## JOHN GALLAGHER

## SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTION (STARBRIDGE MEDIA GROUP)

veryday John Gallagher
heads into his office to hang
out with superheroes. In
fact as one of the primary
producers of the NASCAR Heroes
comic book, he possesses the power
to create them.

NASCAR Heroes is the story of driver Jimmy Dash and his cellardwelling Team Flatstock squad which, following a mysterious explosion, obtain superpowers and battle with the menacing villain racer Jack Diesel. The back of each issue features a how-to-draw section, something Gallagher is extremely proud of.

"Meeting the people that enjoy the books [is great]," he said. "I went to a show in New York and seeing people on the floor reading our book and asking questions and knowing we're sparking their imaginations was really exciting."

Comics have always caught Gallagher's eye. A fan since childhood, he graduated from Penn State, worked in graphic design and created his own comic, Buzzboy, in 1998. He likens his influence and work with Heroes to that of a director, producer, writer and set designer of a movie, but above all as a member of a team.

"Working as a team to create this project is great," he said.

Gallagher, 40, recommends artistic education and training for anyone interested in breaking into comics. However he says finding a voice and pleasing yourself is the most important thing.

||||||| 44

POLE POSITION ... FEB 2008