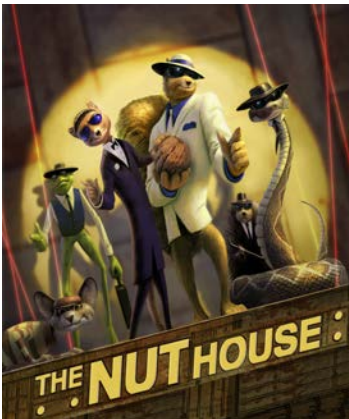




## VANGUARD ANIMATION TEAMS WITH ARC PRODUCTIONS ON "THE NUT HOUSE"

*SC Films International To Handle Worldwide Sales*



(Los Angeles, CA; October 26, 2011) -- Vanguard Animation is partnering with Arc Productions on its CG 3D animated heist film, "The Nut House" and SC Films International topper Simon Crowe will kick off worldwide sales efforts at the upcoming AFM (Loews Hotel, Room 443). Pre-production, including full visual development, is currently underway with production to start in January of 2012.

Ross Venokur will make his directorial debut working from his own original script. Venokur wrote early drafts of *Night at the Museum* and *Space Chimps*, as well as production rewrites of DreamWorks' *Small Soldiers*. John Rice (UPN's *Game Over*, *The Simpsons*' 3D *Ride* at Universal) is also directing.

The story begins when mega-conglomerate Nut House Nuts rapaciously harvests the forest for its own commercial gain. Ex-con squirrel Frankie plans the heist of the century -- breaking into the high-security packaging plant to reclaim the nuts. With the aid of his trusty, right-hand porcupine Cody, and an elite team of scrappy forest dwellers, Frankie puts it all on the line one last time to save the forest and win back the girl of his dreams.

The film will be produced by John Williams (the originating producer of Dreamworks' *Shrek* franchise, and producer of the upcoming, eagerly anticipated film version of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, directed by Walter Salles, and independent animated films including *Valiant* and *Space Chimps*), and John Stevenson (director of *Kung Fu Panda*).

"Ross Venokur has written a terrific script which we think can be the foundation of a new animated film franchise," says Mr. Williams.

Arc Productions (formerly known as Starz Animation), the Toronto-based animation studio that delivered the animated hit *Gnomeo & Juliet* (which generated nearly \$200 million in worldwide box office), is Vanguard's production partner on the film.

"We are investors, producers and partners in this film," said Jeff Young, Arc President & COO and an executive producer on the film. "We're thrilled to be working with such impressive and creative filmmakers as John Williams, Ross Venokur, John Rice, and John Stevenson. Vanguard, Arc, and SC Films bring extensive credits and expertise to the venture and together we will make *The Nut House* a first-rate animated film with worldwide franchise appeal."

"International audiences relish this kind of story," says SC Films International's Simon Crowe. "The global marketplace for well-executed CG films rendered beautifully in 3D is thriving and our cast of original and fun characters married to such an entertaining narrative will make this film the perfect candidate for big box office success."

Geneva Wasserman, an intellectual property attorney and longtime licensing executive in feature animation, is also an Executive Producer and will mount a worldwide licensing and merchandising program for the film.

About Vanguard: John Williams is the originating producer of the *Shrek* franchise for DreamWorks, *Space Chimps* (released in the U.S. with 20th Century Fox) and *Valiant* (released in the U.S. by Walt Disney Pictures). Williams is also the live action producer of *Seven Years in Tibet* starring Brad Pitt and *The Tuxedo* starring Jackie Chan, and Executive Producer of the upcoming film of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a collaboration with American Zoetrope directed by Walter Salles (*The Motorcycle Diaries*). Vanguard's rock 'n' roll comedy film *Vinyl*, shot on location in Wales, co-written with Jim Cooper and directed by Sara Sugarman (*Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen*) is currently in post-production.

About Arc Productions: Formerly Starz Animation Toronto, Arc Productions is Canada's leading CG-animation and Visual Effects studio. With a well-established reputation for high quality, efficiency and reliability, Arc's services include CG animation, live-action visual effects and stereoscopic 3D for the broader multimedia environment of features, television and high-end video game cinematics. Arc Productions is a partnership with majority ownership recently purchased by a Canadian investor group. Starz LLC, a controlled subsidiary of Liberty Media Corporation, remains a shareholder in the new Canadian operations.

About SC Films International: SC Films International is a production finance and sales company founded by Simon Crowe, former Managing Director of Velvet Octopus and Head of Sales for Icon Entertainment and Capitol Films. A joint venture with financier Matthew Joynes, the company develops unique sales strategies for each film in its portfolio, drawing upon expertise in development, production, sales, financing and distribution.

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