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Original Sci Fi Web-Series “The Circledrawers” Premieres on BlipTV, YouTube, Hulu, iTunes...

Award-Winning Filmmakers Launch Global Web Series on May 1st, 2009

NEW YORK – April 22, 2009 – Icelandic-New York production partners Poppoli Pictures and Cicala Filmworks will launch their original sci fi web series, “The Circledrawers”, on May 1st. Created by Olaf de Fleur Johanneson and Stefan Schaefer, the show centers on a motley band of angels – lowly “circledrawers” – as they stumble through an after-life they don’t understand in an attempt to be reborn as humans. A global mix of actors from “Sopranos” stars Steve Schirripa and Sharon Angela, to Icelandic stand-outs Benedikt Erlingsson and Hilmir Snaer Gudnason, populate the cast.

Each episode of the nine-part series will premiere simultaneously on web sites such as BlipTV, Hulu, iTunes, YouTube and via the show’s official website, www.circledrawers.com. “We conceived of this show as a traditional episodic for conventional television broadcast,” explains co-creator and show director de Fleur, “but as we approached production, and then got into post, we realized we had an opportunity to target a truly global audience by distributing it as a web series.”

"Blip.tv is excited to be working with the creators of Circledrawers to bring audiences a show that pushes the boundaries of traditional web video," said Eric Mortensen, Director of Content Development of Blip.tv. "They are a terrific addition to a vibrant, fast-growing community of web video producers."

“Comedy seems to work on the web,” notes fellow creator Stefan Schaefer. “Shows have built very large audiences and, to an extent, been able to monetize, to actually make money. But in our opinion, no one has staked a claim to good drama or sci fi on the web.” De Fleur and Schaefer believe “The Circledrawers” will do just that. “The show is visually strong, is well acted, and in test screenings audiences really responded to this quirky, mysterious world of angels who are basically stuck in an IRS-like bureaucracy, desperately trying to be reborn.”

About the Creators:

Olaf de Fleur Johannesson (co-creator/writer/director) has been a dedicated filmmaker for over a decade. He founded his own independent production company, Poppoli Pictures, in 2003. Olaf was selected for the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2003 and 2004. For “Shining Star”, he won the ‘Best Documentary Feature’ award at the Icelandic Film Awards in 2004. He won the award again in 2005 for “Africa United”. Olaf wrote and directed his first feature film “Queen Raquela”, which premiered at the 2008 Berlin Int’l Film Festival, winning the TEDDY Award for Best Feature Film. While completing “Queen Raquela”, Olaf shot his second feature film, entitled “The Higher Force.”

Stefan Schaefer (co-creator/writer/actor) - A founder of the New York-based production company Cicala Filmworks, Stefan has worked in independent film for over 12 years. His films have premiered and won awards at festivals such as Berlin, South by Southwest, Hamptons and Rotterdam, and have been successfully released theatrically, via cable outfits such as HBO and the Sundance Channel, and on DVD. Over the last five years he has written, directed and/or produced six feature films, among them: Michael Imperioli's debut "The Hungry Ghosts" (2009), "Arranged" (2007), and two films with de Fleur, "The Amazing Truth About Queen Raquela" (2008) and "The Higher Force" (2008). Recent awards include: Grand Prize at the Skip City Int’l Film Festival in Japan, Best Film at the Brooklyn Int’l Film Festival, and Best Screenwriter at the Hamptons Int’l Film Festival. Stefan and Olaf met at the Talent Campus at the Berlin Int’l Film Festival in 2003.