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SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN DOCUMENTARY CAPS OFF REGIONAL QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PLATTSBURGH, NY – 11/13/2009 – Mountain Lake PBS is proud to premiere the animated documentary *Dead Reckoning ~ Champlain in America*, on November 17 at the Cumberland 12 Cinemas in Plattsburgh, NY. In partnership with Lakes to Locks Passage and the New York State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, and teaming with Montréal-based Artifex Animation Studio, Mountain Lake PBS produced a fully-animated documentary on French explorer Samuel de Champlain’s explorations in North America.

Like the subject of the media project, *Dead Reckoning ~ Champlain in America* explores new territory, drawing on current American and Canadian academic research and scholarship, and collaborating with cutting-edge animators and filmmakers on both sides of the border to create the first historically accurate, completely animated documentary on Champlain.

“The timing was right for a production that celebrates the 400th anniversary of Champlain’s journeys,” stated Mountain Lake PBS CEO and President Alice Recore, “but with interactive lesson plans and a website to accompany this documentary, it becomes a learning experience beyond entertainment.”

When conceptualizing this state-of-the-art, animated portrayal of Champlain in America, the goal was to create a regionally-significant educational media project, not just a documentary. In consultation with local and New York State agencies and academic institutions, Mountain Lake PBS created educational content that meets state curriculum and K-12 educational needs. Interactive lesson plans and supportive Web-based content were created, suitable for a number of educational outlets including: Thinkfiniti (formerly MarcoPolo), which includes thousands of lesson plans that conform to state K-12 core curriculum standards, and EdVideo Online, a web-based education service made available free of charge to teachers and students across New York by PBS stations.

Mountain Lake PBS Director of Production Colin Powers saw an opportunity with animation to “engage many audiences, young and old, in telling the story of this legendary northern explorer. But we needed to accurately depict 17th century North America, its environments and people, with historical credibility. Animation gave us the flexibility to do that.”

Colin Powers conceived the project, and recruited award-winning filmmaker Frank Christopher to write and produce *Dead Reckoning*. Marc Hall, President of Artifex Animation Studios, directed and supervised the creation of the animation, graphic and Web components of the production.

Dead Reckoning ~ Champlain in America will be broadcast throughout the United States on PBS and in parts of Canada in 2010. However this documentary could not have been made without the generous support of sponsors including Lakes to Locks Passage, the New York Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission, Northern Utilities, the Province of Quebec, the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Clinton County, New York.

For more information about the documentary and other premiere dates, contact Mountain Lake PBS at 1-800-836-5700 or 1-518-563-9770.

ABOUT MOUNTAIN LAKE PBS—Mountain Lake PBS reaches over 3.9 million viewers in New York, Vermont, Quebec and Ontario, and produces award-winning local programs and documentaries. Mountain Lake devotes at least eight hours a day to programming for children from preschool through school age.

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