CAPTAIN CANNABIS™
420@CAPTAINCANNABIS.COM | CONTACT@OKEE.COM
WWW.CAPTAINCANNABIS.COM | WWW.OKEE.COM

BIOGRAPHY

BIOGRAPHY OF VERNE

Captain Cannabis creator Verne Andru's career as writer, designer, illustrator and film-maker spanning entertainment and marketing sectors continues to touch millions around the globe.

Born Laverne John Andrusiek during 1955 in Vancouver, BC Canada, Verne grew up in the dawn of the television era with its wacky worlds of Beatlemania and Bugs Bunny. Second eldest of six, Verne considers himself a K-Mart-kid; his childhood was spent living across Western Canada as Dad was transferred to manage a different store in a new city every three years or so.

While Verne dabbled in music and drawing, it wasn't until he met the crew from Captain Canuck comics at a high school "career day" that he got focused. He quickly became the studio pest, dropping by weekly to show off his latest.

High school completed, Verne took a job with Canadian Pacific Railway where he set about learning the fine art of comic book illustration, in no small part to stay awake during the long night shifts. During this period he created his first two Captain Cannabis comic books, doing a small print run of each that he released locally.

Verne's creative career launched with his first paid job - cel painting on "Blowhard," a quirky animated National Film Board short by Credo Group who later did "The Cat Came Back" in much the same style. These experiences led to assignments for companies like Hanna-Barbera, International Rocketship, Nelvana and Universal. At the same time, he was editor on The Canadian Graphic Collector magazine while continuing to illustrate comics for Phantacea, ink and color Captain Canuck, inks for Marvel and cover art for Charleton Comics Group.

A self-taught artist, Verne pushes the next level with the help of the many great people he's worked with, particularly animation masters Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnson, two of Walt Disney's old men, during production of animated classic 'Rock & Rule.' Collaboration with the leading-edge special-effects team on Lou Reed's "My Name is Mok" "video" from that film intrigued him enough with computers that he became a Computer Systems Specialist honour-roll graduate from Humber College a few years later. TV Production & Operation credits were added to his resume from that same college of Arts and Technology.

Given the nascent technology in the 1980's, Verne applied his skills teaching computer sciences as well as doing art and advertising work in Toronto and Vancouver. His client list includes Siemens Canada and Swedish

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furniture maker IKEA beside a who's-who of technology companies including Bedford Software. Verne created Bedford's 'Simply Accounting' name that he used to launch one of the most successful software brands in its class. As an encore, he branded and launched the highly successful Pigtronix musical instrument effects maker that is still innovating to this day.

Verne has remained an innovator, always seeking novel ways of applying technology. He was an early adopter of desktop publishing, he helped pioneer digital paint for location and character colour styling on animated series work, and his desktop animation system continues producing a range of content for web and broadcast, including the highly successful IKEA Kid's Club spots.

From marketing Timex-Sinclair's ZX-81, one of the original consumer computers, to animating the infamous Philishave Lift-and-Cut TV commercial, to TV series and feature films, to design, packaging and launching products including best-of-breed Simply Accounting, to magazine, comic book and record album art, Verne's creativity touches millions around the world!

Single father Verne resides in beautiful Vancouver, BC where he enjoys friends, family, music and the great outdoors. For more information, please visit:

www.VerneAndru.com
www.imdb.com/name/nm3252989/

Partial List of Credits:

- Captain Canuck Comics – Inks and color.
- Chameleon Records/ Wexford Studios – Art director - record jacket artist.
- Charlton Publications Inc. – Cover pencils and inks for "Gunfighters" comic book.
- CREDO Group – Ink and paint on "Blowhart" animated short.
- Debek Educational Video – "Johnny Appleseed" and "Joseph's Multicolored Coat."
- Delaney & Friends – Layouts on "Nilus the Sandman" animated TV series.
- Hanna-Barbera Films – Animation on "Jana of the Jungle" and "Godzilla Power Hour" series.
- Hanna-Barbera Films – Layouts on "I am Weasel" animated TV series.
- IKEA Seattle – Producer/director on "Flaxy" TV commercials.
- International Rocketship - Ink and paint on "Sing Beast Sing" animated short.
- N.O.A. Network of Animation – Color styling for "Billy the Cat" and "Mutant League" series.
- Nelvana Animated Commercials – Animation for Philishave "Lift and Cut" TV commercial.
- Nelvana Films Ltd. – Storyboard, design and layout on "Rock & Rule" animated feature.
- Pillow People – Storyboards and designs for "Pillow People" animated TV series.
- Universal Cartoon Studios – Storyboards for "Wing Commander" series.
- Westworld Publications – Magazine illustrations.

A comprehensive on-line gallery of Verne's work is available at www.VerneAndru.com.