

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact LINDA ADAMS: 909-725-7337

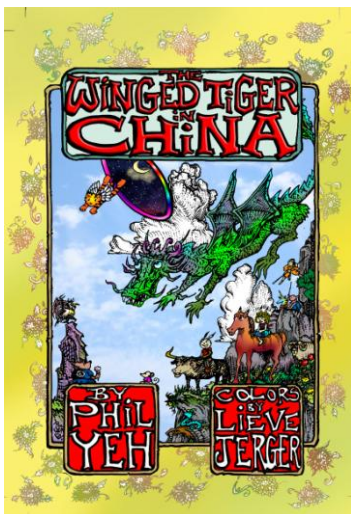
THE WINGED TIGER IN CHINA,

NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR 2010,

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

Phil Yeh, often called the Godfather of the modern American Graphic Novel, will introduce his new graphic novel, *The Winged Tiger in China* at the Los Angeles Home Show in the L.A. Convention Center on February 13 and 14, 2010, as the world celebrates the lunar new year of the tiger. Yeh has been invited to paint an original work of art live on Saturday, February 13, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, which will be auctioned off at 6:00 that evening to benefit the L.A. County Charter Schools. He will be signing copies of this new book set in China and also copies of his award winning *Dinosaurs Across America* graphic novel, which has been called one of the best ways to learn about American history and geography for all ages. *Dinosaurs Across America* won the Children's Choice Award from the Children's Book Council and the International Reading Association in 2008.

Yeh's 'Cartoonists Across America & The World' band have just started their 25th and final year on the road with appearances in California in early February and then a tour of Singapore and Malaysia



starting February 21, 2010. The artists have painted more than 1800 colorful murals promoting literacy, the arts, and creativity in the last 24 years. Yeh will be giving an all day workshop on "From Comics to Screen: The Best Properties for Film & TV", on February 23, 2010 in Singapore, where he painted two murals in the late 90s. His workshop is sponsored by the National Book Development Council of Singapore. Visit their website to register. www.bookcouncil.sg Yeh will also be doing a book talk and

signing at Kinokuniya Book Store on February 21 from 2:00-3:00, and a mural at SCAPE Youth Center

beginning at 4:00 pm that same day. This new tour of Singapore and Malaysia will bring Yeh to Kuala Lumpur for his first mural event and also a speaking engagement sponsored by the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Malaysia on March 2. Although this is Yeh's first visit to Malaysia, he was commissioned in 1997 by Malaysian Airlines to design his cartoon vision of their capital city of Kuala Lumpur for their magazine.

Yeh speaks to students of all ages in schools, libraries, museums, and community centers and will be touring through the end of 2010 when his 25 year road trip finally comes to an end. He has traveled back to China since 1979 and has written many graphic novels about his adventures throughout the country. Yeh's 1980 classic graphic novel, *Cazco in China* was the very first appearance of Yeh's Winged Tiger character. 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the Winged Tiger, a character that stands for peace and tolerance. In 2007, Yeh was a special guest at the Third Cartoon and Animation Festival in Hangzhou, China, where he designed a special poster for the event with fellow artists Phil Ortiz of *The Simpsons* and Alex Nino, designer for *Mulan*. That same year, *Little Star Magazine* in Beijing asked Yeh to draw a monthly series of cartoon adventures called *The Winged Tiger in China* aimed at international students in Beijing and Shanghai. *The Winged Tiger in China* is Yeh's 89th book and is a fun introduction to China for all ages.

Yeh was born on the Southside of Chicago in 1954 to his American born mother from Illinois and to his Chinese born father who had come to the United States to get his Master's degree in 1948. Yeh grew up in the city of Los Angeles and later attended Cal State University Long Beach. Yeh was 25 when he first had a chance to visit his father's hometown of Hangzhou in 1979 with his father and sister. It was the only time he would meet his grandfather. He has spent his life writing graphic novels about people and places throughout the world in an effort to show all people that we are really more alike than different on this planet. In 1989, Yeh painted a mural in the Library of Congress in

Washington, D.C. with former First Lady Barbara Bush and later was honored in the White House for his work for literacy. In 1990, Yeh was invited to paint a mural at the First Hungarian International Cartoon Festival in Budapest. That trip resulted in the Hungarian government issuing a postage stamp of Yeh's Reading Dinosaurs in celebration of the United Nations International Year of Literacy. In 1999, he was given one of the first Alphonse Awards by the Los Angeles County Library Foundation along with actor Edward James Olmos and Dr. Fred Kort in a ceremony hosted by the late Steve Allen. Wally Amos, who inspired Yeh to create his tour in 1985, flew out from Hawaii to present Yeh's award. At that time more than 27 million American adults could not read and write and sadly, today, there are more than 60 million adult illiterates in the United States.

Recent studies indicate that the average American tween and teen spends an average of 7 1/2 hours a day with electronic distractions. As literacy rates and grades continue to fall in the United States, Yeh's new works tackles all these modern distractions that take our youth away from the printed word. Yeh's 90th book, *Steve the Dog & The Winged Tiger* will debut on March 19 and 20, 2010, at Open Books in Chicago. Steve the Dog was created by Yeh's longtime partner Geoff Bevington and as always, Yeh's black and white line work is wonderfully colored by Lieve Jerger, a Belgian copper lace artist in her own right. Although this story is set in the city of Chicago, *Steve the Dog & The Winged Tiger* is really a story for the whole world.

Morrie Turner, Sergio Aragones, Charles Schulz, Phil Yeh



Yeh pioneered the graphic novel form in the mid-1970s along with NBM publishing in the U.S. He encouraged his fellow artists in North America to embrace the new format and consider the bookstore and library market well before the majority of publishers in his field. His landmark 1977 graphic novel *Even Cazco Gets The Blues* featured introductions by *MAD* magazine cartoonist Sergio Aragonés and the late Golden Age comic book creator Don Rico, and was a real departure from the normal superhero subject matter in the comic book field. His 1993 wordless graphic novel *The Winged Tiger* was named one of the 25 best graphic novels in print and featured drawn introductions by Jean Giraud (Moebius) and Elfquest's Wendi Pini. He has been writing graphic novels without violence and for all ages for nearly four decades.

Will Eisner, the Father of the Graphic Novel and creator of *The Spirit* said of Yeh's book:

"*The Winged Tiger* is a most imaginative concept and a singular achievement. The employment of imagery as language is at the very cusp of modern communications. It is the new literacy."

Scott McCloud, author of *Understanding Comics* said:

"*The Winged Tiger* is a remarkable feat of human imagination. Phil Yeh's vision of a universal language is inspired and compelling. Highly recommended to readers of all nations."

At the 40th annual San Diego Comic-Con International in 2009, Yeh was a special guest of the convention and received the Inkpot Award for his work in the comic book field. Yeh will complete his documentary film about his 25 year road trip in 2012 as well as an epic graphic novel about his travels and his struggles to make graphic novels appeal to a wider audience around the world. For more information about Cartoonists Across America & The World's ongoing campaign to promote literacy please check out our website at: www.wingedtiger.com