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## **THESKONKWORKS AND STARZ ANIMATION ANNOUNCE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT**

*Canadian Production Management Boutique to Provide Series Animation Services*

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March 29, 2009 – Toronto) – **theskonkworks incorporated** has formed a strategic alliance with **Starz Animation Toronto** to provide TV series development, production and other services for the Canadian studio, **theskonkworks** President Michael Carter and **Starz Animation Toronto** Head of Studio David Steinberg jointly announced today.

“I am very excited to be working with David and his team,” Carter says. “Starz Animation has built a solid reputation for producing outstanding feature animation. Our alliance will provide a unique and effective opportunity for TV series production in Canada as well.” Carter will be introducing the new relationship with **Starz Animation Toronto** to the international television community at the MIP-TV market in Cannes, France, this week.

“The expertise that a seasoned veteran like Michael Carter and his team will bring us will be key for Starz’s growth strategy,” Steinberg adds. “We’ve already established our studio as a premier provider of high-value, high-quality theatrical CG animation. Now, Starz Animation Toronto is looking to apply that expertise to television production as well. And theskonkworks is uniquely qualified to help us achieve that goal.”

**Starz Animation** is currently Toronto’s leading feature production studio, creating high end computer-generated animation for such major upcoming theatrical releases as Focus Features’ *9* and Miramax Films/Rocket Pictures’ *Gnomeo & Juliet*. The Toronto studio, which is a division of Starz Media alongside U.S. TV-animation powerhouse Film Roman, is now expanding its reach into computer-animated series production.

**Starz Animation Toronto** serves the animation community through a proven production pipeline powered by innovative proprietary software, close ties with top animation schools and technology companies in Toronto and an exceptional team of professionals.

**theskonkworks incorporated** is an independent production management boutique offering complete financial, technical and creative services to facilitate animation

production. Led by animation executive Michael Carter, **theskonkworks'** international clientele includes Create Media Ventures, Cookie Jar Entertainment, Good Story Productions, and Nelvana.

Carter boasts 15 years of creative, technical and business expertise in animation production. He has held positions at internationally acclaimed studios such as Aardman Animation in the UK, and the Alliance Atlantis' owned Calibre Digital Pictures in Canada. He holds executive producer credits on the CGI/live action hybrid series' *Ace Lightning* and *Shoebox Zoo*, and the stop motion series *Henry's World*. He led his own service studio, Two Presidents and oversaw the animation servicing of *Handy Manny* (Nelvana/Disney Playhouse), and the Gemini Award-Winning 2D digital animation series, *Will & Dewitt* (Cookie Jar/KidsWB!).

#### **About theskonkworks incorporated**

Based in Toronto, Canada, **theskonkworks** is an independent production management boutique, offering complete financial, technical and creative services to facilitate animation production. Led by Animation Executive Michael Carter (*Ace Lightning*, *Shoebox Zoo*, *Henry's World*, *Will & Dewitt*), **theskonkworks'** international clientele includes Create Media Ventures, Cookie Jar Entertainment, Good Story Productions, Nelvana, and Starz Animation. ([www.theskonkworks.com](http://www.theskonkworks.com))

#### **About Starz Media**

Starz Media, LLC, is a programming production and distribution company operating worldwide. It includes the Film Roman, Anchor Bay Entertainment, and Manga Entertainment brands. Its units create animated and live-action programming -- including theatrical films -- and programming created under contract for other media companies. It distributes that programming, and programming acquired from outside producers, through home video retailers, theaters, broadcasters, ad supported and premium television channels, and Internet and wireless video distributors in the US and internationally. Starz Media ([www.starzmedia.com](http://www.starzmedia.com)) is a controlled subsidiary of Liberty Media Corporation attributed to the Liberty Capital Group.

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