



Animation is taken to a whole new level of indecency

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Opinion Editor

A world has opened up full of surprises: it's raunchy, crass, and stopping in Portland on Feb. 15 and playing various dates in March through April. It's "Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation," back to give its audiences more odious liveliness.

Mellow Manor Productions, Inc., is based in La Jolla, Calif., and was founded by Craig "Spike" Decker and Mike Gribble, who began a classic version of entertainment for the beginning of a set for their band Sterno and Flames in the early '70s. It then progressed with more and more people sending in ideas and short films to be featured, some being too "colorful" for the regular viewing audiences. Then ten years ago they established the more festooned and adult-oriented programming of the "Sick and Twisted" segment.

"We had to come up with a more colored segment to program these animations in," said Decker. The idea was formulated through cartoons of the 1930s. The band opened up using those programs to entertain audiences before their musical sets. It went so well, they started adding their own ideas into the shows.

"I guess because I was in a greaser-type band. We would open the shows with animation from the 30s. Short films, which included Betty Boop and Superman," said Decker.

Spike and Mike have established a name for themselves over the years and have been approached by people everywhere. Students from all over the world are vying for the attentions of Spike and Mike and trying to get their works shown. Unfortunately, in 1994, Gribble passed away. So, it is now up to Spike and his crew to continue the name that he and Gribble

started for themselves so many years ago.

"We get submissions from all over the world; (from) major colleges and universities," said Decker.

Some of their more classical works have won them awards. In 2001, the classical short, "Father and Daughter" won an Academy Award

for "Animated Short Subject" and this year

looks to be no different. "For the Birds" was just an-

the creator of "Beavis and Butthead," "King of the Hill," "The Rugrats" and "SouthPark". As of 1999, Spike and Mike signed a deal with IFILM.com (www.ifilm.com) to show their work via the Internet. Spike and Mike have also been involved in The Sundance Film Festival in 2000 and in May of that year toured with KORN.

Spike and Mike currently showcase the Classical Festival every spring and the Sick and Twisted Festival every summer, both of which play in over 50 cities across the United States and Canada.

So, come have your senses disturbed and your mind boggled



"Harry Pothead and the Magical Herb" Los Primos Productions

nounced as a nominee. This is just to show a little variety of the talents and animation skills of everyone involved at Mellow Manor. However, the original plan of Mellow Manor Productions was to sponsor underground bands with retro animated shorts mostly because Spike sang for Sterno and Flames in the early 70s. They began their works in 1977, when their shorts created such acclaim.

"We opened up the rock and roll shows with animated shorts," said Decker. Some of their work includes "Slaughterhouse 5" and "Bambi Meets Godzilla," and they've also worked with

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Craig "Spike" Decker Of Spike and Mike

at this year's "Sick and Twisted Animation Festival."

According to Decker, Robin Williams states (with his permission), "Sick and Twisted" is like Disney with tits."

The admission is \$8, but if you go in with a tattoo of one of their characters such as No Neck Joe, you get in for free.

"The Sick and Twisted Animation Festival" in Portland is at Cinema 21, located at 616NW 21st Avenue.



"Choke, Spot, Choke" Brice Beckham

Showtimes

Friday and Saturday	Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23	7 p.m., 9:15 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.
Sunday-Thurrrday	Feb. 17-21	7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 24	7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.
Friday and Saturday	Mar. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22	11:30 p.m. ONLY
Friday and Saturday	Mar. 23, 29, 30 & Apr. 5, 6	11:30 p.m. ONLY

Caricature of Craig "Spike" Decker



Caricature of Mike Gribble