



CROW'S FEAT: Tony Millionaire reposes with creations Drinky and Uncle Gabby

But will Millionaire's sodden vision play in Hollywood? The strip centers on two alcoholic, suicidal drinking buddies—Drinky and his monkey sidekick, Uncle Gabby—and their adventures aboard an 18th-century British warship. (In one strip, a heartbroken Drinky quotes Andrew Marvell's "The Definition of Love" before killing himself.) "There's a darkness to his work, and yet everything is treated with this gung-ho

Fans of Millionaire's alcoholic crow include David Spade, Conan O'Brien and *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening.

adventurous spirit, which is just funny in itself," says Bob Odenkirk, a comedy writer and costar of HBO's *Mr. Show*.

If Millionaire's alcohol-addled characters behave oddly, it may be that they're taking cues from their creator. Stories of Millionaire's lust for good times are legend. *Comics Journal*, the industry's leading trade magazine, ran a teasing cover line last year about a highly public sex act performed by Millionaire in a crowded bar (the magazine promised the goods on "what really happened with the pizza").

The now relatively sober Millionaire has been busier than ever since moving to L.A. *Maakies Volume 1*, a collection of his Drinky Crow cartoons, will be published this month by Fantagraphics Books, and Dick is doing voice-overs for animated Drinky shorts on the actor's Web site. A development deal to produce a film based on *Sock Monkey*, another Millionaire series, is also in

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

THE EDGY CREATOR OF DRINKY CROW TRIES TO GO HOLLYWOOD

IN 1995, TONY MILLIONAIRE, BROKE AND HOMELESS, STRUCK A DEAL WITH the bartender at his usual drinking hole in Brooklyn: Every time he drew a comic strip, he got a beer. "I did these little strips on cocktail napkins about an alco-

holic crow who would get drunk and blow his brains out," Millionaire recalls. "Which was pretty much how I was feeling at the time." • *Drinky Crow* became a huge hit at the bar, and soon the strip—often scrawled in the wee hours during one of Millionaire's monumental benders—was picked up by a New York weekly. Renamed *Maakies*, it attracted fans like Andy Dick, David Spade, Conan O'Brien and *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening. A successful animated version on *Saturday Night Live* followed. Late last year, Millionaire moved to Los Angeles to be with his live-in girlfriend, actress Becky Thyre, and make a run at bringing Drinky and his twisted pals to the big screen.



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the works.

Despite the Hollywood attention, Millionaire's biggest fans may be his sister's children. "They're 10 and younger," he points out, "and their stuff is a lot more twisted than anything I could ever come up with." —ROBERT ITO