



makes you think

media release

TVOKIDS GETS A HEAD START ON SUMMER WITH NEW SHOWS AND A NEW SCHEDULE BEGINNING MONDAY MAY 4

Toronto, April 21, 2009 — Who's more mischievous: a seven-year-old boy or a grandfather who shrinks and can fit in your pocket? How can kids use their curiosity to turn everyday things into a fun experiment? How can the power of storytelling help kids explore their imaginations and build their literacy skills? Beginning Monday May 4, *TVOKids* looks at these questions and more as it launches an exciting new summer programming season highlighted by three new series that Canadian viewers can see for the first time, only on TVO.

Aimed at kindergarten to early primary school kids, the new series include the North American premiere of *Grandpa in my Pocket*, a live-action comedy-drama starring James Bolam (*New Tricks*) as a grandfather who can get into trouble after he shrinks himself with a magic shrinking cap; the North American premiere of *All for Kids*, which shows that fun, creative things are just an idea and experiment away; and the exclusive Canadian premiere of a new season of *Pinky Dinky Doo*, an animated series based on the children's books by Jim Jinkins.

"These shows have the key ingredient that every show in our schedule must have: the ability to make kids think," says Patricia Ellingson, TVO's Creative Head of Children's Media, Content and Programming. "*All for Kids* touches on the subjects kids are already learning in school, like science, math and sports, while *Pinky Dinky Doo* helps kids better understand basic story structure and comprehension. And *Grandpa in My Pocket* imparts wonderful life lessons about the value of relationships and taking responsibility for your actions. Shows like these exemplify what *TVOKids* is all about: giving kids the tools to succeed in school and in life, while having fun."

Descriptions for the new shows follow below. For the complete *TVOKids* summer schedule, please visit tvokids.com.

***Grandpa in My Pocket* – North American premiere**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm beginning Tuesday May 5 2009 and Saturdays at 10:30 am beginning May 9 2009

26 / 12 minutes

Live action with animation

Produced by Adastra Creative Limited

James Bolam (*New Tricks*) stars as a grandfather with a power to shrink in this live-action comedy-drama that celebrates grandparent/grandchild relationships.

Grandpa lives with his family in the beautiful seaside town of Sunnysands. The only person who knows about his secret is seven-year-old grandson Jason. When Grandpa puts on his magic shrinking cap, he becomes small enough to hide in Jason's pocket – or his backpack or lunch box or pencil case. In fact, Grandpa gets into all sorts of unlikely places and creates mayhem that Jason usually has to sort out. But Grandpa is always a force for good. Together, Grandpa and Jason make a great team and wind up in a host of hilarious adventures. Also starring Susan Jameson (*Coronation Street*) as Great Aunt Loretta.

All for Kids – North American premiere

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 pm beginning Monday May 4 2009 and Saturdays at 10 am beginning May 9 2009
40 / 30 minutes
Live action
Produced by Gravity Media

From the creators of *Cooking with Luis* comes this new series that features kids doing the things they like to do – their way! Hosts Karl and Kiera are joined by their friends Madi the gardener, Lindsay the chef, Christian the craft expert and Jameson the scientist, who do all sorts of fun experiments: things like making a vine-covered teepee in the garden, trying out a pancake recipe, whipping up fried rice, creating a mini volcano and making a kite. Made for kids by kids, the series inspires young viewers to be curious about the world around them and to try out new things.

Pinky Dinky Doo – New series: Exclusive Canadian premiere

Weekdays at 11:30 am and 4:30 pm beginning Monday May 4 2009 and Sundays at 10 am beginning May 10 2009
52 / 12 minutes
Animated
Co-produced by Sesame Workshop and Cartoon Pizza

TVOKids presents new episodes never before seen in Canada of this popular series based on the children's books by Jim Jenkins. Pinky Dinky Doo is a seven-year-old girl with a big imagination who loves to make up stories and share them with little brother Tyler or friends Nicholas Biscuit, Daffinee Toilette and Ross Applesauce. From rude alligators to shoes made out of salami, each of Pinky's stories – often inspired by Tyler's real-life problems – is a fun adventure that leads to a clever solution. Along the way, Pinky uses witty alliteration, silly word play and Great Big Fancy Words like "flabbergasted" and "reluctant" to help build kids' vocabulary and comprehension skills, and inspire them to create stories from their own big imaginations. And to extend the learning, Pinky closes each story with a short interactive segment that takes viewers through two or three games based on elements of her story.

About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit tvo.org.

Where to find TVO

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353.

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