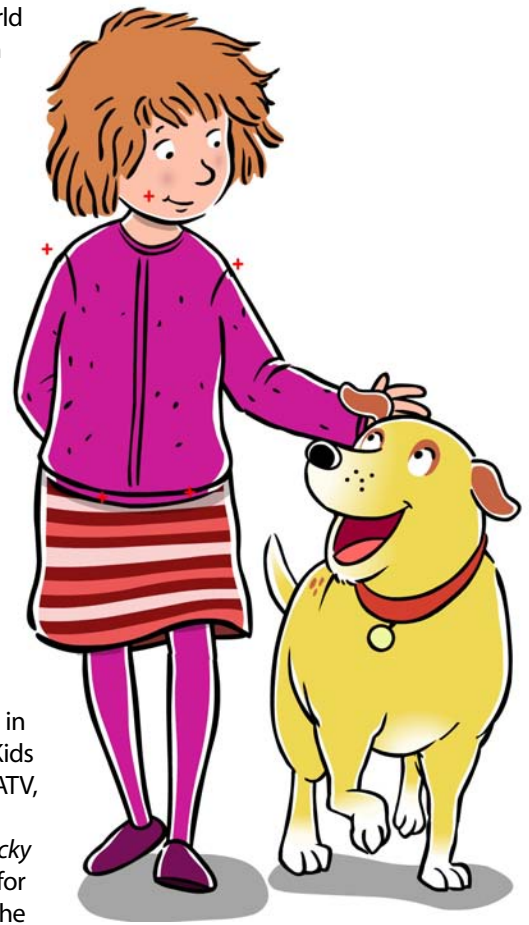
CBC-commissioned *Animal-Mechanicals* (40x1) is an action/adventure series for preschoolers that combines fantastic worlds, mythical animals and cool quests.

DECODE Enterprises also holds worldwide television rights excluding the U.S. to *Super WHY!*, the innovative, critically-acclaimed animated preschool show. Deals already signed for *Super WHY!*, which is already airing in the U.S. on the top-rated PBS KIDS preschool programming block, include Nick Jr. in the U.K., Canada's CBC, Singapore's Kids Central, Korea's KidsTalkTalk channel, ATV, EBS, Hana TV and Iconix Ent.

Animated 26x22 3D series *Chop Socky Chooks* is currently in production for Cartoon Network and Teletoon. The Chooks are a crack team of Kung Fu chickens — Chuckie Chan, Chick P and KO Joe. The three plucky heroes work undercover in Wasabi World, a towering shopping mall run by their arch enemy Dr Wasabi, mutated piranha and head of an evil retail empire.

Kid vs Kat is a comedy about the exaggerated conflict between a demonically malevolent cat and the beleaguered ten-year-old boy to whom it has taken a demented dislike. The 52x11 or 26x22 series, which is produced by Studio B in association with YTV and Jetix Europe, has recently been acquired by Jetix U.S.

Clang Invasion (26x22 or 52x11) is a fast-paced sci-fi comedy about the adventures of a dysfunctional crew of alien robots who crash-land in the backyard of siblings Daisy and Robin. The series has been developed by Singapore's Scrawl Studios and the Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA) in co-produc-



Martha Speaks.

tion with DECODE, YTV and established Hong Kong animation company Agogo Entertainment Ltd. DECODE has worldwide distribution rights for this Canada/Hong Kong/Singapore treaty co-production. *Clang Invasion* has already pre-sold to YTV.

Live-action hit *The Latest Buzz* has scored a third season commission from Canada's Family Channel and the new episodes bring the total to 65x22 available for the international market. Broadcasters airing the hit series, which centers around five teen writers who work at a youth magazine during 8th period at school, include Boomerang U.K., SuperRTL, ABC (Australia), and the Disney Channels in France, Italy and India, Cartoon Network Latin America and Germany Nickelodeon Spain, Digiturk, Ireland's RTE, Canada's VRAK.TV.

Echo Bridge to Present 200 Hours of Animation

Following their recent purchase of Alliance Atlantis International Dist., Echo Bridge Ent. will be presenting more than 200 hours of animation from the newly acquired catalog at MIPCOM. Additionally, the company has recently finalized a slate of international licensing agreements for popular animated series in the extensive library of programming, including *Lunar Jim* and *Dragon Booster*.

Lunar Jim

Echo Bridge has concluded deals for the animated series *Lunar Jim* with multiple international broadcasters, including ZDF in Germany for season 2 (19 episodes), BBC Worldwide in Poland for seasons 1 (26 episodes) and 2 (19 episodes), and ABC Australia acquired season 2 (19 episodes) and re-licensed season 1.

Lunar Jim currently airs on leading broadcasters, including CBeebies, Kika, Kids CBC, Radio Canada Television, Discovery Kids Latin America, Discovery Kids Bra-



zil and ABC Kids. The show's 92x10 or 46x30 episodes will be available at MIPCOM. *Lunar Jim* and his friends are an adventurous group of astronauts living in a tiny lunar village called Moona Luna. Whether it's finding missing moon melons or exploring the magical crystal caves, Jim and his team are always ready to "get lunar" as they experience the challenge of a whole new world and explore the Moon on their fabulous collection of space vehicles.

Dragon Booster

Further, a re-license agreement has been concluded for the Gemini Award-winning, CGI-animated *Dragon Booster* with ABC Australia. *Dragon Booster's* 39x30 episodes will be available at MIPCOM. The series is a high-octane adventure set against the backdrop of dragon racing where 12-ton reptiles chew up the asphalt at over 200 miles per hour.

Additionally, TV2 in Norway re-licensed season 2 (12 episodes) of *Adventures of Sinbad*.

Other key animated series to be presented at MIPCOM by Echo Bridge include 26x30 of *Henry's World*, about an eight-year-old who gains super powers when he eats certain foods; 43x30 of *Connie the Cow*, about a restless and curious youngster who pokes her nose into everything, resulting in funny and charming situations; and 52x30 of the classic animated series *Beast Wars*.

Family Guy Spins Off to Cleveland

Twentieth Century Fox is bringing Seth MacFarlane's *Family Guy* spinoff *The Cleveland Show* to MIPCOM 2008.

The Cleveland Show

Length: 30 minutes

Co-production partners: Produced by Twentieth Century Fox Television

Key Cast: Mike Henry (Cleveland Brown)

From the imagination of Seth MacFarlane (*Family Guy*, *American Dad*), comes the hilarious *Family Guy* spin-off, *The Cleveland Show* which revolves around Cleveland Brown (voiced by Mike Henry, *Family Guy*, *American Dad*), who after losing his wife and his house in a divorce, leaves Quahog, Rhode Island, with his son Cleveland Jr. to go to California to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a minor league baseball scout. However, before making it out to California, Cleveland heads to his old hometown of Stoolbend, Virginia, to show Cleveland Jr. where he

grew up. Once in Stoolbend, Cleveland reunites with his high school sweetheart Donna (voiced by Sanaa Lathan, *Nip/Tuck*) who offers him another chance at love.

Cleveland decides to stay in Stoolbend with Donna and finds a few surprises awaiting him, including a flirtatious new stepdaughter named Roberta (voiced by Nia Long, *Big Momma's House*), a five-year-old stepson named Rallo who loves the ladies, as well as a collection of neighbors that includes a loudmouth redneck named Lester (voiced by Kevin Richardson, *Family Guy*) and his wife, a British family seemingly stuck in the Victorian era, and a family of bears living at the end of the block.

The Cleveland Show is directed by Anthony Lioi, producers are Seth MacFarlane, Richard Appel and Mike Henry, and writers are Seth MacFarlane, Richard Appel, and Mike Henry.

Twentieth Century Fox will be at Booth E3.01 at MIPCOM 2008.

Attending Executives:

Mark Kaner, president, Twentieth Century Fox Television Distribution
Marion Edwards, president, International Television, Twentieth Century Fox Television Distribution

Jamie McCabe, executive VP, Worldwide Pay-Per-View, Video-On-Demand, Electronic Sell-Through
Gina Brogi, SVP, Worldwide Pay Television

Gerard Grant, SVP, Sales Europe
Richard Samuels, SVP, Managing Dir. of Sales Asia

Acquisition Executive:

Marion Edwards, president, International Television, Twentieth Century Fox Television Distribution

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Imira Ent. Makes the Case for the *Fairytale Detective*



Sandra the Fairytale Detective.

The brand new animation *Sandra the Fairytale Detective* is a 52x13 Flash-animated series produced in HD for 4- to 8-year-olds, which already has a raft of major broadcasters on board. Co-produced with TVE and DQ Ent., Imira has scored presales to TF1, Disney Channels in France, Italy, Germany and Spain and RTP in Portugal.

Sandra the Fairytale Detective is an adventure series combining magic, mystery and humor. Sandra is a 10-year-old girl who turns detective when she travels to the Land of Once Upon a Time, a parallel world where classic fairytale

characters live. What happens if someone steals Cinderella's glass slipper? Or if the Prince kisses Sleeping Beauty but she doesn't wake up? Sandra the Fairytale Detective springs into action!

Christophe Goldberger, head of Distribution and Marketing at Imira Ent., said, "This is a series with a really enchanting idea at its core; it's classic fairytale stories, but with a very big twist! Our heroine Sandra is adventurous and smart as she tackles some very important mysteries on behalf of well-loved fairytale characters."

ITV Has *Pinky & Perky, Headcases*

The Pinky & Perky Show

Length: 52x13

Production: A Pinky and Perky

Enterprises, Method Films and DQ Ent.

Ltd co-production for CBBC and France 3

A funny and fast-paced new CGI series for kids. Pinky and Perky are a pair of lovable piglets who have just been given their big break in television—their own live TV show full of crazy stunts, wild games, anarchic cartoons and top celebrity guests. With high production values, award-winning writers, stylish direction and innovative content, *The Pinky & Perky*

Show is full-fat entertainment and the next pig thing!

Headcases

Length: 8x30 or 6x30

Production: ITV Productions for ITV1

Using the latest 3D computer-generated animation and the hottest writing and voice talents, *Headcases* is satire at its most cutting-edge. From Gordon Brown to Victoria Beckham, Vladimir Putin to Prince Harry, Dame Helen Mirren to Jennifer Aniston — no one is safe.



The Pinky & Perky Show.

Littleloud Presents Identertainment

Littleloud Animation Studios present a new entertainment property called Identertainment, topical, animated entertainment in a mini-show format.

The Identertainment format enables purpose-built animated shows to be delivered weekly to all digital platforms including TV broadcast, Web download and mobile handset content.

These "ready-to-go" comedy shows are presented by a cast of animated characters.

Tourists from Mars

This current affairs show for the 7- to

11-year-old audience is presented by the coolest alien news reporters on the planet, and has just been commissioned by Children's BBC.

The A List

The A List, aimed at the 16- to 30-year-old audience, is a satirical take on the latest celebrity showbiz news. The show is presented by Velvet Beau-Tox, last decade's IT girl and celebrity has-been.

Hip Joint

Also in development is *Hip Joint*, a rock and pop review show presented by Hari & Kari, the feisty Siamese twins with extremely different views on what's hot and what's not.

*Sid the Science Kid.*

Jim Henson Company to Debut New Slate of Properties

The Jim Henson Company will debut a new slate of animated properties, highlighted by Sid the Science Kid, CGI-animated series Dinosaur Train and The Skrumps

Sid the Science Kid

Sid the Science Kid is a new educational animated television series using comedy to promote exploration, discovery and science readiness among preschoolers. This landmark production of 40 half-hour episodes is co-produced by The Jim Henson Company and KCET/Los Angeles for PBS KIDS.

The Jim Henson Company's first series for PBS KIDS featuring practical in-school science curriculum, *Sid* uses music and humor to celebrate children's natural curiosity about science in everyday life. The energetic and inquisitive Sid starts each episode with a new question ("Why are my shoes shrinking?" "Why do bananas get mushy?") and embarks on a fun-filled day of finding answers with the help of family and friends. The series is created using the Henson Digital Puppetry Studio, a proprietary technology that allows the company's world-class performers to puppeteer and voice digitally animated characters in real time, creating a unique, more spontaneous and fresh result. *Sid the Science Kid* continues the company's

legacy of creating successful preschool programming such as *Fraggle Rock*, *Bear in the Big Blue House* and *Muppet Babies*.

Sid and his school friends also host an online interactive Web site at pbskids.org/sid, which features three discovery zones, each with numerous games and activities that together encompass all of the series' curricular themes. The site also features a child-friendly video player, and a book of printable activities.

Dinosaur Train

Created for 3- to 6-year-old children, *Dinosaur Train*, featuring a colorful steam engine that carries all kinds of dinosaurs to the many prehistoric eras, is currently in development as a 52x11 series for PBS Kids. The world of *Dinosaur Train* is seen through the eyes of Buddy, a preschool-age Tyrannosaurus Rex. Rescued and hatched by a female Pteranodon, Buddy soon realizes that he looks quite different from his siblings. In response to Buddy's enthusiasm to learn more about himself and other dinosaurs, mom takes her fam-

ily for adventures on the *Dinosaur Train*. Kids will get on board with Buddy and his family to meet all kinds of dinosaurs and learn new fascinating facts about these incredible creatures.

The Skrumps

Also debuting at the market for pre-sales is *The Skrumps*, a series based on characters created by artist John Chandler and made popular by his line of collectible figures and illustrated storybooks. *The Skrumps*, a uniquely colorful troupe of Skrumpland residents, is currently in active development for long-form direct-to-DVD production with a future television series also anticipated. The characters are performed using the Henson Digital Puppetry Studio. Several short videos, including a music video and several character video-blogs were initially produced and distributed on Yahoo Kids! in January 2007 to launch the brand. The Skrumps were also featured in their first interactive game launched on Yahoo in March 2008.

Cuppa Coffee Celebrates Nerds at MIPCOM

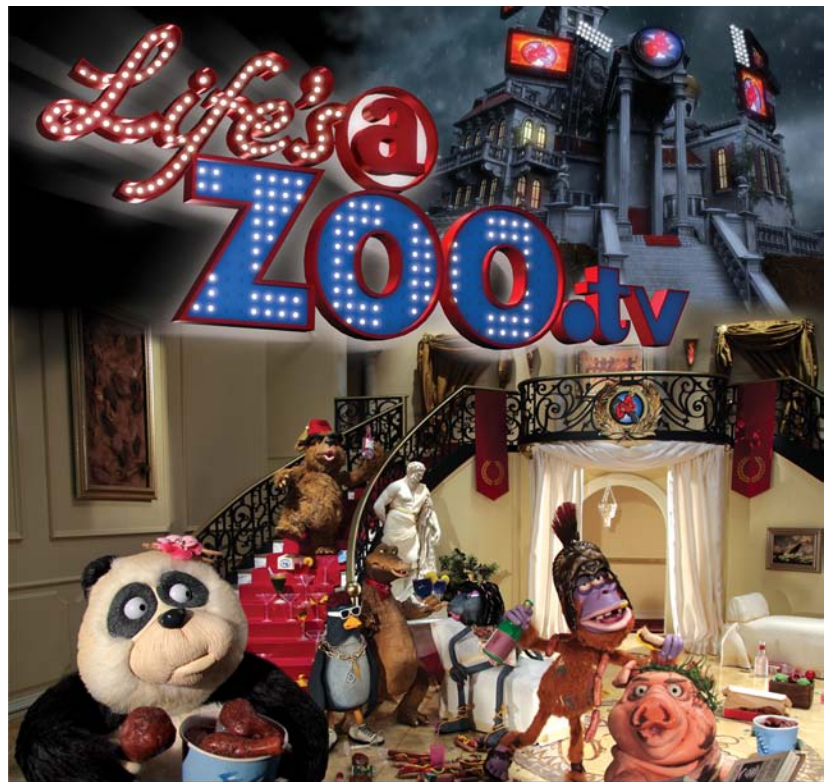
Do you know how many sun swords a wizard with only seven charisma points needs to slay a wandering armored Tharg troll? Likely, you don't have a clue, but this is common knowledge in *Nerdland*, a new stop-motion animated pilot debuting at MIPCOM from Cuppa Coffee Studios and set to air this fall on TELETOON.

Nerdland focuses on the twisted misadventures of a group of pop culture-obsessed nerds as they try to survive in a decidedly nerd-unfriendly society. It's a teen stop-motion comedy that draws upon elements of fantasy and satire to poke fun at the inner nerd lurking in the cluttered basements of our minds.

The episode is being unveiled this October in Cannes as, according to Cuppa Coffee President Adam Shaheen, the time is right for broadcasters looking to acquire cool, smart teen comedies. "Five years ago, the expression 'nerd' was more a negative," he explained. "But it's been transformed into something positive, and it's in that spirit that the show was created. Let's face it — there's a little bit of nerd in all of us."

Although focused on a group of nerds, this really is a show for everyone, insists Shaheen. "While we didn't want to make a show that would only appeal to a small demographic of self-professed nerds, neither did we want to just make fun," he explained. "It would be too easy to laugh at — we prefer to laugh with." The result is a hilarious half hour littered with pop culture references, fantasy sequences and appealing characters that anyone can relate to.

Cuppa Coffee intends to close out the financing of the show at MIPCOM to begin production early 2009.



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MEDIATOON Brings Long-Awaited Animated Series *The Garfield Show*



Paris-based MEDIATOON will present the first episodes of the new CGI series *The Garfield Show* from French producer Dargaud Media at MIPCOM. American cartoonist Jim Davis, who created the comic strip 30 years ago, is the executive producer. In addition to the world-famous comic strip, two blockbuster feature films and incredible merchandising and Internet content, Garfield strikes again with 52x11 episodes shot in HD.

The new TV show will offer a fresh and funny look at Garfield's day-to-day life, blending the modern look of CGI animation and the familiar humor of Garfield, Odie and Jon Arbuckle. Garfield, a lazy, selfish, overweight, orange tabby cat whose main hobbies are chilling out, sleeping, watching TV and having fun, is a hero.

The Garfield Show is due for broadcast in 2009 on France 3 and Cartoon Network Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America.

Robert Réa, producer of the series said, "This cartoon character is grounded in American popular culture, but we're bringing a French touch to it. After all, Garfield is a rebel!"

Other shows MEDIATOON will show at MIPCOM include:

Bird Squad (26x13)

Produced by: Toposodo
Co-producers: Rai Fiction/Toposodo/
Ellipsanime/Araneo
Target audience: Children 4 and up
Type of animation: 3D and HD

Up above in the sky, there's a very special zeppelin floating around, carrying a crow, a blackbird, some ducks and many more creatures (even a bat!). Each member of the crew has a single purpose: to help other animals in danger (and not only animals). The Flying Team is ready to face risks and perils, and fly to the four corners of the Earth.

Cedric Season 3 (52x13)

Produced by: Dupuis Audiovisuel/France 3/RTBF/Aranéo
Author: Laudec; Cauvin
Target audience: 5-8 years old
Type of animation: 2D

Cedric is quite an individual! He has more than his fair share of personality and a rather bad temper to match, but also a big heart to make up for his shortcomings. His parents just don't understand that life for Cedric is far from simple: school friends (and enemies!) to deal with and bad report cards to be signed... Then there's Chen, his girlfriend — well, almost his girlfriend — and when Cedric gets jealous, it does nothing to improve his temper! Grandpa understands better, but his sound advice goes astray when Cedric puts it into practice. Cedric's world is all about fun, first love, friendship and family ties.

Inami (26x30)

Produced by: Seahorse Anim
Co-Producers: Javatoons/Ellipsanime/
TTK/Aranéo/JPF Productions
Target audience: 6-10 years old
Type of animation: 2D

The Amazon: Far away in the deep emerald forest, Inami, 11, takes part in the life

of his tribe, the Bellacaibos. There are no computers, cell phones or technology in the forest, only the marvels of nature. To become a man, Inami must listen and learn. Learn from the eldest members of the tribe and from the rain forest's fantastic, unspoiled wilderness. With the help of friends and his totem animal Tatoon, a female armadillo, Inami finds his own path and prepares for the Ceremony of Passage, the ultimate test, a bridge between childhood and the adult world.

The Magic Roundabout (52x13)

Produced by: Les Films Action/
Ellipsanime Productions/Play Production
Author: Theresa Plummer Andrews
Target audience: Preschool
Type of animation: 3D

An enchanting, entertaining series for young viewers, featuring loveable characters and amusing stories! The Magic Roundabout came to this small village many years ago, accompanied by mischievous magician Zebedee, who spends his time playing good-natured tricks on the villagers. Do not miss the chance to climb on The Magic Roundabout with Dougal and his friends. Production of 52 new episodes will start at the end of 2008.

MEDIATOON will be at booth #10.09 at MIPCOM 2008.

Lincoln Butterfield Offers Mature & Immature Animation

Lincoln Butterfield Animation, the budding independent animation studio launched by Robert Hughes (director of Disney's *Phineas & Ferb*) and veteran business executive Joseph Walker, will attend MIPCOM with a bevy of creative animation concepts. After recently signing a worldwide representation agreement with PorchLight Ent. for its animated *Tan* series, Lincoln Butterfield will present three of its other animation concepts to interested co-production partners, content acquisition executives and third-party distributors during the MIPCOM Jr. and MIPCOM markets in Cannes next month.

Each of Lincoln Butterfield's new properties — *NIT: Neighborhood Investigation Team*; *Venture Probe* and *When in Rome* — offers the potential for multi-platform property extensions, including publishing (comics and children's books), broadband, mobile and feature films.

Among the Lincoln Butterfield Animation concepts being pitched at MIPCOM Jr. and MIPCOM are:

When in Rome

Proving that animation is definitely not just

for kids, *When in Rome* is loosely inspired by the *I Claudius* novels by English writer Robert Graves. The series follows two cousins, Custos and Vinosusis, who weave in and out of the treacherous and comically brutal Roman Empire while slowly coming to realize that they actually have very little say about their own destinies. From the top of Capitoline Hill to the lowliest vomitorium, dumb luck seems to be their greatest (and only) ally. Created and written by Robert Hughes and designed by Frank Furlong, *When in Rome* is available as a comic book and animated series.

NIT: The Neighborhood Investigation Team

While other kids have lemonade stands and paper routes, *NIT: The Neighborhood Investigation Team* is busy solving the unsolvable, achieving the unachievable and undoing the doable. Emma, the brains of the operation, is a natural whiz at deductive reasoning and unstoppable when she has the scent. She is assisted in her investigations by her younger brother Neville, who is quite the scrounger and has a strong working knowledge of physics, chemistry and metallurgy. Crunchy, the

voice of reason, is the reluctant hero who is no match for Emma and her wild schemes. Created by Robert Hughes and designed by Mitch Schauer, *NIT* is available as both a children's book series and animation series.

Venture Probe

Against his better judgment, Captain Craig Taylor accepts command of the new corporate-class sales cruiser *Venture Probe*, an exorbitantly incapable ship designed and built by the PEBKAC Corporation, a shameless bureaucracy. Assisted by his crew of incompetent but amiable corporate shells and a cargo deck of soulless sales clones, Taylor embarks on a mission to penetrate the newly liberated (and possibly still smoldering) regions of the galaxy and sell photocopiers. It's bureaucracy ahoy, space administrator. Make sure to sign and complete your "superior officer accountability waiver" in triplicate, and get ready for some pure, unbridled space panic! *Venture Probe*, for mature audiences, was created and written by Robert Hughes and Joseph Walker, designed by Antoine Guilbaud and art directed by Mitch Schauer.



MGM Brings *Spaceballs* to Spoof the Universe

Spaceballs: The Animated Series

Length: 1 hour pilot, 13x30 episodes

Spaceballs: The Animated Series will specialize in what the theatrical film did best: spoofing movies and television shows, including such names as *The Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *The Terminator* and *The Apprentice*.

In the pilot, written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, Dark Helmet kidnaps Princess Vespa so he can blackmail her father, King Roland, into giving up the plan-

et's air. Dark Helmet wants to steal the air to save his own planet, Planet Spaceball, run by the fiendish President Skroob. This leads Princess Vespa's dad to hire Lone Starr and Barf the Mawg to rescue the princess. After a battle with Dark Helmet, they successfully save the princess and get the air back to Planet Druidia.

Nelvana Enterprises Has *Squirrels*, *Kids* and More



Nelvana Enterprises is bringing the following shows to MIPCOM:

Scaredy Squirrel

Based on a popular book series by Canadian author Mélanie Watt, *Scaredy Squirrel* features an endearingly obsessive-compulsive hero, instantly relatable to both young and old, who will cheer on Scaredy in his hilarious attempts to be brave. Pro-

duced by Nelvana Studios, the show is for kids 6 to 11 years of age. (26x30 episodes, 2x11 minutes -- plus companion shorts)

Skull Kids

Fun and adventure are rolled into one in *Skull Kids*, a new 3D series co-produced with Korean studio Enemes. Five playfully heroic, tiny creatures strive to master their shapes, sizes and illogical superpowers. You will meet Jark, Rakimo, Bluekan, Mendible and Minum — part heroes, part hoaxers. The Skull Kids are trusted teammates, squabbling siblings and valiant saviors. For kids 6 to 11 years of age. (26x30 episodes, 2x11 minutes)

Being Ian: An IAN-Convenient Truth

Ian is determined to win a Being Green contest but he needs to come up with an award-worthy idea. To win the contest, Ian will have to “out-green” kids across the country and even his own mother! This one-hour movie is produced by Studio B Prods., in association with YTV, and distributed by Nelvana Enterprises and is for kids 6 to 11 years of age. (One-hour movie)

Pearlie

The tale of a glamorous, fashion-con-

scious fairy who just happens to be the official caretaker of a city park. Pearlie, along with her friends, fights to keep Jubilee Park beautiful and well-maintained in spite of their scheming nemesis, Sapphire. Based on the best-selling Pearlie books written by Australian comedian and radio personality Wendy Harmer, Nelvana and Australia's Sticky Pictures is producing the 2D animated series for kids age 6 to 11. (52x12 episodes)

Willa's Wild Life

Imagine living with a giraffe, a couple of elephants, an alligator and a handful of other exotic animals. Now meet Willa. Not only is her room filled with animals that she's adopted, Willa takes them with her wherever she goes! Based on popular author Dan Yaccarino's book *An Octopus Followed Me Home*, *Willa's Wild Life* is a heartwarming 2D animated story about a girl and her loving dad discovering together that life can be a bit of a zoo. For kids 4 to 7 years of age. (26x30 episodes, 2x11 minutes).

Nelvana Enterprises will be at MIPCOM Booth N6.01.

More *Numberjacks* and Some New Friends

Buoyed by the success of their first series of *Numberjacks* (CBeebies plus 38 international territories) and just ahead of production commencing on Season 2, London-based Open Mind Prods. head to Cannes with two new projects.

Numberjacks: Mission to Learn

Numberjacks: Mission to Learn is a Web-delivered home learning package that gives preschool children a successful start in math that pays off for the rest of their educational career. Where *Numberjacks* is already on air, *Mission to Learn* builds on the success of the television series, but works equally well in non-broad-



cast markets where it sits as a companion to *Numberjacks* programming distributed on DVD. The learning materials are the television programs themselves (complete and re-edited as interactive clips), flash games and activities, downloadable print activities to do in and around the

home, assessment activities and guidance for parents.

The Letterjets

The Letterjets does for letters and language what *Numberjacks* does for numbers and math. It is overtly a “companion” series — this time it is the *Numberjacks'* cousins, the equally engaging *Letterjets*, who are at the heart of the action. *The Letterjets* is primarily about letters, words, and communication; but as communication is at the heart of a child's development as a person, this is also a series helping children's personal and social development. But above all, it is a richly entertaining comedy adventure series,

[See Open Mind, Page 30]

PorchLight to Showcase *Tan* and *Tutenstein*

Tan.



Tan

PorchLight Ent. will unveil *Tan*, the new animated series from Lincoln Butterfield Animation, at MIPCOM. A fully animated 11-minute episode will be screened during MIPCOM Jr. and the series will be presented during the market.

"*Tan* is an animated comedy-action series that's as twisted and sweet as a fortune cookie," said Fred Schaefer, SVP Animation. "The first episode establishes *Tan's* loony, infectious humor and off-the-wall martial arts action."

Tan (who just so happens to be an egg) lives in a wondrous place inhabited by good guys, bad guys and a few crazy monkeys who wear little red fezzes. As a recent graduate from the Lo Fat Martial Arts Academy & Cooking School, Tan sets out to make friends, find fortune and learn the ways of the world. He joins Foo Young, Tamago and Curry on adventures filled with laughs, wisdom and martial arts mayhem. The series targets kids ages 6 to 12.

"The character's good-natured, kid-like confidence — he's both endearing and very funny — makes this series appealing to a broad audience," said Schaefer. "That, plus the enormous talent that Lincoln Butterfield brings to the table virtually ensures that the series will be both a creative and commercial success."

Tan was created and developed by Lincoln Butterfield, a new animation studio comprised of industry veterans: director Robert Hughes (director on Disney's *Phineas & Ferb*), Mitch Schauer (creator, Nickelodeon's *The Angry Beavers*), pro-

ducer Michael Lessa, and business exec Joseph Walker.

Lincoln Butterfield will produce 26 half-hour episodes; each consisting of two 11-minute shorts and PorchLight Ent. will distribute the series worldwide. The television premiere for *Tan* is targeted for fall of 2009.

Tutenstein

The first feature-length *Tutenstein* movie, based on PorchLight Ent.'s two-time Emmy-winning television series, is set to debut on Discovery Kids in the U.S. this fall and premiere internationally at MIPCOM.

Tutenstein: Clash of the Pharaohs picks up where the previous three seasons of the series left off and takes Tutenstein, the mummified boy pharaoh who was brought back to life in a modern-day museum, on a more exciting journey than ever before. PorchLight will unveil *Tutenstein: Clash of the Pharaohs* during the MIPCOM Jr. screenings and will present the movie during MIPCOM 2008.

In *Tutenstein: Clash of the Pharaohs*, Tutenstein, Cleo and Luxor take the trip of a lifetime — to ancient Egypt. When Tut is plagued by nightmares concerning his death, he journeys to the past with hopes

[See PorchLight Ent., Page 27]

Spain's OQO Brings *Never Ending Tales*

Never Ending Tales

Length: 13x10

Target Audience: Children ages 3-9

Never Ending Tales gives children the opportunity to enjoy a different story every single day. *Never Ending Tales* allows children to travel around the world, open their mind and learn other

cultural realities. They are folk stories from different countries and also texts of contemporary authors, in combination with different and innovative animations. The series is based on the stories of OQO books, whose titles are distributed in Europe, Asia and America and is produced by OQO films.

Claude Jumps Off the Page

Playhouse Disney U.K. has acquired a new U.K. preschool animation series, *Claude*, scheduled to air later this year. The series is being produced by U.K. production companies Dot To Dot and Red and Blue Productions and will be unveiled at MIPCOM.

Based on David Wojtowycz's award-winning illustrated books, *Claude* tells the story of a little polar bear who moves from his icy home in the Arctic to a big bustling city, where absolutely everything is new. As with all Playhouse Disney programs, the series uses creative storytelling and engaging characters to help make learning a playful ex-

perience for preschoolers. It supports preschoolers' development by encouraging them to take a closer look at the world around them, while developing social skills and dealing with change in a safe, fun way.

Claude will comprise 52x10 episodes and has received support from the Media Programme and the Welsh IP Fund. CLAUDE has also been sold to ZDF in Germany and Worldwide distribution rights are being handled by ZDF Enterprises. The show is being animated in Cel Action by Dinamo Productions in Cardiff.



Portfolio Unveils Trio of Premieres

Portfolio Ent. heads to Cannes showcasing a completed pilot episode of *Chinatown Cops*, its first-ever half-hour primetime animated comedy. The company will present the *Chinatown Cops* pilot at MIPCOM to generate pre-sales and interest from international partners for the witty, tongue-in-cheek program, which focuses on two self-proclaimed super-cops of the Chinatown beat.

Chinatown Cops

Chinatown Cops features a city seduced by crime, where Officer Jay Walker and his partner Rick Xia ("Shaw") brave any danger and suffer any humiliation to save their home from its mysterious new queenpin, Honey Moon. Geared toward the 17- to 35-year-old demographic, the pilot for *Chinatown Cops* was green-lit by The Detour on TELETOON Pilot Project

and is scheduled to premiere in spring 2009.

Additionally, the company is unveiling completed episodes for two lifestyle programs also making their MIPCOM debut.

Chef Abroad

Chef Abroad is an all-new culinary-travel series featuring renowned chef Michael Smith. Co-produced by Ocean Ent. and Cellar Door Productions, *Chef Abroad* (13x30) takes Smith out of his kitchen and out of his comfort zone, to explore new food frontiers in far-flung locations including Egypt, Japan and South Africa.

Mansions

Mansions (13x30) takes viewers behind the scenes during luxury residential constructions. High finance, astounding privilege, extreme indulgence and challenging clients all play a prominent role in this over-the-top lifestyle series produced by Lenz Ent.

Portfolio Entertainment will be at MIPCOM booth 00.01.

Guido Manuli Gets Wet with *Water & Bubbles*

Italian Rai Trade will be selling international rights for *Water & Bubbles (Acqua In Bocca)* (26x3), directed by one of the masters of animation, Guido Manuli, who has an established international reputation with films like *Aida of the Trees* and *Volere, Volare*. Rai Trade will present the English version at MIPCOM this year.

Manuli not only directed the film, but also wrote the script with Elena Mora. *Water & Bubbles* was produced by Maga Animation Studio and Rai Fiction.

The storyline traces the life of Pippo, a gentle fish who has always lived with the Carugati family — father, mother and two teenagers — who naturally spend their time fighting with each other. But the arrival of Palla, a fish who has been everywhere, escaping death in fashionable restaurants, and admired in the most prestigious aquariums worldwide, dis-



turbs the family household. It is hardly surprising that there are troublesome waves in the Carugati's peaceful aquarium. Palla knows the rules, but has never

met anyone like Pippo, much less the Carugati's teenagers. Together with the fish, the audience gets to take a fun-filled look at the family's day-to-day life.

Renegade Animation Sets Ready to Debut *Funny Face*

Animation studio Renegade Animation will be bringing its latest production, the irreverent, animated interstitial series *Funny Face* (25x1), to MIPCOM and MIPCOM Jr. It marks the first time that the deliciously witty series for tweens and teens will be showcased for international broadcasters. Children's entertainment development company Fitzroy Media, led by CEO and founder Hamp Hampton, is handling the international sales and licensing initiatives for the series.

Funny Face presents the wry, high-spirited adventures of Loud Mouth Lime, Jolly Olly Orange, Goofy Grape and their fruit-flavored pals. The series combines memorable characters, slapstick action, smart comic dialogue and the exquisitely designed and executed animation that is a signature of Renegade Animation (*Hi Hi*



Puffy AmiYumi, The Mr. Men Show).

The series recalls the flat-out, physical comedy of classic, theatrical cartoons such as *Tom & Jerry* and *Looney Tunes*. "It's a delightful opportunity to be funny in a way that is currently missing from the cartoon landscape," said Renegade Animation exec producer Ashley Postlewaite.

Funny Face is based on characters first introduced on drink packets made by Pillsbury in the 1960s. The silly, smiling faces of the characters made them instantly popular with school age kids.

Spurred by the characters' appearance in television commercials and an ingenious marketing campaign, the brand developed into a full-fledged craze. Plastic mugs, backpacks, finger puppets and other products featuring the characters remain popular collectibles to this day.

"What excites me about this property is its marriage of slapstick humor with the language of today's kids culture," observed Hampton. "As a way to engage tween and teen audiences, this series will appeal to broadcasters worldwide."

Starz Media Brings *Dead Space* Film, *Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!*

Dead Space: Downfall

Format: Animated Sci-Fi Horror Feature
 Episodes Available: 1x73
 Executive Producers: Scott D. Greenberg, Jay Fukuto, Kent Rice
 Key Cast: Nika Futterman, Bruce Boxleitner, Keith Szarabajka, Kevin Michael Richardson, Jim Cummings, Kelly Hu

An ancient religious artifact has been recovered by a deep-space mining ship, and for the crew of the USG *Ishimura*, life just became a living hell. When the artifact is removed from its resting place and brought on the ship, it unleashes a long-dormant alien race, one bent on ripping apart — and taking over — every human aboard. Story and characters based on the highly anticipated Electronic Arts video game *Dead Space*.

Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!

Format: Animated Series
 Network: Nick Jr., in the U.S.
 Episodes Available: 104x11
 Executive Producers: Fred Seibert, Susan Miller, Scott D. Greenberg, John W. Hyde

This Emmy Award-winning animated preschool comedy series stars Wubbzy and his best friends, Widget, Walden and Daizy. In the fanciful town of Wuzzleburg they discover the importance of honesty and friendship; Wubbzy and his pals resolve everyday problems in these fun-filled episodes. Season 2 introduces new friend Daizy, who lives in a flower-shaped house next door to Wubbzy.

Starz Media will be at Stand Riviera Seaview 25 (RSV.25)



Executives Attending:
 Bill Myers, President/COO, Starz Entertainment and Starz Media
 Gene George, Exec VP, Worldwide Distribution
 Alisha Serold, VP, Worldwide Distribution
 Cynthia Burnett, Director of Sales & Operations
 Todd Bartoo, Manager of Sales
 Jonathan Taylor, VP, Public Relations



Sesame Workshop Brings Abby, Bert & Ernie and Revamped Electric Company

Abby in Wonderland

Slide down the rabbit hole and follow *Sesame Street*'s fairy-in-training Abby Cadabby into a quirky and whimsical world in the Sesame version of the children's classic *Abby in Wonderland*. Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum (Bert and Ernie), the Mad Hatter (Grover), The Cheshire Cookie Cat (Cookie Monster) and the Grouch of Hearts (Oscar) are all here, and kids of all ages will enjoy watching Abby as she searches for her wand to "poof" herself back to *Sesame Street*. Abby Cadabby interstitials are also available that present Abby and her animated friend and mirror Looky Lou in a virtual world that can bridge local and international content. Get to know Abby Cadabby through these discrete interstitials, which also include an all-new Abby Cadabby Magical Moments opening. (41:05; interstitials: 20x10, run times may vary).

The Electric Company

"Hey, you guuuuys!" Sure to spark a learning current, *The Electric Company* is coming back in a fresh new hip-hop version of the original 1970s series. Targeted for low income, 6- to 9-year-olds, *The Electric Company* sets out to prove to today's second-graders that reading isn't just for school — reading is cool. (26x30)

Bert & Ernie's Great Adventures

Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie travel beyond the boundaries of their basement apartment at 123 Sesame Street and take preschoolers on a journey of exploration and imagination in this all-claymation series. Each episode finds Bert and Ernie recalling stories — but neither seems to remember them exactly the same way. Through the stories' humor and adventure, literacy, imagination and diversity are encouraged. Misseri Studio, based in Florence, Italy, animated the stories, which qualify as European content. (52x5)

Pinky Dinky Doo

Pinky Dinky Doo stars an energetic seven-year-old girl with a BIG imagination. Watch her brain expand to enormous proportions when she gets a clever idea! The second season brings the entire Doo family and their friends back for new adventures that will have kids exploring early literacy through storytelling and interactive gameplay. (52x24 or 104x12)

Sesame Street

Sesame Street, the Guinness World Record-holder for the most Emmy Awards won by a television program, is back with more songs, stories, spoofs and celebrity guests. Kids will be laughing and learning with Elmo, Big Bird, Cookie Monster and

the rest of the Sesame gang as they encourage kids to read and count, to share and cooperate, and appreciate the world around them. (Available in one-hour, half-hour and local co-production format)

Play With Me Sesame

It's time to get up out of your chair and move and groove with Grover, Bert, Ernie and Prairie Dawn in *Play with Me Sesame*. The series encourages interaction through song, games and the arts. Children will be learning, laughing, shaking and shimmying with each episode. (104x24 or 52x11, and local adaptations available)

Sesame Workshop will be located at stand R27.03 at MIPCOM.

Sesame Workshop Attendees at MIPCOM 2008:

Terry Fitzpatrick, Exec VP, Distribution
Jennifer Monier-Williams, VP, Worldwide Television Distribution
Renee Mascara, VP, International Television Distribution
Celia Schneiderman, Manager, International Television Distribution
Scott Chambers, VP, Publishing Video & Audio

Studio 100 Brings Plethora of Shows

Studio100 Media, a subsidiary of Studio100 (Belgium), will be offering a wide range of new and existing animation programs, with shows targeted at girls, boys and preschoolers

The focus will be on animation series with strong storylines and high appeal such as *Kerwhizz*, *Zeke's Pad*, *Master Raindrop*, *Zigby* and *Staines Down Drains*, together with a large number of classics including *Bumba the Clown*, *Maya the Bee*, *Vicky the Viking*, *Pippi Longstocking*, *Heidi* and *Tabaluga*.

Kerwhizz

Genre: Multi-platform – quiz show
Target audience 4-6 year olds
Producer: Kerwhizz: CBeebies
production in association with Studio100
Status: In production
Running Time: 26x22
Rights Available: Worldwide, excl. U.K., Ireland

Three teams of CGI characters compete to answer questions that will give them add-ons or “pod-mods” for their high-tech racing machines, which can help them to win a race against their opponents. The children watching are drawn into the action at every step of the game, answering questions, making predictions about the race and advising contestants when to use their pod mods. The races can take place in any of 26 different CGI worlds, which reflect a range of environments from the fantastical to the historical.

Zeke's Pad

Genre: Comedy; 3D Animation with toonshader
Target audience 8-12 year olds
Producer: My Pad Productions Inc. and Avrill Stark Entertainment Pty Ltd. in association with YTV and Network Seven Australia
Status: In production
Running Time: 26x24
Rights Available: TV, Home Entertainment, Online and Mobile (outside Australia, New Zealand, North America, South America, the Caribbean, the U.K. and Ireland)

Zeke's definitely not your ordinary 14-year-old. He's an incredible artist who lives smack dab in the middle of one weird and wacky family. And he has this awesome little electronic drawing pad that is totally wired and mysteriously lets Zeke's drawings come to life — so extreme things can happen! And, boy, do they happen!

Master Raindrop

Genre: Action/Adventure/Comedy; 3D Animation
Target audience 6-9 year olds
Producer: Big Communications Pte Ltd, Flux Animation Studio Ltd., Flying Bark Productions Pty. Ltd. (formerly Yoram Gross-EM.TV PTY. Ltd.), Media Development Authority of Singapore
Status: In production
Running Time: 26x24
Rights Available: TV, Video (worldwide; excluding Australia, U.K., U.S., English-speaking Canada and New Zealand)

Master Raindrop is a funny and exciting adventure through the timeless world of Asian myths — a road trip in which a group of high-spirited 12-year-old martial arts novices meet a variety of weird and wonderful creatures, as they try to save their peaceful land from an evil general and his army of terracotta warriors.

Zigby

Genre: Adventure; 3D Animation
Target Audience: 3-5 year olds
Producer: Avrill Stark Entertainment Pty Ltd, Zebra (I) Productions Inc. and Big Animation Pte Ltd in association with Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Treehouse TV
Status: In production
Running Time: 52x11
Rights Available: Worldwide excluding Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Singapore

Zigby the zebra has a lively imagination and always comes up with an offbeat idea that he just has to follow through. Zigby's

enthusiasm rubs off on his two best friends, McMeer, a meerkat, and Bertie, a guinea fowl. They always end up joining Zigby's escapades, which land them all in some kind of trouble.

Staines Down Drains

Genre: Action/Comedy; 2D Animation
Target audience 6-11 year olds
Producer: Flying Bark Productions PTY. Ltd. (formerly Yoram Gross-EM.TV PTY. Ltd.), Flux Animation Studio Ltd., Traction Inc.
Status: Completed
Running Time: 26x24
Rights Available: TV, Video (worldwide, excluding English speaking territories except Ireland)

What's hiding down in the drains below our houses? John Stanley and Mary Jane Staines inadvertently find themselves in a strange world full of funny, freaky and frightening creatures.

Studio 100 will be at Stand R29.01 at MIPCOM 2008.

Executives Attending:

Hans Bourlon, Managing Director
Patrick Elmendorff, Managing Director
Jo Daris, Director of International Affairs
Katja Neufingerl, Director International Sales
Thorsten Wegener, Director Program & Production

Plankton Invasion is Coming

TeamTO, the animation studio founded by Guillaume Hellouin, has partnered with Tinkertree (Joeri Christiaen, Jan Gossens & Patrick Lamoral) and Nexus Factory (Serge de Poucques & Sylvain Goldberg) to develop the 3D animated series *Plankton Invasion*, with CANAL+. Frédéric Lenoir is attached as the writer.

Based on a concept by Joeri Christiaen and successfully developed as webisodes (www.planktoninvasion.com), the series deals with the serious subject of global warming, using the devious method of reverse psychology: Three Zooplankton

specimens are fighting for their species' supremacy, by all means possible — minuscule means, that is — to fuel global warming, drown all land... and rule the world. The project was presented for the first time to professionals at Cartoon Forum in Ludwigsburg in September.

Building from this success, international partnership offers are implementing for this multi-platform project. The new media (Internet, mobile devices, etc.) are all strong opportunities for authors to express their creativity, for the pleasure of tweens, teens and older audiences too.

Taffy Debuts *Twisted Whiskers*

Taffy Ent. will debut its new *Twisted Whiskers* CGI-animated kids' and family series at this year's MIPCOM. The series, now in production, is scheduled for a fall 2009 debut.

Produced by American Greetings (AG), Taffy Ent. and DQ Ent., in association with Mike Young Prods. (MYP), the *Twisted Whiskers* animated series is based on the wildly popular American Greetings card line featuring a "twisted"

bunch of cats and dogs. Launched in 2001, it immediately became the fastest-selling summer social expressions line ever developed by AG. The broad appeal of these comically contorted animals has also led to a successful merchandise program in the U.S. and Australia, attracting stationery, plush and automotive accessories consumers.

[PorchLight Ent. from Page 22]

of stopping his death. But the gang arrives too late, nearly 1,000 years after Tut lived. His hopes for the royal treatment are dashed when Cleo is mistaken for Cleopatra, the current Pharaoh of Egypt. With their roles reversed — Cleo playing the arrogant queen while Tut begrudgingly takes the role of her servant — Tut and Cleo's friendship is challenged. While Cleo lets the crown go to her head, Tut and Luxor discover the Grand Vizier's plan to take control of the kingdom by getting rid of Cleo. Tut must stop the Grand Vizier and rescue Cleo before she's sent to the afterlife. By the time they return to the present, Tut and Cleo learn the importance of true friendship — no matter what the era.

Both the *Tutenstein* movie and television series combine ancient Egyptian

mythology with contemporary urban humor and attitude. The goal is to accurately portray the diverse Egyptian mythology, utilizing stories and characters that reflect the lives of kids today. In order to do so, PorchLight's production team works closely with Dr. Peter Lacovara, *Tutenstein's* Egyptology consultant, who authenticates the Egyptian content.

As well as leading *Tutenstein: Clash of The Pharaohs* production, PorchLight holds worldwide TV distribution rights and licensing and video rights, excluding the U.S. and South America. PorchLight Ent. produces *Tutenstein* for Discovery Kids. The series is co-produced by Telegael. Executive producers are Bruce Johnson, William Baumann, Martha Ripp and Paul Cummins.

Everything's Rosie, With a Little Help From Her Friends

VGI Ent.'s latest production Everything's Rosie is a dynamic, funny, heartwarming and visually vibrant CGI series, which CBeebies have acquired as part of their coveted "Discover and Do" 9 a.m.-3 p.m. slot, for delivery early 2010

Rosie is a rag doll for the 21st century, living in a playhouse of every child's dream. Armed with an infectious sense of adventure, Rosie and her colorful group of friends embark on a journey of discovery, embracing everyday conundrums, triumphs and disappointments, as they learn the meaning of true friendship.

VGI's Managing Director Vickie Corner commented on the niche that Everything's Rosie will fill. "The market tends to be dominated by boy-led animation. Preschool girls long to look up to strong, trendy female role models, whilst boys are in need of comedy coupled with adventure. It's about time that a visually enchanting girl-led series took its place at the forefront of 21st-century animation. This bold and beautiful production of fun, friendship and play has enough creative dynamite to win the hearts of girls and boys."

Prolific children's writer Dave Ingham is heading up the writing team, while the music is being composed by award-winning musician Mike Moran. Brian Neish, one of the U.K.'s most respected children's creative and educational consultants, brings an added dimension to the series, which aims to nurture and inspire as well as entertain.

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Germany's TV-Loonland, Something for Everyone

TV-Loonland is bringing six shows to MIPCOM:

Leon

Length: 52x3

Target Audience: all ages

Type of Animation: CGI

Co-production partners: TV-Loonland, Studio Hari, France 3

Leon the lion has true hunter instinct and plots tirelessly to track everything that moves. Each episode brings a new encounter, be it with a dippy springbok, hysterical hyenas and even a love-struck hippo... But in Leon's world, the prey becomes predator and the chase always spirals out of control. After a series of mad-cap mishaps, the poor lion often goes hungry. Meet Leon! He may be the king of blunders, but this lion never gives up. From the creators of *The Owl*, *Leon* is a true celebration of slapstick animated genius.

Pat & Stan

Length: 39x7, 140x:15 and 210x:30 shorts and 1x22 "Treasure Hunt Special"

Target Audience: Children 6-9

Type of Animation: CGI in HD

Co-production partners: TV-Loonland, Mac Guff, TF1

Join this hilarious comedy duo as they manage to take mundane daily life to the silliest of extremes! Best friends Pat and Stan can't help turning everything into a crazy adventure. Bursting with energy and humor, this tireless twosome love to play practical jokes not only on each other, but also on the cast of colourful characters in their town!

The Owl

Length: 52x1

Target Audience: Teen/Family

Type of Animation: CGI

Co-production partners: TV-Loonland, Studio Hari, France 3

In a forest filled with merciless animals, a little pink owl is faced with the daily challenge of just trying to stay in one piece! Whether she is minding her own business or just gathering food, this un-

lucky bird cannot seem to avoid a tragic ending. *The Owl* is a refreshingly different animated short for those of us who are never too old for mischief! Sold into 185 territories worldwide / top ranked kids show in the U.K. (CBBC) and France (France3). Format suited for mobile content and Internet.

Raymond

Length: 26x7

Target Audience: Children 7-10

Type of Animation: Flash (available in HD)

Co-production Partners: TV-Loonland, Everybody on Deck, 2 Minutes, Gulli and Canal+ France

Being somewhat strange looking, super-self-conscious and a natural born worrier can make life pretty complicated for an 8-year-old. The odds may be stacked against him, but Raymond just never gives up — his gentle quirky nature and wry sense of humor make Raymond both truly unique and totally irresistible. Through Raymond's eyes we take a light-hearted look at navigating everyday school and family life.

Little Princess

Length: 65x11 and 2x22 autumn and winter specials

Target Audience: Children 2-6

Co-production Partners: TV-Loonland, The Illuminated Film Company

Type of Animation: 2D CelAction (HD)

Little Princess is full of energy, charm and questions about how the world works. As with most little children, she has an irrepressible curiosity and is delightfully stubborn when things don't go her way. However demanding Little Princess gets, you can't stay angry for long once she puts on her big smile and tries to make it all better. Spontaneous, inquisitive and endearing, *Little Princess* invites little ones and those who look after them to laugh and learn.

Penelope

Length: 54x5

Target Audience: Preschool

Type of Animation: Traditional 2D combined and enhanced with 3D

Co-production Partners: Nippon Animation, NHK Enterprises, Shirogumi Inc. and Gallimard

Three-year-old Penelope is something of a chatterbox and can sometimes be quite a little imp, but her sweet nature, insatiable curiosity and sense of humor are really quite irresistible. Full of fun, these positive little stories about everyday life with her family and friends are lovingly illustrated and told with humor and affection. Based on the children's books written by Anne Gutman, illustrated by Georg Hallensleben and published by Gallimard in France.



Discovery Communications’ David Zaslav to Deliver TV Keynote

David Zaslav, president and CEO, Discovery Communications, will present the MIPCOM 2008 Green TV Keynote on Monday, October 13. MIPCOM, the world’s audiovisual content market, will be held in Cannes, France October 13-17, 2008.

Zaslav will discuss Planet Green, Discovery’s global, cross-company initiative with a commitment to document, preserve and celebrate the planet, including the first-ever 24-hour eco-lifestyle television network that launched in the United States in June 2008 with more than 250 hours of original programming. Planet Green’s platforms include leading eco-lifestyle website TreeHugger.com and the solutions-oriented PlanetGreen.com.

The green-themed sessions will be launched by Havas Media’s research on

the new demand from consumers who are looking for partners to help them make sense of these changes and guide them towards making a difference. This conference will illustrate how TV, film, digital, audiovisual content brands, and the industry at large, can respond to these challenges. A panel of industry experts will then discuss how they will address these issues both through their programming content and overall actions and position themselves with their audience.



David Zaslav.

[Open Mind from Page 22]

with a child’s perspective on the world.

“The Letterjets are the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet, with the most commonly occurring letters occupying the most screen time — so E, T, A, I, O, N, S, H, R, and D are our principal characters,” explains Open Mind’s creative director, Chris Ellis. “Each Letterjet is distinct in character and personality, largely as a result of the words that they’ve spent time in. Letterjets are real phonics in action, as they fire small jets of air to move themselves around the world — each Letterjet making an appropriate sound. Of course, they live in a world where adventure, comedy and learning are mixed, and they do battle with adversaries such as the Letter

Getter and the Texterminator, who try to scramble letters, misspell and destroy words and meaning.”

With extensive development having taken place throughout the past year, Letterjets is slated for production in 2009 for delivery in 2010.

“If *Numberjacks* owes some debt to the world of James Bond, then *Letterjets* draws on some of the same power as worlds such as Harry Potter’s,” Ellis said. “Fix the words and you fix the world! *The Letterjets* are the cheerful guardians of words everywhere, spoken or written — and through their adventures phonics, spelling and language are brought to life in a powerful mix of entertainment and education.”

ANIMATION FLASH

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