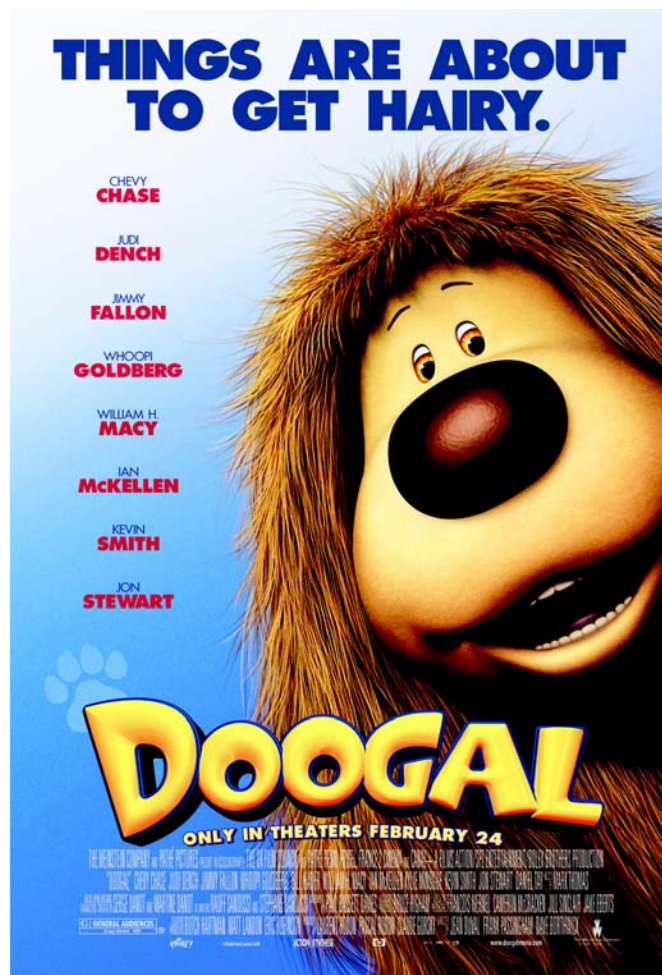




ACTION SYNTHÈSE

Present



Press Notes

Rated: G

Running Time: 81 Minutes

The Weinstein Company and Pathé Pictures Present
In Association with the UK Film Council
And Pathé Renn, Pricel, France 2 Cinema and Canal +
A Films Action/ SPZ Entertainment/ bolexbrothers Production

DOOGAL

Cast

Train
CHEVY CHASE

Narrator
JUDI DENCH

Dylan
JIMMY FALLON

Ermintrude
WHOOPI GOLDBERG

Soldier Sam
BILL HADER

Brian
WILLIAM H. MACY

Zebedee
IAN MCKELLEN

Florence
KYLIE MINOGUE

Moose
KEVIN SMITH

Zeebad
JON STEWART

Doogal
DANIEL TAY

Additional Voices
CORY EDWARDS

Additional Voices
JOHN KRASINSKI

Filmmakers

Directed By

JEAN DUVAL, FRANK PASSINGHAM and DAVE BORTHWICK

Producers

LAURENT RODON, PASCAL RODON and CLAUDE GORSKY

Associate Producers

CLAUDE GORSKY

LINDA MARKS

BRUCH HIGHAM

ANDY LEIGHTON

VERTIGO PRODUCTIONS

Music By

MARK THOMAS

Additional Music By

JAMES L. VENABLE and JOHN M. DAVIS

Additional Music Production By

GOLDUST and SAMUEL SIM

Based Upon Original Characters Created By

SERGE DANOT and MARTINE DANOT

Co-Writers

RAOFF SANOUSSI and STÉPHAN SANOUSSI

Screenplay By

PAUL BASSETT DAVIES

Additional Material By

TAD SAFRAN

Executive Producers

FRANÇOIS IVERNEL

CAMERON MCCRACKEN

JILL SINCLAIR

JAKE EBERTS

Executive Producers

BUTCH HARTMAN, MATT LANDON and ERIC ROBINSON

Co-Writers

BUTCH HARTMAN

CORY EDWARDS

TODD EDWARDS

TONY LEECH

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DOOGAL

Synopsis

Legend tells of three magic diamonds that, if in the wrong hands, can be united to create a force powerful enough to freeze the sun. When the evil wizard Zeebad (Jon Stewart) escapes from his ancient prison, he vows to exact revenge by deep-freezing the earth forever.

Determined to save the world, a fellowship of four unlikely heroes band together to foil Zeebad's villainous plot. Led by the candy-loving mutt Doogal (Daniel Tay), friends Dylan (Jimmy Fallon), Brian (William H. Macy) and Ermintrude (Whoopi Goldberg) all embark on an epic adventure to save the world. In order to find the diamonds before Zeebad, they must climb icy mountains, navigate fiery pits of molten lava, sail across vast oceans and pass through a booby-trapped temple guarded by an army of ninja skeleton warriors.

Along the way they learn that the most powerful weapon is their friendship – which even Zeebad's evil magic cannot destroy.

DOOGAL

The Legend Begins....

A lovable and innocent dog and his friends are out to save the world—together. With that spirit, the creative team behind the animated box office smash HOODWINKED have joined forces with Butch Hartman to bring DOOGAL to U.S. audiences. DOOGAL has been adapted from the European version by Hartman and the HOODWINKED team of Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards and Tony Leech. Hartman is the creator of Nickelodeon’s wildly popular series “The Fairly Odd Parents” and “Danny Phantom.”

The movie is based on the classic British stop-motion animation TV series “The Magic Roundabout,” created by Serge Danot in the 1960s and adapted for the English language by Eric Thompson.

Cory Edwards co-wrote DOOGAL’s dialogue and provided a voice for many of the film’s ancillary characters. After researching the original series and seeing the film’s British incarnation, Edwards eagerly signed on to bring DOOGAL stateside: “The animation is beautiful,” he says. “The action sequences are very exciting, and the characters are really well-made and likable. Even though it has some spectacular grand visuals, it doesn’t take itself too seriously. The characters are making little wisecracks and jokes while they deal with this big, crazy, chaotic adventure.”

While the story of DOOGAL is one of friendship and togetherness, tons of wisecracks and jokes come courtesy of the Edwards’ brothers and Leech’s irreverent sense of humor, which delighted HOODWINKED’s audiences. “We added a lot of one-liners and a lot of puns. Some of it goes by so quickly! It’s been this tangle of yarn that you unravel and you have to figure out the best way tell a story for American audiences.”

Creating DOOGAL and his Friends

DOOGAL marks the arrival of a full-length, CGI adaptation of the magical world inhabited by the characters of “The Magic Roundabout.”

Montreal-based animation company Softimage housed the production for DOOGAL. “The company was founded eighteen years ago and it’s always been at the forefront of developments in this industry,” executive producer Jake Eberts says. “What’s best about Softimage is that it works in partnership with its customers. That partnership has been crucial to finding solutions to some of the very complex problems that DOOGAL presented.”

Directors Dave Borthwick, Jean Duval and Frank Passingham oversaw all elements of production.

“Often, different groups of animators handle different characters: here, the work was shared,” Jean Duval says of the process. “It was truly collaborative, and that really bound everyone together. What they brought to the process was unbelievable. I am full of admiration for their dedication, their involvement and their passion. I think it pays off when you see the film.”

The animators’ attention to detail necessitated an unexpected technological advancement. Marc Chevy, DOOGAL’s chief effects artist explains: “We had actually developed a hair and fur tool before the production. It’s safe to say we have more styling power than most pet grooming parlors, with over twenty tools and manipulation modes for styling and painting hair. And that includes very long, shaggy dog hair.”

Frank Passingham agrees that the production team had to be very patient with the character of Doogal. “The first renderings that we made of Doogal, where he’s quite prominent in the frame, were taking about twelve hours. Talk about bad hair day,” Passingham muses. “We had a big team to help find the technical solutions. A hairy dog is really tough to create in CGI. The stuff falls every which way, and when the wind’s blowing against him, it’s a nightmare. I was thinking maybe we could re-write him as a Chihuahua. In the end, it was worth all the effort. He looks superb. Not even he could complain – and that’s saying something.”

Key frame animation, the technique employed in DOOGAL, begins with detailed character sketches and three-dimensional models. Computers generate a malleable “wire frame” drawing outlining each character’s shape as if it were made out of wire. The wire frame figures are then given attributes and mannerisms that are specific to each character.

Jean Duval offers an example: “Dylan has very floppy ears that keep flapping around. That means we must have several different points on the ear to give us as much and as varied a movement as possible. If we had some other kind of rabbit, whose ears just stuck up most of the time, and maybe sometimes dropped down onto his back – then we would not need so many points, because the movement would not be so complex.”

Once the character wire frame designs were completed, the animators began to bring them to life. “If we want to bounce Brian across the screen, like a ball, we would set up the wire frame image of Brian half way up the screen on one side,” Jean Duval explains. “Then we would create an image of Brian in the middle of the bottom of the screen. Then we would do an image of Brian on the other side. The computer works out all the points in between these key frames, to provide a smooth movement.”

“That only provides the basis,” Frank Passingham adds. “It has to be modified. There always has to be human intervention – and that’s where DOOGAL has been so exciting, because that’s where we’ve seen the real artistry.”

Cory Edwards, for one, is astounded by the evolution of the characters. “These characters originally started as little stop-motion dolls and puppets, which were very limited in scope. This movie has just taken them into a brand new world of computer animation, and has done some beautiful things with them.”

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DOOGAL

The Characters behind DOOGAL

A diverse and gifted group of award-winning actors and comedians were assembled to bring DOOGAL to life. The impressive cast boasts four Academy Award® nominees: Whoopi Goldberg (a winner for GHOST), Ian McKellen, Judi Dench (who won for SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE) and William H. Macy.

Ermintrude, voiced by Whoopi Goldberg, is a singing cow who is always out of tune. Her blind confidence becomes an asset: “Like any good diva she thinks it was all her idea to try and take care of business,” Goldberg says of Ermintrude. “It’s because she has some of these tendencies, that she’s able to help save the day.”

DOOGAL offered Goldberg the opportunity to belt out a tune with “Saturday Night Live” alum Jimmy Fallon. Though she showcased her talents in SISTER ACT and SISTER ACT 2, Goldberg is far more modest than Ermintrude about her vocal abilities: “I like singing, but I’m not sure it’s something I should be doing a lot in public. It’s okay because Ermintrude does not sing well,” Goldberg jokes. “She sings kind of like Vivian Leigh on speed.”

All kidding aside, Goldberg is a longtime fan of animation who was happy to give Ermintrude her voice: “It’s been fun to see how animation is created, and how it has evolved over the last thirty years. I always think that it’s a great thing to do voices in cartoons because cartoons mean so much to me.”

Animation also provides unusual creative opportunities: “You can do anything in animation. You are not held to any physical laws in animation, which is kind of wonderful. So a snail and a cow can have a relationship.”

William H. Macy provides the voice for Brian, DOOGAL’s smitten snail. The star of FARGO and THE COOLER has long wanted to be involved with a film that would be appropriate for his young children. “I’ve got two little kids who aren’t watching films yet, but they’ll be watching them soon. I’ve been trying to do things that my kids can watch. I realized when my kids were born they couldn’t see a lot of the movies that I’ve done—not for a long, long time.”

“It’s pure and sweet and child-like, and incredibly hip at the same time,” Macy says of DOOGAL.

Brian’s undeclared desire for Ermintrude pushes him to incredible acts of daring and defiance. His big-hearted, never-say-die approach is an inspiration to all of his friends. Macy describes his character’s tenacity by citing one of his favorite moments in DOOGAL: “There’s a great gag in DOOGAL where I say, ‘Come on, we can take him. Charge!’ It goes on and on, and on because

Brian travels very s-l-o-w-l-y,” Macy says, laughing. “Everybody stops while this snail crawls along.”

Dylan, played by Jimmy Fallon, is a guitar-playing rabbit with a spaced-out, laid-back approach to life. Fallon loved the idea of joining such an incredible cast: “I’m excited to do this. This is my first animated feature. It turned out all these cool people were getting involved like Chevy Chase, Jon Stewart and Whoopi Goldberg.”

Fallon’s training on “Saturday Night Live” and his sharp improvisational skills made his time in the recording studio endlessly creative. “I rely on the guys in the editing booth and see what makes them laugh. It’s interesting.”

“What’s incredibly freeing about doing an animated movie is that you have a chance to explore a character. You can go bigger with your character and that’s okay,” Bill Hader, who plays Sam, says of the joy of creating working in animation. “You can go to any kind of crazy place and play. You can fall into a volcano or have a giant cow that sounds like Whoopi Goldberg fall on you.”

Obedient to a fault, Sam is taken over by Zeebad, and his brave fighting spirit is recruited for a wicked cause. Bill Hader explains: “What I like about Sam as a character is his optimism. It’s fun to play that for comedy because Sam will talk about these awful things that Zeebad is planning, but he balances it out by being so cheerful and optimistic.”

“He doesn’t know that what he is doing is wrong,” Hader adds. “But eventually he figures it out.”

Zeebad is a cold-hearted, nasty wizard with an evil agenda. “Imagine if a Smurf had been in a terrible accident and they had replaced his lower body with something from a mattress spring,” Jon Stewart says with a glint in his eye. “That’s what pops out at you: the moustache and the spring.”

Stewart is quick to point out the unusual elements of giving a voice to an animated character: “It’s rare in this business that you get a chance to work with such great actors and never actually meet them. To sit alone in a room wearing headphones, doing one line at a time -- there’s a charm to it.”

Evil Zeebad’s nemesis is the kind Zebedee. With a bright red, white-freckled face, a black moustache and a spring where his legs should be, Zebedee is no ordinary magician. Ian McKellen brings the benevolent Zebedee to life: “I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be fun?’” he says of the offer to play Zebedee. “And, it was.”

Unlike her American counterparts, world-famous pop singer and actress Kylie Minogue was a longtime fan of “The Magic Roundabout.” Working on DOOGAL reminded her of fond memories watching the show as a child in Australia. She eagerly signed on to play Doogal’s beloved owner and companion, Florence. “When I first got the request I realized it was a rare opportunity and I had no hesitation in accepting. You just go ‘I’d love to do that, where do I sign?’”

“It requires an enormous amount of imagination to bring ones own character to life and to make it work within the context of the story and the other characters,” Minogue says. “There’s an awful lot of magic and mystery in the process.”

Appearing intermittently throughout DOOGAL is a moose, played by writer-director-actor Kevin Smith. “It’s always an interesting experience being directed when that’s what you do for a living. Normally, I’m on the other side telling people what to do,” Smith explains. “It’s always great when the people telling you what to do are really generous and giving, and not dictatorial, or hostile towards you. Everyone is just trying to make the best picture they can, and in this case, the funniest picture they can. It is very collaborative.”

Smith was happy to improvise and to provide a source of humor for the older members of DOOGAL’s audiences. “When you are a parent and you’re watching copious amounts of cartoons, you always appreciate the cartoons that aim stuff at you. You respect the fact that they know there’s an adult in the room as well. Butch Hartman created this really great cartoon called “The Fairly Odd Parents” which has been a saving grace in my household.”

And what about the film’s title character? He is voiced by Daniel Tay, who charmed audiences in his performance as “Michael” in ELF. Tay found a kinship with his character’s penchant for sweets: “I love his love of candy. I love the fact that he thinks with his stomach. He exudes youth. It’s a wonderful thing to see and a wonderful thing to try to bring to life.”

The young actor has an astute understanding of the charms of DOOGAL, and of the lessons his canine counterpart learns: “He becomes a more responsible dog. At the beginning of the movie he’s naïve and mischievous, and he doesn’t look before he leaps. Whereas at the end of the film he’s a little bit more careful. Those feelings were always there, but Doogal had to experience the adventure to realize what great friends he had, and bring him closer to them and cherish them.”

Rounding out the esteemed cast of DOOGAL is Academy Award® winner Judi Dench, who narrates the film: “If you want a narrator for your movie and you get Judi Dench,” Cory Edwards muses, “you’re doing about as well as you can do. She could read the phone book and it would sound important.”

DOOGAL

About the Voice Talents

CHEVY CHASE / Train

Chevy Chase first came to national prominence as a writer and performer with the original cast of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," for which he won two Emmy Awards.

Chevy's first starring role in a feature film was in the comedy-thriller FOUL PLAY with Goldie Hawn. Other films he has starred in include: CADDY SHACK; SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES; NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION; FLETCH; NATIONAL LAMPOON'S EUROPEAN VACATION; SPIES LIKE US; THE THREE AMIGOS; FUNNY FARM; CADDYSHACK II; FLETCH LIVES; NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION; MEMOIRS OF AN INVISIBLE MAN; COPS AND ROBBERSONS; MAN OF THE HOUSE; VEGAS VACATION; and SNOW DAY.

In 1992, Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate dramatic group, named Chevy its "Man of the Year."

Chevy began his career in comedy as a writer and performer for "Channel One", a local New York underground revue that satirized television. "Channel One" later became the basis for the film THE GROOVE TUBE. He has written for Lily Tomlin and the Smothers Brothers, and earned a Writers Guild of America Award for writing "Alan King's Energy Crisis, Rising Prices And Assorted Vices" TV special. In addition, he won an Emmy Award for co-writing "The Paul Simon Special."

Chevy resides in New York with his wife, Jayni and their three daughters. He moved the family back to the Northeast a decade ago to be continually accessible to the needs of his three daughters, simply being a "dad" as the kids have grown through changing seasons, hormones, and schools.

Now that they are older, he has decided to once again get back to the work he loves: making movies. He was recently seen starring opposite Naomi Watts in ELLIE PARKER, which premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival and he just completed production on ZOOM, an action/adventure film starring Tim Allen, in which Chevy plays a professor at an elite academy for super heroes. The film is scheduled for an August 2006 release by Sony Pictures.

JUDI DENCH / Narrator

Dame Judi is one of the world's best-loved and most accomplished actresses. Born in York, she is renowned for her outstanding performances in both classical and contemporary roles. She has worked consistently across the arenas of theatre, film and television, winning critical and popular acclaim, and a burgeoning rack of awards – including 9 BAFTA awards. Judi received the OBE in 1970 and became a Dame of the British Empire in 1988. In the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours List, she was made a Companion of Honour.

Dame Judi can currently be seen in the critically acclaimed feature MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS, for which she has received an Academy Award® nomination, a Golden Globe nomination and a BAFTA nomination.

Her feature films include Franco Zeffirelli's TEA WITH MUSSOLINI, MRS. BROWN (for which she won a Golden Globe, a BAFTA and an Oscar® nomination), A ROOM WITH A VIEW (for which she won a BAFTA), WETHERBY, 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD and A HANDFUL OF DUST (another BAFTA-award-winning performance). She did two films for Kenneth Branagh, HENRY V and HAMLET. In 2001, her moving portrayal of Iris Murdoch in the biopic IRIS won her a BAFTA and an Academy Award® nomination. The same year she filmed THE SHIPPING NEWS, directed by Lasse Hallström.

Dame Judi won an Academy Award®, a BAFTA award and was named Best Supporting Actress by the National Society of Film Critics for her performance as Queen Elizabeth in the hit romantic comedy SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE. She was nominated for a Golden Globe and an Oscar® for Lasse Hallström's CHOCOLAT. Her first appearance as M, the head of MI6 and 007's boss came in GOLDENEYE in 1995, and continues to the latest Bond film, CASINO ROYALE.

Dame Judi's Lady Macbeth and Mistress Quickly in HENRY V, filmed for TV, have gone down in performance history; her Cleopatra on stage won her an Olivier Award in 1987. She continues to work on the London stage; she starred in David Hare's "Amy's View" (her Broadway performance in the play won a Tony award), Peter Hall's "The Royal Family" and "All's Well That Ends Well" for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, then the West End. Her TV work has included the much-loved 1981 series A FINE ROMANCE, in which she starred opposite her late husband, Michael Williams; the hit series AS TIME GOES BY, with Geoffrey Palmer, which ran for 10 years; and THE LAST OF THE BLONDE BOMBSHELLS, which won her a Golden Globe. Dame Judi's recent film credits include David Twohy's THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK and the Charles Dance-directed LADIES IN LAVENDER.

JIMMY FALLON / Dylan

Jimmy Fallon is best known to television fans for his work on NBC's seminal late night series "Saturday Night Live." Since becoming a regular cast member in 1998, Fallon has been an audience favorite for his dead-on impressions and his quick wit as the host of "Weekend Update" newscasts. Fallon left the show after the 2003-2004 season.

In 2004 he starred with Queen Latifah in the big-screen action-comedy TAXI. His television work includes a featured role in the Emmy®-winning miniseries “Band Of Brothers.”

Fallon, who started out as a stand-up comedian, was nominated for a 2003 Grammy award for Best Spoken Comedy Album for his record “The Bathroom Wall.” He has also enjoyed successful stints as the host of the 2001 MTV Movie Awards™ and the 2002 Video Music Awards™. In addition, Fallon (and his sister Gloria) co-wrote the book “I Hate This Place: The Pessimist’s Guide to Life,” which was recently re-released by Warner Books.

He recently completed work on George Hickenlooper’s upcoming feature film FACTORY GIRL.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG / Ermintrude

In 2002, Whoopi Goldberg became one of a very elite group of artists who have won the Grammy (“Whoopi Goldberg,” 1985), the Academy Award® (GHOST, 1991), the Golden Globe (THE COLOR PURPLE, 1985 and GHOST, 1991), the Emmy (as host of AMC’s “Beyond Tara: The Extraordinary Life of Hattie McDaniel,” 2002) and a Tony (Producer of “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” 2002). She is equally well-known for her humanitarian efforts on behalf of children, the homeless, human rights, education, substance abuse and the battle against AIDS, as well as many other causes and charities. Among her many charitable activities, Whoopi is a Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations.

Born and raised in New York City, Whoopi worked in improvisational theater in San Diego and the Bay Area, where she performed with the Blake Street Hawkeyes theatre troupe. It was there that she created the characters that became “The Spook Show” and evolved into her hit Broadway show, Grammy Award-winning album and the HBO special that helped launch her career.

Whoopi made her motion picture debut in Steven Spielberg’s film version of Alice Walker’s THE COLOR PURPLE, for which she earned an Academy Award® nomination and a Golden Globe Award. Her performance in GHOST earned her the Academy Award® and a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress. Whoopi has also appeared in such films as JUMPIN’ JACK FLASH, CLARA’S HEART, THE LONG WALK HOME, SOAPDISH, THE PLAYER, SARAFINA!, SISTER ACT, MADE IN AMERICA, CORRINA, CORRINA, THE LION KING, BOYS ON THE SIDE, EDDIE, THE ASSOCIATE, GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI, HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK, GIRL INTERRUPTED, KINGDOM COME, RAT RACE and RACING STRIPES.

On television, Whoopi appeared for five seasons on “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” she co-starred with Jean Stapleton in “Bagdad Café” and hosted her own syndicated late-night talk show. She appeared in the Emmy-nominated HBO drama “In The Gloaming,” directed by Christopher Reeve, as well as “The Wonderful World Of Disney’s Rogers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella” and “A Knight In Camelot” and appeared in the mini-series “Alice In Wonderland” and “The Magical Legend Of The Leprechauns.” She recently starred in the NBC sitcom, “Whoopi,” which she executive produced with Carsey-Werner-Mandabach and Bonnie and

Terry Turner. She was also seen recently on Nick Jr's "Whoopi's Littleburg," a series of three, half-hour TV specials set in "The Preschool Capital of the World," which she also produced.

As she has in every other facet of her career, Whoopi has made her mark as a producer. She executive produces the Lifetime original drama series "Strong Medicine," currently in its fifth season and has already been picked up for a sixth, the longest-running original drama created for basic cable and the first cable show to go into syndication. The network has also ordered a spin-off of the successful medical drama, titled "Strong Medicine: First Response."

From 1998-2002, she executive produced and appeared in the center square on the Emmy Award-winning "Hollywood Squares." She executive produced the Lifetime original movie "What Makes A Family," Showtime's "Ruby's Bucket Of Blood" and executive produced and starred in the TNT Original Movie "Call Me Claus" and the Showtime original "Good Fences." Whoopi is also an executive producer of the musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie," which won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. She has various television products in development and executive produces a series that takes place in the world of girls' soccer, entitled "Just For Kicks," which will premiere on Nickelodeon next Spring.

Whoopi has appeared on many television series and specials, including her own HBO specials, three-time host of ABC's "A Gala For The President At Ford's Theatre" and eight "Comic Relief" telecasts with Billy Crystal and Robin Williams. Whoopi received Emmy Award nominations for hosting the 66th, 68th and 71st Academy Awards telecasts and returned to host the 2002 telecast at the new Kodak Theatre.

Whoopi was seen most recently in the television movies "It's A Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie" for NBC and Showtime's "Good Fences," co-producing and co-starring with Danny Glover. In early 2003, Whoopi returned to Broadway, co-starring with Charles "Roc" Dutton in August Wilson's acclaimed "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," which she also produced. She had last appeared on Broadway in 1997, in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

In addition to the Oscar®, the Grammy and two Golden Globe Awards, Whoopi has been honored with multiple NAACP Image Awards, numerous People's Choice Awards (including a special tribute in 1998) and an unprecedented five Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards as "Favorite Movie Actress," as well as various awards and honors for her many humanitarian efforts. She was honored with Women in Film's 2001 Crystal Award and became the first woman to be honored with the prestigious Mark Twain Prize. Her wax likeness currently resides in Madame Tussauds Wax Museum and she will be honored by the Landmark Society of NYC.

In 1992, Whoopi made her debut as an author with her first children's book, "Alice." Her second literary endeavor, simply entitled "Book," became a bestseller in the U.S. and around the world. She recently signed a three-book publishing deal with Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children.

She returned to Broadway in 1997, garnering rave reviews in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." In 2001, Whoopi returned to her performing roots, on tour for the first time in over 10 years, performing one-night-only engagements across the U.S., including the famed Apollo Theater. In 2003, Whoopi produced and starred in the title role of the Broadway revival of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." Whoopi commemorated the 20th anniversary of her original

one-woman show with a limited engagement production on Broadway last year and the HBO broadcast of the show was nominated for an Emmy Award.

Whoopi has placed prints of her hands, feet and braids in the forecourt of the famed Grauman's Chinese Theatre and received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which resides in front of the Kodak Theatre.

BILL HADER / Soldier Sam

Bill Hader joined the cast of "Saturday Night Live" this season, and made an early splash debuting his uncanny impressions including his take on Al Pacino and Vincent Price among others. He comes to "SNL" via Second City in Los Angeles, where he also performed with sketch group "Animals From the Future."

Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Hader recently made his talk show debut, guesting on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien." Before "SNL," Hader had a recurring role on MTV's "Punk'd," as a "field agent."

His upcoming feature credits include, YOU, ME AND DUPREE directed by the Russo Brothers for Universal, starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson, and Ed Burns' PURPLE VIOLETS.

WILLIAM H. MACY / Brian

Oscar® and Golden Globe nominee and Emmy and SAG Award winner, William H. Macy is one of the most distinguished talents of his generation. Macy is the executive producer of the acclaimed film TRANSAMERICA, and was most recently seen in SAHARA with Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz.

Macy will soon be seen in Jason Reitman's comedy THANK YOU FOR SMOKING. He recently completed production on EDMOND, an adaptation of the David Mamet play, directed by Stuart Gordon and produced by Muse Films.

Macy will soon begin work on BEE MOVIE for Dreamworks Animation, with Jerry Seinfeld, Renee Zellweger, Uma Thurman, Kathy Bates and Oprah Winfrey. Steve Hickner and Simon J. Smith will direct. The film, co-written and produced by Seinfeld, is slated for release on November 2, 2007.

Last year, Macy was seen in TNT's "The Wool Cap." He was nominated for an Emmy, a Golden Globe, and a SAG Award for his performance. He and Steven Schachter were also nominated for a Writers Guild Award. In addition, the movie was nominated for an Emmy and a Critics' Choice Award.

In 2002, Macy received outstanding critical acclaim for his role as Bill Porter in TNT's "Door To Door," opposite Kyra Sedgwick, Helen Mirren, Kathy Baker and Felicity Huffman. The movie, which Macy also co-wrote, aired to unprecedented ratings for a TNT original movie premiere

and received a SAG Award, Peabody Award, an AFI Award, a Critic's Choice Award, a Golden Satellite Award, a Writer's Guild nomination, an American Cinema Editors nomination and a Golden Globe nomination. The movie was nominated for 12 Emmys and won 6, including Outstanding Made for Television Movie as well as winning Macy the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Television Movie statue and Outstanding Writing for a Television Movie with Steven Schachter.

In 2003, Macy was seen in the Showtime Original Picture "Stealing Sinatra," directed by Ron Underwood. Macy received an Emmy nomination in the category of "Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or a Movie" for his performance.

Macy received critical acclaim for his role in the romantic drama THE COOLER, alongside Alec Baldwin and Maria Bello. He also stole scenes in the critically acclaimed feature, SEABISCUIT, starring Tobey Maguire, Chris Cooper and Jeff Bridges. Macy was nominated for a Golden Globe for his role as Tick Tock McLaughlin and the movie was nominated for Best Picture.

Macy's distinguished film credits include SPARTAN, IN ENEMY HANDS, MAGNOLIA, PLEASANTVILLE, HAPPY TEXAS, STATE AND MAIN, JURASSIC PARK 3, FOCUS, WELCOME TO COLLINWOOD, PSYCHO, A CIVIL ACTION, BOOGIE NIGHTS, WAG THE DOG, AIR FORCE ONE, GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI, MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS, THE CLIENT, SHADOWS AND FOG, MURDER IN THE FIRST, SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER, RADIO DAYS, PANIC and CELLULAR.

Macy is best known for his portrayal of Jerry Lundergaard in FARGO, for which he received an Oscar® nomination and won an Independent Spirit Award as Best Supporting Actor. He also garnered nominations for Funniest Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture (American Comedy Awards), Best Actor (Chicago Film Critics), Best Supporting Actor (Dallas/ Fort Worth Film Critics), and Best Actor in a Drama (International Press Academy).

In the realm of television, Macy has been no less prolific. He received an Emmy nomination as Best Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his recurring role as 'Dr. David Morgenstern' on "ER." Macy also had a recurring role on Aaron Sorkin's "Sports Night" and was nominated for an Emmy for his performance. His movie of the week credits include "Reversible Errors," "A Murderous Affair," "Heart Of Justice," "Standoff At Marion," and the miniseries "Andersonville," "The Murder Of Mary Phagan" and "The Awakening Land." In addition to the politically charged BBC telefilm "The Writing On The Wall," Macy also appeared in two Mamet vehicles, "The Water Engine" and Showtime's "Texan." In 1999, he starred opposite his wife Felicity Huffman, on the TNT television film "A Slight Case Of Murder" and received another Emmy nomination. Macy and his writing partner Steven Schachter wrote the film and Schachter directed. Also with Schachter, Macy has written several television scripts, including an episode of "Thirtysomething," the HBO movie "Above Suspicion" and the USA Networks movie "The Con" starring Macy and Rebecca DeMornay. Most recently, Macy was seen on the small screen in a regular guest role in the Showtime original series "Out Of Order," also starring Eric Stoltz, Felicity Huffman, Kim Dickens and Justine Bateman.

Born in Miami, Macy lived in Georgia until age ten before moving to Cumberland, Maryland, where his love for acting spawned as Mordred in Camelot. Elected junior and senior high school class president, he set out to become a veterinarian at Bethany College in West Virginia, but after

performing in "play after play" Macy transferred to Goddard College in Vermont, where he came under the tutelage of theater Professor David Mamet.

In 1972, Mamet, Macy and his writing partner Steven Schachter moved to Chicago, where they collectively created the St. Nicholas Theater. Macy originated roles for several of Mamet's classic original productions, among them, Bobby in "American Buffalo," and Lang in "The Water Engine," soon establishing his feature film presence with writer/director Mamet. His performance in "Oleanna," as a college professor accused of sexual harassment and his detective in HOMICIDE earned Macy kudos. He continued with Mamet as a Mafioso driver in THINGS CHANGE, a Marine in HOUSE OF GAMES and an FBI agent in WAG THE DOG.

Moving to New York in 1980, he continued to build his reputation in the theater as an originator of new roles, in such off-Broadway productions as "Baby With the Bathwater," "The Dining Room" (later filmed for PBS – "Great Performances") "Life During Wartime," "Mr. Gogol and Mr. Preen," "Bodies, Rest and Motion," and Mamet's "Prarie du Chen," "Oh Hell," and "Oleanna." His stage credits, approaching fifty during his ten years in New York, also include the Broadway production of "Our Town," Tony Award winner for Best Ensemble. Macy was also seen on the London stage in the spring of 2000, where he co-starred in the revival of David Mamet's "American Buffalo" at the Donmar Warehouse. Following the run in London, the play moved to the Atlantic Theater Company in New York for a record breaking run.

Along with his acting career, Macy has also earned respect as a teacher and director. Having led theater classes in Chicago and at New York University, today he serves as director in the residence at the Atlantic Theater company in New York. His extensive directing resume includes "Boy's Life" at Lincoln Center, the LA production of "Oleanna" at the Tiffany Theater, as well as "Lip Service," an HBO film which won an ACE Award for best Theatrical Production. Most recently, Macy directed the play "The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite" at the Atlantic Theater Company in New York.

In 1998, Macy was honored by Showest when he was named Best Supporting Actor of the Year for his body of work.

Macy is married to Golden Globe winning actress Felicity Huffman, who stars on "Desperate Housewives." They live in Los Angeles with their two daughters.

IAN MCKELLEN / Zebedee

Ian McKellen's London stage debut was in 1964 in "A Scent of Flowers" led to an invitation by Laurence Olivier to join the National Theatre production. He was soon established as the leading classical actor of his generation for his work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and on Broadway as Salieri in "Amadeus" (1981 Tony Award).

On film he is renowned as Gandalf (LORD OF THE RINGS), Magneto (The X-MEN Series) James Whale (GODS AND MONSTERS) and as Shakespeare's RICHARD III.

KYLIE MINOGUE / Florence

At just 11 years old, Kylie Minogue (born in 1968) made her first appearance on television in the popular Australia series “Skyways.” She followed that with “The Henderson Kids “ (1985) and finally, in 1986, she emerged as the car mechanic Charlene in “Neighbours.” Her two-year stretch in the garage made her famous as a soap star around the world, but in 1988, she hung up her overalls and took her first step towards pop superstardom with a re-make of the Little Eva classic “The Locomotion.”

That first step proved to be a giant bound into the charts: she enjoyed a succession of hits including “I Should Be So Lucky” (UK #1 in 1988), followed by “Got to be Certain” (#2), “Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi” (#2), “Hand on Your Heart” (#1), “Wouldn’t Change A Thing” (#2), “Never Too Late” (#4), “Tears on My Pillow” (#1), “Better the Devil You Know” (#2), “Step Back In Time” (#4), “What Do I Have To Do” (#6) and “Shocked” (#6).

Only five records by females have ever debuted at #2 in the UK charts. Four of them are Kylie’s. Throughout her singing career, she has kept the platinum presses busy, with her 1988 album “Kylie” going seven times platinum in the UK, and countless other platinum awards all over the world.

By 1990, Kylie had discarded her girl-next-door image, and shifted towards something far raunchier. By the time she recorded her fourth album – “Let’s Get To It” in 1991 - she was providing lyrical input, and she scored major hits around this time dueting with Jason Donovan and Keith Washington. Later, she worked with Nick Cave and The Manic Street Preachers, Robbie Williams and most recently, The Scissor Sisters.

Most music acts would be happy to receive one major award per year: but for Kylie, each month seems to bring her some further laurels, whether in terms of sales or industry or public appreciation. Name any of her recent singles – “On A Night Like This”, “Can’t Get You Out of My Head”, “In Your Eyes” – and it’s bound to have won an award. She has also topped many polls for her appearance, including “Sexiest Woman on the Planet”. A Grammy in 2004 and another Grammy nomination in 2005. She has appeared in a 20-page fashion spread in Australian Vogue, she’s adorned countless covers of Vogue, Harpers Bazaar, Elle, The Face and GQ, to name but a few; she has performed before Prince Charles and Princess Diana, she starred in the closing ceremony for the 2000 Olympics. Her tours and videos are legendary. She is both phenomenal and ubiquitous.

Through it all, she has maintained her interest in acting. In 1990, she starred in DELINQUENTS, the top grossing UK movie, and in 1994 she was in Jean-Claude Van Damme’s STREET FIGHTER. In 2001, she played the part of the Green Fairy in Baz Luhrmann’s multi-award-winning MOULIN ROUGE.

This whirlwind rush through her career omits far more than it mentions. But it goes to show what millions and millions of people already know - Kylie is one of the world’s most successful entertainers ever.

Since his entry into the indie film community, Kevin Smith has seen it all - from the surprise critical and commercial success he received for his debut film CLERKS, to the disappointing critical and commercial drubbing he took on his second outing MALLRATS. He caught a break on his third film, the critically hailed CHASING AMY, and managed not to get killed by the religious zealots over his fourth film, the comedic spiritual meditation DOGMA. With the aptly titled JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK, Smith wrapped up the five-film “Jersey Trilogy” and headed for more grown up territory with JERSEY GIRL.

Along the way, Smith has also found time to make himself a nuisance by smearing his name all over John Pierson’s Indie Film bible, Spike, Mike, Slackers and Dykes. He’s published the screenplays to all five of his previously released films, written comic books featuring not only his own characters (the multiple-printed Clerks and Jay and Silent Bob), but also legendary mainstays of the superhero world (the award-winning Daredevil and Spider-Man and the Black Cat at Marvel Comics, and the award-winning Green Arrow at DC Comics), and written a monthly column for UK based Arena Magazine. With his View Askew partner, Scott Mosier, he’s also executive-produced four low budget, first film efforts (including Bryan Johnson’s Lion’s Gate release VULGAR) and one large budget, multiple Academy Award winner (GOOD WILL HUNTING).

Smith recently wrapped production on CLERKS 2: THE PASSION OF THE CLERKS, a sequel to CLERKS, which stars Rosario Dawson and reunites stars Brian O’Halloran and Jeff Anderson, with Smith and Jason Mewes as Silent Bob and Jay, respectively, as well as a host of surprise cameos. The film follows the Quick Stop employees ten years later as they face their thirties and the responsibilities of adulthood.

Besides MALLRATS, however, Smith has survived other humbling “creative” experiences that he inexplicably has failed to suppress—such as his ill-fated SUPERMAN LIVES screenplay for Warner Brothers, and his animated series version of CLERKS for ABC primetime, which the network unceremoniously aired only twice.

Smith was one of the first filmmakers to venture into cyberspace, establishing the insanely popular View Askewniverse website (www.viewaskew.com) in the mid-nineties, following it up with the pop culture review site originally depicted as a gag in “Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back,” Movie Poop Shoot (www.moviepoopshoot.com), and then starting a short film contest on the web, dubbed Movies Askew (www.moviesaskew.com). Most recently, Smith launched his fifth unique content site, Silent Bob Speaks (www.silentbobspeaks.com), which features a diary format of the filmmaker’s daily routine, under the heading “My Boring-Ass Life.”

Not afraid to take money from the big corporations, Smith has directed commercials for Diet Coke, Nike, Hasbro, and Panasonic – appearing as pitchman for the Panasonic DVD Recorder in the latter. This year, Smith also teamed up with Norman Lear’s Declare Yourself and Comedy Central to produce a series of voter registration Public Service Announcements starring, amongst others, Ben Affleck, Ray Romano, Larry David and Jay and Silent Bob.

But if the film thing doesn’t pan out, there’s always retail – as Smith owns a pair of comic book stores on both coasts: Jay and Silent Bob’s Secret Stash, in beautiful downtown Red Bank, New Jersey, and Jay and Silent Bob’s Secret Stash in Los Angeles, California.

As for the hood ornaments he's collected, there's plenty of tin to go around: the Filmmaker's Trophy at Sundance for CLERKS; the Prix de la Jeunesse and the International Critic's Week Award at the Cannes Film Festival, also for CLERKS: The Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay for CHASING AMY, and a Humanitas Award for GOOD WILL HUNTING. The Video Software Dealer's Association named him Visionary of the Year for his longtime commitment to the DVD format and sales success in the field. Smith also received the Defender of Democracy Award from Norman Lear's People for the American Way organization for his production of DOGMA. For his writing in the comics field, Smith has received a Harvey Award, a Wizard Fan Award, an Eagle Award, and had GREEN ARROW: QUIVER named as one of 2003's Best Books for Young Adults by the American Library Association's Young Adult Library Service. In the fall of 2002, the town of Paulsboro in NJ named a street after him: Kevin Smith Way.

Yet at the end of the day, the two titles Smith touts most proudly are "husband" and "father." He married wife Jennifer in April 1999 and celebrated the birth of their daughter, Harley Quinn, in June of that same year (you do the math).

JON STEWART / Zeebad

Jon Stewart is considered one of America's top social and comedic voices. Since taking over as the host of "The Daily Show" in January of 1999, the show and the network have seen higher ratings. As host of "The Daily Show" Stewart has interviewed such luminaries as former President Bill Clinton, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton, John Kerry, John Edwards and Bob Dole and such celebrity icons as Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Bruce Willis.

For the past five years, Stewart and "The Daily Show" have received 10 Emmy Award nominations and won 7. These include winning for Outstanding Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Program four times: 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005 as well as Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Series in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Jon himself was nominated for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program in 2002, 2003 and again in 2005.

In 2004, "The Daily Show" was also honored by the Television Critics Association by winning for Outstanding Achievement in News and Information, beating out traditional news shows in the category. In 2003 and 2005, Jon won for Individual Achievement in Comedy and the show won in 2003 for Outstanding Achievement in Comedy. In 2001, "The Daily Show" also received the prestigious Peabody Award for excellence in its "Indecision 2000" campaign coverage and again in 2005 for "Indecision 2004."

While it may be the conventional route for a stand-up comedian to sign a book deal and expound on their early days inside dingy comedy clubs, Stewart has gone the other way. His debut book, Naked Pictures of Famous People, (Rob Weisbach Books) is a collection of humorous what-if essays. Stewart's latest book (written with the writers at "The Daily Show"), AMERICA (THE BOOK): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction, was released September 20th through Warner Books Publishing, and immediately topped The New York Times Best Seller List and stayed at #1 for 18 consecutive weeks. It was also ranked #1 on the best-seller lists in The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today and San Francisco Chronicle. "America" was given the prestigious book of the year in 2004 by Publishers Weekly. In addition, at the

2005 Grammy awards, both Jon and the Cast of “The Daily Show” were honored with Best Comedy Album, for AMERICA: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction.

Prior to taking over “The Daily Show,” Stewart was a series regular on HBO’s critically-acclaimed series-within-a-series, “The Larry Sanders Show,” playing a character he should know very well: himself. The final season saw, among other things, Stewart seemingly being groomed to take over the fictitious late-night throne from the perpetually paranoid Larry Sanders (Garry Shandling). Stewart also served as a creative consultant on the series. Most recently Stewart has been featured on such shows as “Oprah” and “60 Minutes.” Other television credits for Stewart include the Cable Ace-nominated one-hour HBO comedy special “Jon Stewart: Unleavened,” which premiered in September 1996, as well as guest hosting “The Late, Late Show With Tom Snyder,” “News Radio and Mr. Show With Bob & David.”

Stewart has graced the cover of numerous magazines including Newsweek, Rolling Stone, New York Magazine, etc. He was also named “Entertainer of the Year” for 2004 by Entertainment Weekly and is being honored as New York Entertainer of the Year” by Variety.

Stewart’s been seen in numerous feature films including the Danny De Vito-directed Warner Brothers comedy DEATH TO SMOOCHY starring Edward Norton, Robin Williams, De Vito and Catherine Keener; BIG DADDY opposite Adam Sandler, which grossed over \$160 million dollars domestically; the romantic drama PLAYING BY HEART opposite Gillian Anderson; and THE FACULTY, a horror-comedy directed by Robert Rodriguez.

The New Jersey native began honing his skills in New York City, moving through the ranks of its top comedy clubs to appearances on HBO’s Young Comedians Special and “The Late Show With David Letterman.”

Hosting a late-night talk show was nothing new to Stewart. After briefly hosting a half-hour nighttime talk show on MTV, aptly titled “The Jon Stewart Show,” Paramount enlarged the show to a one-hour format for national syndication. The critically acclaimed talk show featured a variety of celebrity guests from the worlds of music, entertainment, sports and fashion. The show aired from September 1994 through June 1995.

DANIEL TAY / Doogal

Daniel Tay is a 14 year-old native New Yorker. After seeing his older brother David perform on Broadway, he realized he could memorize everyone's part, but decided he wanted one of his own. He began studying acting, voice, dance, and music. He quickly booked a recurring role on “The Late Show With David Letterman,” and was also seen on the small screen pranking innocent people on “The Jamie Kennedy Experiment.” He will soon be seen in the upcoming independent films BROOKLYN RULES, directed by Michael Corrente, where he plays a young Jerry Ferrara, and in BEER LEAGUE, directed by Frank Sebastiano. He appeared as young Harvey Pekar in AMERICAN SPLENDOR (winner of 2003 Grand Jury Prize at Sundance), and is most recognized for playing Will Ferrell’s half brother in ELF, directed by Jon Favreau. Daniel is a great student, but not just when it comes to academics. A huge fan of playing and studying sports, Daniel is known to many as a statistical sports genius. His summers, when not working, are spent in basketball camp being coached by some of his idols, such as Walt "Clyde" Frazier, and Stephon Marbury.

JOHN KRASINSKI / Additional Voices

A dynamic young actor who has caught the eye of this generation's most exciting directors, such as Sam Mendes and Bill Condon, John Krasinski is quickly making his mark in both film and television. Krasinski portrays sales rep Jim Halpert, a decent and funny guy who has a crush on his co-worker Pam, and likes to make trouble for Dwight, his cubicle mate on NBC's "The Office." Krasinski's feature-film credits include KINSEY, starring Liam Neeson and Laura Linney, and DUANE HOPWOOD starring David Schwimmer and Janeane Garafalo, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He also appeared in JARHEAD, starring Jamie Foxx and Jake Gyllenhall and directed by Sam Mendes. Among Krasinski's television credits are appearances in NBC's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Ed" and "Without a Trace." Krasinski graduated from Brown University as an honors playwright and later studied at the National Theater Institute. Born and raised in Newton, Massachusetts, Krasinski currently spends his time between Los Angeles and New York City.

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DOOGAL

About the Filmmakers

JEAN DUVAL / Co-Director

DOOGAL is Jean Duval's feature film debut. But he's a highly experienced creative who's been in and around the animation industry for his entire working career, including 10 years with Disney (Europe, Middle East and Africa), for whom he managed a 17-person team of Character Artists.

Jean has worked as a layout man, Assistant Animator and Storyboarder on TV and movie productions including DUCK TALES THE MOVIE, TALE SPIN, THE POWER OF LOVE and GOOF TROOP. For Brizzi films, he worked on layout and animation on BABAR THE MOVIE, "Babar" the TV series and ASTERIX.

His formal training is in graphic arts, and subsequently (at the Etablissement Cinematographique et Photographique des Armees) in storyboarding, and creating characters for animated films.

FRANK PASSINGHAM / Co-Director

Frank was Director of Photography on Aardman's CHICKEN RUN and CREATURE COMFORTS and is currently working in the same capacity on Aardmen/ Dreamworks FLUSHED AWAY.

Frank has worked in animation for 25 years, including the role of key animator for Bolex Brother's award winning THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF TOM THUMB.

DAVE BORTHWICK / Co-Director

Dave established Bolex Brothers in 1991 and directed THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF TOM THUMB which, went on to win many international awards including the Evening Standard British Film Award (1995) for Best Technical/ Artistic Achievement.

BUTCH HARTMAN / Executive Producer and Co-Writer

Michigan native Butch Hartman remembers wanting to create cartoons as far back as kindergarten. "I drew a picture of my teacher and she kept raving about it. I realized art was a good way to get attention and I was hooked," said Hartman.

Hartman pursued drawing through high school and then attended Cal Arts in order to study animation. Although he was interested in acting, Hartman decided on animation as a career after working freelance as an assistant animator for Don Bluth on AN AMERICAN TAIL during his senior year at Cal Arts. Upon graduation, he worked as a character designer and storyboard artist for Marvel Productions, and later, Ruby Spears Productions.

Soon after, he earned a job working on "Family Dog" for Amblin Television before joining Hanna-Barbera in 1991. Hartman worked at Hanna-Barbera for six years doing storyboard work, directing cartoons and creating his own shorts for "What A Cartoon!" He also wrote and

directed episodes of “Dexter’s Laboratory,” “Cow & Chicken” and “Johnny Bravo” before churning out three shorts – PFISH & CHIP, HILLBILLY BLUE and GRAMPS.

After working at Hanna-Barbera, Hartman began working on Nickelodeon’s “Oh Yeah, Cartoons!” and created a new short, THE FAIRLY ODD PARENTS, which was developed into Nickelodeon’s newest animated series. Hartman's latest creation is “Danny Phantom.”

In 2002, the show was nominated for an Emmy in the category of Outstanding Music and Lyrics (Butch Hartman along with Steve Marmel and Guy Moon) for the original Fairly OddParents song, “I Wish Everyday Could Be Christmas”. In 2003, the show was nominated twice for an Emmy in the category of Outstanding Music and Lyrics (Butch Hartman and Steve Marmel) for "What Girls Love" and "It's Great to be a Guy". The show also garnered two BMI awards for Outstanding Theme Song and Underscore in 2002 and 2003.

Butch Hartman lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two daughters.

CORY EDWARDS / Co-Writer and Additional Voices

Cory Edwards made his directorial debut with the animated feature HOODWINKED. In the film he was also the voice of the coffee-addicted squirrel, Twitchy. During his career so far, Edwards has been involved in almost every creative area of moviemaking, including serving as writer, director, producer, actor, animator, art director and editor.

Edwards has been entertaining since childhood, and his love for the fantastic is still evident in the space helmets, vintage ray guns, and artwork all over his office. At an early age, his love for storytelling was always evolving. He moved from cartoons to elaborate puppet shows to radio shows on a tape recorder. But when he discovered the family’s Super 8 camera, filmmaking became his ultimate hobby. He shot everything from adventure serials to superhero comedies, complete with miniatures, animation and no-budget special effects. “It was no surprise to my parents to come home on any given day and see some paper maché monstrosity in the front yard,” says Edwards.

After college, Edwards worked at a production company in Tulsa, Oklahoma, honing his craft on music videos and commercials. Five years later he launched Blue Yonder Films with his brother and three friends in the business. It was with Blue Yonder that Cory produced and acted in his brother’s feature debut, CHILLICOTHE, a live action coming-of-age drama that was an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival in 1999.

Edwards eventually made the trek to the west coast, writing and directing several animated projects for direct-to-video markets, drawing all the storyboards and even designing the sets and characters himself. “I’ve been hands-on in a lot of areas,” he notes. “But I love the collaborative process that happens on a movie, when a lot of talented people come together to produce one big idea.”

TODD EDWARDS / Co-Writer

HOODWINKED marks Todd Edwards second feature as director. Beyond his success as a filmmaker, Todd has a reputation as a renaissance man, his wide-ranging skills spanning from comedic acting to art directing singing rock music.

In 6th grade, he spent a year creating and directed a fantasy adventure film, entitled APPRENTICE TO WIZARD, PRINCE TO KING. “I was the 6th grade Peter Jackson,” laughs Edwards, who built dozens of creatures for the ambitious homegrown effort. In college, Todd one-upped himself again by shooting a sci-fi action film that showcased a high-intensity dogfight

over a futuristic city. “There was no film program,” explains Todd, “it was a Christian liberal arts school in Indiana, and I’m pretty certain I was the only student who spent his entire junior year trying to emulate James Cameron! Luckily, I had some great art professors who understood what I was trying to do and supported it.”

His feature debut, CHILLICOTHE, which Todd wrote, directed and starred in, debuted with rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival in 1999.

Todd also has ambitions in rock music. He wrote nine original songs for HOODWINKED and performs one of them as a rocking Woodchuck. He is currently finishing his debut album that he plans to release in 2006.

TONY LEECH / Co-Writer

Tony Leech made his feature film debut as a co-writer/co-director on HOODWINKED, but he considers his real debut to be his Super 8 opus “The Space Connection” when he was 11 years old. “I’m part of a whole generation of kids who wanted to make films the moment they saw the opening shot of ‘Star Wars’,” Leech says. “Much of my childhood was spent building space ships and robots out of cardboard boxes and egg cartons.” A native of Southfield, Michigan, he attended university in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he first met his HOODWINKED collaborators Cory and Todd Edwards.

A theatre major in college, Leech concentrated on acting and co-founded a sketch comedy troupe that would later include the Edwards brothers. After graduation, Leech took a job with “Fire by Nite,” a youth-oriented variety television show for which he wrote, acted, directed segments and edited.

Leech next served as assistant director on Todd Edwards’ directorial debut, CHILLICOTHE, for Blue Yonder Films. Following stints directing commercials and music videos, Leech joined the Edwards brothers on what was then called “The Untitled Red Riding Hood Project.” His unique mix of experience in comedy writing, directing and editing made him a great fit for the HOODWINKED creative team.

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A Special Treat from DOOGAL To You

In the theatrical tradition of classic family films, we are pleased to present an animated short, **GOPHER BROKE**, before our feature presentation.

It is a comic romp about a hungry gopher intent on scoring a snack from one of the farm trucks that pass by his gopher's hole. In traditional slapstick style, our hero gets more than he bargains for in his attempts to get at the food.

GOPHER BROKE was nominated for the Best Animated Short Academy Award in 2005 and it recently screened at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

Produced by independent Blur Studio, the CGI animated short was directed and produced by Jeff Fowler and Blur founder Tim Miller.

The **GOPHER BROKE** team has plans to turn their short into a feature-length film.

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