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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOMERVILLE ARTIST JEF CZEKAJ HOSTS KID-FRIENDLY/FAMILY-FRIENDLY ROCK SHOW.

Somerville, MA, August 11, 2004-- To celebrate the release of his new book, **Grampa and Julie: Shark Hunters**, artist Jef Czekaj (a 2003 **Boston Magazine** "hot" artist) is holding a book-release party/show at the **Milky Way Lounge and Lanes** (403-405 Center St., Jamaica Plain) on **Saturday, September 18 from noon until 5PM**. Bands will be performing, attendees will get a chance to talk with performers and Jef, comics will be drawn, and bowling and pizza will be available. Kids, as well as adults, are encouraged to come. Performing acts include **Harry and the Potters, The Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, UV Protection, Jonnie Spaceman and His Curious Theremin, and The Humanimals**.

Harry and the Potters are an indie rock band consisting of brothers who play music all about, yes, the Harry Potter books. They even dress like them. Paul DeGeorge (Harry, Year 7) used to be in the band, The Secrets, and is a co-founder of the Eskimo Labs record label. His younger brother, Joe (Harry, Year 4) is in a band on his record label called Ed in the Refridgerators. Together they started the band as a last-minute replacement for a band that cancelled a gig in the shed in their backyard. These days they play in libraries, bookstores, basements, art galleries, theatres, hot dog jamborees, and living rooms. They have two CDs: their self-titled first album and their most recent release, **Voldemort Can't Stop the Rock!**

The Revolutionary Snake Ensemble are a funk and street beat brass band, playing New Orleans and other modern improvised celebratory music. Led by saxophonist Ken Field (Birdsongs of the Mesozoic), the group's colorful costumes and urban tribal rhythms have earned it invitations to entertain at numerous private and public events, including the Cambridge River Festival, ArtBeat, the Central Square World's Fair, the Somerville Theater, First Night Boston, First Night Providence, First Night Fall River, and a march with the Mayor through the streets of Cambridge. The band features a veritable who's-who of local Boston musicians, containing members of the Either/Orchestra, the Hot Tamale Brass Band, Binary System, Lars Vegas, Clem Snide, the Bad Art Ensemble, Count Zero, Clutch Grabwell, and others. They were named one of Boston's best bands by the Boston Phoenix and WFNX Radio, and called one of the best unsigned bands in the country by WBZ Television.

UV Protection were born out of the low-fi Chicago indie scene, as Joanna Muehleizen and Karen Tsiakals started projecting their Mass Art background into what would be a combination of 2-D art (video and slide work), performance, and electronic music. After adding drummer Deborah Bernard in October 2003 and two dancers, this Boston based female trio presents itself as an operatic choral pop mix, taken to using movie sound effects, synth keys, and commercial chants. With themes of scientific technology, over-commercialization, and corporate culture, U.V. Protection is sure to capture the attention of any "Office Space" junkie.

Known for their incredibly intricate live show, the band creates new costumes and choreography for every performance. Past shows have included use of smoke machines, hazmat suits, corporate iconography, and a science fair themed show with a working volcano. Their music is just as quirky, a combination of electronic pop music, opera, and videogame-sounding noises.

Jonnie Spaceman and His Curious Theremin is Jon Bernhardt, one of four theremin players in the band, the Lothars, and the only theremin player in folk/rock/noise band, The Pee Wee Fist. In addition to being an incredibly talented thereminist, he has also been the host of the Breakfast of Champions on MIT's radio station, WMBR, for a long time; has hosted a residency at Zuzu; and performed at The Bazaar Bizarre, the Punk Rock Craft Fair. He will be performing several songs and will also demonstrate how a theremin works.

The Humanimals are a sci-fi mixed-media performance duo featuring members of the bands Scrapple and Plunge Into Death as well as the one-man band Travers (named by the **Boston Globe** as one of “the next big bands” of 2004).

In addition to the musical performances there will be prizes, free copies of **Nickelodon Magazine**, and drawing activities including an interactive, collaborative comic with local cartoonists, Dan Moynihan and Craig Bostick. The Milky Way also has a retro candlepin bowling alley and great pizza.

Jef Czekaj, who has strong ties to both the local music community (he plays in several bands and is the founding member of the Handstand Command music collective) as well as the art community, will be hosting the event and signing copies of his new book, a Xeric award-winning collection of his comics that have appeared in Nickelodeon Magazine since 1999. Last year he appeared on **Boston Magazine's** 'Hot List' of visual artists.

“All of the best art geared towards kids has always had elements that appeal to adults,” said Czekaj. “Whether it's old Warner Brothers cartoons, Pee Wee's Playhouse, They Might Be Giants, or Harry Potter, they all exhibit very ‘grown-up’ elements that add depth to their work. I hope my book's like that, and I definitely had that in mind when I put together this show. None of these performers is primarily a “children's” artist, but they all have something about them that kids will absolutely love.”

In addition to the book release party, Jef Czekaj will be appearing at the independent comic book store **Million Year Picnic** (99 Mt Auburn St., Cambridge, (617)492-6763) on **Friday September 17 from 5PM-7PM**, where he will sign books and posters and talk with his fans.

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Czekaj's web page: <http://www.czekaj.com>

Specific information about the release party, including hi-res photos and illustrations:
<http://www.czekaj.com/party/party.html>