



For immediate release
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Canada's McKenzie Brothers to return to screen in animated "Bob & Doug"

Global TV orders 15 episodes; Fox helping develop pilot

LOS ANGELES – Bob and Doug McKenzie, the hugely popular duo of comic Canadians created by Second City TV veterans Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis, will return to television in an animated series developed by Thomas' creative studio, Animax Entertainment.

Canada's Global Television network has ordered 15 episodes of the series, to be called "Bob & Doug," for its 2009 schedule. Fox Television, which is helping develop the pilot, is considering the show for a series commitment for U.S. broadcast and international distribution.

"Bob and Doug McKenzie have had hits on television, in movies, in music and on commercials," said Thomas, who co-founded Animax Entertainment with serial entrepreneur and U.S. Marine officer Andrew Bain. "Now they're back to conquer yet another medium, animation, in their own distinctively Canadian fashion."

Thomas and Toronto-based producer Patricia Burns are producing the show. Two Presidents Productions will provide animation services, and House of Cool Studios is handling pre-production design and storyboarding.

The program is part of Animax's move into creating original content, leveraging its substantial in-house writing and artistic talent to create new intellectual property that it owns.

The fast-growing company also continues to create award-winning material for virtually every possible media platform, including television, virtual worlds, games, and online sites through contracts with leading entertainment studios, toy manufacturers, game studios and brand and agency clients.

The new show will add a group of friends and family around the Bob & Doug characters, and set them in a fictional Canadian town.

Voices on “Bob & Doug” will include Dave Coulier (“Full House”), Colin Mochrie, Pat McKenna, Derek McGrath, Ron Pardo, Jayne Eastwood, Michael Dunstan and Ho Chow. Retired pro wrestling champion Bill Goldberg, a long-time friend of Thomas, will guest star in the series’ second episode.

Moranis and Thomas, both Canadians, originally created the McKenzie characters in the 1980s as part of their work in the ground-breaking comedy troupe Second City TV, whose satirical SCTV show spoofed all things related to the small screen.

The McKenzie brothers were the dim-witted hosts of a mythical TV show run on SCTV called “Great White North.” As hosts, the brothers’ wandering conversations were largely focused on such vital regional issues as beer, snow and the all-purpose epithet “hosers.”

In 1982, the brothers recorded a Grammy-nominated comedy album that featured “Take Off,” a Top 10 hit featuring Rush vocalist and fellow Canadian Geddy Lee. Another single, “Twelve Days of Christmas,” was an off-kilter and enduringly popular take on the holiday classic, substituting the brothers’ obsessions with knit caps, bacon and beer for the more traditional items such as turtledoves and a partridge in a pear tree.

In 1983, the characters moved to the big screen, starring in the comedy film “Strange Brew,” which went on to become a cult favorite. The characters later resurfaced in the late 1990s in a series of commercials for a brand of beer.

A trailer of the animated “Bob & Doug” show from early in its development was included on the recent re-release of the DVD version of “Strange Brew.”

About Animax Entertainment

Animax Entertainment is an award-winning creative studio that creates comedic character-driven experiences for all media platforms. Winner of the first Broadband Emmy Award, Animax creates television series, virtual worlds, games, animation and other media for leading entertainment studios, toy manufacturers, game studios, and brand and agency clients. In the past year, the seven-year-old company has doubled in size, won multiple Telly and Horizon Interactive Awards, opened a satellite office in Toronto and moved into a new 12,000-sq.-ft. facility in Van Nuys. For more information, visit <http://www.animaxent.com>.