

# Bowes



## Productions Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2004

### GIANT PRAYING MANTIS LANDS ON TROPICAL ISLAND

#### While Bowes Productions lands the animation for new MTV movie “Monster Island”

**Vancouver, BC** – Stop-motion and visual effects animation company Bowes Productions has just completed principal photography and animation of the new TV movie, *Monster Island*, produced by MTV and Insight Film & Video Productions/Shavick Entertainment. The film brings an updated, yet still classic look, to the stop-motion animation-style monster movie made popular in the 50’s and 60’s. Not since stop-motion animation pioneer Ray Harryhausen’s *Clash of the Titans* which hit the screens over 22 years ago, have audiences been treated to a full-on monster movie in this genre. ***Monster Island* will premiere in the U.S. on MTV on March 7, 2004 (with subsequent re-airings) and in Canada on CHUM later this year.**

*Monster Island* features entertaining roles by actors Carmen Electra (*Starsky & Hutch*, *Scary Movie*) and Adam West (TV’s original *Batman*) who plays the mad scientist respectfully named Dr. Harryhausen, but it’s Bowes Productions who brings to life the creatures who will steal the show...and who take over a little tropical island in the Bermuda Triangle.

“Thanks to MTV and Insight/Shavick, *Monster Island* is bringing a classic animation technique to a whole new audience,” comments Producer and Animation Director **David Bowes**. “This is an age demographic that has grown up with computer generated visual effects. This film introduces them to a time-honoured style and genre that has been updated with today’s materials, post production magic and a fun storyline.” *Monster Island* takes viewers back to the filmmaking techniques that made classics out of such films as *King Kong*, *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*, *Jason and the Argonauts* and *Clash of the Titans*.

Bowes and his animation/fabrication team of 20 core crew including Animation DOP **Bob Ennis**, Production Manager **Jim Pescitelli**, Puppet Supervisor **Rob Ronning**, Set Supervisor **Ans Ellis**, Live Action Ant Animatronics Puppeteering **George Grove** and key animators **Chris Calvi**, **Cameron Gray** and **Joe Mello**, were involved in nearly every scene of the film, creating a tropical island paradise and its not so friendly inhabitants. The animated characters and sets were all hand-molded and hand-sculpted and included the island itself made out of foam injected material. The insect-monsters were made out of a combination of poxy resin, fiber glass, sculpy, foam and aluminum/brass stainless steel armature and all featured full moving ball and socket parts with the female Praying Mantis boasting over 152 parts alone. The crew learned from the real thing when it came to figuring out how a praying mantis moved and ate. “Princess” was the crew ‘pet’ for some time and allowed the animators to watch her every move...quite literally.

Explosions, batting and blurred wings and far away lands today are often created entirely by computers. But in *Monster Island* traditional animation techniques are used and supplemented with visual effects. The island’s impressive Canyon Gorge actually exists although in reality, is 5 feet tall. The entire island itself was constructed and stands about 4 feet tall and stretches 12 feet around. All that hard work and the script calls for the island to explode. Bowes Productions did actually blow up the island in various parts with an air canon and filmed it by over-cranking the camera at 120 frames per second which, on screen, slows everything down.

Shot on 35mm, the live action sequences were filmed in advance of the stop-motion animation sequences. This not only allows the animators to match the scenes' lighting, but also the vision references of the actors as well as creating puppet movements that coordinate with the actors movements. In addition to action sequences, Bowes Productions also created the animated scene storyboards, and took on the roles of some of the insects, working the giant Queen Ant head and legs in scenes where the actors were one-on-one with the bigger-than-life-size creature.

Also made especially for the film was a tiny bulldozer, a mini Carmen Electra, a shrunken-down MTV party ship (complete with the MTV logo on the smoke stack) and a jungle of over 1,000 hand-made palm and fir trees. Added to the stop-motion animation were computer generated visual effects and practical special effects which, when all combined, create the very realistic and imaginative fantasy world of Monster Island.

Bowes Productions Inc. has been creating stop-motion and clay animation for film and television worldwide for over fifteen years. Bowes Productions produces commercials, television programs, children's programming, station ID's, short films, feature film elements and music videos. [www.bowesproductions.com](http://www.bowesproductions.com)

Insight Film and Video Production and Shavick Entertainment have joined forces to provide full-service television and film production company based out of Vancouver, British Columbia, producing programming and film productions for domestic, US and international clients. An internationally award-winning company, Insight/Shavick is the turn-key Canadian partner for foreign based companies and co-production partnerships seeking advantages offered by basing their production in Canada. [www.insightfilm.com](http://www.insightfilm.com)  
[www.shavickentertainment.com](http://www.shavickentertainment.com)

MTV Networks owns and operates the cable television programming services MTV: Music Television, MTV2, Nickelodeon/Nick at Night, TV Land, VH1, CMT: Country Music Television, and Spike TV, as well as The Digital Suite from MTV Networks, a package of 13 digital services, all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. MTV Networks also operates and offers joint ventures, licensing agreements and syndication deals whereby its programming can be seen worldwide.

- 30 -

*High-resolution images of Monster Island stop-motion animation production available*

**For media inquiries about Bowes Productions, please contact:**

Carole Appleby, Publicist

Burgess Communications

T: 604.737.0218 C: 604 725.4202 F: 604.737.0219

E: [carole@burgesscommunications.ca](mailto:carole@burgesscommunications.ca)