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## ***Filmmakers and Animators At FilmColumbia***

[Chatham, NY – October 12, 2008] – The FilmColumbia Festival is known for many things: an unparalleled lineup of independent films; a unique animation program curated by nationally known animator, Gary Lieb; and the high school film project, a summer filmmaking workshop for local area teens. But many people may not realize that one of the most exciting aspects of the festival is the opportunity to meet the filmmakers, actors, animators, writers, and producers, and hear them speak about their work. This year, FilmColumbia has again assembled a group of renowned and talented people who will share their thoughts and experiences with festival audiences.

If you've ever wondered who creates the brilliantly expressive, thought-provoking New Yorker Magazine covers, and eye-catching illustrations for the New York Times Book Review, you're in luck. You'll have the chance to meet one of those talented artists at FilmColumbia's animation program. Animator Richard McGuire will be on hand to introduce his segment of the animation, "Fear(s) of the Dark", a collection of unique black and white animations by ten of the world's most cutting edge artists.

McGuire's talents extend in many directions, all of them reflecting his original perspective. He is a member of the post-punk band, Liquid Liquid; he's a regular contributing artist to the New Yorker magazine, with 13 cover illustrations to his credit; he designed the award winning animation and logo for PBS Kids; he's written and illustrated four children's books; and he's created three acclaimed animated films.

The animation program will run on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at Morris Memorial. A preview clip of Richard McGuire's segment on "Fear(s) of the Dark" can be seen at:  
<http://www.primaline.com/cinema/extract-f-mcguire.htm>.

If you've ever purchased a song on iTunes, viewed the latest episode of your favorite TV show on the Internet, or downloaded a film from Amazon's new Video on Demand, you're part of the media revolution that is redefining the film, television, and music landscape. It won't be too long before audiences will be able to watch or listen to whatever they want, whenever they want and your internet connection will be the pipeline that delivers entertainment to screens as small as your iPod, or as large as your High Definition flat screen TV.

This is also a revolution for independent and documentary filmmakers who, in their quest to find

and reach audiences have begun using the Internet as a “virtual” theater, but one that reaches everyone in the world with an internet connection. FilmColumbia’s Filmmaker Panel, “Indie Films on Small Screens: The Next Big Thing?” brings together a group of groundbreaking indie filmmakers and a respected national journalist to discuss how this change is being driven from two directions: by audience expectations for on-demand entertainment, and by filmmakers’ need to reach audiences; and how this has the potential to change our viewing habits.

The panel will be moderated by Fred Schruers, a former contributing editor at Rolling Stone, and former senior editor at Premier magazine, where he covered the film industry. Schreurs currently writes for Conde Nasts’ Portfolio.com and contributes articles to the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and GQ, among others. Joining Fred on the panel will be:

- Christopher Sprinkle, a Producer at Brave New Foundation ([www.bravenewfoundation.org](http://www.bravenewfoundation.org)), a division of Brave New Films, ([www.bravenewfilm.org](http://www.bravenewfilm.org)) an organization that creates and hosts online socially progressive and political films and videos.

Christopher’s work focuses on the Issues Campaign program, which creates mini-documentaries on important social and political issues and, through a unique system of alternative media distribution, provides online access to them and the ability for viewers to comment on the videos, learn more about the issues, and suggests ways of taking positive action.

- Ryan Bilsborrow-Koo and Zachary Lieberman, the award-winning creators of “The West Side” (<http://thewestside.tv>), an online series described as an “urban western.” The series won the 2008 Webby Award for Best Drama Series and has gained international attention. Bilsborrow-Koo and Lieberman have been featured speakers at indie events such as last summer’s “Where Internet and Film Collide”, a program produced by IndieGoGo, IFP, and Filmmaker Magazine; and the “Your Film Online” panel at the recent Independent Film Week. They were also recently named as two of Filmmaker Magazine’s “25 New Faces of Independent Film”.

“The people on *Filmmaker* ‘25 New Faces’ list are not only innovators we believe will be impacting tomorrow’s film scene, but they’re also artists engaged in a vital re-think of what it means to be independent today,” said *Filmmaker* editor in chief Scott Macaulay.

“Crisscrossing from short-form work into features, from docs to fiction and from the web to theaters, they are creating careers as original as their films.”

In addition, the duo were chosen as one of five filmmakers chosen to participate in Nokia Productions’ film competition, to be judged by director Spike Lee.

- Eric Wilkinson is one of the producers of “The Man From Earth” ([www.themanfromearth.com](http://www.themanfromearth.com)), a science fiction film with an intellectual bent, written by the late Jerome Bixby, a science fiction author who conceived and co-wrote the 1966 film, “Fantastic Voyage”, and wrote several episodes of the original Star Trek television series.

Wilkinson is a veteran of the Home Entertainment industry in sales and marketing and has worked at 20th Century Fox, MGM, and Sony. He’s currently at Starz / Anchor Bay.

Both Wilkinson and “The Man From Earth” stirred up a buzz on the Internet last year when, a few days before its release, a bootleg copy was posted, and then shared, online. The bootlegged film found an enthusiastic audience who posted hundreds of comments and reviews about it. Within two weeks, the film went from number 11,235 on the IMDb “MOVIEmeter”, to number 6. Additionally, the film’s website had gotten over a million hits, and tens of thousands of unique page views. Wilkinson’s response was unexpected, but turned out to be a strategic home run. He embraced the fans of the film and thanked them for their support. Ultimately Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City, Virgin Megastore, FYE, J & R, and Amazon began either stocking the DVD or renting it as a download.

The Filmmakers Panel will be held Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Tracy Memorial building.

FilmColumbia is a four day festival of films, events, and celebration. Running from Thursday, October 16, through Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> the festival lineup includes 26 independent films, an animation program, a children’s film program, four filmmaker events, and two celebrations where filmgoers and filmmakers can meet and mingle. Tickets are available for purchase online at [www.filmcolumbia.com](http://www.filmcolumbia.com), as well as via email ([knax3@aol.com](mailto:knax3@aol.com)), regular mail (FilmColumbia, PO Box 181, East Chatham, New York 12060), phone (518-892-3445), and at the Chatham Bookstore on Main Street in Chatham, New York. Go to [www.filmcolumbia.com](http://www.filmcolumbia.com) to download the ticket order form.

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