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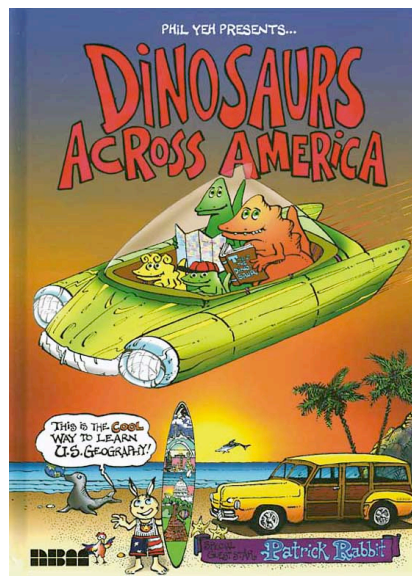
**PHIL YEH, GODFATHER OF THE AMERICAN GRAPHIC NOVEL,
WILL APPEAR IN FOUR MISSOURI LIBRARIES SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2008**

Phil Yeh, often called the Godfather of the modern American graphic novel, will conduct a series of graphic novel workshops in four Missouri libraries from September 4 to September 6, 2008. Yeh's Missouri schedule will start on Thursday, September 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the Midtown-Carnegie Branch Library (417) 862-0135 located at 397 East Central Street in Springfield. Then at 6:30 p.m., Yeh will be at the Republic Branch Library (417) 732-7284 located at 1264 US Highway 60 East in Republic. On Friday, September 5, Yeh will be speaking at the Florissant Valley Branch Library (314) 921-7200 located at 195 New Florissant Road in South Florissant. His final workshop on this tour will be at the Grand Glaize Branch Library (636) 225-6454 at 1010 Meramec Station Rd. in Manchester.

Yeh's workshops are fun for all ages. He talks about the creative process and many of the artists he has known in his long career and how they created some of the world's best known characters including; *Superman*, *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Batman*, *Snoopy*, and many others. You will learn the secrets of how the best creators approach their craft and find out the best ways to sell your own stories and artwork. Yeh will also give away free copies of his *Dinosaurs Across Route 66* comic book, which covers the old highway from Chicago to California.

Yeh was born in Chicago and moved to Los Angeles at the age of six when his father got a new job. He attended California State University Long Beach in the early 70s where he founded a free newspaper called *Uncle Jam* devoted to the arts in 1973. Long Beach was home to Yeh's art gallery from 1976 to 1985, which showed his oil and watercolor paintings. This city was also the home of the modern American graphic novel, the term coined by former Long Beach bookstore owner and publisher Richard Kyle in the 1960s. Kyle published one of the very first American graphic novels in 1976 followed a few months later by Yeh's *Even Cazco Gets the Blues* in the spring of 1977. *Cazco* first appeared as a daily comic strip at Cal State University Long Beach in the fall of 1972. Yeh's efforts through his newspaper and his endless road trips on behalf of the comic book art form has resulted in a general acceptance of the graphic novel in the United States today. In the fall of 2007, NBM publishing in New York City

released a new hardcover version of Yeh's best selling *Dinosaurs Across America* graphic novel, colored by Yeh's longtime partner Lieve Jerger. *Dinosaurs Across America* has recently been named one of the best 25 graphic novels by *School Library Journal* in their March, 2008 cover story. Yeh has written and illustrated more than 80 published books as of fall 2008.



Yeh, who founded Cartoonists Across America & The World in 1985, is on the 23rd year of his 25-year world tour. The band of artists have painted more than 1700 murals throughout the world. These murals are often painted with the help of students of all ages. He is planning to return to Missouri in June 2009 to visit more schools, libraries and communities. One of Yeh's favorite authors is Mark Twain and Yeh often uses humor to make his points in the tradition of the American master.

Yeh was invited to China twice in 2007 and is currently drawing a new four page cartoon feature called *The Winged Tiger in China* in *Little Star* magazine designed for international students in his father's home country. His Chicago based partner Geoff Bevington, the creator of *Steve the Dog* is now making some of Yeh's work into fine art prints. One of the first new prints is the modern skyline of Shanghai and was colored by Yeh's longtime colorist Lieve Jerger. Lieve is a unique artist who invented her own copper lace medium, and created a bestselling book with Yeh entitled *The Winged Tiger and The Lace Princess* in 1997. A new expanded second edition of this book is now in the works for spring of 2009.

Yeh first visited Shanghai in 1979, when his Chinese father was finally able to return home for the first time after coming to the United States to go to college in Chicago in 1948.

Over the years, he has visited his father's country and recorded his travels in both articles for newspapers and also in his many graphic novels. Yeh's mother is of European heritage from the Chicago area and he spent the first six years of his life in Wayne, New Jersey before moving to Los Angeles in the sixties. His work reflects his diverse background and life experiences and features characters from all over the world.



Yeh's tour also includes a new second guitar in their custom guitar series. These guitars are handmade by Patrick Bubien, the owner of Guitarification in Fallbrook, California. Many noted artists, actors, and writers have signed the first guitar, including Ray Bradbury, Alan Alda, Lynn Johnston (*For Better or For Worse*), Kevin Eastman (*Ninja Turtles*), Alex Nino (*Mulan*), Greg Evans (*Luann*), Sergio Aragonés (*Groo* and *MAD* magazine), Simon Bisley (*Heavy Metal*), Patrick McDonnell (*Mutts*), Bill Amend (*Foxtrot*), James Gurney (*Dinotopia*), and many others. This new guitar was recently signed by some of the comic book industry's greatest artists in New York City this past April, including Jerry Robinson, creator of *The Joker*, Carmine Infantino (*The Flash*), Jim Steranko (*Indiana Jones*), Peter Laird (*Ninja Turtles*), Nick Cardy (*Bat Lash*) and many others. At the BookExpoAmerica convention this past May, Yeh had the guitar signed by more notable artists from all fields including Academy award nominated graphic novelist Max Alan Collins, *Bone* creator Jeff Smith, Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong. Finally, at the 2008 San Diego Comic Con International, the guitar was signed

by legendary editor of MAD magazine Al Feldstein and Nickelodeon artist Martin Hsu. Yeh's hope is to have a series of these guitars covered with original artwork and on display in museums around the world in order to have focus more attention on the writers and artists in our society.



"After my five month art show in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in 2006, I was determined to get a display in the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame one day. I like to dream big! It's the only way that we have continued to keep this tour on the road all these years," said Yeh from his Running Springs, California studio.

Yeh continues to speak in schools, libraries and communities about literacy and the arts. His talks are for all ages and designed to get people to read more and be attached to their electronics less. To see a bit more of his tour go to www.wingedtiger.com. To book Yeh in your community for speaking engagements and mural events, anywhere in the world, please contact Linda Adams at lindaadams35@yahoo.com