



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES Presents

A CONUNDRUM ENTERTAINMENT Production

JOHNNY KNOXVILLE

THE TRINGER

**BRIAN COX
KATHERINE HEIGL
GEOFFREY AREND
EDWARD BARBANELL
BILL CHOTT
LEONARD FLOWERS
LEONARD EARL HOWZE
JED REES
JOHN TAYLOR
LUIS AVALOS
ZEN GESNER**

Directed by BARRY W. BLAUSTEIN
Written by RICKY BLITT
Produced by PETER FARRELLY
..... BRADLEY THOMAS
..... BOBBY FARRELLY
..... JOHN JACOBS
Executive Producer TIM SHRIVER
Director of Photography MARK IRWIN, ASC, CSC
Production Designer ARLAN JAY VETTER
Edited by GEORGE FOLSEY JR.
Co-Producers MARC S. FISCHER
..... CLEMENS EMANUEL FRANEK
Music by MARK MOTHERSBAUGH
Music Supervisors TOM WOLFE & MANISH RAVAL
Costume Designer LISA JENSEN
Casting by NANCY FOY, CSA

RATED PG-13

ABOUT THE RINGER

The latest fearless comedy from producers The Farrelly Brothers (**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY**, **DUMB & DUMBER**, **SHALLOW HAL**) asks the question: can a comedy be outlandishly off-the-wall, irreverently indelicate and yet . . . inspirational? **THE RINGER** spikes the uproarious with the uplifting in a story about an ordinary man who discovers what it truly means to be special when he attempts to “fix” Special Olympics.

Steve Barker (**JOHNNY KNOXVILLE**) is a nice guy stuck in a mundane desk job when a twist of fate turns his life – and his definition of success – utterly upside down. When Steve works up the courage to ask his boss for a promotion, his wish is surprisingly granted, with one condition: Steve must first fire Stavi (**LUIS AVALOS**), the long-time janitor at the company. To soften the blow, Steve offers to employ the distraught janitor himself, a decision that quickly backfires when a lawn-care accident lands Stavi in the hospital missing several fingers not to mention medical insurance.

Desperate for the cash to save Stavi's digits, Steve enlists the help of his smarmy uncle Gary (**BRIAN COX**), who's worried about his own skyrocketing gambling debts. In typical fashion, Gary comes up with an unthinkable, contemptible, lower-than-low scheme just crazy enough to seem doable: former track star Steve will compete in the upcoming Special Olympics as a “ringer,” handily defeating the greatest champion of all time, six-time Gold Medal pentathlete Jimmy (**LEONARD FLOWERS**), whom Gary will bet against.

Racked with remorse over Stavi, Steve begrudgingly goes along with the scandalous plan and transforms himself into “Jeffy,” his new alter-ego. But succeeding at being intellectually challenged turns out to be a far greater challenge than Steve ever imagined. From convincing Special Olympics volunteer Lynn Sheridan (**KATHERINE HEIGL**), with whom Steve is smitten; to trying to win the friendship of his feisty fellow competitors, Steve is stumped, not to mention not nearly good enough to win any of his events.

To make matters worse, Steve's co-competitors soon get wise to his scam. But instead of turning against him they decide to join him and train Steve as a competitor themselves, hoping he can topple the arrogant Jimmy from the podium. With a training regimen unlike anything ever seen in sports before, Steve prepares to go for the Gold for his new friends . . . and, in the process, stumbles at long last upon his personal best.

Tackling taboos and challenging stereotypes while revealing real human courage at Special Olympics, **THE RINGER's** comedic cast, led by Johnny Knoxville (**THE DUKES OF HAZZARD**, **JACKASS**) also includes Brian Cox (**TROY**, **ADAPTATION**), Katherine Heigl (“Grey's Anatomy,” “Roswell”), Geoffrey Arend (**SUPER TROOPERS**, **GARDEN STATE**), Edward Barbanell, Bill Chott

(DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?, GALAXY QUEST), Leonard Flowers, Leonard Earl Howze (BARBERSHOP, ANTWONE FISHER), Jed Rees (GALAXY QUEST, MEN WITH BROOMS), John Taylor (THE SEVENTH SIGN, ANIMALS), Luis Avalos (HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE, LOVE STINKS) and Zen Gesner (FEVER PITCH, DUMB & DUMBER).

THE RINGER is directed by Barry W. Blaustein (screenwriter of THE NUTTY PROFESSOR and COMING TO AMERICA) whose feature directorial debut, the wrestling documentary BEYOND THE MAT, was nominated for a DGA Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Documentary. The film's screenplay is written by television veteran Ricky Blitt ("Family Guy," "Brotherly Love," "The Jeff Foxworthy Show").

The producers are Peter and Bobby Farrelly, Bradley Thomas and John Jacobs (MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER, ANGER MANAGEMENT). Marc S. Fisher (THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, STUCK ON YOU) and Clemens Franek (in his feature debut) and Garret Grant co-produce, and Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, executive produces.

The film's behind-the-camera talent includes Director of Photography Mark Irwin, ASC, CSC (SCARY MOVIE 3, OLD SCHOOL), production designer Arlan Jay Vetter , who has been a longtime Farrelly collaborator (THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, KINGPIN and DUMB & DUMBER), Film Editor George Folsey Jr. (CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN, THE BLUES BROTHERS), Composer Mark Mothersbaugh (LORDS OF DOGTOWN, THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU), Music Supervisors Tom Wolfe (NEO NED) & Manish Raval (FEVER PITCH, STUCK ON YOU) costume designer Lisa Jensen (DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR, SAY IT ISN'T SO) and Casting by Nancy Fox, CSA (MISS CONGENIALTY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS, LADDER 49).

DIALING IN THE RINGER

Producers Peter and Bobby Farrelly have always had fun pushing the razor-thin line between the outrageous and the taboo. From a gleefully raunchy look at the need for love in *THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY* to a bold treatise on inner beauty in *SHALLOW HAL*, the Farrellys have never shied away from the comedy in any human subject, no matter how seemingly untouchable or off-limits.

Now, with **THE RINGER**, they present a story that goes where no feature film comedy has ever dared to go before – to Special Olympics. Yet from this comedic forbidden zone comes an unexpected tale about discovering the meaning of courage, integrity and success, no matter what your abilities.

THE RINGER unfolds the escapades of a hapless man who, in a desperate bid for money, goes beyond the pale: in a preposterous ruse, he pretends to be intellectually challenged -- only to be challenged by his Special Olympics competitors to do something far harder: become a better person.

This seemingly shocking premise emerged from the pen of screenwriter Ricky Blitt, who knew he was heading into risky, forbidden territory, yet saw a chance to take an audacious comedic concept somewhere emotionally surprising.

“At first, it was one of those ideas that just pops into your head and you think ‘that’s a funny concept but I could never really do that,’” says Blitt. “But then I realized that we could really turn the whole concept of what it means to be ‘normal’ on its head through this story. I began to wonder what would happen if the Special Olympics athletes that our ‘ringer’ meets are actually the ones in control – and the joke is entirely on him and his partner. It became a chance to tell a very warm, human story inside lots of edgy, comic hijinx.”

When Blitt brought the script to Producer John Jacobs, Jacobs immediately saw the material as a perfect match for the no-holds-barred, satirical sensibilities of the Farrelly Brothers. “I knew they were the only two guys in the entire business who wouldn’t be afraid of this story and could do it with the right touch,” observes Jacobs. “They have always succeeded in creating moving characters and situations in the middle of outrageous comedy.”

The day of the actual pitch, Blitt was hit with the flu and, though he considered postponing, inspired by the indomitable Special Olympics athletes in his script, he decided to go for it. Jacobs remembers bemusedly, “With sweat pouring down his face, Ricky pitched the story . . . and I don’t think I’ve ever seen Peter Farrelly laugh so loud in my life.”

“Naturally your first reaction to the storyline of this film is ‘that’s a crazy concept,’” admits Peter Farrelly. “But what’s so great about it is that it turns your assumptions upside down when a

friendship develops against all odds between Steve and the Special Olympics athletes. In the end, this so-called ‘ringer’ really doesn’t teach these guys anything. Instead, they teach him *everything* – which is a wonderful twist.”

Farrelly continues: “We were drawn to **THE RINGER** because it’s a comedy with heart and we have always believed that, even in comedies, what audiences want most is to care about the characters. Comic moments will only carry you so far. Eventually, the characters have to be rich enough that people get behind them and relate to them at some deeper level. **THE RINGER** has funny yet poignant characters unlike those seen in a comedy before.”

For producer Bradley Thomas, who has collaborated numerous times with the Farrelly Brothers, the script’s emotional after-effect was a wonderful surprise. “I was impressed by how Ricky was able to fill his script with jokes and gags that never came at the expense of Special Olympics athletes, but, on the contrary, reveal their tremendous spirits,” Thomas says. “At the same time, he didn’t depict these characters in any kind of sainted, after-school special light either. It’s an honest portrait of terrific people caught up in a funny situation.”

Once the script was finished, the filmmakers decided there was only one way to proceed: by going directly to the leadership of Special Olympics for their blessing and cooperation. “We felt it was absolutely crucial that our film portray the athletes and the technical aspects of the games as they really are,” explains Bradley Thomas. “We deeply wanted the support of the community.”

Nevertheless, the filmmakers had no idea what the response might be – and though they hoped Special Olympics would see an opportunity to bust stereotypes and open eyes through laughter, they waited on pins and needles. “I always thought they were going to find it too edgy,” admits screenwriter Blitt. “But it was sent to Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver, who is a really smart, hip guy – and he totally understood the tone and message of the script.”

Says Shriver: “Beyond improving the lives of our athletes on the playing field, a key goal of Special Olympics is to change attitudes of non-disabled young people about people with intellectual disabilities, dispelling negative stereotypes. Humor can be a very effective way to reach young people and the Farrellys are masters of both.”

With representatives from Special Olympics on board, the filmmakers collaborated closely with them to hone the film’s story and highlight the open-hearted yet highly athletic nature of the games and their life-changing effect on participants. Special Olympics Vice President Sports and Competition and the film’s technical advisor Dave Lenox explains: “The biggest surprise for everyone attending their first Special Olympics is the level at which the athletes compete, so we worked very closely with the filmmakers to ensure this was depicted with as much realism and authentic excitement as possible. For us it was a real chance to reach a lot of people with the untold story of Special Olympics.”

Sums up Peter Farrelly: “We hope, in addition to being good fun, this film will inspire more athletes to compete and more everyday people to get involved in Special Olympics as well as make people more comfortable being around individuals who are intellectually challenged.”

Meanwhile, the filmmakers began to search for a director who could master the very distinctive comedic/inspirational tone of the piece. The search led to Barry W. Blaustein, the screenwriter behind such comedy hits as **THE NUTTY PROFESSOR** and **COMING TO AMERICA**, and who recently had made an impressive directorial debut with the acclaimed professional wrestling documentary **BEYOND THE MAT**.

Comments Peter Farrelly: “Barry’s vision for **THE RINGER** was completely in sync with our desire to keep the film edgy but moving.” Adds producer Bradley Thomas: “Barry understood exactly what we were trying to accomplish. He really got the balance between comedy and humanity that makes this project so very special.”

For his part, Blaustein was invigorated by what he saw as a genuinely different and daring script that would be a compelling challenge. “Underneath the irreverent premise of **THE RINGER** was something I hadn’t expected to find: a really sweet story about people giving their all and telling the truth no matter what,” observes Blaustein. “I thought it would be a wonderful thing to bring this to the fore in an entertaining way.”

FINDING A RINGER

At the center of **THE RINGER** is the “ringer” himself, Steve Barker, a disarmingly humorous mixture of goofy boy and earnest man who finds himself undertaking the unthinkable by shamelessly trying to qualify for Special Olympics, despite being, as he puts it, “normal.” In order for the film to work, the filmmakers knew they needed an actor who could embody the character’s essential, underlying sweetness and his multiple dimensions – from his all-thumbs, accident-prone nature to the lessons he learns as he is unmasked and outdone by the very people he thought he could easily dupe – into one comic portrait.

The filmmakers went against the grain in casting the rough-and-tumble Johnny Knoxville, who, at the time, was largely known for his crazy, over-the-top antics on the widely popular MTV show “Jackass.” In auditions, however, Knoxville revealed a fresh and different side of himself.

“Johnny came in and impressed us all,” says Blaustein. “He revealed a sensitivity that I don’t think the public has ever really seen before. Everyone knows that he can be funny and outrageous, but I think a lot of people are going to be surprised to discover what a moving dramatic actor he can be. From the beginning, he had the foresight to envision what this project could be – and he took the role to a higher level, finding both the charm and the absurdity of this character.”

Knoxville was drawn to the script’s willingness to run right over certain expectations about what it means to be smart or strong or successful. “I love the way the script balances totally outlandish scenes with very touching moments,” says Knoxville. “People typically have a lot of preconceived notions about intellectually challenged kids and this story knocks those right down. Plus, with the Farrellys and Barry Blaustein involved, I felt the film was going to be done in a really honest and fearless way.”

With Knoxville signed onto the project, the filmmakers turned their attention to casting the unscrupulous Uncle Gary, for whom they chose Emmy Award-winning veteran Brian Cox. It is Gary who, faced with a massive gambling debt, bets one hundred thousand dollars that Special Olympics athlete Jimmy will not win his record-breaking seventh consecutive Gold Medal. With so much riding on the outcome of the games, Gary keeps the pressure on his nephew Steve to carry out their putrid plan to fix Special Olympics.

Cox was attracted to the pure nerve of the character, who ultimately gets his comeuppance and then some. “I thought Uncle Gary was a funny part because the character is really out there and so politically incorrect – and he is also very different from anything I’ve done in a long time so it’s a nice surprise,” says Cox. “I normally play characters of gravitas and considerable intellectual ability, but Gary sure breaks that mold.”

Adds Barry Blaustein: “Gary is a key character because throughout the film he expresses what a lot of the audience might be guiltily thinking. I wanted Brian Cox for the role because I’d seen him in ADAPTATION and I knew that he could be really funny and I also felt it was important to cast an actor who audiences hadn’t seen in this type of role.”

On the opposite side of the tug-of-war pulling at Steve is Lynn Sheridan, a Special Olympics volunteer who is as compassionate as she is irresistibly lovely, played by rising young star Katherine Heigl.

The filmmakers were themselves swept off their feet by Heigl’s buoyant attitude and youthful optimism. “There were a lot of more well-known actresses that we looked at,” notes producer Bradley Thomas, “but Katie came out of left field to win the role because she just exudes this incredibly sweet and compassionate presence that anyone would fall in love with, on top of being a talented comic actress.”

Heigl quickly found a place in her heart for such a giving character, but she also understood what Lynn sees in Steve Barker – at least when he’s pretending to be Jeffy. “One thing I really like about Lynn is that she is a very nonjudgmental person,” says Heigl. “And what she ultimately sees in Steve is that when he’s pretending to be Jeffy, he’s able to be very relaxed and goofy and fun without worrying that he is going to be laughed at. He’s able to let go of himself in a way most people never do.”

For Heigl, there was a similar surprise in working with Johnny Knoxville. “I had never seen ‘Jackass,’ so when I watched the show one night at the hotel, I was really shocked that this was the same person I had been working with because he’s so different from that persona! I think people will be surprised to get to know the Johnny I got to know: a really nice guy with a big heart who is so much fun to be around.”

The next big key to carrying off **THE RINGER** was casting the circle of friends that Steve unexpectedly finds at Special Olympics – and who, even in discovering his dastardly deceit, decide to attempt to train him to win the Pentathlon. The group was ultimately cast from a mixture of both character actors and intellectually challenged athletes with experience at Special Olympics. “We were looking for a group of actors whose chemistry would be similar to the unforgettable ensemble of actors in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO’S NEST,” says Peter Farrelly. “In that film you didn’t know who was acting and who wasn’t.”

The cast the filmmakers came up with includes Jed Rees as the outgoing Glen who first spots “Jeffy” as a fake; Bill Chott as the outspoken Thomas who always has something to say; Geoffrey Arend as the pessimistic Winston who questions letting Steve/Jeffy off the hook; and Leonard Earl Howze as Mark, the muscular athlete who acts as the traffic cop and enforcer of the group.

For the actors, these were both challenging and multi-faceted characters. “All of the guys who become the circle of Steve’s friends have their own idiosyncrasies and oddities but they also all know how to deal with each other and get along, which is very interesting,” notes Bill Chott. “I think the main trepidation when you play characters like these is just that you really want to make sure they are authentic and not over the top. Our challenge was to do right by these great characters.”

Joining with this ensemble as Jeffy’s hard-to-please roommate Billy is intellectually challenged actor Edward Barbanell -- who himself has been a Special Olympics athlete for the last 15 years and has previously appeared in several regional theatre productions. Barbanell took to the role of the feisty Billy – who becomes the group’s self-styled ringleader – like a natural.

Says Barbanell: “I have never acted in a film before, but Gail Williamson from the California media access office told Barry Blaustein about me and I went out to Los Angeles and before you knew it, he gave me the part. I really wanted to be part of **THE RINGER** because this film is all about being part of a team and that’s what Special Olympics are all about.”

“Eddie Barbanell is a genius and he was a natural fit for the role of Billy,” proclaims Peter Farrelly. “He’s the only one of the intellectually challenged actors in the film who we allowed to go off page. I usually don’t like when actors go completely off page unless it’s someone like Bill Murray because you know it’s going to be funnier than what’s written. There are not many actors who can do that, but Eddie can, and when he goes off the page it’s actually funnier.”

Another actor making his motion picture debut is four-time Special Olympic World Games competitor and medalist Leonard Flowers who plays the legendary superstar Jimmy. Flowers, who has appeared on a Wheaties Cereal box, is not only an accomplished Special Olympics athlete, but also is a public speaker for the movement. A six-time Gold Medal pentathlon champion, Jimmy is all about the flash and bling-bling, stepping out of his limousine wearing gold plated running shoes and a red velvet running suit – and was a blast for Flowers to play.

“Jimmy is the person that everybody wants to beat,” says Flowers. “He believes that he is the greatest athlete of all time and doesn’t think he can lose in any event that he enters. The thing that he doesn’t count on, though, is everyone coming together to defeat him.”

“I didn’t know what to expect when I first got to the set,” Flowers continues. “I have never really been around actors or on a movie set before, but after seeing how everything is done, I’ve learned that I really enjoy acting and hope that I get to do it again.”

“We were especially fortunate to find someone like Leonard Flowers to play Jimmy,” says Blaustein. “It’s a crucial role and there were a lot of actors who wanted to play it, but none of them could bring the reality that Leonard brought to it. He looks and acts like a superstar, which is what Jimmy is. One of the things I was really happy about is that when people see Leonard as Jimmy for the

first time, they say he doesn't look intellectually challenged, so he makes you question your assumptions. Leonard has really changed people's perceptions."

"Leonard is a stud and he really nailed his part," adds producer Thomas. "He is such a great athlete that we had to consistently tell him to slow down a little bit because he was so much faster than Johnny."

For intellectually challenged actor John Taylor, who has previously starred in such films as SEVENTH SIGN, the role of Rudy was something special. "I think this film will show that people with handicaps can do anything," Taylor says, "and show what Special Olympics is all about."

Taylor first signed up for Special Olympics when he was 10 years old and has been a long-time fan of the organization – and he especially loved that this film provided a chance to show off his track skills. "I run fast," he admits, "and in the movie when Steve first is in a race he is right next to Rudy and Rudy says to him 'Rudy kick your butt.' Rudy gets to run very, very fast, which was a lot of fun."

"Eddie Barbanell, John Taylor and Leonard Flowers were each so wonderful in their roles," sums up Blaustein, "...they were simply great actors who just happened to be intellectually challenged."

Rounding out the cast is Zen Gesner in the role of Lynn's philandering boyfriend David. Gesner was drawn to the script and to working with the Farrellys. "The magic of the Farrelly Brothers is that they know how to reach the heart within the most crazy, wild stories," Gesner says. "After you're done laughing at Steve, you actually feel something and it touches your soul."

Gesner particularly enjoyed getting the opportunity to bounce off of Johnny Knoxville's comedic energy. "Johnny had a really tough job on this movie, but he somehow made the character believable and hilarious at the same time. He was so much fun to watch it was nearly impossible to keep a straight face in those scenes," says Gesner.

Working with such a diversely talented supporting cast also proved to be invaluable for Knoxville. "I was a little nervous coming into the project about having to play a character that was pretending to be intellectually challenged," admits the actor. "So it really helped to be surrounded by such a great group of people. I learned a lot from everyone on the set."

As production got under way, life also began imitating art, with many of the Special Olympics athletes and intellectually challenged actors inspiring the rest of cast with their hard work and close-knit friendships. Says Bradley Thomas: "We found ourselves being so moved by them. It became a really unusual and gratifying experience, and not at all what you expect when you're making a comedy."

THE RINGER AT THE GAMES

The first challenge for the production of **THE RINGER** was to authentically recreate the excitement, suspense and athletic atmosphere of a real Special Olympics – an ambiance that takes the scheming Steve Barker completely by surprise as he attempts to “fit in” as a competitor. Before pre-production even began, the filmmakers traveled to Dublin, Ireland to shoot footage and witness the 2003 Special Olympics World Games. The experience was one that would leave a lasting impression with producer Bradley Thomas.

“Attending the World Games was one of the most moving experiences of my entire life,” recalls Thomas. “We were in the stadium watching highlights of the torch being carried all around the world by Special Olympics Athletes when they announced the torch was about to come into the stadium. A hundred thousand people rose to their feet with a gigantic ovation and this young boy ran through the stadium surrounded by 500 policemen, firemen and armed services personnel. He runs up on the stage while U2’s Bono is singing “One Love” and then out comes Nelson Mandela. So you have this young boy holding hands with Bono and Nelson Mandela with their arms up in the air. It was a magical moment that really inspired us all.”

With that experience still fresh in their minds, the filmmakers began to search for a location for the film’s 45-day shooting schedule, ultimately choosing Austin, Texas for its conducive warm weather, down-home friendliness and growing film community.

“On all of the Farrelly Brothers films we like to create a comfortable atmosphere where everybody sort of hangs out together and it’s summer camp for three months,” explains producer Thomas. “For this film that was even more important, so we chose Austin, a city that would let our actors walk around in shorts and tank tops in the middle of winter.” Adds Barry Blaustein: “Austin’s a great city to make a comedy in because it’s such a fun place and it has some of the hardest-working and most creative crews I’ve ever encountered. It’s a place where camaraderie is a big part of everything.”

To create a kind of Special Olympics boot camp, the filmmakers invited the entire cast to come to Texas early to develop the camaraderie and rapport so essential to the film’s story. Director Blaustein recalls: “That period of time blew everyone’s minds and changed all of our perspectives as to what an intellectually challenged person is really like. I think the cast also discovered something important -- which is that there is no one single perspective of it. It was a wonderful bonding experience that was key to creating the warmth and sweetness at the heart of the story.”

Adds Johnny Knoxville: “I had never really been around intellectually challenged people much before so it really helped that everyone came to Austin a little early. We all taught each other a lot and grew very close to one another in a short period of time.”

On October 14, 2003 principle photography began, and Blaustein and the rest of the crew watched as the preparation paid off on camera. “From the opening bell, Johnny and the entire cast and crew just clicked,” notes Peter Farrelly. “I had always feared that the actors would split into factions; the Hollywood actors on one side and the intellectually challenged actors and athletes on the other, but it never happened. Instead the cast blended together so quickly that initially some of the crew didn’t know who was intellectually challenged and who wasn’t.”

In the film, Jeffy quickly realizes, to his dismay, that he is outmatched by most of the Special Olympics athletes...a storyline that came to life when the production began filming the competition scenes, and Johnny Knoxville found himself huffing and puffing in an impossible effort to keep up.

“A lot of Special Olympians are superb athletes,” says Knoxville. “And it was embarrassing how out of shape I was –although I did purposely put on fifteen pounds for the role in order to look like more of a slob. It was a great excuse to sit around and eat and do nothing, but then, when we began shooting the big running sequences, I was really hurting and I had to tell the guys to please take it easy on me.”

Early on Knoxville attempted a real 100-yard race with one of the Special Olympics athletes – and lost by more than 40 yards! “I’m not a real athletic type of guy, but I don’t think there was anybody on the set that could have beaten this kid, he was so fast,” says Knoxville. After that, Knoxville realized it was best to ask the athletes to slow down so he could look a little faster.

“These are true athletes who train really hard and are very good at what they do, says Special Olympic Vice President Sports and Competition Dave Lenox, “And Johnny certainly came to understand that.”

Camaraderie and a festive atmosphere is typical of a Farrelly Brothers set – but this time things were even more boisterous than usual, with pranks and practical jokes a near-constant state of affairs. “We always try to keep a loose and fun set,” explains Peter Farrelly. “But this set was particularly great because we had 150 Special Olympics athletes as actors and extras having the time of their lives and their infectious energy trickled down to everyone. Every day, when you walked on the set the athletes and actors would come up and give you hugs and high fives. It really made us feel that this movie was one worth fighting for. These athletes pulled the whole thing off and gave us gold everyday.”

In addition to the fun and games, the Special Olympics athletes added drama to the set. “Everyone became so close that we had all kinds of on-set romances developing as well as break-ups and there was a lot of advice-giving going on,” remembers Blaustein. “It was a great way to make a comedy because comedy requires a loose atmosphere in which no one’s afraid to take a chance. Ultimately the most important thing was capturing these wonderful high spirits on camera.”

Once the cameras were rolling, one of the unique dynamics the Special Olympics athletes provided was the resounding celebration that erupted after every successful take, which became an inspiration to Blaustein and the entire cast and crew. “I remember the first day I worked, there were tons of Special Olympics athletes and volunteers all around and after every take they would applaud and cheer,” recalls Katherine Heigl. “At first I couldn’t figure out what was going on and why they were clapping, but by the end of the day I found myself clapping after takes, too. I realized how wonderful and rare it is to work around so much enthusiasm and enjoyment.”

Adds Knoxville: “The athletes showed every day that they are extraordinarily gifted in so many ways. They were so positive, happy and honest that it really affected everyone’s performance in a great way.”

For Peter Farrelly, that extra special touch of emotion is exactly what he hoped to bring to the comic mayhem of **THE RINGER**. He recalls: “On one of the last days of filming, one of the Special Olympics athletes asked me ‘Is it the way you wanted the movie to be?’ I said ‘No, this is so much better than I ever imagined it could be.’ I truly feel that this is one of those rare time where the combination of what everyone brought to the mix of this film elevated it so much that it exceeded my grandest expectations. I hope people will not only enjoy the comedy of **THE RINGER** but realize that the next time they see somebody who looks or acts a little different, all they have to do is look a little harder and they’ll be surprised at what they find.”

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports at no cost to the athletes.

Special Olympics began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois, USA. The concept was born in the early 1960s when Shriver started a day camp in her backyard for people with intellectual disabilities. She saw that individuals with intellectual disabilities were far more capable than many experts thought. Since 1968, millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities have participated in Special Olympics.

Today, nearly 2 million athletes in more than 150 countries train daily and compete in over 20,000 events annually showcasing their athletic abilities to the world. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and sports skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. They grow mentally, socially and spiritually and, through their activities, exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents but "their voices" as well.

Special Olympics differs from other "Olympic-type" sports organizations in that athletes are divided into competition divisions based upon their ability, age and sex. Competition divisions are structured so that athletes compete against other athletes of similar ability in equitable divisions. A fair and equitable division is one in which all participants, not just elite athletes, have a reasonable chance to excel. This definition also applies to team competition.

In addition to local, state/national and regional competition, Special Olympics World Games are held every two years, alternating between Summer Games and Winter Games. The 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games were held in Dublin, Ireland. The 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games were held in Nagano, Japan and the 2007 World Summer Games will be held in Shanghai, China.

ABOUT THE CAST

JOHNNY KNOXVILLE (Steve Barker/Jeffy)

Johnny Knoxville gained fame as the creator and star of the controversial MTV reality series “Jackass” and blockbuster feature film of the same name. He recently appeared in John Waters’ ensemble comedy A DIRTY SHAME, in which he co-stars opposite Tracey Ullman, Chris Isaak and Selma Blair and the action-adventure WALKING TALL. Knoxville’s upcoming films include Catherine Hardwicke’s LORDS OF DOG TOWN, THE DUKES OF HAZZARD, for which he will play Luke Duke and the title character for Miramax Film’s DALTRY CALHOUN.

Knoxville’s additional credits include Barry Sonnenfeld’s sequel MEN IN BLACK 2, the ensemble comedy BIG TROUBLE, COYOTE UGLY, LIFE WITHOUT DICK and DEUCES WILD.

At the age of 18, Knoxville moved to California from his native Tennessee to pursue a career in acting. He supported himself by appearing in commercials and occasionally writing for magazines such as Blunt, Bikini and Big Brother. In 1997, Knoxville pitched his idea for “Jackass” to Jeff Tremaine of “Big Brother” and a cultural phenomenon was born.

BRIAN COX (Gary Barker)

Brian Cox won the 2001 Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television for his portrayal of Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering in the TNT original film "Nuremberg," for which he also received SAG and Golden Globe Award nominations. His guest-starring role as Harry Moon on the hit television series "Frasier" earned him his second Emmy nomination in 2002.

In 2003, Cox received his second SAG Award nomination as part of the ensemble cast of Spike Jonze’s ADAPTATION. His recent roles include playing Agamemnon in Wolfgang Peterson’s epic TROY, a medieval actor in THE RECKONING with Willem Dafoe, and starring opposite Matt Damon in the spy thriller THE BOURNE SUPREMACY. Cox recently wrapped filming on Woody Allen's upcoming film MATCH POINT, which marks Allen's first film made in the UK. He is currently in production on RUNNING WITH SCISSORS, Ryan Murphy's adaptation of Augusten Burroughs' memoirs, which co-stars Annette Benning and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Cox’s accomplished body of screen work also includes Spike Lee’s 25TH HOUR, X-MEN 2, THE RING, THE BOURNE IDENTITY, THE ROOKIE, THE AFFAIR OF THE NECKLACE, THE MINUS MAN, FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME, RUSHMORE, THE CORRUPTER, THE BOXER, THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT, the Academy Award-winning BRAVEHEART, ROB ROY and HIDDEN AGENDA – as well as originating the celluloid Hannibal Lecter in Michael Mann’s cult

classic MANHUNTER.

Cox's masterful portrayal of Big John in the critically lauded independent film L.I.E. (official selection of the 2001 Sundance Film Festival) earned him an AFI Award Nomination, an Independent Spirit Award Nomination, a Golden Satellite Award and a Boston Film Critics Award for Best Actor.

An accomplished veteran of the London stage, Cox has won two Olivier Awards for Best Actor for his performances in "Titus Andronicus" at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre and "Rat in the Skull" for the Royal Court in London. Recent New York theatre credits include "Art" on Broadway and "St. Nicholas" at Off Broadway's Primary Stages. Other theatre credits include Conor McPherson's "Dublin Carol" at the Royal Court; "St. Nicholas" at the Bush Theatre in London and the Matrix Theatre in Los Angeles; "King Lear and Richard III" at the National Theatre in London and Skylight at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

Cox made his television directorial debut for the hit HBO prison drama "Oz." He is the author of two books, Salem to Moscow: An Actors Odyssey and The Lear Diaries. Queen Elizabeth recently honored Cox with a CBE (Commander of the British Empire).

KATHERINE HEIGL (Lynn)

Katherine Heigl is a leading cast member of the hit television show "Grey's Anatomy" and starred for three seasons on the popular television series "Roswell." She is currently shooting CAFFEINE opposite Breckin Meyer & Mena Suvari.

Heigl made her big-screen debut at the age of 12 in THAT NIGHT, which starred Juliette Lewis. In 1993, she appeared in Steven Soderbergh's critically acclaimed depression-era drama KING OF THE HILL before landing her first leading role as a rebellious teenager alongside Gerard Depardieu in MY FATHER THE HERO. In 1995, Heigl played opposite Steven Seagal in UNDER SEIGE 2: DARK TERRITORY and followed that film with starring roles in the features WISH UPON A STAR, PRINCE VALIANT and THE BRIDE OF CHUCKY. She also starred opposite Peter Fonda in the Hallmark Hall of Fame telefilm "The Tempest" and appeared in Warner Brothers' VALENTINE.

Heigl's other television credits include the two-hour telepic "Romy and Michele: Behind the Velvet Rope," "The Twilight Zone," MTV's "Wuthering Heights," "Critical Assembly" and "Love Comes Softly" for Hallmark.

JED REES (Glen)

Jed Rees is best known for his role as Teb, the lead alien member of the Thermians, in the highly successful GALAXY QUEST. Rees recently starred opposite Paul Gross and Molly Parker in

the comedy hit MEN WITH BROOMS and in LUCK, directed by Peter Wellington and will next be seen in Cameron Crowe's ELIZABETHTOWN.

Rees has also starred in the feature films DUDLEY DO-RIGHT, LAKE PLACID, PRISONER OF ZENDA INC. and FEAR.

On television, he has appeared on the series "The X-Files," "The Outer Limits," and the CBC's award-winning telefilm "Little Criminals." In 1997 Rees starred as Richard in the off-Broadway production of "Two Pianos, Four Hands" which combined his two loves; acting and piano.

BILL CHOTT (Thomas)

Bill Chott has appeared in the films DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?, GALAXY QUEST, DANCING AT THE BLUE IGUANA, CROSSFIRE and TOMORROW NIGHT.

On television the St. Louis native has appeared on "ER," "3rd Rock from the Sun," "Freaks and Geeks," "Popular," "The Dana Carvey Show," and "She Spies." Chott is also an alumnus of Chicago's ImprovOlympic and Second City Television touring troupe.

EDWARD BARBANELL (Billy)

Edward Barbanell makes his motion picture debut in **THE RINGER**. Barbanell has been a Special Olympics athlete for 15 years. His love for acting grew when his acting teacher helped him learn a monologue from "Romeo and Juliet." Barbanell has starred in several regional theatre productions including, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Charlotte's Web," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Anything Goes." He also starred in a documentary filmed by his brother. A graduate of Coral Springs High School, Barbanell currently resides with his mother in Coral Springs, Florida.

LEONARD EARL HOWZE (Mark)

Leonard Earl Howze was most recently seen in the films BARBERSHOP 2, the original BARBERSHOP and ANTWONE FISHER. He has also guest starred on the Comedy Central's "Prime Time Glick." Howze has many national theatre credits including "Blues for Mr. Charlie," "Macbeth," "Time of Your Life," "Stand and Deliver," "Call it Clover," "Servant of Two Masters," and "Restoration." A 1995 Presidential Scholar, Howze currently resides in Los Angeles.

GEOFFREY AREND (Winston)

Geoffrey Arend was most recently seen in Zach Braff's ensemble comedy GARDEN STATE with Natalie Portman. Arend's other film credits include IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY, with Kirk and Michael Douglas, BUBBLE BOY, SUPER TROOPERS and the independent film A TALE OF TWO

PIZZAS. Arend also starred in the telefilms “Chicken Club” and “Is it College Yet?” and guest starred on “Law & Order,” “The Guiding Light,” “Undeclared” and “Daria.”

JOHN TAYLOR (Rudy)

John Taylor began his acting career playing opposite Demi Moore in the sci-fi thriller **THE SEVENTH SIGN**. He also starred in the films **ANIMALS**, with Tim Roth and John Turturro, **WOUNDED SOLDIER** and **THREE OR FOUR DAYS**.

Taylor was the subject of HBO’s “Yours To Keep,” a feature documentary that chronicled his life after high school as he began his search for work as a DJ and actor. The documentary won an ACE AWARD for Best Feature Documentary. A former Special Olympic Athlete, Taylor possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of 70s and 80s pop and rock music. He has also testified before the Senate Committee to raise money for research on Down’s Syndrome, as well as being a guest speaker at the International Conference on Down’s Syndrome. When he is not acting, Taylor puts his knowledge of film and music to use as a valued employee at Sun Coast Video in his hometown of Spring Valley, New York.

LUIS AVALOS (Stavi)

Luis Avalos is a veteran character actor whose film credits include **HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE**, **LOVE STINKS**, **JUNGLE TO JUNGLE**, **THE BUTCHER’S WIFE** and **FIRES WITHIN**. He has also appeared in the movies of the week “Noriega,” “Colombo: Murder with Too Many Notes,” and “OP Center.”

On television, Avalos was a series regular on the shows “Resurrection Blvd.” “Hangin’ with Mr. Cooper,” “Ned Blessing” and “The Electric Company.” He has also appeared on the shows “American Family,” “NYPD Blue,” “E.R.” “Jag,” “Walker, Texas Ranger,” “The Rockford Files,” “The Jeffersons” and “Perry Mason.”

LEONARD FLOWERS (Jimmy)

Leonard Flowers makes his motion picture debut in **THE RINGER**. A Special Olympics athlete for 16 years, Flowers includes track and tennis among his many sports and has won multiple medals at Special Olympics World Games. He has appeared on the cover of a Wheaties Cereal box and is an accomplished public speaker serving as a Global Messenger for Special Olympics Texas. Flowers works as a teacher’s assistant for the San Antonio Independent School District.

ZEN GESNER (David)

Zen Gesner has appeared in several Farrelly Brothers films including FEVER PITCH, DUMB & DUMBER, KINGPIN, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, ME, MYSELF & IRENE, OSMOSIS JONES, SAY IT ISN'T SO and SHALLOW HAL.

Gesner recently starred in the independent features FLORIDA CITY, THE HOLLOW, LEGEND OF THE PHANTOM RIDER and SOCIAL MISFITS as well as BOAT TRIP, starring Cuba Gooding Jr.

On television Gesner was on the daytime staple "All My Children" for two seasons and guest starred on "Friends" and "Compromising Situations."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

BARRY W. BLAUSTEIN (Director)

Barry W. Blaustein wrote, produced and directed the critically acclaimed documentary feature BEYOND THE MAT. Cited by the Los Angeles Times as one of the best films of the year, BEYOND THE MAT won awards at numerous film festivals throughout the world as well as garnering a DGA nomination for Blaustein.

Along with his writing partner David Sheffield, Blaustein most recently penned the feature THE HONEYMOONERS, starring Cedric The Entertainer and Mike Epps. Their other feature writing credits include NUTTY PROFESSOR I and II, BOOMERANG, on which they also served as co-producers, and COMING TO AMERICA.

As head writers and supervising producers on “Saturday Night Live,” they wrote and developed many of Eddie Murphy’s more famous characters including Buckwheat, Velvet Jones, Gumby and Mr. Robinson. They also co-wrote and produced “What’s Alan Watching” for CBS, which won the National Television Critics Award as best special of the year.

They are currently writing a feature film for Eddie Murphy at Dreamworks.

RICKY BLITT (Screenwriter)

Ricky Blitt was a writer for the television series “Family Guy,” “Politically Incorrect” and “The Jeff Foxworthy Show.” Blitt recently sold the pitch BONING UP to Dimension Films. He is currently writing the film NUTTY NUT for Jerry Bruckheimer and Disney as well as an autobiographical pilot for HBO. He also wrote an upcoming Farrelly Brothers project called NOT A PRETTY WOMAN and will write the FAMILY GUY movie for Twentieth Century Fox.

As an actor, Blitt starred in a 2004 pilot for Fox Broadcasting Company called "Blitt Happens" and appeared in the Farrelly Brothers’ STUCK ON YOU. He has also appeared on multiple episodes of “Family Guy,” including one live action appearance with Alyssa Milano.

BRADLEY THOMAS (Producer)

Bradley Thomas began his association with the Farrellys as co-producer on their 1994 breakout hit DUMB & DUMBER and continued his collaboration with the siblings by producing the cult classic KINGPIN and box office blockbuster THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY.

In 1998, Thomas and the Farrellys formed a partnership by creating the production entity Conundrum Entertainment. Under the banner, Thomas has served as producer on the films ME,

MYSELF & IRENE, OSMOSIS JONES – which has been spun off into the top rated kids animation show on the WB network - SAY IT ISN'T SO, SHALLOW HAL, STUCK ON YOU and FEVER PITCH. Thomas is currently prepping for a big screen version of THREE STOOGES.

Prior to his partnership with the Farrellys, Thomas was a partner at the Motion Picture Corporation of America where he oversaw production on dozens of MPCA projects and built a film library consisting of over 100 titles. Thomas has also independently produced several films including BEHIND ENEMY LINES, THE LOCUSTS, starring Ashley Judd, Vince Vaughn and Kate Capshaw, and the romantic comedy MUSIC FROM ANOTHER ROOM, starring Jude Law, Jennifer Tilly and Brenda Blethyn.

Thomas was on a sojourn that took him around the world and found him doing volunteer work in India with Mother Teresa when he fatefully met film producer Jake Eberts and director Roland Joffe. After the chance meeting with the Oscar-nominated filmmaker, Thomas won a job as Joffe's video operator on CITY OF JOY before returning to the states to enter the ICM training program. Through his affiliation at ICM, he joined filmmakers Bernardo Bertolucci and Jeremy Thomas during preparation of their film LITTLE BUDDHA.

BOBBY FARRELLY and PETER FARRELLY (Producers)

Bobby Farrelly and Peter Farrelly are known for such outrageous hit comedies as THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, DUMB AND DUMBER, KINGPIN, ME, MYSELF & IRENE, SHALLOW HAL and OSMOSIS JONES. Most recently they produced and directed the Drew Barrymore/Jimmy Fallon starrer FEVER PITCH and the conjoined twins comedy STUCK ON YOU starring Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear.

The brothers' laid-back philosophy of filmmaking lunacy also lies at the heart of the Farrellys' Conundrum Productions, which serves as both home base for the brothers and as a launching pad for emerging talent. The company's first project, SAY IT ISN'T SO, a romantic comedy from first-time director, and former Farrelly assistant director, J.B. Rogers, opened in March 2001, starring Chris Klein and Heather Graham.

It was in 1998 that the Farrellys' brand of humor really took the world by storm, with the riotous THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY starring Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon. Hanging its twisted humor on unexpected plot turns and signature set pieces, the film was a comedic phenomenon, earning more than \$350 million worldwide and garnering a New York Film Critics Circle Award (Best Actress for Cameron Diaz), the People's Choice Award for Best Comedy, two Golden Globe nominations (including Best Picture-Comedy) and four MTV Movie Awards. In addition, the

Farrellys were honored as the 1999 ShoWest Screenwriters of the Year by the National Association of Theatre Owners.

The Farrellys' first break came when Eddie Murphy took a shine to Peter's debut script, *DUST TO DUST* (which he wrote with a how-to manual). Peter moved to Los Angeles, followed shortly by Bobby, and the two broke out as a screenwriting team, churning out more than a dozen unproduced screenplays, several feature rewrites and a few television credits, including "Seinfeld's" infamous virgin episode.

After almost a decade of work, the Farrellys still had not made a film, so they decided to take matters into their own hands and direct their next script. Culling heavily from *DUST TO DUST*, they cranked out 1994's *DUMB AND DUMBER* teaming Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels in a flat-out celebration of stupidity, pratfalls and bodily functions. With Peter at the helm and Bobby co-producing, the low-budget comedy became a blockbuster, grossing more than \$340 million worldwide and establishing the Farrellys as hot Hollywood property.

The trademark Farrellys style of toying with taboos was born, and would continue with the bowling spoof *KINGPIN*, the irreverent romantic comedy *THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY*, the split personality comedy *ME, MYSELF & IRENE*, the outrageous meditation on beauty *SHALLOW HAL*, the animated inner-body adventure *OSMOSIS JONES* and the foray into being brothers, *STUCK ON YOU*. The brothers also broke away in 1998 to write and produce the coming-of-age comedy *OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE*. Adapted with director/co-writer Michael Corrente from Peter's debut novel, the film opened to critical acclaim with *Time*'s Richard Schickel praising its "unblinking frankness about our basic humanity."

Next up for the Farrellys is a project they have been coveting for years, a feature version of the *THREE STOOGES*.

JOHN JACOBS (Producer)

John Jacobs has been working in the film industry as an executive producer and writer since 1986. Jacobs began his producer work as an executive at Orion Pictures, where he developed the Academy Award®-nominated and critically acclaimed *MISSISSIPPI BURNING*, as well as the comedy hit *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*. Jacobs left the company to run Wall Street financier Michael Steinhart's entertainment company, which co-financed the mega-hit series "The Adams Family." During that period, he also produced *MARRIED TO IT* and the family movie *BINGO* for TriStar.

In 1995, Jacobs worked as head of former Columbia Pictures Pictures Chairman Dawn Steel's company, where they produced the smash hit *COOL RUNNINGS*. The following year he served as

President of Atlas Entertainment, where he developed 12 MONKEYS, starring Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt, and CITY OF ANGELS, with Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan. He followed the projects by directing and producing the independent feature THE FIRST TO GO after which he formed the production and management company First Entertainment.

Jacobs most recently produced MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER, starring Ashton Kutcher, Tara Reid, Molly Shannon and Terence Stamp. He also served as Executive Producer on the hit comedy ANGER MANAGEMENT, starring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson. Jacobs currently has projects in active development at DreamWorks, Fox, MGM, Disney, Miramax, Universal, Spyglass Entertainment and Beacon Pictures.

TIM SHRIVER (Executive Producer)

Tim Shriver is Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics. In that capacity and his previous role as Special Olympics Chief Executive Officer and President, he serves nearly two million Special Olympics athletes and their families in over 150 countries. Under Shriver's leadership, Special Olympics has grown into a Movement that not only provides sports training and competition, but also promotes acceptance, inclusion, and respect for individuals with intellectual disabilities around the world and in their communities.

Shriver has been successful harnessing the power of Hollywood with initiatives in music, film, and television to highlight the issue of intellectual disabilities and other educational interests. He co-produced DreamWorks Studios' 1997 release, "*Amistad*," and Disney Studios' 2000 release, "*The Loretta Claiborne Story*." He also produced or co-produced shows for ABC, TNT and NBC television networks and has made broadcast appearances on *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *MTV* and *Nickelodeon's World of Difference*.

Shriver earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, a Master's degree in Religion and Religious Education from Catholic University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Connecticut. In addition to his role as Chair man of the Board of Special Olympics and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, Shriver currently serves on the Board of the Education Commission of the States' Compact for Learning and Citizenship, the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina, and the American Association on Mental Retardation.

MARK IRWIN, ASC, CSC (Director of Photography)

A regular collaborator with the Farrelly Brothers, Mark Irwin was the director of photography on their hit comedies including ME, MYSELF & IRENE, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, KINGPIN and DUMB & DUMBER.

Irwin has a long list of wide-ranging feature films to his credit which include SCARY MOVIE 3, MALIBU'S MOST WANTED, OLD SCHOOL, OSMOSIS JONES, SAY IT ISN'T SO, AMERICAN PIE 2, ROAD TRIP, 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU, SCREAM, DON'T LOOK BACK, VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN, THE AVENGING ANGEL, MIGHTY DUCKS II, MAN'S BEST FRIEND, PASSENGER 57, ROBOCOP II, HEATWAVE, BAT 21 and HANOI HILTON. He also shot the iconic David Cronenberg films THE FLY and DEAD ZONE.

ARLAN JAY VETTER (Production Designer)

Arlan Jay Vetter reunites with the Farrelly Brothers once again after having served as art director on STUCK ON YOU, SHALLOW HAL, ME, MYSELF & IRENE, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, KINGPIN, DUMB & DUMBER, OSMOSIS JONES and SAY IT ISN'T SO.

Vetter also recently served as production designer on the film THE PUNISHER, starring John Travolta and Thomas Jane. His other production design credits include LIKE MIKE, SURVIVING PARADISE and BLACK OUT.

GEORGE FOLSEY JR. (Editor)

George Folsey Jr.'s vast work as a film editor includes CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN, BASIC, DIRTY WORK, KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE, ANIMAL HOUSE, THE BLUES BROTHERS, COMING TO AMERICA, Michael Jackson's historic music video Thriller, BULLETPROOF, the American version of Michelangelo Antonioni's THE PASSENGER and re-editing THE GREAT SANTINI and John Duigan's ROMERO.

Among Folsey's producing credits are AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON, TRADING PLACES, COMING TO AMERICA, AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON, SPIES LIKE US, Thriller, CLUE, GREEDY, THE THREE AMIGOS, INTO THE NIGHT and GRUMPIER OLD MEN. He is currently producing a TV pilot based on the motion picture FARGO.

After 15 years of partnership with director John Landis, Folsey was asked, in 1988, to become Chairman of Qsound Labs, a Canadian corporation specializing in sound enhancement and localization.

He remains a director of this leading-edge technology company. Folsey is also a member of the Directors Guild of America and a director of Paulist Productions, which produced ROMERO.

Folsey Jr. is the son of the late Hollywood cinematographer George Folsey, who received 14 Academy Award nominations. After graduating from Pomona College, Folsey, Jr. worked as an editor at KABC-TV in Los Angeles and formed a company that shot and edited all the filmed segments of "Laugh-In."

MARC S. FISCHER (Co-Producer)

Marc S. Fischer co-produced the Farrelly brothers' previous comedy hits FEVER PITCH, SHALLOW HAL, ME, MYSELF & IRENE, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY and KINGPIN. He was also the co-producer on SAY IT ISN'T SO, directed by J.B. Rogers, which the Farrellys produced for their company, Conundrum Entertainment.

Fischer entered the entertainment industry by first working as a feature film accountant on the Oscar-nominated film RUNAWAY TRAIN, before graduating to unit production manager in 1988. In 1989, Fischer joined Orion Pictures as production chief.

His list of credits as producer and co-producer includes Mike Figgis' Academy Award-nominated LEAVING LAS VEGAS (for which he shared a D.G.A. nomination), HEXED, FOXFIRE, BEVERLY HILLS NINJA, MUSIC FROM ANOTHER ROOM and GUN SHY, which he co-produced with Sandra Bullock, who also starred in the film.

CLEMENS FRANEK (Co-Producer)

Clemens Franek is an executive at the Farrelly Brothers' production company Conundrum Entertainment. **THE RINGER** marks his first feature producing credit.

LISA JENSEN (Costume Designer)

Lisa Jensen's first feature film was the hit comedy MANNEQUIN, which was followed by MAID TO ORDER, RENTED LIPS, FREEJACK, THE GUN IN BETTY LOU'S HANDBAG, WHITE PALACE, CRISSCROSS and, perhaps most notably, THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS, which featured spectacularly slinky gowns for Michelle Pfeiffer. Her work will next be seen in THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS.

Jensen turned a new page with the hugely successful GRUMPY OLD MEN, which began an association with the late Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau that continued with GRUMPIER OLD MEN and THE ODD COUPLE II. She also designed the costumes for the short film PUPPIES FOR SALE, which starred Lemmon and won five international film festival awards. Jensen's other credits

include BABY'S DAY OUT, RICHIE RICH, DUDLEY DO-RIGHT, SAY IT ISN'T SO, DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR and GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE.

In preparation for her career in costuming for film, Jensen trained on several productions for Joseph Papp's Public Theater, designed costumes for several off-off-Broadway productions and designed for rock videos and after-school specials.

Unit Production Manager GARRETT GRANT
 Unit Production Manager MARC S. FISCHER
 First Assistant Director..... K.C. HODENFIELD
 Second Assistant Director PHILIP HARDAGE

THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK SPECIAL OLYMPICS
 FOR THEIR INPUT, TECHNICAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT.

CAST

Steve Barker JOHNNY KNOXVILLE
 Gary Barker BRIAN COX
 Lynn Sheridan KATHERINE HEIGL
 Glen JED REES
 Thomas BILL CHOTT
 Billy EDWARD BARBANELL
 Mark LEONARD EARL HOWZE
 Winston GEOFFREY AREND
 Rudy JOHN TAYLOR
 Stavi..... LUIS AVALOS
 Jimmy LEONARD FLOWERS
 David Patrick ZEN GESNER
 Steve Levy STEVE LEVY
 Michael..... AL "TRAIN" DIAS
 Paulie MIKE CERRONE
 Frankie..... TERRY FUNK
 Karen JANNA AMBORT
 Matt BO KANE
 Dr. Ahmed..... MOHAMMAD M. AHMED
 Mr. Henderson..... BRAD LELAND
 Waitress (Bar)..... CASSANDRA L. SMALL
 Priest..... JOHN ROTHMAN
 Yolie NICOLE BRADLEY
 Elliot SEAN P. GILDEA
 Brandi LAUREN-ELAINE EDLESON
 Sally..... RUTH N. STRAW
 Olympic Official..... RICHARD DILLARD
 Mailroom Guy HUGO PEREZ
 Peter (delivery) STEVEN CHESTER PRINCE
 Girl in Wheelchair DIANA HEART
 Starter J.D. STAHR
 Heidi HEIDI B. BUSH
 Kara KARA RASTRELLI
 Sandman TROY JACKSON
 Bryan Dilbeck..... BRYAN DILBECK
 Carlos Sierra CARLOS SIERRA
 Closs MICHAEL CLOSSIN
 Susan MEAGAN ELISE FLYNN
 Movie Patron ROSIE SHRIVER
 Volunteer SHANE MALLORY
 Motivational Speaker..... JESSE VENTURA
 Autograph Seeker SARA PETERMAN
 Stunt Coordinator TIERRE TURNER
 Stunts MICHAEL TRISLER

.....	MARK ANTHONY CHAVARRIA
.....	MARKUS LANGHANS
.....	MARY A. WRIGHT
.....	KEVIN L. JACKSON
.....	RICHARD BUCHER
.....	DAIN TURNER
.....	JON VAN DYKE
Associate Producer	K.C. HODENFIELD
Associate Editor	JOEL HELLER
Supervising Sound Editor.....	ANDREW DECRISTOFARO, MPSE
1 st Assistant Editor.....	MARK SCOVIL
Art Director	JOHN FRICK
Set Decorator	PHIL SHIREY
Set Designer	TIM ECKEL
Assistant Set Decorator	RANDY SMITH HUKÉ
Leadman	MARK HANKS
On Set Dresser.....	MICHAEL E. WILKS
Set Dressers	BOB BELL
.....	BRADLEY BLEI
.....	RAUL V. CARRERA
.....	APRIL CRUMP
.....	LAWRENCE M. GLASS
.....	JOHN PARKER
.....	SCOTT PEREZ
.....	WORDY WONSON
.....	JOHN DERRYBERRY
Art Department Coordinator.....	ANA MARTINEZ
Assistant Art Department Coordinator	CHRISTOPHER TELLES
Tensile Structure Consultant	RONN BASQUETTE
Storyboard Artist	MARC BAIRD
Graphics	ANDI SCULL
Second Second Assistant Director.....	CHRIS CASTALDI
Additional Second Second Assistant Director.....	KATHLEEN TULL
Steadicam / Camera Operator.....	STEPHEN J. ULLMAN
First Assistant "A" Camera	JEFFREY N. CIVA
Second Assistant "A" Camera.....	DON HOWE, JR.
First Assistant "B" Camera	EUGENE D. CLINESMITH III
Second Assistant "B" Camera	THEDA STREETMAN
Loader.....	MARQ EDWARDS
Sound Mixer	JONATHAN STEIN
Boom Person	JON M. UDELL
Cable Person.....	THOMAS W. STURGIS
Property Master	PHYLLIS DETRICH
Assistant Property Master.....	SCOTT REEDER
Props Assistants.....	MARI PHILLIPS
.....	JEFFERY D. WOODREL
Script Supervisor	PAM FULLER
Gaffer	JAY W. YOWLER
Best Boy Electric.....	SCOTT GRAVES
Rigging Gaffer.....	STEPHEN F. BEASLEY
Company Electrics	RAUL "BULL" MELLO
.....	SCOTT CONN
.....	JOSH TAYLOR
.....	TRAVIS TRAVIS
Rigging Best Boy Electric	BEAR E. SMITH
Rigging Electrics	ERIC MONTES

.....	DAVID A. TAYLOR
.....	NATHAN TELCK
Key Grip	DARWIN MONTANA BROWNE
Best Boy Grip	DANNY BRAZEN
Dolly Grip	GREG LOMAS
Company Grips.....	BOBBY BASTARACHE
.....	LAYNE CHANEY
.....	TIM TRAVIS
.....	STEVE WALKER
Rigging Key Grip	ANGELO L. SUASNOVAR
Rigging Best Boy Grip	STEVE DRAKE
Rigging Grips	CHRISTOPHER E. HAMALA
.....	PETER KOLB
Associate Costume Designer	ELIZABETH SHELTON
Costume Supervisor	KEITH G. LEWIS
Key Set Costumer.....	JANICE JANECEK
Set Costumer	STEVEN CONSTANCIO
Makeup Department Head.....	PAMELA WESTMORE
Key Makeup	TROY BREEDING
Makeup Effects.....	TONY GARDNER
Hair Department Head.....	ROXIE NORMAN
Key Hair	MELISSA (MISSY) FORNEY
Hair Stylists	CHARMAINE RICHARDS
.....	CHARLES YUSKO
Production Supervisor	RICHARD E. CHAPLA JR.
Production Coordinator	NATALIE ANGEL
Assistant Production Coordinator.....	SANDHYA SHARDANAND
Production Accountant	DESIREE VARNI
1 st Assistant Accountant	SANDY SFEIR
Payroll Accountant	CLYDE ALLEN CONNELL
2 nd Assistant Accountant	JENNA DUPREE
Post Accountants	KIM BODNER
.....	CHRIS STARK
Location Manager.....	K.J. KERNAN
Assistant Location Manager	SHOBIE PARTOS
Location Scout.....	JOSE HERNANDEZ
Location Assistants.....	STEVE WHITE
.....	JIMMY SCHWERTNER
.....	PETE SHARP
Special Effects Coordinator.....	BOB TREVINO
Special Effects Foreman	STEVE FRUSHER
Construction Coordinator	JOE MCCUSKER
Construction Foreman	RODNEY BROWN
Gang Boss/Construction	RON PERKINS
Construction Production Assistant	TRACIE LAYMON
Carpenters.....	KENNY ANDERSON
.....	DANIEL R. CLERMONT
.....	GARRY KIRKS
.....	LUCKY LOBDELL
.....	MILES ANDREW MCCAULEY
.....	ALAN R. SEROTTA
.....	RON WHITE
.....	FELIX ROSALES III
.....	JOE P. BARROW
.....	MARK GUTIERREZ
Lead Scenic	THOMAS D. KARL, JR.

Scenic Artist	DAWN BAKER
Paint Foreman.....	SHEILA M. EITSON
Painters	DAVID MICHAEL ABELMAN
.....	VIRGINIA CAPOBIANCO
.....	JUDITH B. DROUIN
.....	JIMMIE S. GOODMAN
.....	JOHN B. GOODMAN
.....	ROBYN JACOBS
.....	LEOLA L. PEREZ
.....	SCOTT E. SCHOFIELD
.....	RANDALL STUCKEY
.....	TERESA VOTA
.....	RANDAL WOODWARD
Lead Greens.....	HAP WEAVER
First Assistant Greens.....	MARGARET "MAGGIE" JOHNSON
Greensmen.....	GLEN BOHLS
.....	CHRISTOPHER MARTIN
Set Production Assistants	JAMES D'ANDREA
.....	PAUL D. CARTER
.....	KAYSE GOODELL
.....	KAREN RAMIREZ
.....	JEREMY W. REISIG
.....	MARIO KYPRIANOU
Office Production Assistants	JOHNNY LEE
.....	TARA REIMERS
Assistant to Peter Farrelly	JAY BIEDERMAN
Assistant to Bobby Farrelly	KEVIN BARNETT
Assistant to Barry W. Blaustein	MATT EPPEDIO
Assistant to Bradley Thomas.....	SCOTT BROOKS
Assistant to Marc S. Fischer & Garrett Grant.....	JAMES BADSTIBNER
Assistant to Johnny Knoxville.....	TIMOTHY SHEEHAN
Casting Associate (Los Angeles).....	KIM EVERETT-MARTIN
Austin Casting	JO EDNA BOLDIN
Austin Casting Associate	KIT GWIN
Austin Casting Assistant	MELISSA MERCER
Extras Casting	TONI COBB BROCK
Extras Casting Coordinator	SALLY ALLEN
Extras Casting Assistant.....	JEREMY F. HALL
Extras Casting Production Assistant.....	LETICIA CHAVARRIA
Still Photographer.....	DEANA NEWCOMB
Unit Publicist.....	JOHN M. PISANI
Video Assist	JAMES "SPORTY" AHERN
Video Engineer.....	JOHN JOHNS
Special Olympics Vice President	
Sports and Competition	DAVE LENOX
Special Olympics Texas Coach	JAN SARTAIN
Transportation Coordinator	GREGORY B. FAUCETT
Transportation Captain	LONNIE NELSON
Transportation Co-Captain	DAVID A. LITTLE
Transportation Office Assistant.....	KERI MOORHOUSE
Catering	GALA CATERING
Craft Service.....	SAÚL SANCHEZ
.....	JOE FORLINI
.....	MIKE GILLESPIE
Set Medic.....	LAURA J. KING
Construction Medics.....	MELODY LLOYD

.....	PAUL A. BEACH
Security.....	BRIGADE
Wrangler.....	RONNIE REEVES
Choreographers	RAQUEL R. TORRES
.....	JOANNA GALLAGHER
Interns.....	JEANNE DEAR
.....	LINDSAY HOVEL
.....	PATRICK LOPEZ
.....	ERIK J. FOSSUM
.....	PAUL PLEASANT
Camera Cranes and Dollies by	CHAPMAN / LEONARD STUDIO EQUIPMENT, INC.
Apprentice Editor	CHARLES KAPLAN
Editorial Production Assistant (Austin).....	MARTIN LUECKE
Editorial Production Assistant(Los Angeles)	JONATHAN M. ABRAMS
Supervising Sound Mixers	BOB BEEMER
.....	RUSTY SMITH
Additional Mixing	NELLO TORRI
Re-Recordist.....	FRED W. PECK III
Engineer	ROBERT SMITH
Re-Recorded at	SONY PICTURES STUDIOS
.....	WILLIAM HOLDEN THEATER
Supervising Dialog Editor.....	NANCY KYONG NUGENT, MPSE
Supervising Sound Effects Editor.....	STEPHEN P. ROBINSON
Sound Effects Editor	DAVID ESPARZA
Supervising Foley Editor.....	LISA VARETAKIS
Assistant Sound Editor	PATRICK CUSACK
Manager of Sound Services.....	AARON GREEN
Transfer	GARY BLUFER
Sound Editorial & Services	SOUNDSTORM
ADR Mixers	HOWARD LONDON
.....	DAVID WEISBERG
Foley Mixer.....	KYLE ROCHLIN
Foley Artists	PAMELA KAHN
.....	VINCENT GUISETTI
Voice Casting	BARBARA HARRIS
Negative Cutter.....	GARY BURRITT
Color Timer	DENNIS McNEILL
Preview Engineer	LEE TUCKER
Titles and Opticals by.....	CUSTOM FILM EFFECTS
Visual Effects by	DIGITAL FILMWORKS
Visual Effects Supervisor/Producer.....	COSMAS PAUL BOLGER, JR.
Senior 3D Artist	EDWARD QUIRK
Senior Compositing Artist.....	MARCO PAOLINI
Compositing Artist	TOMMY TRAN
Supervising Production Coordinator	SHARON STETZEL
Production Coordinator	HEATHER IGNARRO
Film Technicians	ROBERT LUKACS
.....	GILBERT DELAGARZA
.....	AANAND SHRESTHA
Music Editor.....	STEVE LOTWIS
Conductor	JOSEPH CRNKO
Contractor.....	SIMON JAMES
Orchestra Recorded by	BRAD HAEHNEL
Mixed by	BOB CASALE
Assistant Engineer.....	JOHN ENROTH
Score Recorded at	BENAROYA HALL

Mixed at MUTATO MUZIKA
Digital Recordist..... BRIAN VALENTINO
Second Engineer..... KORY KRUCKENBERG
Scoring Stage Technician..... JOHN SCHLUCKEBIER
Musicians THE NORTHWEST SYMPHONIA

SONGS

"TON OF SHAME"

Written by Randy Weeks and Jeff Rymes
Performed by Randy Weeks

"MR. SANDMAN"

Written by Pat Ballard

"SWEET RIDE"

Written by Gustaf Noren and Bjorn Dixgard
Performed by Mando Diao
Courtesy of Mute Records
Under license from EMI Film & Television Music

"WINK AND A NOD"

Written by Tom Wolfe
Performed by The Funny Bones

"MERLOT"

Written by Tom Wolfe
Performed by The Tasters

"REAL THING"

Written by Tom Wolfe
Performed by The Shakers

"MAIN TITLE AND CALVERA "

From The United Artists Motion Picture THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
Written and Performed by Elmer Bernstein
Courtesy of MGM Music, Inc.

"HOT SUGAR"

Written by Sammy James Jr. and Graham Tyler
Performed by The Mooney Suzuki
Courtesy of Columbia Records
By arrangement with Sony Music Licensing

"GIRLS GONE WILD"

Written by Karlyton Clanton, Rochad Holiday and Chris Reese
Performed by Dirty Rat
Courtesy of Choicetracks, Inc. and Position Music

"WE GOT TO GET YOU A WOMAN"

Written and Performed by Todd Rundgren
Courtesy of Bearsville Records
By arrangement with Warner Strategic Marketing

"IF SHE WANTS ME"

Written by Sarah Martin, Stuart Murdoch, Richard Colburn, Michael Cooke, Christopher Geddes, Stephen Jackson and Bob Kildea
Performed by Belle & Sebastian
Courtesy of Rough Trade/Sanctuary Records Group
By arrangement with Natural Energy Lab

"PIANO MAN"
Written by Billy Joel

"MY CHERIE AMOUR"
Written by Stevie Wonder, Sylvia Moy and
Henry Cosby

"KELLERMAN'S ANTHEM"
Written by Michael Goldman

"FOX SPORTS NETWORK COLLEGE BASKETBALL THEME 2001"
Written by Christopher Brady
Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

"SEPTEMBER"
Written by Allee Willis, Al McKay and Maurice White
Performed by Earth, Wind & Fire
Courtesy of Columbia Records
By arrangement with Sony Music Licensing

"PRETTY GIRLS"
Written by Carl Brown, Shelly Goodhope, Tanesa Tavin, Daniel Brattain, Veronica Mendez, Darrell Mitchell, Albert Cota, Chantel Roquemore and Michael Monagan
Performed by The Kids Of Widney High
Courtesy of Michael Monagan

"YOU ARE EVERYTHING"
Written by Linda Creed and Thomas Bell
Performed by The Stylistics
Courtesy of Mercury Records Limited
Under license from Universal Music Enterprises
and Courtesy of Amherst Records, Inc.

"RESPECT"
Written by Otis Redding
Additional lyrics by Shantel Brown, Veronica Mendez, Cain Fonseca, Daniel Brattain, Carl Brown, Shelly Goodhope, Chantel Roquemore, Tanesa Tavin, Dantell Weston and Michael Monagan
Performed by The Kids of Widney High
Courtesy of Michael Monagan

THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE:

A special thanks to the athletes, families, volunteers, and staff of Special Olympics Texas

David Sheffield

Michael Monagan and the Kids of Widney High

Bob Cooper

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AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION MONITORED THE ANIMAL ACTION.

NO ANIMAL WAS HARMED IN THE MAKING OF THIS FILM.

(AHA00628) + LOGO

Approved No. 40908 (MPAA Globe)

MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

IATSE "Bug"

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