



Stabenau and Anthony Launch Giant Interactive

New Company from Former Blink Digital, Metropolis DVD Founders

to Offer Authoring for DVD and Interactive TV

NEW YORK—Blink Digital founder Jeff Stabenau and Metropolis DVD founder David Anthony have teamed up to launch a new company, Giant Interactive. Giant will offer design and authoring for DVDs and similar creative services for a range of emerging media applications including interactive television, wireless platforms and “next-generation” DVD formats.

Stabenau and Anthony, who have a long history of bringing innovation to DVD production, aim to continue breaking ground with their new venture. “We’re moving into the new frontier of media services,” said Stabenau, who will serve as president of Giant Interactive. “We have big plans—huge plans I might even say. Our intent is to offer the absolute best in creative and technical talent, and to maintain a *giant* passion and *giant* dedication to the success of each project.”

Joining Stabenau and Anthony at Giant are several former Blink Digital and Metropolis DVD staff. Among them are Meri Hassouni, former executive producer at Blink Digital, whose credits include the award-winning *Capturing the Friedmans* and *The Rolling Stones: Rock and Roll Circus*, and Sandra Kim, former DVD director at Metropolis. Kim’s credits include *Showtime-Penn and Teller's boxed set* and *The Rolling Stones: Four Flicks*. Also joining Giant is

former freelance producer Stephen Altobello, who has produced value-added material for DVD titles including *The Last Waltz*, *Goodfellas* and *Gangs of New York*.

Stabenau founded Blink Digital in 2002 and since then the company has authored hundreds of feature film, documentary and music DVD titles. They included *Lost in La Mancha* and *Capturing the Friedmans*, which captured Best Documentary honors at the DVD Awards with Leonard Maltin in 2003 and 2004, respectively. Another DVD completed at Blink during Stabenau's tenure, *Rolling Stones: Rock and Roll Circus*, recently won for Best Music Feature at the first-ever Music DVD Awards.

Stabenau was also the founder of Crush Digital, one of the pioneers of the DVD authoring business, in 1996. Under Stabenau's leadership Crush Digital authored more than 1000 DVD titles for clients that included major film studios and record companies. Key projects included *The Complete Monty Python's Flying Circus* for A&E Entertainment, *Silence of the Lambs* and *Spinal Tap* for Criterion, *Dave Matthews Band Video Collection* for RCA, *Queer as Folk* TV series for Showtime Networks, Bob Dylan's *Don't Look Back* and *Whitney Houston—Greatest Hits* for Arista and, for three consecutive years, the *411 Digital Showreel* for LA 411 Digital. The latter received Discus Awards as Best-DVD-of-the-Year (Corporate) at the 1998 and the 1999 Pro DVD Conferences.

Anthony launched Metropolis DVD in 1999 in partnership with Sterling Sound. His work included overseeing the Director's Series for Palm Pictures, featuring the work of Spike Jonze and Michael Gondry; and the DVD portion of the Guggenheim Museum's groundbreaking Nam June Paik exhibit, which featured 250 display surfaces and more than 10 hours of DVD video playback. He also produced the Janet Jackson Video Collection DVD as well as numerous other music DVDs. In 2003, Anthony was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Long Form Video for the Nappy Roots DVD *The World According to Nappy*.

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