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Walt Disney Pictures
presents

SKY HIGH

Directed by MIKE MITCHELL
 Written by PAUL HERNANDEZ
 and BOB SCHOOLEY
 & MARK MCCORKLE
 Produced by ANDREW GUNN
 Executive Producers MARIO ISCOVICH
 ANN MARIE SANDERLIN
 Director
 of Photography . . . SHELLY JOHNSON, A.S.C.
 Production Designer . . BRUCE ROBERT HILL
 Edited by PETER AMUNDSON
 Costume Designer . . . MICHAEL WILKINSON
 Music by MICHAEL GIACCHINO
 Music Supervisor LISA BROWN
 Casting by ALLISON JONES
 Unit Production
 Manager PAUL MOEN
 First Assistant Director JUSTIN MULLER
 Second Assistant Director JOHN MORSE

CAST

Will Stronghold MICHAEL ANGARANO
 Steve/The Commander KURT RUSSELL
 Josie/Jetstream KELLY PRESTON
 Layla DANIELLE PANABAKER
 News Anchor CHRIS WYNNE
 Ron Wilson Bus Driver . . KEVIN HEFFERNAN
 Ethan DEE-JAY DANIELS
 Magenta KELLY VITZ
 Little Larry LOREN BERMAN
 Zach NICHOLAS BRAUN
 Penny MALIKA
 Penny KHADIJAH
 Lash JAKE SANDVIG
 Speed WILL HARRIS
 Gwen/
 Royal Pain . . MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD
 Principal Powers LYNDA CARTER
 Coach Boomer BRUCE CAMPBELL
 Carbon Copy Kid DUSTIN INGRAM
 Warren Peace STEVEN STRAIT
 Nurse Spex CLORIS LEACHMAN
 Mr. Grayson/Stitches JIM RASH
 Mr. Boy DAVE FOLEY
 Mr. Medulla KEVIN MCDONALD
 Twin AMY BROWN
 Evil Twin KIMMY BROWN
 Cook LUCILLE SOONG
 Young Commander ZACHRY ROGERS
 Mr. Timmerman TOM KENNY
 Mrs. Timmerman JILL TALLEY
 Voice of Royal Pain . . . PATRICK WARBURTON
 2nd Unit Director/
 Stunt Coordinator SCOTT ROGERS
 Assistant Stunt Coordinator . . CHRIS O'HARA

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Babies Lab Work JACK FIRMAN AURELIO GUZMAN AARON KOONS MATT ROGERS	Foley Mixers JAMES ASHWILL RICHARD DUARTE ADR Mixer DOC KANE ADR Recordist JEANETTE BROWNING Dubbing Recordist JUDY NORD Post Production Sound Services BUENA VISTA SOUND ADR Voice Casting LEIGH FRENCH
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SupervisorDAVID LINGENFELSER	Music Conducted &
Executive ProducerSCOTT DOUGHERTY	Orchestrated byTIM SIMONEC
Digital	
Manager . . .JEFFREY EDWARD BAKSINSKI	
General ManagerRALPH DENSON	
Visual Effects Producer . . .TIFFANY A. SMITH	

Additional OrchestrationsJACK HAYES
 MARK GASBARRO
 CHRIS TILTON
 LARRY KENTON
 Score Recorded & Mixed by . . .DAN WALLIN
 Score Recorded &
 Mixed at . . .EASTWOOD SCORING STAGE
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 Score Music
 EditorSTEPHEN DAVIS, M.P.S.E.
 Synth Programmers . . .BRANDON CHRISTY
 KEVIN RIPEL
 Score AssistantCHAD SEITER
 Orchestra ContractorsREGGIE WILSON
 CONNIE BOYLAN
 Music Preparation byBOOKER WHITE,
 WALT DISNEY MUSIC LIBRARY
 Music CoordinatorJENNIFER ROSS

Comic Book Sequences
 & Titles byPICTURE MILL
 Creative SupervisorWILLIAM LEBEDA
 Art DirectorBRADFORD BERLING
 ProducerCHRISTINA HWANG
 IllustratorKIERON DWYER
 AnimatorsNELSON YU
 KENNETH PELLETIER
 ColoristDERICK TSAI

Digital Intermediate
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 Digital Intermediate
 ProducerDEVIN STERLING

Opticals &
 Visual EffectsBUENA VISTA IMAGING
 Negative
 Cutters . .BUENA VISTA NEGATIVE CUTTING
 MARY BETH SMITH

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 2nd ADDOUG PLASSE
 2nd 2nd ADSTEPHEN P. DEL PRETE

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 HOLLI STRICKLAND
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 1st Assistant B CamKEVIN POTTER
 2nd Assistant A Cam .SUZANNE M. TRUCKS
 CostumersSUSAN LICHTMAN
 DEBORAH CURTIS

SONGS

“Everybody Wants To Rule The World”
 Written by Ian Stanley, Roland Orzabal,
 Chris Hughes
 Produced by Jeff Saltzman
 Performed by Christian Burns
 Courtesy of Hollywood Records, Inc.

“Save It For Later”
 Written by Roger Charlery, Andy Cox,
 David Steele, Everett Morton, David Wakeling
 Produced by Dave Bassett
 Performed by Flashlight Brown
 Courtesy of Hollywood Records, Inc.

“Can’t Stop The World”
 Written by Kathy Valentine
 Produced by Jamie Houston
 Performed by Ginger Sling

“True”
 Written by Gary Kemp
 Produced by Chad Fischer
 Performed by Cary Brothers

“Please, Please, Please, Let Me
Get What I Want”
Written by Steven Patrick Morrissey,
Johnny Marr
Produced by Don Gilmore
Performed by Elefant
Courtesy of Hollywood Records, Inc.

“Through Being Cool”
Written by Mark Mothersbaugh,
Robert Mothersbaugh, Gerald Casale
Produced by They Might Be Giants
and Pat Dilleat
Performed by They Might Be Giants
Courtesy of Disney Sound

“And She Was”
Written by David Byrne, Tina Weymouth,
Christopher Franz, Jerry Harrison
Produced by Keaton Simons and Scott Brueznak
Performed by Keaton Simons

“Twist And Crawl”
Written by Roger Charlery, Andy Cox,
David Steele, Everett Morton, David Wakeling
Produced by Jason Bieler and Skindred
Performed by Skindred
Courtesy of Lava Records LLC

“Just What I Needed”
Written by Ric Ocasek
Produced by Matthew Gerrard
Performed by Caleigh Peters
Courtesy of Hollywood Records, Inc.

“Voices Carry”
Written by Aimee Mann, Michael Hausman,
Joey Pesce, Robert Holmes
Produced by Michael Kotch and
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Performed by Vitamin C

“One Thing Leads To Another”
Written by Cy Curnin, James Oram,
Adam Woods, Peter Greenall, Alfred Agius
Produced by Matthew Gerrard
Performed by Steven Strait

“Lies”
Written by Alannah Currie, Joseph Leeway,
Thomas Bailey
Produced by Mike Denneen
Performed by The Click Five
Courtesy of Lava Records LLC

“Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer”
Written by Johnny Marks

“I Melt With You”
Written by Robert James Grey,
Stephen James Walker, Michael Frances Conroy,
Gary Frances McDowell, Richard Ian Brown
Produced by Jaret Reddick
Co-produced by Casey Diiorio
Performed by Bowling For Soup
Courtesy of Jive Records



American Humane Association monitored the
animal action. No animal was harmed in the
making of this film.
(AHA #00797)



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WELCOME TO SKY HIGH

The everyday reality of ordinary teenagers joins forces with a fantastical super hero world in SKY HIGH, an original Walt Disney action-packed family comedy that meshes teen drama, comic book adventures and inventive special effects with a cast of hot up-and-coming actors, to create a thrilling summertime entertainment event. Tomorrow's heroes are led by the legends of today, such as the return of Disney icon Kurt Russell—celebrating his 40th anniversary with Disney, where he began his career as a child star—as well as Kelly Preston and a host of comic book icons, ranging from Lynda Carter (TV's "Wonder Woman") to comic book movie favorite Bruce Campbell.

It all begins at a secret school in the clouds like none on earth: Sky High, the first and only high school for kids with super-human powers going through crime-fighting puberty. At Sky High, the student body throw flames with their footballs, study Villainy with their Chemistry and are divided into "Heroes" and "Sidekicks" instead of jocks and geeks. It's an out-of-this-world yet completely recognizable place where cool gadgetry, rampant bravery and awe-inspiring magical skills mix it up with parental battles, peer pressure and dating trouble—with explosively fun results.

This year's class features some of the best, brightest and most powerfully gifted super-teens ever assembled. And then there's Will Stronghold (MICHAEL ANGARANO). When you're the son of the world's most legendary super heroes, The Commander (KURT RUSSELL) and Jetstream (KELLY PRESTON), people expect you to live up to the family name. The problem is that Will is starting with no superpowers of his own and, worst of all, instead of joining the ranks of the "Hero" class, he finds himself relegated to being a "Sidekick." Now he must somehow survive his freshman year while dealing with an overbearing gym coach (BRUCE CAMPBELL), a bully with super speed and a dangerous rebel with a grudge (and the ability to shoot fire from his hands)...not to mention the usual angst, parental expectations and girl problems that accompany teenage life. But when an evil villain threatens his family, friends and the very sanctity of Sky High, Will must use his newfound superpowers to save the day and prove himself a "Hero" worthy of the family tradition.

SKY HIGH stars Kelly Preston, Lynda Carter, Michael Angarano, Danielle Panabaker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Bruce Campbell, Dave Foley, Steven Strait, Kevin McDonald, Cloris Leachman and Kurt Russell. The film is directed by Mike Mitchell, written by Paul Hernandez and Bob Schooley & Mark McCorkle, and produced by Andrew Gunn, and the

WELCOME TO SKY HIGH

executive producers are Mario Iscovich and Ann Marie Sanderlin.

The behind-the-scenes team bringing SKY HIGH to life includes director of photography Shelly Johnson, production designer Bruce Robert Hill, editor Peter Amundson, costume designer Michael Wilkinson, and composer Michael Giacchino. SKY HIGH is driven by a youthful soundtrack compiled by music supervisor Lisa Brown (platinum-selling “Freaky Friday” soundtrack).

SUPER HERO SCHOOL'S IN SESSION: HOW SKY HIGH WAS CREATED

Teen culture collides with super hero fantasies in the world of SKY HIGH, with funny and exciting results. The original concept for the film came from the mind of screenwriter Paul Hernandez, a long-time comic book fan, who began to wonder, if super heroes really existed in the world...*what would happen to their kids?* Surely, as they turned into rebellious, uncertain and searching teenagers on the cusp of adulthood, they would need a special school that could train them to use their untamed super-abilities for the good of the planet. It would

be a place where instead of studying for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, kids would train hard for the Save the Citizen test. And just as any high school tends to separate kids into different cliques and social groups, this academy would have its elite “Heroes” dominating over those destined to merely be “Sidekicks.” The idea lit a wild spark in Hernandez’s imagination.

He began to think about setting a hip and observant coming-of-age comedy inside a secretly located school designed especially for future super heroes. The idea was to mix a John Hughes-style teen drama—complete with cafeteria power struggles, stake-your-future exams and high-pressure school dances—with mega-powerful comic book icons.

Hernandez brought the concept to producer Andrew Gunn, who saw the potential for creating what he calls “‘The Breakfast Club’ with capes,” an enormously fun, stunt-and-effects-laden family adventure fueled by the equally incendiary stuff of adolescent emotions. “One of the things I loved about the idea for SKY HIGH is that it combines real, everyday high school problems any one can relate to with the far more incredible problems of being a super hero,” Gunn observes. “In high school, no matter who you are, all your emotions are dialed up to 11 and you have all these intense worries about being popular, having a girlfriend, etcetera. But add to that also being a super hero and having the ability to throw flames and crush buildings and suddenly there’s a lot of fun you can have combining these two volatile worlds.”

Gunn continues: “I grew up on movies like ‘Pretty in Pink’ and ‘Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.’ Nobody has ever made movies since that were so authentic about the emotions kids go through at that time in their lives. John Hughes’ writing was so respectful of teens and didn’t speak down to them. Hopefully this movie is the perfect combination of ‘John Hughes movie meets

super hero movie.”

As the screenplay evolved, Gunn asked the screenwriters to focus on the story’s teenage emotional reality first and foremost—then layer on top of that the characters’ uniquely super-heroic skills and adventures. Gunn explains: “For me, the key to developing the script became creating a story strong enough that you could actually remove all the super hero elements and still have a fun movie. We ended up with a great foundation for the action in a story that’s about friendship, loyalty and a kid realizing that what really defines being a hero isn’t his external power but what’s on the inside.”

Gunn also pushed the writers to develop the film with its own fresh, upbeat style. “So many contemporary super hero films are very dark and take themselves so seriously,” he says. “We wanted SKY HIGH to be a comedy full of big, bright color and lots of tongue-in-cheek humor.”

The search then began for a director who could conjure just the right blend of reality, comedy and fantasy to make the visual fantasia of SKY HIGH come to life. The filmmakers decided to trust their vision to Mike Mitchell, a talented animator and story-board artist who carved out a reputation for innovation with several award-winning shorts. Says executive producer Ann Marie Sanderlin: “Mike Mitchell is a big kid and we knew he could deliver our vision of the film. He is constantly drawing cartoons and coming up with ideas. Everything is in his mind visually before it’s ever on paper or the screen and he brought so much enthusiasm to the project.” Adds executive producer Mario Iscovich: “Mike constantly thinks of the most amazing things. He takes the art of cinema in new directions because he is so modern in his approach. He really understood the heart of this film because he is so kid-like himself.”

For Mitchell, SKY HIGH was a chance to create an imaginative fantasy world filled with flying and shape-shifting while reflecting the real world of teen hopes and ambitions at the same time. He infused the story with a buoyant, pop-influenced look-and-feel to heighten both its comedy and energy. “I wanted to hearken back to those fun ’60s and ’70s family comedies that we all remember so fondly and at the same time to really play and have fun with the genre,” says Mitchell. “Most of all I wanted SKY HIGH to be a very entertaining roller coaster ride for audiences of all ages.”

WILL STRONGHOLD: “HERO” OR “SIDEKICK”?
MICHAEL ANGARANO PLAYS A KID WHO CAN’T FIND HIS SUPERPOWERS

Are you one of tomorrow’s “Heroes” or simply a “Sidekick” of the future? At Sky High, that question is quickly answered with the school’s high-pressure Power Placement test, which assesses a teen’s potential for crime-fighting brilliance right off the bat. But what happens when the son of two of the world’s most awesome super heroes fails the test and is told he’s destined to become “Hero Support” (a nice way of saying “Sidekick”)?

This is the dilemma that faces young Will Stronghold, who seems not to have inherited any of the amazing super-human skills that his mega-powerful mom and dad have at their disposal. (As Kurt Russell, who plays Steve Stronghold AKA The Commander says of Will Stronghold:

“It’s basically as if the child of Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf went to tennis camp and couldn’t even hit the ball.”)

To play the story’s unlikely hero, Will, the filmmakers searched for an ordinary, all-American kid who could handle being thrust into a truly extraordinary situation. They found what they were looking for in teenaged Michael Angarano, who most recently drew acclaim in the skateboarding drama “Lords of Dogtown.” “Michael has that true ‘every kid’ quality,” says Mike Mitchell. “He’s also a really funny guy, physically very talented, and he just seemed to sum up who we wanted Will Stronghold to be: a normal, likeable person you want to hang out with.”

For Angarano, the decision to star in the film was instantaneous. How often does any teen get a chance to transform into a super hero, not to mention learn how to leap through solid walls? “The idea of SKY HIGH fulfills every kid’s dream, and my dream too, to be a super hero,” says Michael. “What kid didn’t grow up with the fantasy of being able to fly across the whole country or being super strong and being able to toss a building? At Sky High, it all comes true.”

Michael also could relate to the troubling secret weighing heavily on Will: that he might not have what it takes to follow in his parents’ awe-inspiring footsteps; indeed, that he might not be “super” at all. “Because of his parents, everyone expects Will to be ultra-strong and be able to fly, only he can’t seem to do any of that yet,” Michael explains. “It’s intimidating to

feel like you have to fulfill your mom and dad’s incredible legacy when you’re just a kid and you don’t really know who you are yet. And right from the start, Will feels like he’s in a lot of trouble because he’s going to Sky High with all these expectations and he doesn’t believe he can meet them.”

He continues: “What’s really interesting about Sky High is that it’s pretty much a typical American high school of today except that every kid has these different amazing powers. It has its cool kids and its nerds, its ‘Heroes’ and its ‘Sidekicks’—which is why I think it’s a story a lot of people will relate to. But then it’s also got a lot of comedy and it’s completely action-packed, so not all the situations are entirely normal!”

Though Michael enjoyed the emotional drama inherent to Will’s character, he was especially revved up by the film’s action—which has him ultimately defying gravity at exhilarating speeds. “For me, one of the best parts of the film was simply getting to put on a harness and fly through the air. That part is the dream come true,” he summarizes.

**SUPER-PARENTS:
KURT RUSSELL AND KELLY PRESTON STAR AS A SUPER HERO DUO
WITH BIG CRIME-FIGHTING DREAMS FOR THEIR SON**

Will Stronghold’s loving dad and mom are typical stressed-out, overworked American

parents with one difference: their “jobs” are defeating world-threatening villains and saving the planet on a daily basis. To play Steve and Josie Stronghold—AKA The Commander and Jetstream, the married super hero duo who send their son off to Sky High with high hopes—the filmmakers brought in two popular and charismatic Hollywood stars: Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston.

For Kurt Russell, taking a major role in this contemporary Disney family comedy was a unique opportunity to bring his versatile motion picture career full circle. He actually began in movies as a child star under contract to Disney in 1966, working closely with Walt himself, and went on to be seen in dozens of Disney projects over the next four decades—including such memorable family classics as “The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes” to “Superdad” and “The Strongest Man in the World.”

“It’s been an interesting experience working with Disney through the years,” says Russell. “I spent a lot of time with Mr. Disney when I was a kid. He took the time to really talk to me and teach me at a very early age about script and character and story arc—things that later on in my life would become very, very important to me. It was a long time ago, but he was a great filmmaker, a great man and a great student of the game. So it’s a lot of fun to be able to do a movie that has his brand on it.”

Some thirty years after starring as “The Strongest Man in the World” in 1975’s Disney family comedy, Russell was thrilled to return to fresh Disney territory and impressed by the script for SKY HIGH. “It really struck my funny bone,” he comments. “I especially liked the idea of ‘Heroes’ versus ‘Sidekick’ kids—like the nerds having to deal with BMOCs [Big Men On Campus]! I also thought the character of The Commander was fun and full and exciting. Overall, it felt like a great comedy adventure.”

Though The Commander embodies a chiseled, invincible profile of a classic super hero, Russell sees Steve Stronghold as not only a made-of-steel super hero but also a good yet flawed family man. “He’s a loving father but not a particularly attentive one,” the actor observes. “Being a super hero, his son has a lot to live up to, even more than most children do, and Steve doesn’t realize the enormous pressure he’s putting on Will. He’s like the father who was a great athlete, and now he wants his son to follow in his footsteps. He assumes that his kid is great, only to find out he’s not even going to make the team. I think a lot of men have the fantasy of seeing their kid be the big hero; in fact, that’s natural because it reflects their heritage. We all go through this stuff, so when you put that all on the super hero level, it’s even more interesting and fun.”

Mike Mitchell found Russell’s portrait hit just the right note. “Kurt really captured the tone of a dad who loves and wants the best for his son—but, at the same time, is a little twisted in wanting *too* much for his son,” says the director. “What was also wonderful about Kurt is that he really grabbed the humor of the film right away. There’s a way to play this sort of role cool and straight and then there’s the way we wanted to approach it—with that kind of 1960s

'Batman' feeling of really having fun with the genre. Kurt's even got a little hint of Adam West in his multi-layered performance."

Joining with Russell as perhaps the world's most powerful mom is Kelly Preston in the role of Will's literally high-flying mother, Jetstream. Preston was struck by the story's fresh concept in family comedy and adventure. "I thought it was such a clever idea to have super hero kids going to a high school in the sky, and the story was very original and funny," she says. "I also liked the idea of playing a super hero mom who has to deal with fighting crime and raising a son simultaneously—and I knew that working with Kurt Russell would be a blast."

Preston quickly fell in love with her character's potent nature. "Josie's great. She can fly very fast, kick villains' butts and she's extremely strong," says the actress. "When I put on the boots and the cape and the whole outfit, I would really feel like a super hero and had a great time."

But Preston also enjoyed playing Josie Stronghold as a regular mom whose teenaged son is facing tough times at the precipice of adulthood. "What makes SKY HIGH so special, I think, is that it is a comedy adventure that also has a wonderful family story to it about kids and parents and surviving the teen years," she says. "And the thing about Josie is that no matter what else happens, Will is her top priority and the thing that matters most in the world." Mike Mitchell was thrilled with Preston's contributions to the film. "Kelly brings a really great balance to the Stronghold family," he says. "She has her own amazing strengths but she's also the one who is most able to tune in to Will as he heads off to Sky High. She's sort of the ultimate fantasy mom."

SKY HIGH'S "SIDEKICKS"

"HERO SUPPORT" SAFETY PRACTICES

1. Report all unsafe conditions to your super hero immediately.
2. Be aware of emergency exits from super villain's lair.
3. Use only approved super hero costumes and utility belts.
4. Always wear your personal body armor when facing villains.
5. Do not attempt to save lives if under the influence of a super villain's spell or potion/power.
6. Remember, you are responsible for the safety of your super hero as he saves the world!

In the world of SKY HIGH, if you're not a "Hero," you're simply a second-fiddle "Sidekick" destined to provide "Hero Support." After the all-important Power Placement test, Will Stronghold himself is labeled a "Sidekick" and joins a group of other super-kids who haven't quite worked out the full force of their powers. Among his new crew of friends are:

Sidekick: Layla (Danielle Panabaker)

Special Power: Controls Nature

Will's loyal friend Layla hides her superior superpowers during the Power Placement test so that she will become a "Sidekick" just like Will—and winds up helping to lead the "Sidekicks" to unexpected victory. To play Layla, director Mike Mitchell turned to a rising

young talent he had worked with in “Surviving Christmas,” Danielle Panabaker. Danielle found Layla to be an extremely cool character to play. “She’s very funky and upbeat, with her own unique vibe, and she definitely marches to the beat of her own drummer,” says the young actress. “She’s Mother Nature’s daughter so she’s really concerned about the earth and being wholesome—but she also has her own secret: she’s in love with Will. And in true male fashion, Will is oblivious to that fact!” She continues: “The issues that Layla and Will and the other characters are dealing with in SKY HIGH are really similar to issues that kids were dealing with at the high school I went to. They might be super heroes but they’re dealing with unrequited love, trying to fit in and trying to please their parents just like every kid of that age.”

Sidekick: Ethan (Dee-Jay Daniels)

Special Power: Melts

Brainy, awkward Ethan is another “Sidekick” who discovers unknown strengths when the going gets tough—and soon realizes the uses for a unique superpower: the ability to melt his body into liquid whenever he gets into a tight spot. Playing Ethan is 16-year-old Dee-Jay Daniels, making his feature film debut. Dee-Jay didn’t mind playing a ‘Sidekick’ in SKY HIGH. “What I like about the movie is that at first everyone thinks these ‘Sidekicks’ are just nothing, they have boring powers, and the ‘Heroes’ are the best—but then the ‘Sidekicks’ start to get bold and they realize they can do some amazing things. As it turns out, ‘Sidekicks’ are pretty cool, too.”

Sidekick: Zach (Nicholas Braun)

Special Power: Human Nightlight Who Can Glow At Will

Zach is the cocky freshman who is quickly humbled when he is labeled a ‘Sidekick’ after his power to glow fails to impress. To portray Zach, the filmmakers cast Nicholas Braun, who was previously honored with a Young Artists’ Award nomination for his role in Showtime’s “Walter & Henry.” Braun related to Zach’s split-second journey from ‘in crowd’ to outcast. “It happened to me in high school,” he notes. “It happens to a lot of kids. You go to school thinking you’re so cool and then things happen where you get humbled. In Sky High, Zach realizes the ‘Sidekicks’ are really where it’s at. They’re all talented; they’re loyal to each other, and it turns out they all have reasons to be proud of who they are.”

Sidekick: Magenta (Kelly Vitz)

Special Power: Shapeshifter

Magenta, played by newcomer Kelly Vitz in her feature film debut, is a punky, young super hero with the power to shapeshift—only she can’t seem to turn into anything other than a purple guinea pig! Like her cast-mates, Kelly was immediately drawn into the story’s mix of very recognizable high school reality and wild comic book fantasy. “It’s a coming-of-age film as well as a comedy and that’s what makes it a lot of fun,” she says. Kelly also had a great time working with director Mike Mitchell. “He is so like a kid,” she observes. “He’s drawing all the time, he has all these amazing creative ideas and he makes everything really, really fun.”

SKY HIGH’S “HEROES”

Ruling over Sky High’s ‘Sidekicks’ are the popular, elite and stunningly powerful “Heroes”

who are being honed to become the great crime-fighters of tomorrow—which can sometimes go straight to their heads. Among their ranks are:

Hero: Gwen Grayson (Mary Elizabeth Winstead)

Special Power: A Technopath Who Can Control Technology With Her Mind

Smart and pretty, but with a hidden secret, Gwen Grayson quickly becomes the object of Will Stronghold's affections—as he leaves behind his “Sidekick” friends to date a popular “Hero.” To play Gwen, the filmmakers eschewed the usual blonde cheerleader heroine and chose instead the ravishing brunette Mary Elizabeth Winstead, who is already an award-winning young actress. Says Winstead of the role: “Gwen is the Queen Bee, the ruler of the school. She can be sweet but she’s also manipulative and she uses her charm to lure Will into dating her.” Winstead loved that Sky High seemed to mirror just about any suburban high school in the U.S. in its social structure—but with a twist. “Sky High isn’t exactly your typical high school, but it has your typical teenagers. It takes real high school situations to a weirder level,” laughs Winstead. “You’ve got people flying, freezing, fighting, going through walls and bouncing off ceilings. It’s constantly entertaining.”

Hero: Warren Peace (Steven Strait)

Special Power: Flame Thrower

Warren Peace is Sky High’s rebel without an extinguisher—a powerful flame thrower with a super-heated grudge. In looking for someone to play this brooding, misunderstood loner, the filmmakers carried out extensive auditions with no success. With the entire rest of the film cast, Mike Mitchell at last saw the actor he knew could play Warren Peace: Steven Strait, a young Greenwich Village-based actor, model and rock singer who seemed to embody the role. Strait was excited to play a super hero with more than just superpowers going on. “Warren was a really interesting character to me because he has a lot of internal struggles,” says Steven. “He’s someone who makes a complete transformation in the course of the movie and that’s a great challenge to play.” Steven related to Warren’s feelings of alienation. “I think we all know someone like Warren or like Layla or like Will from our own school experiences,” he says. “Sky High is just like a real high school except that when you have people throwing flames, running at 100 miles an hour and tossing tables through walls—the stakes get raised.”

Hero: Lash (Jake Sandvig)

Special Power: Stretches To Any Length

An actor since the age of 5, Jake Sandvig plays the role of the troublemaker “Hero,” Lash, who uses his stretching superpowers to play practical jokes at Sky High. For Jake it was the overall experience of SKY HIGH that made the film so unique and special. “You had so many great people around, from the big heroes like Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston, to all these young actors making their first movie,” he notes. “You really couldn’t ask for a better atmosphere. And on top of that there’s Mike Mitchell who acts like he’s one of the kids, but at the same

time, he's also really brilliant and constantly coming up with cool ideas.”

Hero: Speed (Will Harris)

Special Power: Turbo-Charged Quickness

The character of Speed lives up to his name in every way—he does everything fast, from eating to running to pulling pranks on “Sidekicks” like Will Stronghold. Playing Speed is newcomer Will Harris, who was chosen for the role after producer Andrew Gunn saw him perform in a high school play. After auditioning, Mike Mitchell liked the humor in the idea of the imposing 6-foot-plus Will Harris playing one of the fastest kids on earth. Harris had fun with a part that he describes as “your typical school bully.” He adds: “And since I can move faster than anyone else, I like to believe that no one can touch me!” Most of all, Harris enjoyed getting the chance to do a lot of wild stunts. “We get to do a lot of cool action,” he says. “Waiting for those scenes was like waiting in line for a roller coaster. You’re so scared but then want to do it again and again because it’s so much fun.”

Hero: Penny (Malika & Khadijah)

Special Power: Can Instantly Multiply Herself

Rounding out the cast of “Heroes” is Penny, the cheerleader who can multiply herself infinitely—appropriately played by identical twin actresses Malika and Khadijah. Malika and Khadijah enjoyed Penny’s comically conceited antics. Says Malika: “Penny is sassy, sporty and very trendy. She loves to overpower the younger girls and ‘Sidekicks.’ And if there’s an empty table in the cafeteria at lunch, she’ll multiply herself to sit in every chair so nobody else can sit there!” Adds Khadijah: “She’s fun to play because she’s the opposite of who I am. We used to be the ones being picked on but now we get to have a little revenge.” The twins love working together. “We are truly blessed as twins,” says Khadijah. “But we are still individuals and you will see that in Penny, who has very different aspects to her personality, though you will not be able to tell who is who.” But the twins especially liked becoming a part of the whole SKY HIGH experience. “SKY HIGH is a movie that gives you more than just a great story,” sums up Malika. “In the end you realize that there is a hero inside everyone. We all have different ways of showing our powers and what we’re able to do—but in SKY HIGH you have a chance to see that every kid is capable of doing something amazing.”

THE SUPER-STAFF OF SKY HIGH:

A HOST OF COMIC BOOK ICONS AND LEADING COMICS JOIN THE CAST

In addition to the super-human student body at Sky High, the school is also populated by a super-powerful staff of ex-‘Heroes’ and mad geniuses faced with the challenge of keeping out-of-control super-teens in line. To cast these key supporting roles, the filmmakers went after a top-notch crew of their favorite funny performers. “We wanted to work only with those people that we really thought were funny and cool. We really lucked out that they all wanted to do it,” says Mike Mitchell.

Chief among them is Bruce Campbell, who first came to the fore in the cult horror-comedy series “Evil Dead” and has gone on to a lauded career as both an actor and director, most recently appearing in the super hero sagas “Spider-Man” and “Spider-Man 2.” In SKY HIGH, Campbell plays the devilishly demanding, sonic-voiced gym teacher, Coach Boomer, who has

the power to decide who among Sky High’s student body will sink as a ‘Sidekick’ or swim as an almighty Hero.

The filmmakers brought in Campbell because of his irresistible appeal to pop-culture followers and comic book fans. “We started out wanting to know which actors comic book lovers are really into—and Bruce Campbell is definitely that guy,” says Mike Mitchell. “We were also all really big fans of his.” Adds Andrew Gunn: “Bruce came in, took what was on the page and made it completely his own. His delivery makes his lines some of the most unforgettable in the movie.”

Campbell couldn’t pass up the chance to take on a role that combines elements of the classic semi-sadistic gym teacher with cartoon-style powers. “I love bigger-than-life characters,” he says. “I also thought it would be a lot of fun to do a Disney comedy. It reminded me of all those family movies we used to love when we were kids—the kind of movies Kurt Russell used to star in as a young man—that combined cool effects and comedy set in the completely fantastical Disney world.”

On set, Campbell, in typical fashion, threw all caution to the wind and went to town with the character, cracking up his cast and crew-mates with his portrayal. “I basically use the classic football coach approach,” he explains, “with the whistle, the dark sunglasses and the loud voice, but when I shout out that someone’s a ‘Sidekick,’ you’ll actually see a shockwave come out of my mouth. SKY HIGH is such a wonderfully heightened comic world that you can really have fun with it.”

Another comic book icon who shows up in the halls of Sky High is Lynda Carter, best known to the world as TV’s Wonder Woman, who here plays Sky High’s savvy Principal Powers. “For over a year we talked about the possibility of trying to get Lynda Carter to play Principal Powers, so when she said yes, we were just thrilled,” says executive producer Ann Marie Sanderlin.

Carter brought her own original ideas about the character to the filmmakers. “I really like to play against what is expected, so I didn’t want to act like a typical principal,” she explains. “In the script she’s your basic, conservatively dressed principal but I thought, instead, she should be very sharply dressed and wearing stilettos and just larger than life. These super-kids are not easy to deal with, so Mike and Andrew really liked the idea of having her be this real intimidating force of nature that the kids can’t help but respond to.”

Also joining the cast are several comedy-troupe veterans including two former “Kids in the Hall” comics—Dave Foley as the former-‘Sidekick’-turned-teacher, Mr. Boy, and Kevin McDonald as Mr. Medulla, the mad science teacher whose head suggests his hefty level of intelligence—as well as a member of the Broken Lizard comedy group, Kevin Heffernan, starring as Driver Ron.

Says Foley of his character: “Mr. Boy is a former ‘Sidekick’ of The Commander. He’s now teaching but he’s somewhat bitter about it and he misses the old times. Not only is he bitter about being pushed out of the picture by The Commander, but he also has a secret crush on Jetstream. He’s a lot of fun to play.” Part of the fun was getting an opportunity to work with Kurt Russell—on extremely close terms. “Kurt and I spent a whole day shackled next to each other. That was a good chance to get to know each other with our bodies wrapped in chains and immobilized for 12 hours. He’s great and gives a wonderfully subtle, comic performance as The Commander.”

Foley also enjoyed his first big-screen chance to work with fellow “Kids in the Hall” alum Kevin McDonald, who plays Mr. Medulla, the science teacher whose head is literally several sizes too big. “I suppose I’m good at big heads,” laughs McDonald. “Actually, Mr. Medulla is one of the smartest men in the world and he teaches the class Mad Science at Sky High. But

you know what they say: those who can’t do super-heroing teach super-heroing.”

Meanwhile, Kevin Heffernan—the “Broken Lizard” member who stars in and co-wrote this summer’s “Dukes of Hazzard”—adds additional laughs as Driver Ron, who transports the super-kids to Sky High’s secret location every day and has his own past with the school. “It turns out Ron aspired to be a super hero but

he didn’t make the cut,” explains Heffernan. “So now he’s like a borderline stalker of super heroes, but in a really loving way. He basically has a case of hero worship for these kids.”

Finally, making a special appearance in SKY HIGH is veteran comic actress Cloris Leachman in the role of Nurse Spex, Sky High’s school nurse who sports X-ray Vision. Leachman found the film’s imaginative premise a big draw. “I thought the script was so entertaining, funny and different,” she says. “There were so many wonderful characters and fun, clever ideas. It’s just chock-full of magic. But it’s also the kind of movie that finds humor from real-life situations. It’s just the sort of thing I love.”

SKY HIGH’S ACTION-PACKED ACTIVITIES: ABOUT THE FILM’S SOARING STUNTS AND EFFECTS

At Sky High, the students not only have attitude, a lot of them also have altitude, with special powers that allow them to jump, fly and stretch to the sky. Once the filmmakers compiled a cast who could bring the heart of SKY HIGH to life, their next focus was on forging the film’s fast-paced action and visual thrills. In addition to storyboarding the film,

director Mike Mitchell also designed detailed pre-visualizations—moving storyboards that look like video games—for the action sequences, allowing him to work out each scene’s complicated mix of stunts and effects ahead of the game. “Everyone was really creative and worked together—camera, effects, stunts, costumes, art department—in sync right from the start and that really paid off on set,” says Mitchell.

Aiming for a bright, exuberant, youthful tone reminiscent of Disney family classics, Mitchell didn’t want to rely too heavily on the ubiquitous CGI and green-screen effects most people associate with super hero adventures. Instead, he chose to rely on lots of innovative, old-school in-camera tricks and physical stunts utilizing wires, harnesses and cleverly engineered sets, similar to what might be used in a cutting-edge martial arts movie. “Because we wanted to hearken back to a kind of ’60s comic book style in the film’s look, we needed a more low-tech approach mixed in with the latest cutting-edge techniques,” explains Mitchell. “The film is still really action-oriented, and there are lots of big stunts and effects, but it’s different this way from what people are so used to.”

For the cast, the emphasis on in-camera effects meant one thing: hair-raising stunts, and lots of them, from climbing poles to leaping through walls to flying at rocket speeds. Early on, the decision was made to do most of the stunts physically rather than digitally—and to have the actors doing as many as possible to heighten the exhilaration and the realism. “A lot of the stunts could have been done by a computer, but we all agreed it would be more authentic and exciting to do as much as we possibly could live,” says executive producer Ann Marie Sanderlin. “Our very brave young actors wanted to do all the really dangerous stuff, of course, and we were the ones holding them back in certain cases.”

At the center of the film’s stunt-work are the flying sequences. To make the characters’ superpowers more believable, Mike Mitchell wanted his cast to really appear to take flight. But how do you create a realistic sense of human bodies defying gravity without serious danger? In answer to that question, the filmmakers of SKY HIGH engaged the magical services of Scott Rogers’ company GO STUNTS, which recently designed the groundbreaking, high-speed, computerized winches that made the flight scenes in “Spider-Man 2” so riveting.

SKY HIGH became the second film ever to use the new technology, which can whisk an actor up to 45 feet per second and stop his or her flight precisely within 3 inches of a window. The system allows the actors (or stunt people) doing the flying to move in far more complex and varied ways, creating a much more visceral experience for the audience.

“Scott Rogers made an amazing contribution to SKY HIGH,” says executive producer Mario Iscovich. “We’re only the 2nd movie to ever use these electric winches, which are essentially a tool. How the stunts are then created, rigged, designed and rehearsed is the magic of Scott Rogers and his crew. Their stunts look real, they’re innovative, they’re fresh, and they are not what you see on every movie and that’s what’s really special about his stunts.”

Rogers (who also served as 2nd Unit Director) loved getting to play with the amazing powers of super heroes. “The fun part about designing stunts for SKY HIGH is that these are super hero kids who can destroy things without getting hurt. They’re all somehow resilient to cement and wood and things that would break us ordinary people! So early on I kept going to Mike Mitchell and saying ‘You know, we could fly through this wall’ or ‘We could smash this object,’ and as we went along the ideas kept getting bigger and bigger and crazier and crazier,” he recalls. “It was a great challenge.”

Rogers continues: “The stunt with Steven Strait’s character blowing through the walls of the faculty lounge and hitting the column that then collapses is actually the stunt that started the whole ball rolling. The trick was that Mike wanted to use the real actor and do it all in one shot.” Collaborating closely with the special effects department on breakaway walls and columns, Rogers rehearsed and refined the stunt until he was completely confident the actor could do it safely before training Steven Strait. The whole shot lasts 1.72 seconds but took over 20 hours to design. They went through three rounds of specially built soft columns before they were deemed cushy enough for Strait to crash into without fear. “It looks like the column is what stops him, but it’s actually the wires that do all the work,” explains Rogers. “But I don’t think he would’ve cared if it was a real brick wall because he wanted to do it so badly!”

One of the film’s apex stunts comes when Michael Angarano as Will Stronghold heads right through a wall. This took preparation. “It takes a little getting used to for somebody to look at a solid wall and be willing to run right through it,” admits Rogers. “We worked with Michael over the course of many weeks so that he got used to it, was relaxed and able to just act and not think about the stunt.”

Angarano was exhilarated when he found out that he and his young cast-mates were going to do pretty much every stunt in the action-crammed story themselves. “We pretty much did everything—the flying, the fighting, the harness work,” he summarizes. “One of my favorite stunts is when I fly upwards and shoot from 0 to 50 miles per hour in about 2 seconds. It was frightening but amazing.”

The character with the most flying scenes is Kelly Preston’s super-mom, Jetstream. “Doing the flying was great and so freeing,” says Preston. “I was always a tomboy growing up, so I love doing dangerous sports. I’ve even jumped out of a plane. When I was a kid, I was a gymnast and I think my body remembers what I used to do. And Scott Rogers is amazing. He and his whole team worked with me on the poses and the spins and the different ways of flying so that I would look cool.”

“We developed a custom harness that put Kelly in a position where there was no stress on her body,” explains Rogers. “The winches basically pulled her into amazing shapes and we just guided her. The way it works is that once you’ve perfected a particular move on the wires, then you can bring up the speeds faster and faster. What her willingness enabled us to do was to fly her at a speed that, as far as I know, is unparalleled. We couldn’t go fast enough for her...she loved it.”

On top of the physical stunts, special effects supervisor Al Broussard and his team of technicians rose to the challenge of creating close to 70 practical small and large gags for the film. Examples of the myriad in-camera tricks they designed in collaboration with Mike Mitchell include Warren Peace’s finger-lighting candle and Layla’s instant-growing plants. On a larger scale, they also created the monstrous beast known as “The Muncher,” the whirling metal machine that tests the students’ ability to save a citizen from becoming mulch in 3 minutes flat; the school bus gimbal that whisks the kids up to Sky High on a crazy pitching and rolling ride; and the conveyor belt designed to move large numbers of babies into a



in Glendale. Stage 5 at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank was also used for additional classrooms, offices and hallways. The *piece de resistance* for Hill was creating Sky High's gymnasium, where three of the film's most entertaining and complicated sequences take place: the Power Placement test, the Save the Citizen simulation and the Homecoming Dance. "Each of these major events involves both visual effects and physical effects as well as stunts, so the gym set had to be very flexible and user-friendly," explains Hill. "The stunt team needed to have their truss grid in the ceiling of the gym, and the camera needed to be able to shoot 360 degrees in the space and not see the truss. So we incorporated the grid into our design by basket-weaving some fabric into the actual truss work. That provided us with a scenic element in the ceiling and a place to rig the stunts."

Hill based his designs for Sky High on a typical high school. "For example, the detention center that negates your powers is a very minimal white void, but it has a huge vent at the top," he explains. "The vent is the kind you've seen everywhere in schools, but here it's completely oversized, giving it a different feel. Elsewhere you have other common elements, like the standard clocks on the wall, mixed with stuff that's very unlike what you would find at a normal school. There's always that funny juxtaposition of the everyday and the incredible."

Outside of Sky High's environs, Hill's favorite set was that of the Stronghold household—and its underground super hero realms—which were also built at Barwick Studios. "I love the Stronghold house because it's so different," Hill comments. "It's very warm and inviting, based on a real house in South Pasadena. But then, underneath the house is this whole other world. That's where we created the parents' secret sanctum, which is done in a castle motif, a medieval theme since the family name is Stronghold. Going into the secret sanctum for Will is the equivalent of being able to drive your dad's car for the first time."

Meanwhile, as Hill created Sky High's sets, Michael Wilkinson was undertaking the epic job of costuming an entire school of super hero teenagers—each with their own wildly individual sense of style. "Creating the costumes for SKY HIGH was a huge task costuming-wise," Wilkinson observes. "There are 17 principal characters with 10 to 12 costume changes each. Each look is a very considered, specialized look, a look that goes beyond reality. In addition, for the high school and the Homecoming Dance, we dressed over 300 extras—and then there are the specialty super hero suits as well!"

Early on, it was decided that the super-teens wouldn't wear old-school cape-and-mask-type outfits—so the costume designer had to come up with more subtle and modern ways to get at their hidden powers. Thankfully, Wilkinson proved himself to be up to the mission. "Michael Wilkinson was such an important person to the whole picture. We had no idea the level of creativity he was going to bring, but Michael came in with a color palette for each kid that really set the tone," explains Ann Marie Sanderlin. "For example, all the Strongholds are in red, white and blue all the time because they're so all-American; Zach is in Day-Glo color

because he's all about glowing; and Layla wears flower colors—yellows and greens—because of her association with nature. He had a reasoning behind every color choice.”

“With each of the kids, I tried to hint, in a witty way, at their superpowers and their personalities,” adds Wilkinson. “So we did two things—first, we used color to delineate each character and then we used the idea of archetypes to really give the costumes some punch. For example, Will was thought of as classic all-American, Layla is a bohemian hippy, Zach is a clown, Magenta is the Goth girl and Ethan is nerdy/preppy. We really wanted to create a whole

posse of friends that are like this unit with complementary personalities forming a great pack of characters.”

Perhaps the biggest wardrobe challenge of the project was creating the specialty costumes for the super heroes The Commander, Jetstream, and All American Boy, as well as the super-villain costumes for Royal Pain and Stitches. “It’s a costume designer’s dream to join a legacy of 60 years of super hero costumes and

try to push the envelope a little bit,” admits Wilkinson. “I wanted to come up with a whole different look.”

He continues: “Mike and I wanted the costumes to feel very different from the super hero films of recent years, which have tended to be bleak and menacing with lots of metal and leather,” adds Wilkinson. “We wanted to throw that all out, start again, and do something that has the visual appeal of ’60s and ’70s super heroes with dynamic, full-colored graphic shapes and a tongue-in-cheek humor. We also thought it would be great if the adult super heroes really contrasted with the younger generation of super heroes, who have a much more rebellious, fresh-off-the-street teenage fashion sense.”

Wilkinson updated the adult super heroes’ classic spandex suits with what he calls “edgy modern appeal.” He explains: “We used different high-tech materials such as sculpted foam, latex muscle suits, sprayed latex capes, hard armor and fiberglass pieces to bring the suits up to date. And we even have laser-cut silicone injected in the spandex of the Royal Pain costume for the computer circuitry.”

The Royal Pain costume soon lived up to its name. “There are so many elements to that costume; it breaks down to about 23 different pieces. In order to achieve the head-to-toe look of a half-woman/half-machine, there are gloves, knee-pads and layers and layers of spandex upon close cell foam upon vacuum-foamed plastics. It’s an amazing conglomeration.”

A high note among many high notes for Wilkinson on SKY HIGH was the chance to design outfits for Wonder Woman, Lynda Carter. Carter was impressed by how much super hero costuming has changed since she last donned a cape. “It’s amazing what they can do with Styrofoam now—they can make everyone’s body look phenomenal,” she comments. “Back when I was doing ‘Wonder Woman’ there was nothing like that!”

For the Commander and Jetstream outfits, Wilkinson was inspired by the chiseled musculature of Art Deco sculpture that celebrates strength and power. The suits might have a sleek look but, for the actors within, they are heavy and can become dangerously hot inside.

In order to be able to shoot for longer periods, a cooling system that allows cool water to flow directly against the skin was installed in Kurt Russell's costume. "Even with the cooling system, I would lose between 8 and 10 pounds of water weight every day," says Russell. "Still I wouldn't mind wearing it all the time...I certainly look better!"

Kelly Preston had to forgo the cooling system. "Kelly's costume is so body-hugging that there was not enough room for the cooling unit under the boned corset with a layer of neoprene and foam latex over the top," explains Wilkinson. "So she had to sacrifice comfort for looking fabulous. I warned all the actors ahead of time: being a super hero is not the easiest thing in the world, but there is a great payoff!"

SKY HIGH'S BEAT: ABOUT THE MUSIC AND SOUNDTRACK

Driving the non-stop drama and action of SKY HIGH is a score by the acclaimed composer of "The Incredibles," Mike Giacchino, and a soundtrack compiled by "Freaky Friday" music supervisor Lisa Brown.

Giacchino, who also composes for the hit action-oriented television shows "Alias" and "Lost," took his musical cues from the story's themes, adding lots of heroic flourishes and bold brass lines for the score's 82-piece orchestra. Further inspiring Giacchino were the original Max Fleischer-animated "Superman" cartoons with their dynamic orchestral scores full of triumphant climaxes and folksy Americana. Keeping up with the film's mix of the incredible and the ordinary, Giacchino merges such unusual, futuristic instrumentation as the theremin to a score that has moments of both lightness and drama.

In further homage to the now-classic adolescent-themed movies of John Hughes, the filmmakers then asked the music supervisor to also weave in a collection of hit New Wave songs from the '80s re-recorded and made new again by some of today's hottest contemporary young bands. These include covers of "I Melt With You" by Bowling for Soup, "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" by Christian Burns, "Save It for Later" by Flashlight Brown, "Can't Stop the World" by Ginger Reyes, "And She Was" by Keston Simons and "Lies" by The Click 5.

Sums up Andrew Gunn: "The music for SKY HIGH reflects the film's fast pace, its distinctive style and, most of all, it contributes to the mix of high energy, hip humor and drama that makes the story such a unique adventure."

waiting school bus.

Other complex shots—such as Warren Peace’s firebolts and Principal Powers’ comet—were produced with a combination of practical fire effects on set, sweetened by CGI in post-production. Visual effects supervisor Mitchell Drain headed a team of about 80 artists from the effects house Asylum to complete the film’s approximately 300 visual effects shots.

“We hope that there will be a lot of wow factor involved in these visual effects,” says Drain. “We pushed all of our technology just a little bit further to try to make the effects as photographically real as possible while still retaining that cartoony, fun flavor that Mike Mitchell is so fond of. Ultimately, I think the marriage of some of the spectacular real stunts with the visual effects will definitely catch the viewers’ eyes.”

IN THE HALLS OF SKY HIGH: THE DESIGN OF A SUPER HERO TEEN WORLD

When Will Stronghold arrives at Sky High, he quickly discovers a world that is half typical suburban high school, half utterly incredible super hero training camp. For the filmmakers of SKY HIGH, creating this world with a blend of smarts, humor and imagination was key to getting the movie to take flight. Working with Mike Mitchell on the film’s overall look was a team that includes director of photography Shelly Johnson, production designer Bruce Robert Hill and costume designer Michael Wilkinson.

Shelly Johnson was inspired by Sky High’s soaring platform location (in reality, the school’s exterior is played by the more earthbound Cal State University, Northridge, with its modern, curvilinear architecture), which let him play with light in fun ways. “Basically, we based the lighting on what pilots say about how the light looks when they’re in an airplane,” explains Johnson. “We used techniques to really sharpen our shadows and make the sunlight very, very white and always reflecting off the walls and bouncing off the floors to light the characters. Throughout the film, we also exaggerated a lot of the angles to give the whole visual journey a lot of bang.”

Johnson also worked with the filmmakers on developing a palette of eye-popping comic book-style colors. “We used very saturated colors that are a joy to work with,” he notes. “Michael Wilkinson even created the costumes with a pearlescent shine to them so that they would reflect light in interesting ways and visually pop on camera.”

Working closely with Johnson was also Bruce Hill, who was faced with the unusual challenge of building a typical 21st-century high school—with lots of sci-fi twists. “We wanted it to be familiar but also dynamic with touches that take you into a fantasy world,” he says. “You get a certain amount of poetic license when the school you’re creating is floating in the sky above the earth.”

The filmmakers built the interiors of Sky High on four cavernous stages at Barwick Studios

ABOUT THE CAST

KELLY PRESTON (Josie Stronghold/*Jetstream*), a talented and captivating performer, has performed in a broad range of motion pictures, portraying roles in such diverse films as “Jerry Maguire,” “Citizen Ruth” and “Twins.” Her dynamic and compelling performances have proven her to be one of the most sought-after actors of our generation.

Preston, who is the current face of Neutrogena’s national advertising campaign, was last seen in “Eulogy,” which premiered in January 2004 at the Sundance Film Festival and was released by Lions Gate Films last October. She co-starred in this dark comedy alongside Ray Romano, Hank Azaria, Famke Janssen, Zooey Deschanel and Debra Winger. The film centers around a dysfunctional family forced to come together for their father’s funeral. She was also recently seen as The Mom in “The Cat in the Hat” alongside Mike Meyers.

Preston also starred in the independent drama “Return To Sender” alongside Connie Nielsen and Aidan Quinn for Oscar®-winning director Bille August. Preston plays “Susan Kennan,” a lawyer fighting to exonerate a woman who is on death row. As the case unfolds, she is forced to question the motives of a man who has befriended her client. The film premiered in September 2004 at the Toronto Film Festival.

Upon graduating from high school, Preston relocated to Los Angeles and enrolled in the University of Southern California where she studied drama and theatre. She ultimately transferred to the University of California at Los Angeles and decided to commit to pursue acting seriously. She would soon win her very first audition.

Preston was born and raised in Hawaii. As a result of her father’s position with an agricultural firm, the family moved first to Iraq for one year and then to Australia for two years. It was while she was a teenager in Hawaii that Preston appeared in television commercials and began to develop an interest in an acting career.

She made her feature film debut with a well-received role in the hit motion picture “Twins,” opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. Her additional film credits include “Only You,” “Run,” “The Perfect Bride,” “The Experts,” “Spellbinder,” “Space Camp,” “52 Pick-Up,” “Secret Admirer” and “Mischief.” Ms. Preston also starred in the Academy Award®-nominated short “Little Surprises” directed by Jeff Goldblum.

Preston appeared to rave reviews opposite Tom Cruise in the number-one box-office smash hit “Jerry Maguire.” The Tri-Star picture was written and directed by Cameron Crowe. She was also seen in a pivotal role in the critically acclaimed motion picture “Citizen Ruth” for Miramax. In addition, she starred in the hit feature film “Addicted to Love” co-starring Meg Ryan and Matthew Broderick and was seen in the comedy “Nothing to Lose” opposite Tim Robbins and Martin Lawrence.

Preston also starred in the feature film comedy “The Holy Man,” with Eddie Murphy and Jeff Goldblum, “Jack Frost” opposite Michael Keaton for Warner Bros., “Daddy and Them” directed by Billy Bob Thornton, “For the Love of the Game” opposite Kevin Costner for director Sam Raimi, and most recently in the Miramax film “View From the Top” with Gwyneth Paltrow and Christina Applegate and directed by Bruno Barreto and the Warner Bros. film “What a Girl Wants” opposite Amanda Bynes and Colin Firth.

LYNDA CARTER (Principal Powers) began her career as a singer and toured extensively with various rock bands, appearing in venues from Las Vegas to the Catskills. After winning the Miss World USA crown in the 1970s, Carter embarked on her career as an actress and soon found success as the star of the hugely popular television series “Wonder Woman,” a beloved show still being broadcast today in countries around the world. Other starring roles in television series followed, including “Partners in Crime” with Loni Anderson and the frontier drama “Hawkeye.”

In addition to her television series work, Carter has starred in numerous television films including “Family Blessings,” “Secrets Between Friends” and “She Woke Up Pregnant,” all three ranking in the top ten. She both produced and starred in the films “Hotline,” “Stillwatch,” “Born to be Sold” and “The Last Song”; had leading roles in the films “Daddy” and “Posing” and the title role in “Rita Hayworth: The Love Goddess.”

Carter produced and hosted a series of five Emmy®-winning television-network variety specials featuring her singing and dancing (where she appeared with such guests stars as Ray Charles, Kenny Rogers, George Benson, Merle Haggard and Tom Jones). Carter continues to appear as a live entertainer on stage around the world, including headline performances in Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Atlantic City, Monte Carlo and the London Palladium.

She recently starred in the feature films “Bloodhead” directed by Christopher Coppola and has appeared in “Super Troopers.” She was also a featured performer in “Lightning in a Bottle” and “Terror Peak” for PAX television and “Bobbie Jo and the Outlaw.”

In addition to her career as an actress and entertainer, Carter has been featured in a number of national advertising campaigns. Among other advertisers, Carter was asked to serve as Beauty and Fashion Director for Maybelline Cosmetics and for thirteen years appeared as Maybelline’s “face” to the public in print and broadcast advertising campaigns.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Carter has been involved in many charitable causes, including a pioneering role with the Susan G. Komen Foundation (for breast cancer education and research) from whom she received the Jill Ireland Award for volunteerism, the Red Cross, U.S.O., Ronald McDonald House, and many charities benefiting children.

Carter lives outside Washington, D.C., with her husband, attorney and businessman Robert Altman, and their two children, James and Jessica.

MICHAEL ANGARANO (Will Stronghold), who has been acting since the age of five and has an impressive list of credits to his name, is about to step into the spotlight and claim his position as one of Hollywood’s most promising young actors. Angarano, who starred in “Seabiscuit” and “Almost Famous,” can be seen this summer starring in Sony’s “Lords of Dogtown.” Angarano, who just wrapped “One Last Thing” opposite Ethan Hawke and Cynthia Nixon, will soon begin production on the independent film “Black Irish.”

He also starred in “Dear Wendy” with Jamie Bell and Bill Pullman which bowed at this year’s Sundance Film Festival and is expecting a theatrical release this fall.

Angarano’s previous film credits include “Speak” with Steve Zahn and Elizabeth Perkins,

“Little Secrets” with Evan Rachel Wood, a very dramatic portrayal of the son of Meryl Streep’s character in Wes Craven’s “Music of the Heart,” “For Richer or Poorer” with Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley, “The Extreme Adventures of Super Dave,” “Baby Huey’s Easter Adventure,” Hallmark’s “Edgar & the Magic Crayon” and the independent films “I’m Not Rappaport,” “River Red” and “Childhood’s End.”

Angarano is no stranger to television. He appeared in multiple seasons of “Will & Grace” portraying Jack’s (Sean Hayes) son Elliott who had spent several years searching for his biological father. He also starred in USA’s critically acclaimed “Cover Me” which was based on the true life tales of an FBI family. This role gave Angarano the opportunity to showcase his diversity as an actor by portraying a character that frequently had to change his identity to go undercover.

Angarano’s previous television credits include a recurring role on “Another World” and guest starring roles on “ER,” “Less Than Perfect,” “Kevin Hill,” “The Pretender,” “Seven Days” and “Cybill.”

In spite of his very busy acting career, Angarano maintains a remarkably normal life. He attends a private high school and is involved in soccer when he is not working. He likes sports, hanging out with his friends and going to movies. Angarano is part of a large family that he remains very close to.

Angarano resides in both New York and Los Angeles.

DANIELLE PANABAKER (Layla) was most recently seen in HBO’s miniseries “Empire Falls” opposite Paul Newman, Ed Harris and Helen Hunt. She has also starred in the telefilms “Searching for David’s Heart,” “Mom at Sixteen” and “Sex and the Single Mom,” as well as the Disney Channel Original Film “Stuck in the Suburbs.” With SKY HIGH, Panabaker reunites with director Mike Mitchell, whom she also worked with on the comedy “Surviving Christmas” starring Ben Affleck. Her television credits include “CSI,” as well as stints on “Malcolm in the Middle” and “The Bernie Mac Show.” Panabaker also appeared on the Chicago stage in “West Side Story,” “Pippin” and “Peter Pan.”

MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD (Gwen Grayson) is fast becoming one of today’s most sought-after young actresses. On her first professional trip to Los Angeles at age 14, Winstead landed a lead role as the scheming Jessica Bennett on NBC’s daytime drama “Passions” and has been working steadily since. Winstead is currently in Vancouver filming New Line’s “Final Destination 3.”

Winstead’s previous film credits include this year’s box-office smash “The Ring Two” and “Checking Out” with Peter Falk and David Paymer. Her television credits include MTV Network’s original film “Monster Island,” the Fox pilot “Father Can’t Cope” with Scott Bakula, the ABC pilot “Then Came Jones” with Melissa Gilbert and Sean Patrick Flannery and the CBS drama “Wolf Lake” with Lou Diamond Phillips and Sharon Lawrence, which aired later on UPN. She has also guest starred on “Tru Calling,” “Touched by an Angel”

and “Promised Land.”

Winstead received a *Hollywood Reporter’s* Young Star Award nomination for her role on “Passions” and was nominated for a Young Artist Awards in 2001.

Originally from Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Winstead is a distant cousin of the legendary Ava Gardner. Winstead and her family have lived in various places across the country over the last 15 years because of her father’s work. Throughout her childhood Winstead had a fondness for the performing arts and studied several types of formal dance including ballet, tap and jazz followed by voice and acting lessons. Her theatre credits include “The Nutcracker” and the Broadway production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” with Donny Osmond. Since graduating from high school, Winstead has been taking college courses electronically.

BRUCE CAMPBELL (Coach Boomer), with his Detroit friends, Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, in 1979, raised \$350,000 for a low-budget film, “Evil Dead,” in which he starred and executive produced. Completed piecemeal over four years, the film first gained notoriety in England where it became the best-selling video of 1983, beating out “The Shining.” After its appearance at Cannes, where Stephen King dubbed it “the most ferociously original horror film of the year,” New Line Cinema stepped forward to release “Evil Dead” in the U.S.

After co-producing “Crimewave,” a cross-genre picture, written by Sam Raimi and Ethan and Joel Coen, Bruce took on the sequel to “Evil Dead.” Blessed with a budget ten times the original, “Evil Dead II: Dead by Dawn” was released in 1987 with Campbell again starring in and co-producing this less gory, more funny sequel.

A move to Los Angeles followed, and Bruce quickly gained a foothold in a series of independent genre films such as “Maniac Cop,” “Moontrap,” and “Sundown.” He met his wife, filmmaker Ida Gearon, on the set of “Mindwarp,” a post-apocalyptic *Jeremiah Johnson*. Bruce then put his producer hat back on for the independent biker yarn “Easy Wheels” and “Lunatics: A Love Story” for RCA/Columbia.

In 1992, Bruce rejoined his Detroit colleagues for the third film in the popular “Evil Dead” trilogy, “Army of Darkness,” which he starred in and co-produced for Universal Studios. Immediately following that, the Coen brothers offered Bruce a featured role in their big-business comedy “The Hudsucker Proxy” for Warner Bros.

Around this time, Bruce made his foray into television, first starring in the highly touted Fox series “The Adventures of Brisco County Jr.,” then as a recurring guest-star on the hit show “Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman.” With these under his belt, Bruce easily made the transition to director, helming numerous episodes and recurring in the hit syndicated series, “Hercules: The Legendary Journeys.” Often, Bruce crossed over to “Hercules”’ companion show, the phenomenon, “Xena: Warrior Princess” to reprise his King of Thieves character.

Bruce has since expanded his range on television, with appearances in Disney’s TV movies “Gold Rush” and their update of “The Love Bug.” He teamed up with Fox again for the hit TV film “Tornado!” and starred in NBC’s top-rated “In the Line of Duty: Blaze of Glory.” At the invitation of ABC, Bruce entered into the world of sit-coms with a recurring role on ABC’s

Emmy®-nominated “Ellen,” participating in one of the three touted “Out” episodes. Following decidedly dramatic turns on the acclaimed series “Homicide” and “X-Files,” Bruce enjoyed a recurring role on Showtime’s edgy TV industry comedy “Beggars and Choosers.”

But, Bruce hasn’t abandoned his film roots. During this time, he’s had feature roles in the blockbuster “Congo,” John Carpenter’s “Escape From LA” and the award-winning independent crime drama “Running Time.” Bruce followed these up with roles in Paramount’s romantic comedy “Serving Sara,” Jim Carrey’s “The Majestic” and Sam Raimi’s blockbuster “Spider-Man.”

Recently, he has made the leap into the multi-media industry, providing voices on cutting-edge CD-ROM adventure games for Activision, THQ and Nova Logic as well as for Disney’s animated TV series “Tarzan.”

Bruce just completed the swashbuckling series “Jack of all Trades” for Studios USA and the title role in “Bubba Ho-Tep,” a film he describes as “A redemptive Elvis flick set in an east Texas rest home, complete with a soul-sucking mummy.”

Bruce continues to share his experience in independent filmmaking at universities around the country, including Northwestern, Virginia Tech and Stanford. Bruce recently enjoyed a national book tour to promote his best-selling memoir entitled *If Chins Could Kill: Confessions of a B Movie Actor*.

He currently resides with his wife, Ida Gearon, in Oregon.

DAVE FOLEY (Mr. Boy/All American Boy), having mastered the art of sketch comedy with cult favorite Canadian troupe “The Kids in the Hall,” has evolved into one of Hollywood’s leading comedic actors. Today, the “NewsRadio” alum continues to be one of the most sought-after television and film stars.

Foley is currently co-hosting season three of Bravo’s hit series “Celebrity Poker Showdown.” Along with commentator Phil Gordon, a world-class poker champion, Foley hosts the series that invites five stars of television, film, music and sports to compete against each other in a game of Texas Hold ’Em poker for a \$250,000 pot to be

donated to charity.

In May of 2005 the highly anticipated first two seasons of “NewsRadio” were released on DVD and the third season of “The Kids in the Hall” will be in stores in June.

Foley has also been busy on the big screen. In 2004 Dave could be seen in three films, including “Ham & Cheese,” Childstar,” starring Jennifer Jason Leigh and Eric Stoltz and Sundance’s “Employee Of The Month.” “Month” stars Matt Dillon as a man on top whose day goes from bad to worse when he loses his dream job and fiancée all in the same day. The film also stars Christina Applegate and Steve Zahn.

Born and raised in Toronto, Foley attended alternative high schools where he began performing stand-up comedy for a creative writing project. His interest in improv led him to comedy workshops, where he met and teamed with Kevin McDonald in 1982. One year later, they formed “The Kids in the Hall.”

In 1984, “The Kids” reconfigured with the additions of Mark McKinney, Bruce McCollough and Scott Thompson to form the seminal comedy troupe.

Their distinct and irreverent brand of comedy quickly earned them a large cult following

and word spread. “Saturday Night Live” producer Lorne Michaels discovered them in 1987, and shortly after they shot their first television special. By 1989, the troupe had their own series on the Canadian Broadcasting Co. and later on HBO, where it aired until 1991. CBS and Comedy Central picked the show up right away, where it ran from 1992-1995, garnering several Emmy® nominations along the way. In 1996, “The Kids” crossed over into feature films with the release of “Kids in the Hall: Brain Candy” for Paramount Pictures. “The Kids” reunited in 2000 and again 2002 for their sold-out live tours. “The Kids in the Hall” can currently be seen daily in syndication on Comedy Central.

After “Kids,” Foley went on to star in the NBC laffer “NewsRadio” in 1995. As the seemingly unflappable “Dave Nelson,” the news director of WNYX, a Manhattan “all news” radio station, Foley starred alongside the late Phil Hartman, Maura Tierney, Stephen Root, and Joe Rogan. New York Daily News’ raved “‘NewsRadio’ stands out thanks to sharp, offbeat scripts, a wonderfully idiosyncratic collection of regular characters and fiercely talented cast members who throw themselves completely and sometimes daringly into their roles.” More recently Dave has appeared as Jack’s boyfriend in a recurring role on “Will & Grace” and a hysterical turn on NBC’s “Las Vegas” as Mertens, a married man who shows up in Sin City looking for a little action, and not the gambling kind.

Foley’s other feature film credits include 1999’s “Blast From The Past,” in which he co-starred opposite Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser. He also appeared in “Dick,” putting his comedic talent to work in the Watergate-era parody in which he portrayed President Nixon’s Chief-of-Staff Bob Halderman. He also took on the role of astronaut Al Bean in HBO’s critically acclaimed and Golden Globe®-winning miniseries “From Earth to the Moon” produced by Tom Hanks.

Foley, also an accomplished writer, wrote and starred in the 1999 film “The Wrong Guy” that made its American premiere at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. In 2002 Dave was credited as writer, director, executive producer and star of the television special “True Meaning Of Christmas.”

In addition to his many roles in front of the camera, Dave has leant his unique voice to a number of animated roles in such projects as “South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut,” “Cyber World,” “It’s Tough to Be a Bug” and “What’s New Scooby Doo?” Dave was also the voice of “Flik” in the highly successful Disney feature “A Bug’s Life.”

STEVEN STRAIT (Warren Peace) plays the high school rebel who can shoot fire from his hands.

He can next be seen in the Lions Gate film “Undiscovered” where he plays an aspiring rock star.

Strait has been working on the New York stage for seven years and has studied acting at the famed Stella Adler Acting Studio and the Black Nexus Acting Studio, among others.

To finance tuition at his private high school, Strait worked as a model for such top photographers as Bruce Weber, Herb Ritts, Steven Klein, and Tony Duran while pursuing theatre roles.

Born and raised in Greenwich Village, Strait was planning a move to Southern California to pursue film work, when he was cast in SKY HIGH. While in Los Angeles with the sole objective of finding an apartment, Strait’s agent insisted he go on just one audition. SKY

HIGH is Strait's first film role.

Strait is also the lyricist and lead singer for the band Tribe.

KEVIN McDONALD (Mr. Medulla), comedic actor-cum-animal rescuer, brings an affinity for furry creatures and clowning to "Catscratch's" animated tabby Waffle. "The character is childlike, fun-loving and silly like me," says the alum of "The Kids in the Hall" comedy troupe, who shares his home with five feline and three canine rescues.

Having also voiced a friendly beaver on "The Angry Beavers" and aliens on "Invader Zim" and "Lilo & Stitch," McDonald now revels in "Catscratch's" classic brand of humor, noting, "It's really a lot like The Three Stooges or The Marx Brothers, and Waffle is kind of a talking, four-footed Harpo."

An epiphany struck Montreal and Toronto native McDonald in sixth grade when he viewed Gene Wilder in "Young Frankenstein" and realized, "We both had crazy hair and comic timing...I became the official class clown." He pursued theater arts in college but was booted out after only four months, on being dubbed a "one-legged actor" by an instructor dissatisfied that he displayed a singular flair for improvisational comedy and no ability to do musical theater.

Sticking with his strong suit, McDonald enrolled in a Second City workshop also attended by Dave Foley and Mike Myers and soon partnered with Foley and three others to form "The Kids in the Hall." The following year, in 1985, Lorne Michaels sent talent scouts to Toronto and launched "The Kids in the Hall" TV series, which ran three years on HBO and two years on CBS and spawned the 1996 feature film "Kids in the Hall: Brain Candy." McDonald reunited with the troupe for a national tour in 2000.

In ensuing years he segued to guest stints on numerous TV series including "Friends," "Seinfeld," "The Drew Carey Show" and "Arrested Development" and recurred as Chuck the D.J. on Ellen and Pastor Dave on "That '70s Show." In feature films, he played a lunatic mailman in "Ladies' Man" and a show host on "Galaxy Quest."

McDonald and girlfriend Breanne Munro currently are developing a comedy titled "My Drunk Dad." The duo spends their leisure time rescuing dogs and cats and playing with their cats Clark, Clara, Hamilton, Judy and Nuit and dogs Poppy, Pablo and Lola. McDonald also volunteers in the Dog Whisperer program for kids.

CLORIS LEACHMAN (Nurse Spex) has been acting for five decades, garnering eight Emmy® Awards, a Golden Globe® Award, an English Academy Award® and an Oscar®. She has taken roles in over 45 motion pictures, 7 television series, 35 films for television, a dozen TV specials and two dozen theatrical productions. She is currently continuing her recurring role on "Malcolm in the Middle" as well as guest starring on the hit television series "Joan of Arcadia" and was recently seen on the big screen as Teo Leoni's mother in "Spanglish," for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe®, and in "The Longest Yard" with Adam Sandler. She will next be seen with

Annette Bening and Ben Kingsley in the thriller “Mrs. Harris.”

Her brief, yet memorable scene as a lady of the evening in “Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid” with Paul Newman in 1969 led to as many as four feature film roles a year for Leachman. Soon after came her portrayal of the lonely Ruth Popper in “The Last Picture Show” for which she won an Academy Award®. Some of her most memorable big screen performances include three Mel Brooks films: “Young Frankenstein,” “High Anxiety” and “History of the World, Part I,” as well as the Walt Disney picture “The North Avenue Irregulars,” “Shadow Play,” “Crazy Mama” and “The Beverly Hillbillies.” Her recent film credits include “Music of My Heart,” in which she played the grandmother to a character played by Michael Angarano, “Hanging Up,” and “The Iron Giant.” Other recent feature films include “The Amati Girls,” “Manna From Heaven,” “Bad Santa” and “The Californians.”

As the beloved Phyllis Lindstrom on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” from 1970 to 1975, Leachman won two Emmy® Awards. In 1976, she won another Emmy® nomination as well as a Golden Globe® Award for Best Actress in her own spin-off series “Phyllis.” These were added to her collection of awards which included her 1971 Emmy® for the ABC movie of the week, “A Brand New Life,” and another Emmy for a 1974 Cher special. She also garnered an Emmy® in 1983 for “A Woman Who Willed A Miracle” and her sixth the following year for an eight minute soliloquy for “The Screen Actors Guild 50th Anniversary Celebration.” Her guest-starring role in “Malcolm in the Middle” earned her an eighth Emmy®, making her the first actor in history to win for seven different productions.

Leachman has also starred in numerous films for network television. Some notable performances include: “In Broad Daylight,” “Honor Bright,” “Fine Things,” “Love Is Never Silent,” “The Demon Murder Case,” “Dixie: Changing Habits,” “A Girl Named Sooner,” “Backstairs at the White House,” and Emmy®-nominated performances in “The Migrants,” “It Happened One Christmas” and “Ernie Kovacs: Between the Laughter.”

KURT RUSSELL (Steve Stronghold/The Commander) has delivered memorable comedic and dramatic film performances for 40 years, having previously worked with director John Carpenter on “Escape from New York,” which depicted Snake Plisskin’s earlier adventures. Russell has also worked with Carpenter on the acclaimed telefilm “Elvis,” for which Russell received an Emmy® nomination, and the features “The Thing” and “Big Trouble in Little China.”

His other films include Mike Nichols’ “Silkwood,” Robert Zemeckis’ “Used Cars” and Jonathan Demme’s “Swing Shift,” followed by “Overboard,” “Tequila Sunrise,” “Tango & Cash” and “Backdraft.” He has also starred in “The Mean Season,” “The Best of Times,” “Winter People,” “Captain Ron” and “Unlawful Entry.”

Russell’s long association with Disney Studios spanned more than 20 years. He completed 10 films, including “Follow Me, Boy,” “The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes,” “The Barefoot Executive” and “The Fox and the Hound,” and appeared in several episodes of “The Wonderful World of Disney.” Other television credits include “Amber Waves” and “The Deadly Tower,” in which Russell portrayed the Texas murderer Charles Whitman.

More recently, Russell was seen in the films “Vanilla Sky” starring Tom Cruise, “Dark Blue” for MGM and “Miracle” for Disney in 2004. Next, Kurt can be seen in the upcoming

DreamWorks picture “Dreamer.”

DEE-JAY DANIELS (Ethan) charmed television audiences for four seasons as Michael Hughley on the popular UPN series, “The Hughleys.” In 1996, he joined the cast of the UPN series “In The House” playing the recurring role of Rodney for six episodes.

He began his professional career in 1995 with a Cheerios commercial. His innate sense of comedy has earned him many guest starring roles on television series such as “Bernie Mac,” “Family Matters,” “Coach,” “The Wayans Brothers,” and “Grace Under Fire.” He has also appeared on “ER.”

Daniels enjoys athletics, does a mean backflip, and loves to rap using lyrics that carry a positive message. He has a green belt in Tae Kwon Do and loves video games. Daniels also appeared in Coca Cola’s “Harry Potter” reading campaign in 2002.

NICHOLAS BRAUN’s (Zach) first television appearance was on “Good Morning America” at the age of 6 as the on-camera reporter covering the Christmas windows at Saks Fifth Avenue.

He became interested in acting at 7, when his father started taking acting lessons. As a result, they worked together on two student films in NYC. At 12, Nick auditioned for and was cast in the co-title role of the Showtime movie “Walter and Henry” as John Larroquette’s son, along with Kate Nelligan and James Coburn. The film was nominated for an Emmy® and directed by the late Daniel Petrie, Sr., and produced by Norman Jewison.

In 2002, at age 14, he co-starred in the Showtime film “Carry Me Home” with Penelope Ann Miller and Jane Alexander.

Nick has studied for the past three years in the legendary acting coach/director Milton Katselas’ Master Class.

Nick is currently a senior at St. Mark’s School just outside Boston where he is actively involved in the Drama program appearing in “Twelfth Night” and with the lead role in “Picasso at the Lapin Agile.” He has sung with the a cappella group at St. Mark’s for three years and will be the “Octet” president this year.

Nick plans to continue his education and passion for acting upon graduation in either NY or LA. Currently he is represented by Henderson-Hogan in NYC and Geddes Agency in LA.

KELLY VITZ (Magenta) makes her feature film debut in Walt Disney Pictures’ SKY HIGH as the sarcastic, punk gal Magenta. Gifted with the ability to shapeshift, others are unimpressed with her power as the only thing she can turn herself into is a less-than-cool guinea pig.

It is only fitting that her first movie is a Disney project as Vitz’s very first acting job was doing “Fab 5 Fourth” interstitials on the Disney Channel followed by an episode of “Lizzie McGuire,” her first television credit. Also, one of her first modeling assignments

was appearing in a Disney holiday print catalogue and she appears in the pre-show at the “Honey I Shrunk the Audience” attraction at Disneyland playing a Chinese princess.

Vitz has been a Ford model since age 10. In addition to numerous print campaigns, she has appeared in television spots for Cingular and Marshalls, as well as a phone company commercial with Faith Hill and a Target ad with Tiger Woods.

She lives with her family in the Los Angeles area, including her younger sister Julie, who also acts. A dedicated student, Vitz is a junior in an area high school where she is a member of the dance team. She hopes to attend an Ivy League University.

KEVIN HEFFERNAN (Driver Ron) is a founding member of the comedy group “Broken Lizard” and has co-written and starred in all three of the group’s feature films: “Puddle Cruiser,” “Super Troopers” and “Club Dread.” Most recently, he starred in “The Dukes of Hazzard,” which he also co-wrote. Previously, he was featured in Ed Burns’s feature film “No Looking Back.” He also co-wrote the comedy “On The One” directed by Charles Randolph-Wright.

JIM RASH (Mr. Grayson) admits he may have talked too much as a child, but it was only because he felt the need to fill the silence whenever he could, to entertain and make people laugh. That tendency has carried over into adulthood, as he has developed his craft into something more than just an excuse to flap his gums.

Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Rash began his career doing theater at the state university. While the plays he acted in were a mixed bag, they helped cement his love of acting. A current member of the Groundlings, he also teaches sketch writing and improvisation, an experience he thoroughly enjoys.

Live, comedic theater is Rash’s favorite forum, where he can receive the instant gratification and reaction from the audience. The relationship and interaction between actor and audience is what appeals to him most. His theater work includes “Reunion,” “Holed Up,” “Pirates of Penzance,” “Harvey,” and “Flowers for Algernon.”

Rash has extensive television experience as well, including recurring roles on “That ’70s Show” and “Reno 911!” and guest-starring roles on “Less Than Perfect,” “According to Jim,” “The Practice,” “Fighting Fitzgeralds,” “The Hughleys,” “Clueless,” “Becker,” “CSI,” “Navy NCIS,” “Coupling” and “Working.” He has co-starred on “Cybill” and “Tracey Takes On,” a recurring role on TNT’s “Bull” and was a series regular on CBS’ “Thanks,” the WB’s “Katie Joplin” and NBC’s “The Naked Truth.” He also appeared in the pilot episode for ABC’s “I Married Sofia,” NBC’s “Alligator Point,” and “Loomis” for CBS.

Finally, Rash has appeared on the big screen in “Minority Report,” “Simone,” “Slackers,” “One Hour Photo,” and “Auto-Motives.” He has recently completed the comedy “Partners” set for release in 2005.

Rash believes in always being “creatively active,” and so when he’s not working, he spends his time writing and developing ways to further improve his craft. He hopes to continue doing

more live theater, and somewhere down the line he would like to develop shows of his own. Now a resident of Los Angeles, he still manages to spend quality time with “Otter,” his Chesapeake Bay retriever. It is doubtless that both love the attention from their captive audience.

JAKE SANDVIG (Lash) began acting in the Pacific Northwest at age 5 doing local theatre and commercials. In 1997, Sandvig landed the role of Josh in “The Story of Us,” starring Bruce Willis and Michelle Pfeiffer. He also appeared in the independent film “My Way Home.” On television, Sandvig has been seen in the comedy “Cracking Up” and has also guest starred on “The Closer,” “Once and Again” and “The Amanda Show.”

WILL HARRIS (Speed) is a newcomer to the screen who just had a role in the recent “Be Cool” with John Travolta and Uma Thurman. Harris is self-taught on the piano, guitar and bass and has performed on stage in over 20 different musicals and plays including the lead roles in “Grease,” “Annie,” “Oklahoma,” “The Music Man,” “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and “A Chorus Line,” among others. Harris was the inaugural recipient of the BRAVO Award at his school after his performance in “Fiddler on the Roof” and “The Crucible.”

Sisters **KHADIJAH** (Penny) and **MALIKA** (Penny) both play the character of Penny. A popular senior whose superpower, multiplying herself from a single cheerleader into two Pennys or even a whole cheer squad of Pennys, makes her a hero in the hierarchy of SKY HIGH.

Khadijah and Malika made their feature film debut in Warner Bros.’ “Love Don’t Cost A Thing” and were recently seen in the dramatic series “Strong Medicine.” They have numerous television commercials to their credit including spots for Bank One and K-Mart. They were also featured in music videos for Missy Elliot and Whitney Houston.

Khadijah co-starred on the television series “The Parkers” and performed a recurring voice role on “The Shana Show.”

Malika is 8 minutes older and two inches taller than her identical twin sister Khadijah. Their hobbies include singing and dancing, and they live with their family in the San Fernando Valley.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

MIKE MITCHELL (Director) most recently directed the DreamWorks holiday comedy, “Surviving Christmas” starring Ben Affleck, Christina Applegate and James Gandolfini.

Mitchell co-wrote, produced and directed the short film, “Herd,” which was the winner of the Spirit of Slamdance Award at the 1999 Slamdance Festival. He also made his feature film directorial debut that year with “Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo.”

Working for such filmmakers as Tim Burton and Spike Jonze, Mitchell became an accomplished illustrator, his prior credits include story and storyboard work on “Antz,” “James and the Giant Peach” and “Monkey Bone.” He is also known for his writing and storyboard work on the animated series “Ren & Stimpy,” as well as for the DreamWorks features “Shrek II” and “Shrek III.” He has also written for the animated series “Sponge Bob, Square Pants” and directed the pilot and 3 episodes of Fox’s “Greg the Bunny.”

A native of Oklahoma, Mitchell came to Los Angeles to attend CalArts. He has worked in development at many of the top studios, including Disney, DreamWorks, MTV/Nickelodeon, Universal and Sony. He has numerous commercials and music videos to his credit, many involving animation or puppets. He also worked with Sid and Marty Kroft and Hanna Barbera as a writer, puppeteer and storyboard artist.

PAUL HERNANDEZ (Written by) originally from Houston, Texas, moved to Los Angeles in 1993 to follow his dream of becoming a filmmaker in Hollywood. He started his career in the mailroom on the Disney studio lot but soon was asked to join the newly formed DreamWorks studio as a production assistant where he worked on all of DreamWorks/Amblin productions. Writer/producers Terry Rossio and Ted Elliot (“Shrek,” “Pirates of the Caribbean”) championed Paul’s dreams of being a writer, however, and eventually optioned his first script, the adventure-comedy “Instant Karma,” which then sold to Robert Zemeckis’ company Image Movers where it is currently in pre-production.

In 2001, Paul returned to Disney as a writer in the Disney fellowship where his original pitch for SKY HIGH caught the eye of the studio.

Paul has also written the screenplay “Mortimer West,” which is in development at New Line, and is currently writing the animated film “Mucha Lucha: The Movie” for Warner Bros. and “Stardate,” which he will also direct for producer Steve Golin.

MARK McCORKLE & BOB SCHOOLEY (Written by) dove into the life of a high school cheerleader to create their first original series “Disney’s Kim Possible.” The hit show on Disney Channel has garnered Primetime and Daytime Emmy® nominations. The pair also worked as producers and story editors on the acclaimed “Disney’s Hercules,” which was hailed as one of TV Guide’s “10 Best New Series” of 1998, and in 2000, as one of the magazine’s

top-ranked shows for adults to watch with their children.

McCorkle and Schooley also earned story editor credit on the “Aladdin” television series and writer/story editor credits on Disney’s first-ever video premiere, “The Return of Jafar,” which stands as one of the top five best-selling direct-to-video animated films ever released. McCorkle and Schooley also wrote the subsequent video release, “Aladdin and the King of Thieves,” which received a 1997 Annie Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Animated Home Video Production.

The pair penned and story edited the two-time Emmy®-nominated “Great Minds Think for Themselves,” one of the original interstitial segments of “Disney’s One Saturday Morning” in 1997. McCorkle and Schooley reteamed with the “Great Minds” creative crew in 2000 to produce the “Find Out Why” interstitial series in conjunction with the National Science Foundation and Discover Magazine. The duo also wrote the heralded “Toy Story Treats,” a series of interstitials for ABC’s Saturday morning lineup and Disney Channel. The Temple University graduates initially met while working as entertainment managers at Sesame Place, a “Sesame Street”-themed play park in Langhorne. They made their foray into Hollywood through the mailroom of DIC Entertainment, from where they quickly advanced to staff writing positions before shifting to Walt Disney Television Animation as a writing team.

ANDREW GUNN (Producer) decided he had to make movies at the age of 7 after seeing the remake of “King Kong.” In July 2000, Buena Vista Motion Pictures Group President Nina Jacobson gave him that chance. Since then, he has produced “Freaky Friday,” “The Haunted Mansion,” and “The Country Bears.” He also executive produced the platinum-selling soundtrack to “Freaky Friday.”

MARIO ISCOVICH (Executive Producer) most recently reprised his role as producer of Garry Marshall’s “The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement” starring Julie Andrews and Hathaway, after serving in the same capacity on “The Princess Diaries.” He also recently executive produced Marshall’s hit comedy “Raising Helen” starring Kate Hudson and director Mark S. Water’s “Freaky Friday” starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan.

His long association with Marshall includes serving as producer on “Runaway Bride” starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, and “The Other Sister” starring Diane Keaton and Juliette Lewis. He served as executive producer for “Dear God” starring Greg Kinnear and Laurie Metcalf. Earlier in his career, Iscovich was the Touchstone Pictures production executive on Marshall’s smash romantic comedy “Pretty Woman.”

Iscovich co-produced Whoopi Goldberg’s box-office hit comedy “Sister Act.” He also served as the executive producer on “Mulholland Falls,” on the Academy Award®-nominated “What’s Love Got To Do With It,” and on the comedy sequel “Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit.” As a production executive at The Walt Disney Studios, he oversaw the live-action adventure comedy “The Rocketeer.”

Born in Argentina, Iscovich began his motion picture career as an assistant to Steve McQueen, with whom he worked on two successive films, “The Reivers” and “Le Mans.” He subsequently worked for over six years with the renowned director Stanley Kramer, serving as his associate producer and co-producer on various projects.

ANN MARIE SANDERLIN (Executive Producer) recently served as co-producer of the blockbuster hit comedy “Freaky Friday” starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. Directed by Mark S. Waters, “Freaky Friday” earned over \$200 million in worldwide box office and spawned a platinum-selling soundtrack.

Sanderlin is head of development at GUNNfilms. She serves as executive producer on all of the company’s upcoming slate of films including: “All Access,” a female coming-of-age rock ‘n’ roll spy movie to be directed by renowned music-video director Liz Friedlander and “Snow and the Seven” to be shot in China and directed by Master Yuen Wo Ping, the choreographer of all three of “The Matrix” movies, as well as “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.”

Additionally, Sanderlin manages The Disney Writer’s Program, a program that consists of five comedy writers with overall deals to generate material solely for Disney’s live-action label. The idea for SKY HIGH came from a writer that was in the program when Andrew Gunn first began shepherding the group.

In 1995, Sanderlin got her first job in the film business as a production assistant when the HBO film “The Tuskegee Airman” shot in her hometown of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Sanderlin earned a B.S. in journalism from the University of Kansas and, after moving to Los Angeles, entered the agent-trainee program at William Morris’s famous mailroom. In 1998, Andrew Gunn hired her to be a creative executive at Ricardo Mestres Productions, where they first worked together. She joined him at GUNNfilms in 2001.

SHELLY JOHNSON, ASC (Director of Photography) recently served as director of photography on the epic adventure “Hidalgo” starring Viggo Mortenson for director Joe Johnston, with whom he had previously collaborated with on “Jurassic Park III.” Other recent credits include “The Last Castle” with Robert Redford and James Gandolfini. Johnson has amassed more than 60 full-length credits as a cinematographer, moving between the big screen (“Jack’s Back,” “Nowhere to Hide,” “Amanda” and “Keeper of the City”) and television (“Stephen King’s The Shining,” “The Fire Next Time,” “Season for Miracles,” “Durango,” and “Saint Maybe”). He was nominated three times for ASC Awards for “The Jessica McClure Story” in 1989, “The Inheritance” in 1997 and “The Others” in 2000.

BRUCE ROBERT HILL (Production Designer) is a noted art director having recently done pre-production work on Brett Ratner’s upcoming “Flyby” as well as “Fantastic Four” and “Fat Albert.” He was the production designer on the short film “Cinema Verite.” His other credits as art director include “Triple X,” “The Time Machine,” “Monkey Bone,” “Supernova,” “Starship Troopers,” and “Dracula, Dead & Loving It,” among others. He served as assistant art director on “Looney Tunes Back In Action” and “My Favorite Martian.” His commercial work as a production designer includes spots for Nike. SKY HIGH is his first feature film as production designer.

PETER AMUNDSON (Editor) began his career at Industrial Light & Magic where he worked on “Return of the Jedi,” “Star Trek II,” and “Poltergeist” as a visual effects editor. Amundson also served as visual effects editor on the blockbuster release “The Right Stuff.” Most recently Amundson edited “Hellboy” for Sony Pictures. His other feature film editing credits include: “Jacobs Ladder,” “Storyville,” “Godzilla,” “Dragon Heart,” “Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story,” “The Butterfly Effect,” and “Blade II.”

MICHAEL WILKINSON (Costume Designer) recently designed costumes for the horror-thriller “Dark Water” starring Jennifer Connelly as well as the forthcoming film “Babel” starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett and “Friends With Money” starring Jennifer Aniston, Joan Cusack, Catherine Keener, and Frances McDormand. His other film credits as costume designer include the feature films “American Splendor” which won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in 2003, “Imaginary Heroes,” “Garden State,” “Milwaukee, Minnesota,” “Looking for Alibrandi” (Best Film, AFI Awards 2001), “Party Monster,” “When Stranger’s Appear” and “True Love and Chaos.” His theater work includes award-winning set and costume designs for the Sydney Theater Company, Opera Australia, The Australian Dance Theater, the Ensemble Theater and on “Steel City” at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

For the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Wilkinson created hundreds of designs; among these were outfits designed specifically for Elle McPherson, Kylie Minogue, Savage Garden, and the silver bodysuit worn by torchlighter Cathy Freeman. He began his work in feature films as a costume design assistant on movies such as “The Matrix” and Baz Luhrmann’s “William Shakespeare’s Romeo+Juliet” and “Moulin Rouge.”

MICHAEL GIACCHINO (Composer) recently made his feature film composing debut with “The Incredibles,” a Disney presentation of a Pixar film. Equally at home scoring for beat box or bassoon, Giacchino’s melodies have enhanced entertainment of all genres, including television shows, animated shorts, video games, and stand-alone symphonies. Viewers of the hit ABC TV thriller, “Alias,” are well acquainted with his work and have been enjoying his compositions for several seasons. Currently, Giacchino is scoring the ABC dramas “Alias” and “Lost” for creator/producer JJ Abrams and scored the new “Muppets Wizard of Oz” TV movie for ABC. His forthcoming projects include the comedy “The Family Stone” and Albert Brooks’ untitled comedy set in India.

In early 1997, Giacchino was approached by DreamWorks Studios to score their flagship PlayStation video game, “The Lost World.” It was the first original live orchestral score written for a PlayStation console game and was recorded with members of the Seattle Symphony. Since “The Lost World,” Giacchino has gone on to compose many orchestral scores for DreamWorks Interactive, including the highly successful “Medal of Honor” series, created by Steven Spielberg. It was his work on such games that led to his involvement in “Alias,” created by writer/director JJ Abrams. “Alias,” in turn, became a gateway of sorts for his work with Pixar on “The Incredibles.”

On May 13th, 2000, the Haddonfield Symphony premiered Giacchino’s first symphony, “Camden 2000.” In May of 2001, Giacchino’s score for the DreamWorks Interactive game, “Medal of Honor Underground,” won the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences award for “Best Original Score.” Soon afterwards, he wrote new scores for both “Medal of Honor Frontline” (which also won a “Best Original Score” from that same group) and “Medal of Honor Allied Assault,” also recorded by the Seattle Symphony.

LISA BROWN (Music Supervisor) is the head of soundtracks and music supervision for Immortal Entertainment headquartered in Santa Monica, California. Her recent feature film credits include Disney’s “Ice Princess,” and she is currently working on the upcoming Lindsay Lohan movie “Just My Luck.”

Prior to her arrival at Immortal in 2003, Brown spent four years as president of Five Mile Radius Entertainment, a company she founded in 1999. Brown supervised numerous films under the FMR umbrella, including the highly successful remake of “Freaky Friday,” the film that catapulted teen princess Lindsay Lohan to superstardom. She co-produced the “Freaky Friday” soundtrack, which has sold more than 500,000 copies and spent nearly a year on the Billboard album charts. Brown earned an NAACP Image award for her work as co-music supervisor and co-producer of the platinum-selling soundtrack to the urban drama “The Best Man.” Brown has worked on more than a dozen films, including the critically acclaimed dramas “Chasing Amy” and “Flirting With Disaster” and the family comedies “The Parent Trap” and “My Best Friend’s Wedding.”

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