



Magnum Farce:

a shot in the park – breaking the animation mold



There hasn't been a Scary Movie-type send-up in the animated world, but while Scary movie spoofed teen horror flicks, *Magnum Farce* takes aim at the action film genre.

If you thought the worst thing that could happen to a detective would be to lose his badge, meet San Francisco's real Magnum-wielding detective, Dick Hardon, a twisted parody of Dirty Harry. Unlike the clean, mean fighting machine, though, Hardon manages to lose more partners in a week than most detectives lose in a lifetime! What's worse, Dick always manages to lose his lunch in the process!

Detective Hardon and his latest partner investigate the sniper-shooting of Screen Actors Guild President and beloved TV clown, Milton Spilk, a quick detour to a frankfurter stand proves deadlier than the chemicals in the dog, when a maniacal sniper takes out Hardon's partner and he's left holding the bag – the to-go bag.

The short film is based on the intro of L.A. writer/producer Ken Mora's award-winning, feature-length animated script, *Magnum Farce*, which took top prizes at both the Valley Intl. Film Fest in Hollywood and at Indie Gathering in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bella Fe Films snared the talents of Matt Godecker, an up-and-coming character actor

who fills the large shoes of Detective Dick Hardon, and Kyle Hebert a well-known voice in the cartoon and gaming worlds, as the voice of the wacked sniper Blivit, and cult superstar Will Keenan as the ill-fated Detective Gay.

When we began the selection process to find the right animators to bring this award-winning script to the screen, said Ken Mora, president of Bella Fe Films of Los Angeles, *Blowfish FX* rose quickly among the top heavy-weight contenders. We were impressed with Ambar Nair's extreme enthusiasm, dedication and business savvy in the animation market.

Bella Fe Films engaged Blowfish FX to generate the animated film as their first step toward gaining distribution and financing for the feature film, *Magnum Farce*, slated for production in 2009. Blowfish FX is a full-service animation and visual effects studio, with locations in the U.S. and India.

Ambar Nair, Founder and CEO of Blowfish FX, says *We're always eager to do short films, and this one was a no-brainer – the moment we read its sexy-wacky humor, violence and all out mayhem, we couldn't resist saying yes. We're looking forward to going all out on this one and are eager to tackle the feature.*

In the feature, the plot deepens as Dick saves Chin-Lo's Restaurant from shotgun-wielding thugs, only to lose his Kung-Pow Beef.

Poster

MAGNUM FARCE

A SHOT IN THE PARK



But the situation becomes more serious than his growling stomach when he discovers a dead-pool list on one of the heavies. Milton Spilk's name is on it, followed by his own.

Dick traces the list to a Genetically Modified Foods ranch, but when he again tries to track down Blivit the sniper, Blivit escapes in a hail of gunfire and freakishly large popcorn. Worse, Dick has lost another partner, and still hasn't had anything to eat.

Dick's efforts are further hampered when the Mayor agrees to pay Blivit his demanded ransom, and threatens to destroy Dick's career if he interferes. Suspicion builds as Dick tries to link all the players in this mad-cap frolic, from *Keystone* motorcycle cop to an anorexic TV reporter.

But when Dick meets his match – sort of – when he discovers the true mastermind of the mystery, for this is the world's most unusual suspect!

With today's exponential advances in animation and the acceptance of animated feature films for adult audiences, said Ken Mora, president of Bella Fe Films of Los Angeles, it's a great time and vehicle for a high-energy farce for the R-rated market. I wanted to choose an iconic character from the pantheon of international cinema, and thus created in Dick Hardon, the 'Dirty Harry' of the action film farce genre.

The short will be extensively submitted to top film and animation fests worldwide, previewing at the internationally-acclaimed Annecy animation film festival in Annecy, France. See it at the Blowfish FX exhibition at the International Animated Film Market booth for India.

For more information on this upcoming film, visit www.bellafefilms.com or www.blowfishfx.com. ◀

by Joanne L. Harris

AWARDS

- Magnum Farce (feature screenplay competitions):
- First Place, Valley International Film Festival, 2007
- First Place (comedy) Indie Gathering Film Festival 2005
- 2nd Runner-Up, Beverly Hills Film Festival, 2006
- Top 10% Austin Film Festival, 2006 & 2007
- Finalist in multiple competitions

PAST PROJECTS

- Anna's Dream of Flight
- Co-production (live action) in development with Inkas Films (www.inkasfilms.com)
- A Light Before The Darkness (writer)
- Optioned by director Heinrich Dahms, Buzzmedia, NL
- Rights fully reverted to author.
- Slated for feature development in 2010