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**Bestselling Comics Creators of Hellboy and Captain Underpants to
join with Pulitzer Prize Winners for 2019 Cartoon Crossroads Columbus**

Columbus, OH, July 29, 2019 – Thousands of Columbus residents, artists, writers and fans of all ages will mix with dozens of international and national artists, diverse underground voices, Pulitzer Prize awardees and comic legends behind major film projects like *Hellboy* during Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC) 2019.

"This September will be special, it's like I'm bringing some of the planet's best creative genius to a private conclave in my backyard and everybody is bringing something to share," said CXC founder Jeff Smith. "After travelling the world to do the biggest ComicCons, there is nothing better than hosting these artists at intimate talks in Columbus' best venues. Having Dav Pilkey, Mike Mignola and Ann Telnaes share their work and stories is going to offer a world-class dive into fantasy, humor and the very tough world of national and international politics."

In 2019 CXC enters its fifth year focused on creating interactive experiences for artists and attendees in spaces uniquely Columbus. CXC will again partner with the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library, Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Wexner Center for the Arts, hosting a mix of symposiums, lectures, receptions, signings and an expo featuring 115 exhibitors and artists at sites at The Ohio State University and around downtown.

Major events will include Dav Pilkey's return to his home state for a visit to the Wexner Center for the Arts Mershon Auditorium on September 27. Pilkey's *Captain Underpants* and *Dog Man* series are both prime examples of dynamic and vivacious cartoon storytelling.

Mike Mignola, creator of *Hellboy* and *The Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense*, is considered by many to have reshaped mainstream comics. Mignola will serve as the event's Keynote speaker, in conversation with Jeff Smith on September 27 at the Wexner Center For The Arts Film/AV theater at 4 PM. Additional Events with Mignola will be announced soon.

CXC is also proud to welcome some of the world's best editorial cartoonists to Columbus during the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. Editorial cartoonists attending include Matt Bors from *The Nib*, Kevin KAL Kallaugher of *The Economist*, Zunar, an international free speech advocate, and Pulitzer Prize winners such as Ann Telanes of the *Washington Post*.

Other highlights include SOL-Con, The Brown and Black Comix Expo and CXC's sister show, and expanded kids programming organized by Anne and Jerzy Drozd of the kids-focused A2CAF festival in Ann Arbor.

CXC 2019 sponsors and partners include: Able Roof, Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, Cartoon Books, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Experience Columbus, Greater Columbus Arts Council, GSW, Wexner Center for the Arts and Gateway Film Center.

CXC was created by a dedicated group of lifetime comic fans, artists, organizers and volunteers spearheaded by Jeff Smith, creator of *Bone*, and Lucy Caswell of The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library. Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC) is a free, citywide arts festival hosted every year by people and places with a passion for cartoon arts. CXC connects the global family of cartoon storytellers, comic makers, and animators with the people who love and are inspired by their art. Together, they celebrate the stories that can only be told in visual media that are as diverse as the people who imagined them.

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