

Animation leader CinéGroupe adds two new half-hour series to its hefty production sked

Record slate of nine new and five returning animated and live action series set for 2001-02
TV broadcast season

MONTREAL, November 8, 2001 – CinéGroupe, a leading international producer and distributor of animated and family entertainment, announced today that it is beginning production on two new animated TV series, *The Three Pigs* and *Edward*, bringing its current production slate to nine new and five returning animated and live action entertainment productions set for airing on U.S., Canadian and international television networks during the 2001-2002 television season, according to Jacques Pettigrew, President and CEO of CinéGroupe.

“Our record-breaking slate of 14 TV series with a total of 462 half-hour episodes features new episodes of nine series, *The Three Pigs*, *Edward*, *GALIDOR: Defenders of the Outer Dimension*, *What’s With Andy?*, *The Ripping Friends*, *Sagwa, the Chinese Siamese Cat*, *WunschPunsch*, *The Kids from Room 402*, and *Big Wolf on Campus*,” stated Pettigrew.

The Three Pigs, a new 26-episode half-hour animated series about a comically dysfunctional porcine family, features Mikey, a humble but cool 15-year-old country pig who crosses the tracks to live with his fancy uptown city cousins. Jacques Pettigrew, Michel Lemire and Marie-Claude Beauchamp are executive producers; Jennifer Hibbard is producer, Andy Knight (Ned’s Newt) is director. The series will air on TELETOON Canada, Fox Kids France and Fox Kids Europe, among others.

Edward is a whimsical series of 65 x 30-second clips, created by Christian and Yvon Tremblay (*Mega Babies*), and inspired by "Mots de tête", a series of books by the popular Quebec writer, Pierre Légaré. It follows the day-to-day adventures of a strange and funny fellow on his quest to discover the meaning of life. Executive producers are Marie-Claude Beauchamp, Michel Lemire and Hasmig Marangian; Producer is Danièle Joubert; and Director is Bernard Denk.

“We are expanding our kids, teens and family entertainment with a potent mix of live action programming,” said Pettigrew, “including a third season of 22 half hours of *Big Wolf on Campus*, and 26 half-hour episodes of our new live action/3D effect series, *GALIDOR: Defenders of the Outer Dimension*, created by Tom Lynch, to air on the Fox Kids programming block in the U.S. and YTV in Canada. The record-breaking total of new and returning half-hour episodes for network airing during the 2001-02 season establishes a foundation of animated, live action programming with powerful appeal to a broad spectrum of audiences worldwide.”

CinéGroupe is Canada’s leading independent integrated entertainment company dedicated to the development, production, postproduction and distribution of hit animation and live action

programming for kids, teens and families, as well as interactive products for the Canadian and worldwide markets. CinéGroupe's high quality, award-winning productions are seen in 125 countries. Headquartered in Montreal, with an office in Los Angeles, CinéGroupe currently has over 400 creative and dedicated employees. CinéGroupe is a partner of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. (AMEX and TSE:LGF). Find CinéGroupe at www.cinegroupe.com.

-30-

For further information:

Marie-Christine Dufour

Vice President, Communications (514) 849-5008

info@cinogroupe.ca

CINÉGROUPE PROGRAMMING AT-A-GLANCE

New in production:

The Three Pigs

26 x animated half-hours

Broadcasters: TELETOON , Fox Kids France, Fox Kids Europe, ProSieben,

The fun begins when Mikey, a humble, but cool, 15-year-old country pig, crosses the tracks to live with his fancy uptown city cousins, Martha and Reggie, in Pork City. Directed by Andy Knight (Ned's Newt).

A CinéGroupe/AnimaKids (France) co-production.

Edward

65 x 30 second animated clips

Broadcaster: TELETOON

Created by Christian and Yvon Tremblay (Mega Babies), and inspired by "Mots de tête", a series of books by the popular Quebec writer, Pierre Légaré, Edward follows the day-to-day adventures of a strange and funny fellow on his quest to discover the meaning of life.

A CinéGroupe production.

New on the air:

What's With Andy?

26 x animated half-hours

Broadcaster: TELETOON, Fox Family and Fox Kids France, Super RTL

A self-proclaimed "master prankster", Andy Larkin stumbles through a maze of frantic slapstick adventures, farcical escapades and bizarre pastimes that reflect the eccentric mischief of this engaging, but quirky, joke-a-holic.

A CinéGroupe production.

The Ripping Friends

13 x animated half-hours

Broadcasters: TELETOON and Fox Kids

From the imagination of John Kricfalusi ("Ren & Stimpy"), this new action-packed series follows a team of powerful crime fighters as they battle arch-criminals, hideous monsters and anything else that stands in the way of freedom and goodness.

A CinéGroupe presentation of a Spumco Canada/Cambium Entertainment production.

Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat

40 x animated half-hours (80 x animated 13 minutes)

Broadcasters: TVO, KNOWLEDGE, PBS

Adapted from the book by renowned author Amy Tan (“The Joy Luck Club”, “The Kitchen God's Wife”), and set amidst the intriguing culture of long-ago China, the series features the escapades of a spunky young cat named Sagwa as she sets out to explore the world and her place in it.

A CinéGroupe production in association with Sesame Workshop.

WunschPunsch

52 x animated half-hours

Broadcaster: Radio Canada and TF1

Mysticism and comedy come together in the story of two bickering and eccentric wizards, Bubonic and his Aunt Tyrannia, who unite to cast zany spells upon the unsuspecting city of Megalopolis.

A CinéGroupe/Saban International Paris co-production.

The Kids From Room 402 - season 3

21 x animated half-hours

Broadcasters: TELETOON and Fox Family

Based on the book "Gracie Graves And The Kids From Room 402" by Betty Paraskevas and illustrated by Michael Paraskevas (Junior Kroll), the series is a high-spirited glimpse at the antics and escapades of a classroom full of mischievous 10-year-olds.

A CinéGroupe production.

Big Wolf On Campus -- season 3

21 x live action half-hours

Broadcasters: YTV, VRAK TV and Fox Family

Tommy Dawkins, Pleasantville High's football captain, seems to have it all until he's bitten by a wolf and transformed into a crime fighting werewolf.

A CinéGroupe Images production.

Galidor : Defenders of the Outer Dimension – season 1 and 2

26 x 30 minutes

In a stunning blend of reality and fantasy, Galidor: Defenders of the Outer Dimension tells a stirring tale about coming-of-age, finding your roots - and experiencing the greatest adventure of all - living. The series follows the adventures of Nicholas Bluetooth, a seemingly normal 15-year-old whose average teenaged existence turns upside down when he travels to the Outer Dimension with his best friend Allegra Zane.

A CinéGroupe production.

Returning programming:

Mega Babies

26 x animated half-hours

Broadcasters: TELETOON

Derrick, Meg and Buck gain immense super powers when a toxic blast mutates the trio of orphan babies into an ultra-strong fighting force prepared to do battle against the evil menaces of the universe.

A CinéGroupe production in association with Sony Wonder and presented by Landmark Entertainment.

Bad Dog

80 x animated 15 minutes

Broadcaster: TELETOON, Fox Family

Bad Dog is not really bad. He's just too obedient. For instance, if Mom pleads with someone to take the trash out, Bad Dog will take it out. Out of the bag that is...

A CinéGroupe production.

Princess Sissi

52 x animated half-hours

Broadcaster: Radio Canada, TELETOON, TF1, ARD, RAI-1

An epic adventure about an extraordinary charismatic young woman, Sissi who captures the heart of a gallant and powerful Prince. It seems that nothing-not even the war that soon separates them could disturb the deep love that binds them together - except maybe someone the Prince really trusts, his own mother, Queen Sophia.

TELETOON, Radio-Canada, TF1(France), ADR(Germany), RAI (Italy)

A CinéGroupe/Saban International Paris coproduction.

Jim Button

52 animated half-hours

Broadcaster: Radio-Canada, France 3, ARD

Jim Button tells the story of a boy's attempts to free a beautiful princess from a dragon's claws, thus embodying one of the classic themes of the world of fairy tales.

A CinéGroupe/Saban International Paris coproduction.

Student Bodies

65 live action half-hours

Broadcaster: YTV, VRAK TV, Global and Fox Family

Student Bodies follows a clique of kids at Edison High who create a clever comic book about life at their school. The students' comic book, "Student Bodies", acts as a canvas upon which they paint their perceptions. Each member of Student Bodies has a spunky cartoon alter ego, and every episode of the show is inter-cut with the animated characters' outrageous, ironical insights into the thoughts of the real-life kids.

A Telescene /CinéGroupe production.