



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANIMAE CARIBE 2009: CELEBRATING ANIMATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

September 28, 2009: Hot on the heels of the 2009 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival comes the much anticipated Animae Caribe 2009, the Caribbean's only Animation and New Media Festival. The Festival, which is in its eighth year, was designed to give a platform to the burgeoning animation industry by showcasing the talent and creative abilities of animators in the region while also introducing a whole new generation of young people to the opportunities available in this multibillion dollar global industry. But what started as an event to showcase the work of local animators has over the years been transformed into an international celebration of the art of animation. This year's Festival, which will be held from September 30th to October 3rd, will feature the usual slate of highly entertaining and informative activities and workshops and will attract some of the best and brightest animators from around the globe to Trinidad to share both their knowledge and their body of work. The Festival will open with a press event and a celebration of 8 years of animation at the NALIS building in Port-of-Spain on Wednesday, September 30th from 10:00 am to noon.

Growing Sponsorship

As the Festival has grown in popularity it has also garnered increasing levels of support from prominent local and international corporations and institutions including Bmobile, First Citizens Bank, The Trinidad Guardian Newspaper and GIE Network Magazine, the Hyatt Regency Hotel, NIHERST, TEMPO, the Royal College of Art and NALIS. These organizations join longstanding sponsors which include UTT, The Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, Toon Boom Animations, Full Circle Productions, Colthrust PR and SightFACTORY Web Development Studio.

Festival Highlights

Two well known studios - Disney Animation Studios and the Sesame Workshop will be featured in workshops at this year's event. Sesame Street has been on the cutting-edge of both animation and puppetry for the past 40 years and is fresh off of winning a 2009 Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement along with four other Emmys. Representing the Sesame Workshop will be Odin Dupeyron, a long standing puppeteer and performer who is also a bestselling Mexican author, actor, theatre and TV director. He is renowned for his work portraying the character of Plaza Sésamo's -Sesame Street in Latin America's - Pancho Contreras. Mr. Dupeyron will share some of the tricks of his trade to eager participants of this Sesame Street workshop on day one of the Festival at NALIS from 12 noon to 2:00 pm.

Peter Deluca from Disney Animation Studios will present a workshop on Friday September 1st at the Jade Room of the Hyatt Hotel. Peter Deluca has 15 film credits to his name including work on the highly anticipated Disney animation, 'The Princess and the Frog,' due for release in December. With work that also includes 'Pocahontas,' 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame,'



'Mulan,' 'Lilo and Stitch' and 'Brother Bear,' it is expected that this workshop will draw an impressive audience.

Bmobile, as a major corporate sponsor to the festival for 2009, has encouraged the formation of the *Bmobile -Animae Caribe Animation Challenge*, which will pit the best animator groups from the University of Trinidad and Tobago and the University of the West Indies against independent animators to produce 10-15 second stop motion animations using a phone and the Bmobile logo. AnimaE Caribe Coordinator for the Challenge - Omar Lewis states: "The students are extremely excited about this challenge, they are working in groups to show Bmobile what they can do and it's going to be special."

Other workshops to be held over the four-day event will cover topics such as traditional hand-drawn animation, airbrushing and stop-motion animation, given by professionals from Cuba, America and Caribbean. The Aboriginal creators of the stop-motion animated television series WAPOS Bay (based on traditional aboriginal folklore) will also share insights into the production with participants. Each day will also feature screenings from animators from across the globe including Latin America, North America, Europe, Asia and of course the Caribbean.

The Anansi Project

Also being launched at AnimaE Caribe 2009 will be the trailer for the ambitious full-length animated feature on Anansi the Spider (a folklore character from Trinidad and Tobago). Camille Abrahams and her team of animators at Full Circle Studios have already begun working on a 13 episode animated series for television entitled 'The Anansi Chronicles.' The project - dubbed the Anansi Mission: A World Project - will bring together animators from across the Diaspora - including Ghana, the UK, Belize and Jamaica to weave together a tale with a distinct Afro-Caribbean flavour.

Animation Co-Production

An important collaboration between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago will also be spotlighted at this year's Festival. In an effort to boost the animation industry locally, the Festival organizers have entered into discussions with Toon Boom International, an international animation technology provider based in Canada to invest in, as well as offer technical assistance to future local productions. To that end, Mrs. Joan Stewart Vogelsang, President and Chief Executive Officer of Toon Boom and the Canadian Embassy will host a cocktail party on the Festival's opening night to, among other things, advance informal discussions on co-production for future animation projects.

Youth Activities

As is customary, AnimaE Caribe will focus one day on activities specially geared toward youth. On Friday October 2nd, AnimaE Caribe will move to the O'Meara campus of UTT for the Schools Day and Chalk Art Expo. The day will feature, among other activities, the Disney Workshop hosted by Peter Deluca and animation screenings. Later in the evening the celebration continues at the Corner Bar where the Festival will host a *Salute to Young*



Pioneers in Art where up and coming artists and animators will be lauded with the Octopus Awards - the alternative to the Animae Caribe Awards. The *Octy*, as the award is fondly called, will be presented to the best of the best young, creative and dynamic designers, storytellers and artists of the region.

Animae Caribe Awards

The 2009 Animae Caribe Awards will culminate with the presentation of awards to celebrate the best talent that the region and the world have to offer. This Gala night will see awards distributed in the following categories:

- Most Successful Animation
- Best Use of Animation in the Media
- Most Promising Newcomer
- DEW Award for Best Caribbean Animation
- Most Outstanding Animation
- Best Student Award

The Gala will also feature a performance from the Urban Alternative Calypso group - Twelve the Band and the launch of the long-awaited trailer, *The Anansi Chronicles*.

Camille Selvon Abrahams, Animae Caribe's founder and Creative Director stated: "We take pride in the fact that the Festival has been going for eight years; it is getting bigger and better with each passing year and we are very excited about this year's Festival. We know that Trinidad and Tobago can benefit tremendously from the animation industry - both in terms of the economic benefits to be derived as well as for the visibility afforded to our talented artists and the rich culture of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean. We are inviting the public - and in particular those who have an interest in animation as a career - to join us for this Festival, to be educated and entertained as well as to network with others in the field," she continued. "We promise you will not be disappointed."

For further information on the Festival, visit the Animae Caribe website at www.animae Caribe.com.

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