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Dodge College Hosts Animation Show of Shows, Dec. 2

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 24, 2009 -- Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts will present the 2009 Animated Show of Shows, featuring the best animated short films from around the world, Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., in the Folino Theater, Marion Knott Studios (corner of Cypress and Palm in Orange).

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 714-997-6765.

The Animated Show of Shows was created by Ron Diamond, former producer of The International Tourne of Animation and The Animation Celebration, to give greater exposure to exceptional animated shorts that normally would receive only very limited, if any, distribution. Often these works are at the cutting edge of animation, pushing creative boundaries and using the latest technologies to achieve groundbreaking results.

The Animated Show of Shows provides an opportunity for the public, animation professionals and other artists to see these films, opening a window onto the most interesting and creative work being done around the world. As in previous years, the 2009 program features films in a variety of styles from all over the world, most of which have won awards at major festivals.

Highlights include:

The Spine - The stunning new CGI film from Oscar winner Chris Landreth (Ryan) continues the director's explorations into the dark side of human psychology with a harrowing portrait of a co-dependent couple. At once deeply disturbing and revelatory, *The Spine* pushes the boundaries of both subject matter and computer-generated character design.

Santa: The Fascist Years - Another satirical masterwork from veteran director Bill Plympton, this film uncovers and explores a dark chapter in St. Nick's history. Featuring Plympton's trademark frenetic energy, eccentric characters, and in-your-face humor, the film ensures that no one will ever think of Santa in quite the same way again.

Chick - Michal Socha's graphically stunning *Chick* is a design tour de force that casts a jaundiced eye at male-female relations, all set to an irresistible neo-Klezmer score. Featuring enough visual imagination for half a dozen films, this compulsively watchable short demonstrates Socha's complete control of his medium.

Runaway - Two-time Oscar nominee Cordell Barker's new film about class war aboard an out-of-control train once again demonstrates the director's crisp, rhythmic style, talent for rapid-fire gag sequences and love of traditional animation. With an extraordinary score by Beno't Charest (*The Triplets of Belleville*), *Runaway* is both a pointed moral tale and a thoroughly engaging and very funny chronicle of love and death on the tracks.