

# EIGHT BELOW

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

*“Never underestimate a living spirit’s will to survive, especially when they’re surrounded by family.”*

From the coldest, windiest, most untouched wilderness on earth—and inspired by an astonishing true story—comes this thrilling tale of action and adventure, of dogs and men, of friendship and loyalty and of the stirring spirit of tenacity and hope that sparked one of the most incredible survival stories of all time. Set against the backdrop of icy, stormy Antarctica, EIGHT BELOW follows eight surprising heroes stranded at the bottom of the world and the one man who would stop at nothing to bring his true friends home.

The fierce Antarctic winter is just setting in when an intrepid team of explorers and scientists on a research mission—survival guide Jerry Shepard (PAUL WALKER), his best friend and cartographer Cooper (JASON BIGGS) and the rugged geologist Davis (BRUCE GREENWOOD)—just narrowly escape a fatal accident, thanks to their steadfast team of eight skilled sled dogs. Forced to evacuate, the men must leave the beloved dogs behind in the frozen wilds—with a promise they will return. But when the storm of the century approaches, cutting off all means of travel, the dogs are stranded. Now, as the intelligent, courageous dogs—including noble pack leader Maya, rambunctious rebel Shorty and rising young alpha-in-training Max—fight to make it through the most unforgiving winter on the planet, the heartbroken Jerry is driven to mount a seemingly impossible rescue mission, aided by a beautiful and adventurous bush pilot, Katie (MOON BLOODGOOD).

Held together only by unwavering bonds of friendship, the humans and the dogs alike make a remarkable journey of grit, endurance and belief to find one another again in this spectacular but perilous land.

Walt Disney Pictures presents EIGHT BELOW, in association with Spyglass Entertainment, directed by Frank Marshall, whose films as a director include the epic adventures “Alive” and “Congo” and who has produced some of the most popular and acclaimed motion pictures of the era including “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” “The Bourne Supremacy,” “Seabiscuit” and “The Sixth Sense.” The screenplay is by David DiGilio and inspired by the real-life story from 1957 that was the basis of the blockbuster Japanese film “Nankyoku Monogatari” (“Antarctica”). David Hoberman and Patrick Crowley are the producers. Todd Lieberman, Masaru Kakutani (the producer of the original Japanese film), Frank Marshall, Christine Iso, Roy Lee, Gary Barber and Roger Birnbaum are executive producers.

Bringing the awe-inspiring beauty of an Antarctic winter and the exhilarating valor of the film’s dog heroes to life is a creative team that includes Academy Award®-nominated director of photography Don Burgess (“The Polar Express,” “Spider-Man”), editor Christopher Rouse (“The Bourne Supremacy,” “The Italian Job”), production designer

John Willett (“Miracle”) and head animal trainer Mike Alexander (“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” “Cheaper by the Dozen”), who oversaw the specialized training of the film’s canine stars.

**THE ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE BEGINS:  
A TRUE STORY OF INCREDIBLE SURVIVAL INSPIRES *EIGHT BELOW***

When producer David Hoberman encountered the 1983 Japanese blockbuster “Nankyoku Monogatari” many years ago, the story of the marooned dogs and the human companions who refused to forget them took his breath away. The film’s epic storytelling and gripping evocation of the unsinking will to survive became the highest-grossing Japanese film of its time, continuing to hold box-office records for more than a decade. In the grand tradition of classic adventure sagas, he saw it as being “at once exciting, suspenseful and emotionally powerful.” Hoberman felt that the underlying themes of the story deserved to be seen by a much wider audience—and he envisioned a less harrowing, more family-oriented adventure that would bring the inspirational, sustaining links between friendship and survival even more to the fore.

“I loved the story because it was so action-packed, but it was also about all these epic themes of friendship, responsibility and triumph of the spirit,” says Hoberman. “It stayed with me for years and years, and I kept trying to get the project going, until at last a Disney executive who had seen the Japanese film and felt the same way about it as I did agreed to option it.”

David DiGilio, a young writer in Disney’s New Writers program and himself an avid outdoorsman, received the assignment to write a first draft of the script. DiGilio couldn’t believe his tremendous luck at being handed such a thrilling, real-life adventure story on which to cut his screenwriting teeth. “I fell in love with the story right away,” he says. “I’ve always been attracted to the outdoors and I’m a huge dog person, and I just thought this could be the perfect cinematic marriage of the two. I also liked the idea of exploring themes about friendship. Of course, it’s obviously about man’s best friend, but the movie also demonstrates how people from different backgrounds can be thrown together and find common ground when faced with adversity. When you place complex characters in a riveting outdoor adventure, you see how friendship truly is the key to our survival.”

Immersing himself in the turbulent, century-long history of Antarctic exploration, DiGilio moved the story to 1993, the very last year that sled dog teams were allowed to work in Antarctica (despite their long-standing status as essential members of numerous important expeditions, they were ultimately banned to protect the continent’s seals from exposure to the disease known as distemper). He forged a scientific mission for the men, based on the real-life search for million-year-old meteorites on Antarctica, and developed a quartet of quirky, adventuresome characters at the heart of the story: the fiercely independent Jerry, whose family is his dog team; the gruff, goal-oriented Davis, who just wants to put the tragedy of the expedition behind him; the lighthearted Cooper, who brings flashes of humor to the dark and icy Antarctic life; and the remarkably strong bush pilot Katie, who helps to drive Jerry towards his bold rescue.

He also took on an unusual and daring feat of imagination: forging eight compelling canine characters who demonstrate the same friendship, loyalty and courage as their human companions—and whose actions must carry a large portion of the story. A dog

owner himself, this was a rare chance for DiGilio to explore the language, social structure and spiritual world of dogs from a truly inside perspective. Though he was already intimately familiar with the joys and wonders of befriending canines, DiGilio had a lot of fun further researching dog behavior and the unique history of how humans and dogs evolved together—all in the hopes of creating an exciting view into the inner minds of the dogs as they struggle to survive and reunite with their human friends.

“A lot of people don’t know that the human-canine relationship goes back 14,000 years. But if you’re a dog lover, you’ve seen it firsthand. There’s a connection that exists to our animals that is almost primal in its purity and strength. It’s a true understanding and an unconditional love,” the screenwriter says. “Writing about the dogs of EIGHT BELOW was my favorite part of the whole project. I think every dog owner likes to think of their dogs as more of a person than a pet. And this was a chance to really explore the wonders of the canine personality and the pack dynamic. These are domesticated dogs who are forced to explore their wild roots when left on their own. We see stories of ‘man vs. nature’ all the time, and we have that element in this movie, but we also explore a new idea of ‘nature vs. nature.’ It’s captivating and emotional to see how the dogs adjust to their new environment.”

As the dogs battle to stay alive in the middle of the most harsh conditions imaginable, the dog team relies on close pack cooperation and the emergence of a new and surprising leader: Max, once the most timid and submissive of the team, who finds his strength in adversity. “In a way, Max’s story parallels Jerry’s emotional journey,” notes DiGilio. “Max starts out at the bottom of the pack and develops into a real alpha, learning to take responsibility along the way. Jerry is a great guide, but he’s forced to grow up and confront that he can’t do things alone. They are both coming-of-age stories about discovering your true potential.”

DiGilio’s ambitious screenplay for EIGHT BELOW might have wound up tagged as a great idea that was way too challenging to create on screen—except that the script found its way into the hands of one of Hollywood’s most adventurous filmmakers, Frank Marshall. Marshall had an instant and visceral reaction to the story. Without even realizing it was inspired by a true incident, Marshall found the story a stirring example of how stories of adventure can reveal the courage, friendship and sacrifices that keep us going in the toughest of times.

“I loved all the different threads that were going on in EIGHT BELOW,” Marshall says. “I love adventure, I love dogs, I love the outdoors, I love stories about survival and hope—and I also especially love to take on stories that are a true challenge to bring to the screen.”

Marshall continues: “One of the things I think that most drew me to EIGHT BELOW is that I am always drawn to stories about the vastness of the human spirit, about the will to keep going and keep trying under the most extreme conditions. This is a story about what happens when ordinary people and ordinary animals face extraordinary events that demand the best of them. You have the unique story of the dogs’ struggle, as a kind of family working together to overcome impossible odds. But it’s also about the journey the humans have to make—Jerry Shepard’s journey of growing up and moving on with his life, Davis’ journey to figuring out there’s more to life than just research—and all these journeys come together in a very moving way.”

Once Marshall learned of the original 1957 Japanese expedition and the acclaimed film about it, he became even more intrigued. He met with producer Masaru Kakutani, who originally produced the Japanese film “Antarctica,” and listened to his gripping and emotional stories of interviewing the original expedition members. He also contacted his good friend Susan Butcher, a four-time winner of the world’s pre-eminent dog-sledding race, the Iditarod, to learn as much as he could about the lives, minds and amazing abilities of huskies performing their natural jobs. “Susan gave me a lot of insight into how dogs will work together as a pack to survive,” Marshall notes. “I learned a lot from her about bringing the sled dogs’ world to life.”

But even as Marshall conducted his initial research, he was anticipating the biggest challenge of all—the extraordinary task of somehow re-creating the remote majesty, icy splendor and extreme-weather perils of Antarctica in such difficult shooting locations as the high Northern town of Smithers, British Columbia, and the cold, dark, sparsely populated island of Greenland.

“The production of EIGHT BELOW ranks right up there with the most challenging I’ve ever experienced,” sums up the director. “We were in the middle of the Sahara for ‘Raiders of the Lost Ark’ and we were trapped on a glacier at 10,000 feet in ‘Alive,’ but this ranks right up there in the top three. What was so rewarding on EIGHT BELOW is that most elements of the film came together despite the tough environmental challenges. We had a wonderful cast, exceptional dogs, fantastic locations and, throughout every minute of production, we were inspired by this unforgettable story of humans and animals triumphing over the odds.”

### **THE SLED DOGS: ABOUT THE EIGHT HEROES AT THE HEART OF *EIGHT BELOW***

While the human cast was key to the emotions and humor of EIGHT BELOW, there would be no story to tell at all unless the filmmakers could come up with eight canine actors capable of revealing the courageous, emotional and action-packed journey of the dogs trapped on Antarctica. The dogs would have to bring this literally hairy adventure to life—so to pull together one of the most talented animal casts ever required for a feature film, director Frank Marshall commandeered the services of Birds & Animals, one of Hollywood’s foremost animal training enterprises.

Says Marshall: “We knew that one of the most important elements was going to be the casting of the dogs. It was so important to us that each dog have its own individual character and unique look—and really their own distinct stories—that we needed to find eight dogs who were completely different from one another. We started the process of casting them early because it was so vital.”

Ultimately, Birds & Animals and the filmmakers of EIGHT BELOW came up with an eclectic canine cast that included previous film stars and pound puppies alike, each chosen for their special look and behavior. The canine stars include: seven-year-old Koda Bear, who plays pack alpha dog Maya; six-year-old D.J., who plays the emerging leader Max; three-year-old Noble, who plays the grey-colored Shadow; two-year-old Dino, who plays the red-tinged Buck; four-year-old Floyd and three-year-old Sitka, who play the twin dogs Dewey and Truman; three-year-old Jasper, who plays the rambunctious rebel Shorty; and four-year-old Apache, who plays the veteran of the pack, Old Jack.

“We met a lot of dogs, but my two favorites were Koda Bear, who plays Maya, and D.J., who plays Max, the dog who takes over the leadership of the group during the trek,” says Frank Marshall. “Koda Bear has a very noble stature, which was perfect for the motherly Maya, the Grand Dame of all these dogs with her silvery beauty, and D.J. was clearly very strong but also playful and had a look like no other dog I’ve ever seen, with these deep blue eyes that are just fantastically expressive.”

Marshall even developed a soft spot for the hard-to-handle Shorty. “Jasper, who played Shorty, was just a rebel through and through. He’d just go bounding along and just run right out of the shot sometimes. He was a real handful but he was also perfect for the part.”

There were dozens of dogs on the set at all times—the “actor dogs” (several of the roles were played by multiple dogs) and their “sled dog doubles,” who remained at the ready for the more complicated mushing sequences. Each of the dogs received special training for the skills they demonstrate in the film—from slipping their collars to carrying live birds in their mouths to fighting with an animatronic leopard seal. This work fell to head animal trainer Mike Alexander, who had one of the most demanding jobs on the film. Says Alexander: “When I first read the script, I thought, how in the world are we going to do all this stuff? There were a lot of challenges and a lot of them we couldn’t even foresee when we started out.”

The dogs began their training in California and then, three months before filming, the dogs and a team of 20 trainers moved to a farm in the snow-covered countryside near Smithers to acclimatize to the cold and ice. The dogs’ initial basic training was all about conveying emotions. “Frank wanted as many small, expressive movements that we could come up with, so we taught them a lot of different head movements along with snarls and grins,” says Alexander. “We also spent a lot of time working with the dogs playing Max and Maya to get them to interact intimately with each other, kissing each other and nuzzling each other all the time.”

As the dogs continued their training, they started to develop a whole new array of skills, from chasing birds through the air (accomplished by towing stuffed toys on a wire to entice them) to crawling over thin ice. The dogs even had to endure being buried under piles of snow. “We had to teach that very slowly. First, we worked on getting them to curl up and lie down on command,” explains Alexander. “Then, we started by putting just a little bit of snow on them and giving them a reward for letting that happen. Each time we did it, we piled a little bit more snow on the dogs until they became comfortable being completely buried!”

Some of the simplest behaviors were the most difficult to train. “We had to teach the dogs to watch Paul, which in the movie seems very natural, but it’s actually very hard,” Alexander notes. “The dogs have spent a lot of time with their trainers and are in tune with them so that’s who they naturally want to look at. Paul worked with us prepping and feeding the dogs and petting and talking to them so he could develop a real bond with them. At the same time, we worked with the dogs so that they would watch Paul, when in fact there’s a trainer off-screen telling the dog things like ‘put your paw out.’”

Each dog had two trainers working with them whenever the cameras were rolling—another huge challenge because, in the wide-open spaces of Northern Canada, it was very hard to hide these extraneous humans from the camera. Even pulling the sled could be challenging for the dogs—because instead of rushing over the snow for miles, as they are

bred instinctually to do, these sled dog actors often had to pull the sled for five feet and then come to a dead halt for a dramatic scene.

Along the way, the dogs developed their own unique animal bonds. “They are very social beings, these dogs, but the interesting thing is that they worked out their own social hierarchy in a way that basically matched the characters in the film! It just worked out to match the script, which I thought was incredible,” says Alexander.

For Marshall, working with the canine cast had both its tribulations and its rewards. “In some ways, they are just like actors. They have to be prepared and ready for their scenes—but they also have to be fed and walked and trained! And there is a whole different mode of working because you have to not only figure out what your actors and the dogs are doing in the scene, but also where the trainer will be, because the trainer has to be close enough to give commands and keep the dogs’ attention. It requires a lot of extra attention to detail.”

He continues: “At times it became absolutely hilarious on the set with eight trainers each yelling separate commands to their dogs while the camera was running—but the trainers did a great job. Overall, there was an amazing amount of dedication, discipline and passion that allowed us to tell the story of the dogs in a very fun and emotional way.”

### **THE ANTARCTIC SURVIVAL GUIDE: PAUL WALKER AS JERRY SHEPARD**

When the dog heroes of *EIGHT BELOW* are left behind in a roaring Antarctic winter storm to fend for themselves, it is Antarctic guide and musher Jerry Shepard who, driven by his love and loyalty to the dogs, undertakes a precarious mission to bring them back home. To play Shepard, a rough-hewn, lifelong adventurer and sled dog expert, the filmmakers knew they would need to find a most unusual leading actor—someone with the dramatic chops to play a man facing up to his own stubborn independence but also an actor who could be equally at home with serious outdoor skills, physical hardship and close relationships with dogs.

They found that perfect combination in Paul Walker, who came to the fore in the blockbusters “*The Fast and the Furious*” and the sequel, “*2 Fast 2 Furious*.” Walker is not only a dog owner and dog lover, but an avid climber, surfer, snowboarder and even race-car driver who was thrilled to take on *EIGHT BELOW*’s considerable physical challenges. Says producer Pat Crowley: “Paul is just completely credible as someone living this kind of life in nature. It was essential that you really believe in Jerry’s lifestyle and his kinship with the dogs, and Paul brings you right into that world.”

“I guess you could say that this story spoke to me personally with its emphasis on dogs, outdoor action and surviving the toughest of conditions,” says Walker. “I took it as a great compliment when Frank Marshall came to me and said I seemed like the right person for the role. He told me it was going to be really intense and incredibly difficult, but it didn’t turn out that bad. I thought we’d have to endure days at 50 below but we only got to 30 below!”

Walker found himself easily relating to Jerry Shepard and the internal struggles that emerge when he is forced to maroon his loyal dogs without much hope of surviving the Antarctic winter. “Jerry and I have a lot of things in common,” notes Walker. “He has the

kind of mentality where he wants to experience as much in life as he can. But he also doesn't really want to grow up. He kind of shuns responsibility and he's got this fear of commitment even though he's totally crazy about Moon Bloodgood's character, Katie. I think the only real connection he's comfortable showing is with his dogs, and when they get into trouble, it forces him to rethink everything else."

After accepting the role, Walker dove into intensive training for it, working with a real-life dog musher to learn more about the lifestyle and the tricks of the trade. Walker especially loved working so closely with his furry co-stars. "I'm a big dog person," he admits. "I grew up with dogs and have a Chesapeake Bay retriever who was with me for most of the shoot. Working with the sled dogs was really cool, especially getting to know all their personalities, which were each so unique. And any time I had the chance to jump on that sled and run with them, I loved it. It's a thrilling experience."

Not every aspect of the filmmaking was quite so ecstatic. At times, the conditions were downright grueling, but Walker found that this only helped him to probe more deeply into the experience of Jerry Shepard. "One thing that I learned in making EIGHT BELOW is that when things get really miserable, when it's cold and conditions are trying, you really see what people's true colors are," says Walker. "And you also see how teamwork is so necessary to get through it all, which to me is one of the most important themes of the film—this idea that we can only make it through the tough times through love and friendship."

### **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION: JASON BIGGS AS COOPER**

Every expedition to remote places relies on the brighter things in life—friendship, laughs and enthusiasm—to help survive the harsh conditions. Providing comic relief to Jerry Shepard's Antarctic trek is his good friend, the wily cartographer Cooper, played by Jason Biggs, who breaks out into adventure after achieving widespread popularity with his purely comic starring role in the runaway hits "American Pie," "American Pie 2" and "American Wedding."

From the beginning, director Frank Marshall felt the character of Cooper would help to add not only flashes of high-spirited humor but some Antarctic-style realism to the story. "When we were researching life in Antarctica, we found out that there are a lot of very colorful, quirky, unusual people who are drawn to working there, and Cooper is representative of that. You have to have a real sense of humor to live in those kinds of conditions, and he really brings the fun factor to the story," Marshall observes. "When Jason Biggs said he was interested in the role, I was surprised and thrilled. He adds yet another layer to the film, making for a very, very rich ensemble cast."

Biggs couldn't put down the screenplay. "Man, did I want those dogs to be saved," he recalls. "I immediately thought it was a cool story. It was compelling and sweet and also heroic, and it felt especially moving since it's based on something that really happened."

He was also quickly taken with Cooper's wit and gusto. "Cooper's an energetic, high-on-life type of person who truly loves being in a place like Antarctica. To quote Cooper, 'It's the only place on earth where you can have 20 hours of sunshine and all the snow cones you can eat.' He equates that with sheer bliss," says Biggs. "But there's more to Cooper because he is also a loyal friend to Jerry. They're the kind of friends who give

each other a hard time but underneath, they're always there for each other." Another draw for Biggs was the chance to bring his larger-than-life personality to his very first action film. "I'd been looking to do something different and this is a whole new genre for me—family adventure—something I've always wanted to do," he says.

Like Paul Walker, Biggs found himself both challenged and awed by the film's mountainous locations. "This was the real outdoors, with all its highs and lows," he comments. "Here we were, shooting on top of this glacier, basically in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes I couldn't believe where I was. But I was constantly moved by the beauty that surrounded us, and I learned that an actor in the wild gets to really let loose!"

Biggs didn't start EIGHT BELOW as a dog person, but he was soon irretrievably charmed by the devotion and skill of his canine castmates. "The dogs turned out to be awesome characters in their own right and great to work with," he says. "And I have to say, they're pretty good actors. In fact, I was quite envious of their performances!"

### **THE BUSH PILOT: MOON BLOODGOOD AS THE INTREPID KATIE**

The fate of the dogs left behind in EIGHT BELOW ultimately rests in the hands of one of the film's most daring characters, Katie, Jerry's ex-girlfriend and the skillful bush pilot who is able to fly in the most treacherous icy and windy conditions. A steely, savvy and committed adventurer, Katie is the catalyst who pushes Jerry to face up to his conscience and rescue his dog friends. She was also one of the most difficult characters in EIGHT BELOW to cast.

Explains producer Pat Crowley: "It isn't easy to find an actress you can really believe would be able to fly planes and helicopters in Antarctic conditions, someone who projects that natural sense of confidence in themselves, as well as the smarts and strength needed to live in this kind of world. We were so excited when we saw Moon Bloodgood. She might be just starting out in her career, but we were all unanimous about her star quality."

Beginning her career as a hip-hop dancer, Laker Girl and athletic model, Moon Bloodgood has been quickly rising into a new screen star, recently making her debut in "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton" and starring with Ashton Kutcher in "A Lot Like Love." Frank Marshall was especially impressed with her performance in EIGHT BELOW. "She brought so much to the character because she has this way about her that is just totally believable," he says. "She not only carries off Katie's intelligence and strength, she is someone you can see inspiring Jerry to move forward with his life."

Marshall continues: "I also thought it was important that Moon is a newcomer because she brings something very fresh and unexpected to the character that helps to make Katie totally unique."

Bloodgood was thrilled to have the opportunity, rare even for seasoned actresses, to play such a strong and powerful woman thriving in such an extreme environment. "Katie is a great character," Moon enthuses. "She's the kind of incredibly strong woman who can hang out with the boys, take all the jokes and be just as competent and tough as they are—and yet she can be quite vulnerable at the same time. She hasn't given up anything at all to be who she is, and she lives life to the fullest."

When it comes to Jerry, Katie is one of the few people who has a deep understanding of his largely hidden emotions. “She knows that Jerry is a real loner and has problems with intimacy,” explains Moon. “But she also probably knows him better than anyone, and that’s why she’s able to play such a pivotal role in helping him to reunite with the dogs who mean so much to him.” Paul Walker found that working with Bloodgood helped to bring his own character even more into focus. “She’s just so natural as someone who is athletic and capable and feminine all at the same time. I think Jerry realizes deep down inside that Katie is the one person who could ever have a chance at tying him down and I think that scares him. With Moon, it felt very real and true,” he says.

Moon felt similarly about Walker. “He’s a lot more like a true outdoorsman and adventurer than an L.A. actor,” she observes. “I felt like he was just perfect to play Jerry and we developed this great banter with each other. He gave me a lot in every scene together.”

The actress loved working not only with Walker but also with Jason Biggs (“He’s so funny but I don’t think people know how sweet and down-to-earth he can be also,” she says) and Bruce Greenwood (“Bruce is so sophisticated and smooth and sexy,” she comments). But in the end, some of her favorite co-workers turned out to be of the fur-bearing variety. “I felt really lucky because I got to know quite a few of the dogs really well,” she explains. “They’re so cute and cuddly, and having the chance to play with them made life on the set so much fun.”

As for the physical hardships of production, the enthusiastic Bloodgood didn’t mind them at all. “Sure, there were days when we had to face snow and wind and freezing cold, but how could I complain? It might have been a little tough at times, but it was also gorgeous and awe-inspiring every day. I felt really blessed to be a part of this story.”

### **THE SCIENTIST:** **BRUCE GREENWOOD AS DAVIS MCLAREN**

It is scientist Davis “Doc” McLaren’s relentless search for a mysterious meteorite in the vast, iced-over landscape of Antarctica that leads to the adventures of EIGHT BELOW. Playing Davis in a rare family-film turn is acclaimed Canadian actor Bruce Greenwood, who has appeared in two of this year’s most critically admired films—“Capote” and “The World’s Fastest Indian”—and is known for taking on a broad range of both independent roles, such as in Atom Egoyan’s “The Sweet Hereafter” and Istvan Szabo’s “Being Julia,” as well as Hollywood films such as “Thirteen Days,” in which he played John F. Kennedy, Jr., and “I, Robot,” with Will Smith.

Greenwood was another well-suited match with the tough-to-cast role of a laser-focused scientist at work in the most remote part of the world. He grew up skiing and climbing in Vancouver, has trekked in such far-flung spots as the Himalaya and even worked on an oil rig for two years in chilly Northern Canada. As for playing a scientist, Greenwood didn’t have to look too far for inspiration—his father is a geologist.

Clinching the deal for Greenwood was the fact that he has always been a huge fan of polar exploration. “I love true stories of adventure. I’d read all about Ernest Shackleton’s voyage to Antarctica and Roald Amundsen’s expeditions to the South Pole when I was a kid,” he says. “So polar exploration has always been in the back of my consciousness, and this was a chance to really get to experience it in a way, or at least thoroughly

pretend to experience it. *EIGHT BELOW* is an incredible journey in this Antarctic environment and the story of two men struggling with their own consciences as they try to get back to save the dogs who saved their lives. Ultimately, I thought it was not only an exciting story, but a really uplifting one.”

Greenwood was also intrigued by Davis’ personal transformation during the course of the story. “The thrill of discovery is what it’s all about for Davis. He comes to Antarctica with a very specific agenda of finding this magical meteorite—and, at times, his drive overwhelms his judgment,” the actor observes. “It takes him a while to realize that, but when he does, he changes as a person.”

Davis also undergoes a major turnaround in his thinking about the sled dogs. “At first, I think Davis really sees the dogs as just workers doing a job, towing him out to his research and towing him back. But as the movie goes on, he begins to realize the profound dedication and love that drives them. As he watches Jerry agonizing over leaving the dogs behind, it begins to eat away at him, and his conscience begins to keep him awake nights. Ultimately, he sees that he has to at least honor the sacrifice the dogs have made and try to find them.

Unlike Davis, Greenwood was instantly impressed by his sled dog co-stars. “They’re riveting creatures,” he says. “It’s so clear that these sled dogs really love what they do with a passion. When they’re in the sledding harnesses, they’re jumping around, barking, shivering with enthusiasm and as soon as they’re given the word, they take off and it’s just magic,” he says. Riding on the sled behind the dogs was another exhilarating experience. “Suddenly, after all the frenzy and commotion, it’s smooth, fast and quiet, white and soft; it’s a bit surreal.”

Greenwood also enjoyed the company of the human cast, especially given the film’s remote locations. “Being up in the mountains for a long time can be challenging, but with this gang, it was a great experience,” he says. “Jason Biggs is hysterically funny, Moon Bloodgood has such a positive vibe and Paul Walker was clearly the perfect person to play Jerry—he’s so alive and real.”

Frank Marshall was equally pleased with Greenwood. “When it came to casting Jerry and Davis, I wanted two opposite actors who, even before they say anything, seem to come from two completely different worlds. Bruce was great because he’s played so many sophisticated roles—I mean, he’s best known for playing President Kennedy, so he’s got a very strong, intelligent, cerebral feeling to him that really comes across when he and Jerry are together on screen. The way he plays Davis, you really sense that he’s someone who is all about accomplishing his goals—until he realizes in the aftermath of this expedition that that isn’t enough, that there’s more to life and friendship.”

### **RE-CREATING ANTARCTICA: THE DESIGN OF *EIGHT BELOW***

It is one of the least visited, least explored and least known parts of our world, the kind of place legends are made of—so how do you set a movie on the barely inhabitable continent of Antarctica? This was the question that faced the filmmakers of *EIGHT BELOW* head on. The one thing they knew they couldn’t do was send a large cast and crew to Antarctica itself—where 200-mile-per-hour winds and temperatures so cold they can actually shatter steel are the norm.

“We had to find a way to get the authentic look of Antarctica without actually going there, but we knew we would still have to go somewhere very cold and remote,” says Marshall. To solve the puzzle of finding a high, dry, frozen environment within reasonable reach of an entire production crew, Marshall brought in his previous collaborator on “Alive,” Robin Mounsey, a renowned location scout and technical adviser for mountain, glacier, snow, water and remote locations. “Robin is king of the mountains,” Marshall explains. “He’s an expert at finding these kinds of spots all around the world and is also a very valuable expert in mountain safety.”

Mounsey had his work cut out for him on EIGHT BELOW, trying to emulate the truly unique conditions on Antarctica. The coldest, driest and windiest place on earth, Antarctica lies literally at “the bottom of the earth,” at the planet’s southernmost pole. It is a stark, other-worldly realm in which 98 percent of the land is covered with a thick and permanent sheet of ice, while the other 2 percent is simply barren rock. So harsh it was never historically inhabited by humans, Antarctica has remained one of the last true wildernesses on earth, where few souls other than seals, penguins and the occasional explorer dare to dwell.

Only a few thousand humans live in Antarctica each year, most of them scientists conducting expeditions in what serves as a kind of perfect natural laboratory for the study of such intriguing fields as extreme weather, polar ice caps, astrophysics, uniquely adapted plant and animal life, global warming, glaciers, marine science and meteorological phenomena. Since humankind first landed on its shores in the 19th century, the continent has drawn some of the boldest, bravest and most determined explorers and scientific researchers from around the world.

Robin Mounsey scoured the earth for a place that could stand in for this amazing realm and eventually found it in Smithers, Canada—a small, high-altitude ski town about 750 miles above Vancouver, British Columbia. Smithers sits on a dramatic tabletop plateau with 360-degree views of treeless wilderness, the perfect place to replicate the wild icescapes of Antarctica. Mounsey also scouted areas in faraway Greenland, the magical northern country replete with glaciers and coastal ice fields, where some of the film’s most spectacular shots of nature were achieved. Additional scenes featuring awe-inspiring vistas were shot in Stewart, British Columbia, just across the border from Hyder, Alaska. Finally, icebreakers in Spitzbergen, Norway, were commandeered for the exhilarating scenes in which the rescuers break through the Antarctic ice.

Arriving in Smithers, production designer John Willett found his crew working in minus-25-degree temperatures and such strong winds, they could only work in short bursts or their hands would instantly be frostbitten. Nevertheless, they persevered to build the main physical sets, including the camp for the United States Research Base, the Italian base, Mount Melbourne and Dewey’s Drop.

Willett did extensive research on some of the actual bases that exist on Antarctica—in particular McMurdo Base, the famous American base where up to 1,000 personnel live in the summer months and some 250 remain encamped during the long, dark winter. Made up of dormitories, labs and canteens, McMurdo is a kind of village unto itself with its own unique culture created by its rugged, individualistic citizenry made up of explorers and adventurous scientists. “We wanted to create as much realism in the base as possible to make it more interesting and exciting for the audience,” says Willett. “It’s such a brutal climate that one thing we wanted to show in our sets is just how hard it is to live there

and survive, even in buildings. It's an extraordinary environment, also like being on the moon. I think everyone has some part of them that is fascinated by Antarctica."

Shooting in *Smithers* wasn't quite as unforgiving and harsh as shooting in Antarctica would have been—but it wasn't exactly easy, either. "We had constant challenges, especially due to the weather," says Frank Marshall. "Because the weather could shift dramatically in just ten minutes, we had three different scenes prepared for each day, so that we could do any one of them, depending on conditions. And even then, we were often working in the middle of cold, snow and wet. Just keeping the snowflakes off the camera lenses was a big deal—and we constantly worried about being able to see, to do playback, even to lay the cables in near white-out conditions."

With cast and crew wrapped in as many as five thick layers of thermal clothing topped off with down parkas and mountaineering goggles, at times the individual members of the cast and crew became downright unrecognizable! However, director of photography Don Burgess was happy braving the weather. Having cut his teeth shooting extreme documentaries, as well as climbing mountains, photographing world-cup skiing events in Europe and working on the winter movie "Runaway Train" in Alaska, he says he would rather shoot on the side of a mountain any day than on a Hollywood sound stage. An Academy Award<sup>®</sup> nominee for "Forrest Gump," Burgess recently shot a more fantastical look at a wintry environment with the acclaimed animated feature "Polar Express."

As much as he loves adventures, Burgess had to make careful preparations for shooting *EIGHT BELOW*. "Before you set out for a film like this, the cameras have to be treated for cold weather and the lenses, too," Burgess explains. "They have to be taken apart and relubricated so that they can deal with extremely cold temperatures. You have to double the size of your batteries and you have to house the batteries so that they're more protected from the cold. To get out in a snowstorm and get the equipment to perform properly and actually be able to get the shot is really challenging, especially when the wind's blowing hard and the bitter cold goes right through you."

Says producer David Hoberman: "Don has an amazing way with landscapes. He's given the film the epic scope to match the emotions of the story."

Just bringing people up and down the mountain in *Smithers* was a major obstacle—one solved by a quirky Swedish military vehicle known as a Hagglund, which looks like a squat tank, and a few of which could pull the 120 members of the cast and crew up the mountain in a matter of minutes. When Marshall first saw a Hagglund in Greenland, he immediately wrote the vehicle into the film's script. "I'd never seen anything like them before and I thought they were really cool," he says. "I wrote them into the story, but they also came in very handy for moving people up the mountain in *Smithers*."

While most of the film was shot on location, a few scenes were too dangerous to shoot in the great outdoors. For the pivotal scenes in which both humans and dogs face danger in the freezing water beneath the ice, John Willett created what became known as "The Ice Set" on a big stage. "The Ice Set was a tremendous challenge, but it was absolutely essential to the action of the story," Willett notes. "We had to create it to match actual ice fjords that exist in Greenland—I had been in Greenland four times by the time we designed it, so I knew what it had to look like—but it also had to be a place where we could operate the animatronic seals and where the dogs could perform. Creating the ice itself in an authentic way was very daunting and involved a 13-part

process to mold several different kinds of ice, including clear ice, frozen river ice, frozen snow and iceberg ice.”

Sums up Willett: “Any time you’re given a chance to emulate nature, it involves a fantastic creative effort. Nature is not something you can easily fool people with—so trying to create rocks or trees or ice or rivers is actually one of the biggest challenges in filmmaking.”

Later, Oscar<sup>®</sup>-winning special-effects artist Stan Winston’s digital team was brought in to create the tenacious animatronic leopard seal for the epic battle with the dogs. Having worked with Winston on “Jurassic Park,” Frank Marshall knew he was the only man for the job. “There is only one guy who can create this kind of exciting realism and that’s Stan Winston,” says Marshall. Once built, Winston’s seal was covered in a thin layer of peanut butter to encourage the dogs to attack it!

Though the challenges were constant in re-creating Antarctica on screen, in the end the filmmakers felt it was all worth it. “I hope people will be really knocked out by the world we’ve created,” says Pat Crowley. “We wanted to take audiences on an amazing ride through a place most people will never go, while telling an epic story with a lot of emotional power.”

### ABOUT THE CANINE CAST

The canine stars of *EIGHT BELOW* had to be able to do much more than sit and stay—they had to demonstrate the indomitable will to survive. To cast the furry actors who would face unusual challenges for animal stars, head animal trainer Mike Alexander of Birds & Animals searched far and wide for a team of both unusually intelligent and charismatic huskies, compiling his cast through a series of spontaneous auditions with animals who ranged from sleek show dogs to homeless strays whose fates were turned around by the film. Says Alexander: “We were looking for dogs with unique looks, great personalities and a love of learning, and we didn’t really care very much about conformation, so we ended up using a lot of rescue dogs who turned out to be just wonderful. In a story about survival, they worked tremendously well.”

As **MAYA**, the strong and maternal alpha leader of the pack, seven-year-old silver beauty **Koda Bear** stars. One of the cast’s most veteran performers, Koda Bear has been seen in such films as “Snow Dogs” and on television in “Malcolm in the Middle.” Almost passed up for the part because the filmmakers initially wanted a white dog, she won over the filmmakers, becoming one of director Frank Marshall’s favorite members of the cast. On the set, she was known to her trainers as “The Princess” due to the fact that she wouldn’t go anywhere without her special blanket. Also starring as Maya is the equally beautiful seven-year-old **Jasmine**, who was thrilled to have been rescued from a refuge for abandoned dogs in Colorado and whisked away to stardom by Mike Alexander in order to take on the role. Finding her true joy in life, Jasmine now conducts sled dog tours at a popular bed-and-breakfast joint in British Columbia. Their sledding double was **Kalista**, herself an experienced alpha sled dog and veteran of many long treks, who, much like her character, always helped to keep the other dogs out of trouble during the filming.

**MAX**, the young sled dog who starts out in the back of the pack but becomes a heroic leader in the course of the incredible adventures of **EIGHT BELOW**, is six-year-old **D.J.**, a playful, happy-go-lucky natural-born movie star who previously starred in the canine hit “Snow Dogs.” D.J. impressed his trainers and director Frank Marshall with his uncanny improvisational skills and always brought an extra dash of drama and emotion to his scenes as Max. Now living the high life in Los Angeles, D.J. has become one of **Birds & Animals’** biggest stars and can usually be found flaunting his fur at a film or television audition. Also playing Max is D.J.’s sledding double, **Timba**. A veritable pup at only a year old, Timba was just starting to learn how to pull a sled when she joined the cast of **EIGHT BELOW**, impressing the trainers with her fast, graceful moves and cuddly nature. Since then, she’s become a member of a real-life sled dog team, leading tours for intrepid travelers in Canada.

The all-brawn-and-too-few-brains rebel dog, **SHORTY**, is played by equally playful, all-white three-year-old **Jasper**—another rescued stray who was especially excited to get the chance to star in **EIGHT BELOW** because he quickly discovered that snow is his favorite thing in the world. Jasper’s sledding double was the tenacious **Lightning**, a professional sled puller and impressive canine athlete who never seemed to tire of pulling the sled.

**DEWEY**, one of the close-knit twins in the pack, is portrayed by four-year-old **Floyd**, one of the canine cast’s most experienced actors who, when not starring in movies such as “Snow Dogs,” can now be seen on stage as one of the regulars at the Universal Animal Show in sunny Florida. His sledding double was two-year-old **Ryan**, a former frou-frou show dog from Texas who had never even seen snow before beginning his training for **EIGHT BELOW**! Falling instantly in love with the ice and cold, Ryan was always ready to take off with the sled, even when it wasn’t his turn.

As **TRUMAN**, Dewey’s identical brother, is three-year-old **Sitka**, another pound puppy from Colorado who led trainer Mike Alexander on her own hair-raising adventure when she escaped from her crate on their initial journey to California. Luckily, she decided to return and was able to make her film debut in style, discovering that she had a yen for yummy slices of Canadian duck. Her sledding and action double was five-year-old **Chase**, a California native known to the trainers as “the big goofball.” Chase graciously underwent a regular non-toxic dye job in the production’s “Canine Day Spa” to look more like Sitka.

Starring as the silvery, sleek **SHADOW** are **Noble**, a three-year-old canine actor known for really getting into character, and four-year-old **Troika**, a rescue found emaciated on the streets of Tennessee only to be transformed into a canine star. Troika demonstrated a beautiful howling voice on the set of **EIGHT BELOW** and has since become a full-time actor, living in Los Angeles and regularly auditioning for parts. Both Noble and Troika were double threats, doing both the acting and the sledding for their roles.

The spirited, redheaded **BUCK** comes to life through the expertise of **Dino** and **Flapjack**. Dino, known on the set for his keen canine smarts, began life as a show dog in Montreal but has since journeyed to the far warmer climate of Florida to star in the Universal Animal Show with fellow EIGHT BELOW castmate Floyd. An Alaskan native, Flapjack is a true working endurance sled dog who has continued to do his job in the frozen wilds following the film. Flapjack also holds the distinction of being the biggest dog on the movie, weighing in at over 120 pounds. Dino and Flapjack performed both the acting and sledding for Buck.

Finally, the oldest dog in the pack, renowned for his well-honed poker-playing skills, **OLD JACK** is played by relative youngster **Apache**, a beautiful four-year-old Pinto (black-and-white) husky who hails from the British Columbian outback, and by **Buck**, an all-white dog previously seen in “Snow Dogs,” who had a daily non-toxic dye job to match Apache’s dark spots.

### ABOUT THE HUMAN CAST

#### **PAUL WALKER (Jerry Shepard)**

With an undeniable screen presence and talent that has enabled him to work on several of the most successful films of the past few years, Paul Walker has made the leap to leading-man status.

Walker recently completed production on the action-drama “The Death and Life of Bobby Z” for director John Herzfeld, in which he plays an ex-Marine who must help a DEA official (Laurence Fishburne) by impersonating a recently deceased drug lord and ultimately finds himself running from the law. Walker has also completed production on the DreamWorks and Warner Bros. World War II drama, “Flags of Our Fathers,” with Director Clint Eastwood. Based on James Bradley’s book *Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima*, Walker plays Hank Hansen, a seasoned soldier fighting in that infamous battle.

Walker will next be seen in two upcoming and very different feature films—EIGHT BELOW and “Running Scared.” “Running Scared,” which was written and directed by Wayne Kramer (“The Cooler”) and co-stars Vera Farmiga, takes place over the course of one night and tells the story of two ten-year-old boys who get their hands on a mob gun used in the shooting of a cop. Walker plays the father of one of the boys, and he must locate the kids before the mob finds them first. The film will be released by New Line on February 24th.

Walker was last seen in the Sony/Mandalay Pictures film “Into the Blue,” from director John Stockwell, co-starring Jessica Alba.

In the 2004 holiday season, Walker was seen in “Noel,” starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Penelope Cruz. The film was Chazz Palminteri’s directorial debut for Neverland Films.

In 2003, Walker co-starred in director Richard Donner’s adaptation of Michael Crichton’s novel *Timeline* for Paramount Pictures. He also starred in Universal’s “2 Fast 2 Furious” (grossing more than \$127 million), the sequel to last year’s box-office success. In the film, which was directed by John Singleton, Walker reprised his role as Brian O’Conner, a cop who is stripped of his badge and is recruited to infiltrate the

Miami street-racing circuit in an effort to redeem himself. He also previously starred in Universal's "The Fast and the Furious," which reunited him with director Rob Cohen and co-starred Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez and Rick Yune. Walker also co-starred with Steve Zahn and Leelee Sobieski in the critically praised thriller "Joy Ride." The film was directed by John Dahl ("Rounders") for 20th Century Fox.

Walker also co-starred in the box-office hits "The Skulls" (directed by Rob Cohen), opposite Joshua Jackson, about a Harvard secret elitist society, and the football dramedy "Varsity Blues," opposite James Van Der Beek for Paramount Pictures. He was also seen in the critically acclaimed film "Pleasantville," from New Line Cinema. This fantasy drama, from writer/director Gary Ross, is about two 1990s teens (Reese Witherspoon and Tobey Maguire) who get trapped in a 1950s "Leave It to Beaver"-type television show.

Walker's other films include Miramax's "She's All That," opposite Freddy Prinze Jr. and Rachael Leigh Cook, and "Brokedown Palace" for 20th Century Fox, with Claire Danes and Kate Beckinsale.

When not on location, Walker resides in Los Angeles.

### **BRUCE GREENWOOD (Davis)**

Bruce Greenwood is well known for his role as President John F. Kennedy in the Cuban Missile Crisis drama "Thirteen Days." Most recently, he starred as Truman Capote's partner, the writer Jack Dunphy, in the acclaimed "Capote," as well as appearing in "The World's Fastest Indian" with Anthony Hopkins.

Greenwood has worked three times with acclaimed director Atom Egoyan: on "Exotica," "The Sweet Hereafter" and "Ararat." Greenwood's other film credits include "Double Jeopardy," "I, Robot," "Being Julia," "Racing Stripes" and "Rules of Engagement."

Born in Noranda, Quebec, Canada, Greenwood now lives in Los Angeles. For more information, go to [Brucegreenwood.com](http://Brucegreenwood.com).

### **MOON BLOODGOOD (Katie)**

Moon Bloodgood appeared with Ashton Kutcher in Disney's 2005 release "A Lot Like Love." She made her movie debut in DreamWorks' "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton." Moon was writing songs with Paul Anka and on her way to becoming a singer/songwriter until two years ago, when she was asked to audition for NBC's "Just Shoot Me." Her audition was successful, and she has since worked on "CSI" and "Monk" and on the pilots "Hollywood Division," directed by James Foley for Fox, and "Rocky Point," directed by John Stockwell for Warner Bros. She recently completed production on Phoenix Pictures' feature "Pathfinder," with Karl Urban, for director Marcus Nispel.

Moon, whose mother is South Korean and father is American, began her career as a professional dancer. Her exposure as a Los Angeles Laker Girl and her love of hip-hop resulted in her performing with Prince, Brandi and the rock band Offspring. A trip to New York resulted in her modeling for cosmetic giants Revlon, Clairol and Avon, and she went on to endorse Adidas and Nike Woman in their campaigns.

### **JASON BIGGS (Cooper)**

Jason Biggs quickly became one of Hollywood's most talked-about young actors after his breakthrough role in the "American Pie" trilogy. The three films combined to

make over \$350 million in the United States alone and helped cement Biggs as a household face in the industry.

Biggs recently completed production in New York on “The Pleasure of Your Company” opposite Isla Fisher (“Wedding Crashers”). The film centers around a man (Biggs) who, after losing the woman of his dreams, is convinced he’ll never fall in love again. At the urging of his best friend, he spontaneously proposes to a dissatisfied waitress (Fisher), and an innocent dare evolves into the kind of love that both have been looking for all along. In 2005, Biggs appeared in “Guy X” for director Saul Metzstein. A black comedy set in 1979, as Ronald Reagan is gearing up his presidential campaign and the Cold War is entering its endgame, this is the story of an American soldier transferred by clerical error to the Arctic and unable to escape because he no longer officially exists. Biggs stars alongside Natasha McElhone, Jeremy Northam and Michael Ironside.

The Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, native started acting at the age of five, with national commercials and modeling. At age thirteen, he made his Broadway debut opposite Judd Hirsch in the critically acclaimed Broadway play “Conversations With My Father.” Other Broadway credits include the U.S. production of “The Graduate,” opposite Kathleen Turner in 2002, and, most recently, Daniel Goldfarb’s play “Modern Orthodox,” opposite Craig Bierko and Molly Ringwald.

In 2004, Biggs co-starred in “Jersey Girl,” written and directed by Kevin Smith, alongside Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler for Miramax Films. The fall of 2003 marked the release of the last in the trilogy of the “American Pie” series, “American Wedding.” His film credits also include the Woody Allen project “Anything Else”; the film adaptation of Elizabeth Wurtzel’s best-selling biography, “Prozac Nation,” opposite Christina Ricci; the romantic comedy “Saving Silverman,” with Jack Black, Steve Zahn and Amanda Peet; the Amy Heckerling film “Loser”; and the romantic comedy “Boys and Girls,” opposite Freddie Prinze, Jr., and Claire Forlani. Biggs began his career in television on the soap opera “As the World Turns,” for which he won a Daytime Emmy® for Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series. He also appeared on the shows “Drexel’s Class” and “Total Security.”

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **FRANK MARSHALL (Director/Executive Producer)**

Frank Marshall’s credits as a director include the true-life survival drama “Alive”; the thriller “Arachnophobia”; “Congo,” based on Michael Crichton’s best-selling novel; and the Apollo 11 episode of the Emmy® award-winning HBO miniseries “From the Earth to the Moon.”

Marshall is also one of Hollywood’s most successful producers. While at Amblin Entertainment, the company he founded with Steven Spielberg and Kathleen Kennedy in 1981, some of the movies Marshall produced were “Poltergeist,” “Gremlins,” “The Goonies,” “The Color Purple,” “An American Tail,” “Empire of the Sun,” “Hook,” “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?,” “The Land Before Time,” the “Back to the Future” trilogy and the “Indiana Jones” trilogy.

In 1991, he left Amblin to pursue his directing career, and together with Kathleen Kennedy, he formed The Kennedy/Marshall Company. The company has produced a remarkably diverse group of films, including “The Indian in the Cupboard,” directed by

Frank Oz; “Snow Falling on Cedars,” directed by Scott Hicks; “A Map of the World,” starring Sigourney Weaver and Julianne Moore; M. Night Shyamalan’s “The Sixth Sense,” starring Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment, and “Signs,” starring Mel Gibson; “Olympic Glory,” the first official large-format film of the Olympic Games; “The Bourne Identity,” starring Matt Damon; “Seabiscuit,” the dramatic true story based on Laura Hillenbrand’s best-selling book, directed by Gary Ross; and the box-office success, “The Bourne Supremacy,” directed by Paul Greengrass, with Matt Damon returning as Jason Bourne.

Marshall has received four Academy Award® nominations in the Best Picture category for “Raiders of the Lost Ark” (1982); “The Color Purple” (1985), with co-producers Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones and Kathleen Kennedy; “The Sixth Sense” (1999), with Kathleen Kennedy and Barry Mendel; and “Seabiscuit” (2004), with Kathleen Kennedy and Gary Ross.

### **DAVID DIGILIO (Screenplay)**

David DiGilio’s screenplay “One Single Victory” won him a 2001 Disney Screenwriting Fellowship. He was then hired by Disney for its Writer-in-Residence program, where he met Mandeville Films’ David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman. They began to collaborate on “Antarctica” in 2003. DiGilio is currently working on an adaptation of the Australian kids’ adventure “Hover Car Racer” for Disney and Beacon Pictures.

### **DAVID HOBBERMAN (Producer)**

David Hoberman’s company, Mandeville Films and Television, currently has “Beauty Shop,” starring Queen Latifah, in release at MGM. They are also in post-production on “The Shaggy Dog,” starring Tim Allen, and gearing up to shoot “Swiss Family Robinson” in the fall. The company recently released the box-office hit “Bringing Down the House,” starring Steve Martin, and “Raising Helen,” starring Kate Hudson.

As Founder and President of Mandeville, Hoberman also produced “The Negotiator,” “George of the Jungle,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” “Senseless,” “The Other Sister,” “Mr. Wrong” and “The Sixth Man.” From 1999–2002, while at MGM, Hoberman co-financed and produced “Anti-Trust,” “What’s the Worst that Could Happen” and the critically acclaimed “Bandits.”

Before creating Mandeville, Hoberman was President of the Motion Picture Group of the Walt Disney Studios, where he was responsible for overseeing development and production of all feature films for Walt Disney Pictures, Touchstone and Hollywood Pictures. Hoberman was behind the releasing of blockbusters such as “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?,” “Father of the Bride,” “Good Morning, Vietnam,” “Dead Poet’s Society,” “Crimson Tide,” “The Jungle Book,” “Ed Wood,” “Ruthless People,” “Beaches,” “Sister Act,” “Alive,” “What’s Love Got to Do With It,” “Cool Runnings,” “Three Musketeers,” “Stakeout,” “Cocktail” and “Three Men and a Baby.” Disney was the number-one studio at the box office during his tenure.

### **PATRICK CROWLEY (Producer)**

Patrick Crowley produced “The Bourne Supremacy” and “The Bourne Identity.” He executive produced “Charlie’s Angels: Full Throttle,” “RoboCop 2” and “RoboCop 3,”

Nora Ephron's comedy smash hit "Sleepless in Seattle" and Edward Zwick's historical romance "Legends of the Fall."

Crowley became executive vice president of production at New Regency Productions in 1994, where, for six years, he supervised production and post-production on such films as "L.A. Confidential," "A Time to Kill," "Entrapment," "Fight Club," "The Devil's Advocate," "City of Angels," "The Negotiator," "Heat," "Tin Cup," "Cobb," "Boys on the Side," "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory" and many others.

### **TODD LIEBERMAN (Executive Producer)**

As Partner and President, Todd Lieberman oversees more than 30 film and television projects for Mandeville's ever-growing slate. He is executive producer on upcoming projects such as: "The Shaggy Dog," with Tim Allen, Robert Downey Jr., Kristin Davis and director Brian Robbins ("Varsity Blues," "The Perfect Score"); "Antarctica," starring Paul Walker and directed by Frank Marshall ("Alive"); and the independent political thriller "Five Fingers," written by Laurence Malkin and Chad Thumann, directed by Malkin, starring Laurence Fishburne and Ryan Phillippe. He also executive produced "Beauty Shop," starring Queen Latifah, Djimon Hounsou, Kevin Bacon and Alicia Silverstone, which was released in March 2005, and Jeff Nathanson's ("Rush Hour," "Catch Me if You Can") directorial debut, "The Last Shot," starring Matthew Broderick and Alec Baldwin. He co-produced "Bringing Down the House," starring Steve Martin and Queen Latifah, which generated more than \$130 million at domestic box office, and "Raising Helen," starring Kate Hudson and directed by Garry Marshall, which opened May 2004. Lieberman is a producer on Disney's upcoming "Swiss Family Robinson," to be directed by Jonathan Mostow ("T3"). In addition, he is currently overseeing projects in development with Steve Martin, Snoop Dogg, director Terry George ("Hotel Rwanda") and many of the industry's top writers, including Jeffrey Nachmanoff ("The Day After Tomorrow").

Prior to joining Mandeville, Lieberman acted as Senior Vice President for international finance and production company Hyde Park Entertainment, which produced and co-financed such films as "Anti-Trust," "Bandits" and "Moonlight Mile."

Lieberman established himself at international sales and distribution giant Summit Entertainment, where he moved quickly up the ranks after pushing indie sensation "Memento" into production and acquiring the Universal box-office smash "American Pie."

In 2001, Lieberman was named one of the "35 under 35" people to watch in the business by *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Lieberman holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **MASARU KAKUTANI (Executive Producer)**

Masaru Kakutani produced the original Japanese adventure epic "Nankyoko Monogatari" (aka "Antarctica"), based on the true story of the doomed 1957 Japanese Antarctic expedition, which became one of the most successful Japanese films of all time and went on to inspire the story of EIGHT BELOW. Kakutani also produced "Koneko Monogatari," which was released in the United States as "Milo & Otis." His other films include the award-winning war drama "The Burmese Harp" and the equally lauded

Japanese fairy tale “Princess of the Moon.” He most recently produced the thriller “13 Steps.”

### **CHRISTINE ISO (Executive Producer)**

Christine Iso has built a niche as a feature producer by bringing Asian movies to the U.S. marketplace, both in their original versions and as English-language remakes. Born in Japan as the daughter of a diplomat to the United States, Ms. Iso attended American schools in Tokyo. She acquired a bachelor’s degree in Japan and a master’s degree in Southern California and later formed a company, Pacifica International, devoted to both acquisition and production of American films.

As President and CEO of Pacifica International, Ms. Iso acquires top-level films for one of Japan’s most prestigious distributors, as well as for clients in the United States, the United Kingdom and South Korea seeking her knowledge of the marketplace for theatrical, TV and video distribution. In recent years, she has expanded into production, turning her attention to remaking some of Asia’s most successful films, such as EIGHT BELOW.

Ms. Iso co-produced “The Ring” in 2002 (based on the successful Japanese horror film) and plans to continue producing both original feature films and remakes. She has licensed the Korean thriller “Phone” to Focus Features for a remake, and the Hong Kong police actioner “Cop on a Mission” is set for production soon by Bill Mechanic’s Pandemonium. Ms. Iso is also instrumental in financing and producing films in Asia by bringing together American and Asian film companies and financing entities. “I enjoy introducing Asian features to the Western world,” she says. “Great films can serve as a cultural bridge. I plan to continue emphasizing production and co-production, concentrating on films with broadly appealing stories that span Asia and the West.”

Ms. Iso lives in Southern California.

### **ROY LEE (Executive Producer)**

After receiving a bachelor’s degree from The George Washington University and a law degree from The American University, Roy Lee moved from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, California, to pursue a career in the film industry. His first job was with the production company Alphaville, where he worked on films such as “The Mummy,” “The Jackal” and “Michael.” After working under the producers of Alphaville, Lee pursued a career as an independent producer. “The Ring” was the first project he set up and produced for DreamWorks. He has subsequently set up over twenty other projects at DreamWorks, Warner Bros. and other studios, including remakes of the Japanese films “Dark Water” and “Chaos,” which were both directed by Hideo Nakata, the director of the original Japanese version of “The Ring.” Lee has made a name for himself with his talent for identifying foreign films that can be remade for the audiences in the United States. In addition to developing original ideas and scripts, Roy has successfully imported films from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Indonesia to be remade in the United States. His recent films include “The Ring Two,” “The Grudge” and Walter Salles’ “Dark Water.” He is the producer of Alejandro Agresti’s “The Lake House,” starring Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves, and the executive producer of Martin Scorsese’s forthcoming “The Departed,” starring Jack Nicholson and Leonardo DiCaprio and Oliver Hirschbiegel’s “The Visiting,” starring Nicole Kidman.

## **GARY BARBER (Executive Producer)**

Gary Barber founded the production, finance and distribution company Spyglass Entertainment with partner Roger Birnbaum, where he serves as Co-Chairman and CEO. The company's savvy production choices from the beginning led to the phenomenal box-office success of "The Sixth Sense," starring Bruce Willis, which went on to gross over \$661 million and garnered six Academy Award® nominations.

Another seven Academy Award® nominations followed with the Russell Crowe-Al Pacino drama, "The Insider," along with successes such as the M. Night Shyamalan thriller "Unbreakable"; "The Count of Monte Cristo," with Jim Caviezel and Guy Pearce; "Keeping the Faith," with Ben Stiller and Edward Norton; "Shanghai Noon," with Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson, and its sequel, "Shanghai Knights"; as well as the dynamic teaming of Al Pacino and Colin Farrell in "The Recruit."

The summer of 2003 brought to theaters two co-financed movies from Spyglass, which will remain classics. "Bruce Almighty," starring Jim Carrey and Jennifer Aniston, grossed over \$485 million in worldwide box office and is one of the all-time blockbuster comedies. "Seabiscuit," the tale of a legendary racehorse, starring Tobey Maguire, Chris Cooper and Jeff Bridges, received seven Oscar® nominations with its moving story of triumph over adversity.

Early 2005 provided back-to-back hits with the releases of "The Pacifier" and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." "The Pacifier," a family comedy starring Vin Diesel, is approaching the \$200-million mark in ongoing worldwide box office, while "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," an adaptation of the Douglas Adams best-seller, was the number-one picture in both U.S. and international markets opening weekend.

Spyglass recently co-financed and Barber executive produced two tent pole pictures for 2005: "The Legend of Zorro," the sequel to the 1998 smash hit with Catherine Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas and director Martin Campbell; and "Memoirs of a Geisha," based on the best-selling novel, helmed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"). Both were released in the fourth quarter of 2005.

This year is shaping up to be a busy one for Spyglass with the release of "The Invisible," a psychological thriller with acclaimed writer-turned-director David Goyer at the helm. Disney's Touchstone label will release while Spyglass will handle the international markets. This spring, Spyglass will start production on the live-action feature of the beloved classic cartoon series "Underdog," as well as the drama "The Lookout," with Oscar®-nominated writer Scott Frank directing.

A seasoned veteran of the business, Barber has been directly responsible for operating companies in feature-film production and distribution, foreign theatrical, video and TV distribution, exhibition and prerecorded music and music publishing. He was responsible for building these companies from the ground up.

In managing these businesses, Barber was instrumental in making many landmark deals, identifying and breaking new talent and producing major worldwide hits. His international expertise is considered one of the best in the business, with extensive relationships in worldwide theatrical, video and television. As an executive with unparalleled experience and financial savvy, Barber has also developed strong relationships in the commercial and investment-banking community and earned the respect of this tightly knit group through constant and successful deal-making.

Barber is the former Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Morgan Creek Productions. During his eight-and-a-half years at the company, he was in charge of all day-to-day operations for each of Morgan Creek's business entities, including feature-film production, foreign distribution, music, exhibition and interactive.

Barber has produced or executive produced over fifty feature films and TV shows, including the 1994 hit that rocketed Jim Carrey to stardom, "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," and its highly successful sequel, "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls," and the 1991 blockbuster "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," starring Kevin Costner.

Prior to his appointment at Morgan Creek, Barber was President of Vestron International Group, which was the largest independent video company in the world. During his tenure at Vestron, Barber acquired and distributed many international hits, including "The Princess Bride," "Young Guns," "Hamburger Hill" and "Dirty Dancing." Additionally, Barber served at Producers Sales Organizations, and prior to that, Barber spent seven years at Price Waterhouse as a member of the entertainment specialty group.

### **ROGER BIRNBAUM (Executive Producer)**

Roger Birnbaum founded the production and finance company Spyglass Entertainment with partner Gary Barber, where they share the title of Co-Chairman and CEO. The company develops and finances all of its projects independently.

The company's box-office hits range from "The Sixth Sense," with Bruce Willis, which earned \$661 million in worldwide box office, to the box-office smash "Bruce Almighty," starring Jim Carrey, which earned \$485 million. Also included in the Spyglass library are Oscar<sup>®</sup>-nominated favorites such as "Seabiscuit," with Tobey Maguire, and "The Insider," with Russell Crowe and Al Pacino. In total, Spyglass has cumed over 20 Oscar<sup>®</sup> nominations, including seven nods each for "Seabiscuit" and "The Insider," while garnering six nominations for "The Sixth Sense." Other company successes include "The Count of Monte Cristo," with Jim Caviezel and Guy Pearce; "Keeping the Faith," with Ben Stiller and Edward Norton; the dual hits "Shanghai Noon" and its sequel, "Shanghai Knights," with Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson; and "The Recruit," with Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

Spyglass had consecutive hits in the first part of 2005 with the release of "The Pacifier" and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." "The Pacifier," a family comedy starring Vin Diesel, crossed the \$100-million mark within four weeks of its U.S. debut, while "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," an adaptation of the Douglas Adams' best-seller, was number one at the box office its opening weekend with a stellar 21.1-million-dollar gross in the United States, as well as number one openings in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

Most recently, Spyglass co-financed and executive produced "Memoirs of a Geisha," the adaptation of the best-selling novel directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), and "The Legend of Zorro," the sequel to "The Mask of Zorro," the 1998 smash hit with Catherine Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas and director Martin Campbell. Both films were released in the fourth quarter of 2005.

This year, Spyglass produced and financed "The Invisible," a psychological thriller helmed by acclaimed writer-turned-director David Goyer, which wrapped recently. Spyglass is also in pre-production on the live-action feature of the beloved classic cartoon

series “Underdog” with Walt Disney Pictures, as well as the drama “The Lookout,” with Oscar®-nominated writer Scott Frank directing.

Spyglass recently created Spyglass Entertainment Television. Spyglass has produced “Miracles,” a series that aired on ABC, starring Skeet Ulrich and Angus MacFadyen, and is currently developing several new pilots.

Prior to founding Spyglass Entertainment, Mr. Birnbaum co-founded Caravan Pictures, where he was responsible for such box-office hits as “Rush Hour,” “Six Days Seven Nights,” “Inspector Gadget,” “Gross Pointe Blank,” “The Three Musketeers,” “Angels in the Outfield” and “While You Were Sleeping.”

Before joining Caravan, Mr. Birnbaum held the title of President of Worldwide Production and Executive Vice President of Twentieth Century Fox, where he developed such films as “Home Alone,” “Sleeping With the Enemy,” “Edward Scissorhands,” “Hot Shots,” “My Cousin Vinny,” “The Last of the Mohicans,” “Die Hard 2” and “Mrs. Doubtfire,” among others. Prior to that, Mr. Birnbaum was President of Production for United Artists, where he developed the Oscar®-winning film and all-time cinema favorite “Rain Man.”

Earlier in his career, he produced “The Sure Thing,” directed by Rob Reiner, and “Young Sherlock Holmes,” which were presented in association with Steven Spielberg’s Amblin Entertainment. For television, he executive produced the telefilms “Scandal Sheet,” “Happily Ever After,” “When Your Lover Leaves” and the award-winning “All the Kids Do It.”

Born in Teaneck, New Jersey, and educated at the University of Denver, Mr. Birnbaum built a successful career as Vice President of A&M Records and Arista Records before entering the film business to produce motion pictures.

He is currently Co-Artistic Director of the AFI Conservatory and serves on the Advisory Board for UCSB at the Center for Film, Television, and New Media. He is also a mentor to the USC Peter Stark Producing Program as well as the UCLA Graduate Film program.

### **DON BURGESS, ASC (Director of Photography)**

Don Burgess, one of the industry’s top cinematographers, was nominated for an Academy Award® for his work on Robert Zemeckis’ “Forrest Gump.” Burgess also collaborated with Zemeckis on “Contact,” “What Lies Beneath,” “Cast Away” and the recent acclaimed animated hit “Polar Express.” Burgess has received American Society of Cinematographers Award nominations for both “Forrest Gump” and the television movie “The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson.”

Burgess’ extensive and diverse credits also include “Christmas with the Kranks,” “13 Going on 30,” “Radio,” “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines,” “Spider-Man,” “The Evening Star,” “Forget Paris,” “Richie Rich” and “Mo’ Money.” He served as second unit director of photography on “Death Becomes Her,” “Batman Returns,” “Noises Off,” “Backdraft,” “Nothing but Trouble,” “The Rookie” and both the second and third episodes of Zemeckis’ “Back to the Future” films.

### **CHRISTOPHER ROUSE, A.C.E. (Editor)**

Christopher Rouse most recently edited “The Bourne Supremacy,” John Woo’s “Paycheck” and “The Italian Job.” He also worked as an editor on the first of the

“Bourne” series, “The Bourne Identity.” His talent with action sequences, combined with his strong storytelling skills, has made him one of the most sought-after editors today.

His work also includes the television miniseries “Anne Frank,” for which he received an Emmy® nomination. He served as an editor on the award-winning HBO miniseries “From the Earth to the Moon,” produced by Tom Hanks and Ron Howard; was an additional editor on “Manito,” winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival; and worked on the IMAX® film “Olympic Glory,” a film that was acknowledged for its editorial innovations in the large-format realm.

### **JOHN WILLETT (Production Designer)**

John Willett graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in stage design and started his career on the Canadian-based “SCTV.” His feature credits as art director include “Road to Wellville,” “The Firm,” “Jennifer Eight,” “Come See the Paradise,” “Billy Bathgate,” “Shoot to Kill” and “Mississippi Burning.”

As a production designer, Willett most recently worked on “Miracle,” the rousing story of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team, as well as “Freddy vs. Jason.” His earlier credits include “Call of the Wild,” “Breaking In,” “Mystery Date,” “Run,” “The Amazing Panda Adventure,” “High Stakes,” “Bliss,” “Mr. Magoo,” “Halloween: H20,” “Lake Placid,” “Final Destination,” “The Sixth Day” and “Brother’s Keeper.”

### **MARK ISHAM (Composer)**

Mark Isham has always had a talent for crafting evocative new musical worlds. His love of fresh, innovative sonic palettes and his gift for unforgettable melodies have created a signature sound that’s memorable, yet constantly evolving. This personal passion for music has earned Isham many awards, including a Grammy®, an Emmy® and a Clio, in addition to multiple Grammy®, Academy Award® and Golden Globe® nominations for his material, both as a composer and a recording artist.

Isham’s musical versatility is evident in his memorable scores for such notable films as “Crash” (recently named Best Soundtrack of 2005 by Cinescape.com), EIGHT BELOW, “Running Scared,” “The Cooler,” “A River Runs Through It,” “Blade,” “Nell,” “Men of Honor,” and “Miracle.” He has composed over 70 film scores, exploring a wide range of musical styles—in addition to the “traditional” orchestral approach, he has incorporated modern minimalism, big-band swing, avant-garde jazz, Americana, world music, ambient electronica and other elements that defy categorization.

As an accomplished trumpet player, Mark has added his unique sound—melodic, moody, sexy and cool—to a wide variety of genres. His solo recordings span from electric jazz and classic acoustic jazz to New Age and ethnic world music. He has collaborated with some of the top artists in the music business, and his classic trumpet voice has graced the albums of such diverse artists as Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Ziggy Marley, Joni Mitchell, The Rolling Stones, Chris Isaak and Van Morrison.

Mark’s solo albums have received critical acclaim all over the world. He received Grammy® nominations for his albums “Castalia” and “Tibet” and a win for his Virgin Records release, “Mark Isham.” *The London Times* named “Miles Remembered” as Best Jazz Album of 1999. And his CD “Blue Sun” was called “one of the most emotive new

albums of the year” (*Time Out*) and was chosen by *Down Beat* magazine as one of the Top 100 Jazz Albums of the Decade.

From his days as a pioneer of electronic music in the '80s to his current status as a world-renowned film composer, Mark Isham continues to be one of the most prolific and provocative artists on the scene. With 2006 already in full swing, he is as busy as ever with more film projects and an upcoming solo album. For his latest solo venture, combining his haunting sense of melody, his expertise with electronics, hard-driving rhythms and quirky harmonies, Mark Isham is reinventing his musical landscape once again.

**MIKE ALEXANDER (Head Animal Trainer)**

One of Hollywood’s most sought-after animal trainers, head trainer/coordinator at Birds & Animals Unlimited, Mike Alexander worked closely with the canine stars, coordinating two animal units and training the lead team of dogs for EIGHT BELOW—along with their stand-ins and sled dog doubles—teaching them such primal skills as digging a bed in the snow, performing ice rescues and battling with prosthetic seals. Alexander most recently served as head animal trainer on Tim Burton’s hit “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” training an entire assembly line of squirrels. Among his extensive credits, which also include numerous television and commercial projects, are the feature films “Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets,” “Planet of the Apes,” “Garfield,” “Corky Romano,” “Cheaper by the Dozen,” “Homeward Bound II,” “Jungle Book II,” “Instinct,” “Multiplicity,” “Phenomenon,” “The Flintstones” and “The Beverly Hillbillies,” among others. His most recent work includes the forthcoming Ben Stiller comedy “A Night at the Museum,” in which an ancient curse brings the animals in a natural-history museum to life, and Michael Lehmann’s romantic comedy “Because I Said So,” with Diane Keaton and Mandy Moore.

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