



The Stringdom of Yarnia

Cool New Shows!

by *Iana Castleman*

Producer: LA's The Jim Henson Company

Demo: Seven and up

Style: Henson's completed a stop-motion animation test, but hasn't finalized the style

Format: Two x 11-minute eps, number TBD

Budget: Aiming for the market standard of US\$350,000 per half hour

Status: A bible's been worked up by *Chowder* creator Carl Greenblatt, and Henson is just getting ready to pitch the project to prospective broadcast and/or co-production partners.

Delivery: TBD

Concept: Based on toy property The String Doll Gang, which TJHC picked up to license into consumer products in 2008, this new series features just as wide a range of characters as those conceived by doll creator Kamibashi. To help shape what Henson CEO Lisa Henson calls the "world of weirdness" the dolls inhabit in this pure comedy concept, viewers get to traverse the Stringdom with main characters Skates and Emo—the Princess and Prince of Yarnia. In each ep, the pair gets dispatched by their father the King to a far-flung corner of Yarnia, be it to the volcano that spews feathers when it erupts or a seemingly invisible village inhabited by tiny ninjas. Along with the madcap quality of the scripts, Henson says the company is aiming to bring the tactile nature of the dolls to the screen. The just-completed animation test depicts a unique tactile world forged from string, felt and other fabrics.