

Project Firefly takes home Nicktoons' Viewers Choice Award

Project Firefly LLC recently won kudos from Nextoons: The Nicktoons Film Festival for its animated comedy "Farm Force: Send in the Clones."

The animated short, which tells the story of three farm animals who gain superpowers after being struck by lightning from a supercharged nuclear tornado, took home the festival's Viewer's Choice Award for 2005.

"We are thrilled that the incredible team of artists at Project Firefly is being recognized for their talents, along with Ethan Long (creator) and Robin Cowie (co-producer), who collectively brought this project to fruition," says Dominic Carola, president and co-founder of Project Firefly.

The next step for the Orlando-based animation studio is to secure distribution for future episodes, adds Paulo Alvarado, who co-directed the film with Carola.

Orlando-based Project Firefly was founded by four veteran Disney animators in March 2004 after the closure of the Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida Studio. The company's first big-screen debut will come in early 2006 with a Universal Pictures feature release of "Curious George," for which Project Firefly is doing about a quarter of the film.

Produced by Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Jon Shapiro and David Kirschner, the 82-minute film will feature the voices of Will Ferrell, Dick Van Dyke, Drew Barrymore, David Cross, Eugene Levy and Joan Plowright.