

# UNDERDOG

## About the Production

### *One Nation. Under Dog.*

*There's no need to fear. Underdog is here!* Everyone's favorite canine superhero is back and about to take to the skies as he's never been seen before -- hilariously re-imagined in this live-action comedy-adventure inspired by the classic cartoon. UNDERDOG is the story of how a nation found a savior in the least likely of forms: a humble, lovable Beagle who becomes a flying hero who can fight crime while speaking in playful rhyme.

UNDERDOG features a cast of both canine and human talent, including Jim Belushi ("According to Jim"), Jason Lee ("My Name Is Earl"), Patrick Warburton ("Seinfeld"), Peter Dinklage ("Elf," "The Station Agent"), Brad Garrett ("Everybody Loves Raymond") and Academy Award® nominee Amy Adams ("Junebug."), along with rising young actors Alex Neuberger and Taylor Momsen ("How the Grinch Stole Christmas"). But the real stars of the film are the adorable, well-trained dogs who win the day, including Leo the Lemon Beagle in the role of Shoeshine/Underdog; Ginger, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel as Polly Purebred; as well as Bronco the Rottweiler as the villainous Riff Raff.

The story of Underdog's mysterious origins begins in the wake of an accident in the high-tech lab of the maniacal scientist Dr. Simon Barsinister (Dinklage). Suddenly, an ordinary, down-and-out young Beagle named Shoeshine finds himself with extraordinary powers, not to mention the unexpected ability to turn his bark into real speech. Now, armed with a "fetching" superhero costume, this unlikely caped crusader and humbly self-described Underdog (voiced by Jason Lee) vows to protect the beleaguered citizens of Capitol City -- especially one beautiful Spaniel named Polly Purebred (voiced by Amy Adams). When a sinister plot by Barsinister and his overgrown henchman Cad (Warburton), threatens to destroy Capitol City, only Underdog can save the day.

Walt Disney Pictures presents in association with Spyglass Entertainment, UNDERDOG, based on the long-running cartoon series. Director Frederik Du Chau ("Racing Stripes") brings to life the world of Shoeshine, Polly Purebred, Dr. Simon Barsinister, Riff Raff and Cad with state-of-the-art visual effects that add a new layer to the timeless tale of a pup who comes to believe in family, friendship and himself -- despite being a true underdog.

UNDERDOG is directed by Frederik Du Chau from a screenplay by Adam Rifkin and Joe Piscatella & Craig A. Williams and a story by Piscatella, Williams and Rifkin. The producers are Gary

Barber, Roger Birnbaum, Jay Polstein and Jonathan Glickman. The executive producers are Eric Ellenbogen, Bob Higgins and Todd Arnow. The behind-the-scenes team includes director of photography David Eggby (“Racing Stripes,” “Mad Max”), production designer Gareth Stover (“Daddy Day Care”), Academy Award®-nominated costume designer Gary Jones (“Spiderman 2”), editor Tom Finan (“Racing Stripes,” “Stuart Little”) and Golden Globe nominated composer Randy Edelman (“The Mask”).

## **HIP! HIP! HIP! AND AWAY I GO!**

### **THE ORIGINS OF UNDERDOG**

*“Look up in the sky! It’s a bird. It’s a plane. It’s a frog.”* With those whimsical words, the world was introduced to the floppy-eared, flying dynamo known as Underdog. True to his persona, he came onto the scene in the most humble of ways, as a simply drawn, flesh-colored cartoon character who became an unexpected run-away hit. But, for an entire generation, the haplessly heroic Underdog also became something far more – forever associated with the boundless joy of Saturday mornings in your PJs and a world where even the most humble and hang-dog of canines could become a grand hero who regularly manages to save the day.

The birth of the cartoon series began in 1960 when Buck Biggers, an account executive at the New York ad agency Dancer Fitzgerald Sample, teamed up with fellow ad-man Chet Stover and illustrator Joe Harris to create animated television shows to help sell breakfast cereals for their big client, General Mills. The team would go on to bring to television a whole roster of memorable characters, including Tennessee Tuxedo and King Leonardo, but their most enduring character was the mild-mannered mutt who would become known worldwide as Underdog – the one hero who truly spoke for the little guy.

The series debuted on NBC in October of 1964 and ran for almost a decade, charming both children and adults with 121 episodes through 1973. Audiences fell in love with the unlikely hero who, called into action by his girlfriend Polly Purebred, would leap into a phone booth and change into a “pup of steel” in order to battle the evil plots of Dr. Simon Barsinister and the underworld boss Riff Raff.

The popularity of the “Underdog” cartoon series took nearly everyone by surprise. He soon became the first cartoon character to ever grace the ultra-sophisticated cover of the *New Yorker* magazine. And even when the episodes came to an end, Underdog’s appeal endured. Underdog’s snappy catchphrases – including *“When Polly’s in trouble, I’m not slow. So it’s hip! hip! hip! and away I go!”* and *“There’s no need to fear, Underdog is here!”* -- became part of everyday conversation.

In 1965, Underdog made his first appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and quickly became a fan favorite and one of the most popular symbols of the beloved parade. (So popular, in fact, that a classic episode of the sitcom "Friends" features the Underdog balloon breaking free during the Macy's Parade and flying away!) The instantly recognizable image of Underdog has also spread through the popular culture, with the character appearing in ads for Visa Check Cards.

The Underdog theme song -- written by W. Watts Biggers, Treadwell D. Covington, Joseph B. Harris and Chester A. Stover, and filled with such memorable lines as "*speed of lightning/roar of thunder/fighting all who rob or plunder/Underdog!*" -- was as big a sensation as Underdog himself and has also endured, getting updated treatments recently on the hit show "Scrubs" with Ted Buckland's band, The Blanks. Bringing the song full circle in UNDERDOG is a fresh version from multi-talented teen star Kyle Massey, star of the popular Disney Channel hit "Cory In The House."

**FROM 60S CARTOON TO 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FILM HERO:**  
**UNDERDOG IS BACK!**

By the time the 21<sup>st</sup> century rolled around, it seemed that today's tough world was in dire need of Underdog's return. At Classic Media, an Entertainment Rights group company based in New York that owns the rights to Underdog as well as whole array of classic pop-culture characters including Lassie, Mr. Magoo, The Lone Ranger and Boris & Natasha, the feeling was that Underdog, with his willingness to always try no matter how overwhelming the odds, was an especially resonant hero for our times. So they were excited to team up with producer Jay Polstein of Maverick Films to finally give Underdog a silver screen debut. Polstein and Classic Media then approached the producing team at Spyglass Entertainment with the opportunity to adapt the adventure-comedy classic in a whole new way.

Their idea was to bring Underdog to a new generation of family filmgoers in a modern adventure that would also pay homage to his humble beginnings.

"So many of us remember the cartoon fondly," notes Spyglass's Roger Birnbaum, "which combined two things people will always love -- dogs and superheroes -- so it felt like a natural. But the question was: how do you re-imagine Underdog here and now? Ultimately, we took the source material, with all its great characters, and turned it into a movie that we imagine as the prequel to the UNDERDOG story."

From the beginning, both Classic Media and Spyglass agreed that a new look at UNDERDOG would mean taking the character beyond the limitations of the cartoon realm into flesh-and-fur reality.

The notion of telling the story with real, live dogs sparked the creative team's imaginations. "We saw the chance to appeal to every dog lover's fantasy that their pet can actually communicate, that their dog actually understands what's going on in the world and is a superhero who can save the day," says Spyglass' Jonathan Glickman.

"There are some wonderful underlying emotional themes that the movie hangs on," adds Glickman. "It's truly an 'underdog story,' about a small dog who starts out believing that he is a failure but along the way he discovers that he is actually worthy of greatness."

With a screenplay that spotlighted the comedy inherent to UNDERDOG, along with a very contemporary story of family, Spyglass brought the project to Disney. "We always knew that the greatest thing we could do was to combine the fun of UNDERDOG with the wonderful family brand of Walt Disney," explains Spyglass's Gary Barber.

Now the search was on for the right director – someone who could bring a fittingly waggish sense of style to Underdog's life in Capitol City. It soon became apparent that Frederik Du Chau, a native of Belgium who began his career as a storyboard artist for legendary cartoon animator Chuck Jones and recently directed the animal-filled comedy "Racing Stripes," was a great match for the material. He arrived with an obvious passion for the characters of UNDERDOG – but also a vision for bringing them into the future. Ready to create a reality-based world for UNDERDOG from the ground up, Du Chau brought to his very first meeting with the producers a series of detailed storyboards he'd already drawn in a flurry of inspiration. He even came prepared with some original conceptions not yet in the script—including the sequence that would later become Underdog's accident-prone "first flight."

Says executive producer Todd Arnow of Du Chau: "Frederik's a really creative guy. He brought with him a very strong, smart sense of both animation and live-action. He's very nimble and able to change on a dime and when you're working with animals and children that is a real gift."

For his part, Du Chau was thrilled to take on the challenge of updating the iconic character. "It was always important to me that this UNDERDOG be based in *reality*," he says of his vision for the film. "I wanted it to have the feeling of a contemporary superhero adventure but with the comedy of the Underdog character – that was the tone I was after. I knew it would be a lot more exciting and comical for the audience to see a real dog flying as opposed to an animated dog with perfect poise that acts like a cartoon."

In order to achieve this, Du Chau presided over a team of accomplished film artists whose work creatively combined old-school, physical effects and stunts with today's state-of-the-art visual effects. He also worked closely with highly regarded animal coordinator Boone Narr to create exciting dog

action and detailed dog expression, all under the supervision of American Humane Association, which assured the utmost safety for both the animals and the actors.

While he was still preparing his storyboards, Du Chau visited Narr's ranch in Southern California to learn the full extent of what trained dogs could and couldn't accomplish. Armed with this knowledge, and a new appreciation for the grit and determination of canine actors, he created his storyboards. Executive Producer Todd Arnow comments, "Boone had dogs doing things that I just never thought I would see. I think they will really amaze audiences."

Using real dogs allowed Du Chau to create a far more visceral experience, bringing audiences for the first time inside Underdog's canine crime-fighting world. The director explains: "We've created a situation where the audience gets to discover, along with Underdog, that he has super scent and hearing, can run really fast, fly and smash through walls. It's a lot of fun."

But before all these elements could be brought together in the film's action-packed production, the next step would be casting the humans who make this tale of a canine superhero more true to life.

## **UNDERDOG'S HUMAN CAST**

### **The Voices Behind The Bark**

The enduring affection for Underdog as a character drew a lot of the actors to this new UNDERDOG adventure – both to voice the canine characters and to portray Capitol City's human citizens and villains. Naturally, the first order of business was the quest to find an actor who could bring Underdog to life. Those who grew up with the cartoon fondly recall the milquetoast voice of actor Wally Cox, who made the character so endearingly funny – and the filmmakers of the new UNDERDOG wanted someone of equal flair, but with his own unique style.

The search ended with Golden Globe-nominated Jason Lee, one of today's most popular comic talents who broke out in the indie films of Kevin Smith and stars in the acclaimed NBC comedy series "My Name Is Earl" as the hapless crook who decides to right all the wrongs he has inflicted on the world. Lee has also made his mark in animation, voicing the role of the villain Syndrome in the Academy Award® winning Disney•Pixar blockbuster "The Incredibles."

Lee didn't hesitate for a second. "Like most people my age, I was a big fan of the cartoon and I love doing voice work," he says. But he did have to spend some time working out just the right approach to refreshing a character so beloved. "This film is inspired by the original cartoon but it's really its own modern take on the story. So, ultimately, I just set out to be me – knowing that part of the appeal would be that my voice is coming out of something that isn't me, and playing with that idea."

He continues: “Part of what sets Underdog apart is that he has this very clumsy, likable quality, until he becomes a superhero, reluctantly taking on responsibility. It’s a case of someone ordinary becoming extraordinary. So finding the inflections, the energy, the rhythm and the pace for his transformation was a lot of fun.”

Lee also had a blast with the romantic tension between Shoeshine/Underdog and the alluring but seemingly unattainable Polly Purebred. “He’s out of his league with Polly,” admits Lee, “so he’s always trying to be very suave with her. He’s putting on this bravado but it’s still innocent and charming and I think that’s why we like him so much.”

Playing against Lee as the voice of Polly Purebred is Academy Award® nominee Amy Adams, who won widespread critical acclaim in the dramatic comedy “Junebug” and was recently seen in the hit comedy “Talladega Nights.” Like Lee, she was a stand-out winner in the casting process. “She was a real inspiration,” says Glickman. In fact, when we started recording, she took her hair down, which is normally up, and the look matched our dog’s ears. An unanticipated coincidence, but it turned out to be a great thing.”

It was the script that drew Adams’ interest. “I absolutely fell in love with the dogs and with Polly and the way they made her more modern. I always like playing sassy girls,” she laughs. “Polly is very feisty and not afraid to say what she thinks. She craves adventure, but she is absolutely hard to get.”

As a dog owner herself, Adams loved getting the chance to explore what a dog might say – if she was granted a voice. “I guess you could say Polly just wants the freedom to be her own dog,” observes Adams. “To prepare further, I not only watched my own dog, I also went to Central Park and watched some Cavalier King Charles Spaniels to get a better sense of their personalities. What’s fun about this movie is that the dogs are presented with a mix of realistic dog behavior and very human emotions.”

Also joining the voice cast as the canine villain Riff Raff, is Brad Garrett, known for his hang-dog role on “Everybody Loves Raymond” as well as his voice work on such Disney•Pixar animated films as “Finding Nemo” and the recent hit “Ratatouille.”

### The Unger Family

While the extraordinary hijinx of Underdog brings superhero adventure to the film, it is the ordinary Unger family, who adopt Shoeshine the Beagle, who provide the story’s heart. To play Dan Unger, the widowed father who works as a security guard in the building where Barsinister conducts his shady experiments, the filmmakers knew they needed an actor who could traverse from comedy to drama in a heartbeat. Known for the wit and believability he brings to the role of a family man on his hit television series “According to Jim,” and a long-time dog-lover, Jim Belushi was the first choice.

“When I heard about the new UNDERDOG, I kind of got a joyous feeling connecting me back to my youth,” says Belushi. “The original cartoon provided hours of entertainment and when I read the script, I thought it was really well written. It’s an incredible journey for children and adults. It’s got action but it’s also got great relationships, between a father and son; between a girl dog and boy dog; and of course between people and dogs, which this movie really captures. And since we all feel like underdogs at some point in our life, it’s great to see this Underdog win.”

It also helped that Belushi, who has his own German Shepherd named Truly Scrumptious, is very experienced working with actors of the furry persuasion. “I’ve done three movies with dogs, including ‘K-9’ and I just love working with animals,” he says. “They are so in the moment. No matter how well-rehearsed you are, when you are in a scene with a dog, you have to let it all go and be present, and that’s when the magic happens.” Animal Coordinator Boone Narr saw a lot of that magic with Belushi.

“Sometimes you get actors who are standoffish with dogs but Belushi was always pushing it, even in the scenes when the German Shepherds with super powers are right in his face,” he says.

To play Dan Unger’s son, Jack, whose life is forever changed when he discovers his pet dog is actually a world-saving crime-fighter, the filmmakers decided to take a chance on a new, young star: Alex Neuberger in only his second film role. They were especially impressed with the 14 year-old’s ability to not only display a wide range of emotions but to play straight man to a hilarious dog as well.

Despite his youth, Neuberger had seen the cartoon on television, but he was primarily attracted by the script. “It was really action-packed,” he says. He was also intrigued by the character, who he notes is quite different from himself. “His mom died and his dad gave up his job as a cop and Jack’s pretty down when the story starts, until he meets Underdog. Of course that’s another big difference between us -- Jack has a pet dog, and I don’t,” Neuberger explains.

There were initial concerns over how Neuberger might handle his numerous scenes with rambunctious pups – but he proved to be a natural animal handler. “The trainers had me feed the dogs and train the dogs every day, so I developed a great relationship with Leo,” he says.

Starring as Jack’s love interest Molly (a relationship that parallel’s the courtship between their dogs, Underdog and Polly Purebred) is up-and-coming star Taylor Momsen. The 14 year-old’s already impressive range of roles includes co-starring as Cindylou Who opposite Jim Carrey in Ron Howard’s “Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and as Mel Gibson’s daughter in “We Were Soldiers.”

Momsen learned about the original Underdog cartoons from her dad, who had grown up with them. But when she read the script, she took a liking to Molly, who is one of the most popular and richest girls at Jack’s school. Momsen was attracted Molly’s determination and sense of adventure and enjoyed portraying the sophisticated, rich girl’s polished demeanor. “I had to constantly remind myself how important etiquette is to her because she is such a proper and conservative girl.”

Rounding out the human cast of UNDERDOG is a cadre of supporting actors including: noted stage and television star John Slattery (“Desperate Housewives,” “Jack and Bobby”), who plays Capitol City’s beleaguered Mayor; Samantha Bee, the sole female correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” as Jack and Molly’s school principal; and Susie Castillo, host of MTV’s wildly popular “TRL (Total Request Live)” and a former Miss USA, who plays Capitol City’s ubiquitous News Reporter, always on the scene to report the amazing and mysterious appearances of Underdog.

### The Mad Scientist

And then there are the humans who actually play humans in UNDERDOG. At the center of the human cast is the diabolical nemesis of Underdog: Simon Barsinister, the brilliant but definitely mad scientist whose mind and body are disfigured when an experiment goes awry. It is Barsinister who ultimately creates Underdog – and must face him in a climactic battle. To play the role, the filmmakers recruited Peter Dinklage, who garnered international attention for his groundbreaking role in the indie comedy-drama “The Station Agent” and went on to win acclaim in the hit comedy “Elf” with Will Ferrell.

Dinklage was another big fan of the cartoon series and found playing the dastardly Barsinister a happy challenge. “This character is a lot of fun,” he says. “The beauty of Barsinister is that he is defined in every scene by his huge ego. The same running joke you find with the James Bond or Batman villains is true for Simon Barsinister, because he is constantly trying to convince everybody of his genius.”

Dinklage also enjoyed the fact that Barsinister isn’t so much outright evil as dangerously over-ambitious. “He’s very misunderstood – he really just wants to create a better world and take society to new heights,” he explains. Still, Dinklage, an animal lover, admits it wasn’t easy playing a man willing to exploit animals to reach his goals. “I’m obsessed with dogs,” he admits, “so it was very hard for me to be menacing towards them.”

Creating a classic comedy pairing of villains with Dinklage is Patrick Warburton as Barsinister’s dimwitted henchman Cad. Warburton, the versatile actor best known for his recurring role as Elaine’s boyfriend Puddy on “Seinfeld” and an animation veteran who lends his voice to such hit shows as “Family Guy,” provided the perfect foil to Dinklage with their wild contrasting sizes and equally deft skill at uproarious physical comedy.

Warburton notes that he even has a karmic link to the famous canine, “Underdog and I were born the same year,” he points out, “so I basically grew up with him.” But it was the heartfelt and fun re-imagining of the story that impressed Warburton. “I think the writers created a timeless fantasy because everyone remembers their first dog and how exciting and special that experience is. In this story, Jack has

a dog that's literally a superhero, which is what he really needs in his life," Warburton continues. "I thought the story was fun but also had a lot of heart."

### **GOING TO THE DOGS:** **UNDERDOG'S STELLAR CANINE CAST**

The real key to transforming UNDERDOG into a live-action adventure would lay in the hands – or rather, the paws – of the film's canine actors, who become the true heroes of the story. To take on the task of scouring pounds, kennels, rescue societies, breeders and dog parks for photogenic pooches, the filmmakers recruited Boone Narr, whose work with animals is legendary, taking him from dozens of smaller productions all the way to the epic PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN. Narr was thrilled to hear about the production. "I just couldn't resist the idea of helping to create a dog hero," he confesses.

Narr's first big test would be finding the main dog to play Underdog. His mission was to find a dog that not only bore a physical resemblance to the original long-eared, flesh-colored cartoon character, but had all his qualities. The story of how Leo the Lemon Beagle was ultimately cast rivals discoveries such as Lana Turner at Schwab's Drug Store.

At first, Narr wasn't even sure what breed best suited Underdog. Narr recalls, "I initially looked at about twenty different breeds. We wanted our dog to look right away like an 'underdog,' so we felt he had to be a smaller dog who might not be able to defend himself, kind of like a canine Clark Kent. Prompted by the cartoon character, which kind of looks like a Beagle, I contacted Beagle Buddies, a Beagle rescue in Orange County, CA. And that's when I saw a photo of Leo."

The picture exuded charm, comedy and intelligence. Or so Narr thought. "It was a bit like a bad blind date – because when the dog showed up at my door he looked nothing like the photo! He was overweight and as round as he was long, and he was completely out of-control," laughs Narr. "But, to his credit, he had a great little personality and we decided to see if we could whip him into shape."

Leo now had his big chance to prove he had the right stuff and went to a "boot camp" where, like Underdog, he started out a little worse-for-the-wear and transformed himself into hero material. "Leo turned out to be an amazing little guy," Narr muses. "He's cantankerous and independent, with an attitude, but when the camera is rolling his personality just shines."

While Leo was the main canine actor playing Shoeshine/Underdog, there were actually four Beagles who helped to play the part. "Leo's got the mug but he also needed some stunt doubles that do

a lot of the running, jumping, and those kinds of things,” Narr continues. “They came from across the country; one from Alaska, one from Texas and one from North Carolina, each similar in looks to Leo.”

Narr went through a similar process in looking for Polly, but now compatibility entered the mix. The two dogs needed to have that ineffable “animal chemistry.” “We put a lot of different dogs beside Leo to find out who would make the most beautiful couple,” the animal trainer explains. “We definitely didn’t want to go the Poodle route – and we wanted a breed you haven’t seen a lot in movies. Ultimately, we came up with a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, which has a very soft, pretty look.”

Ultimately, Narr choose Ginger, a Spaniel who hails from San Diego and boasts not only a silky cinnamon coat but an unusually outgoing personality that matched the character. “Ginger just had those great looks – and she and Leo looked gorgeous together,” Narr recalls. “The Cavalier King Charles is often a shy breed, but Ginger came running up to us and we knew she was the one.”

Sealing the deal was the fact that Ginger and Leo had their tails wagging for one another right from the get-go. “They had real on-screen chemistry,” notes Todd Arnow. “They have a scene where they were supposed to put their paws on one another and not only did they do that but Ginger put her paw right on Leo’s shoulder. They really liked each and performed so well together.”

Meanwhile, to play Riff Raff, Narr found three tough-looking Rottweilers in city shelters and sprung them to become pampered canine stars. Contrary to their commanding size and presence, Narr says that the Rottweilers were the sweetest dogs on the set! In fact, all the dogs made such an impression during filming that many of them were adopted by members of the cast and crew when the production wrapped.

Ultimately, some 25 dogs were cast for the film – and like any actor preparing for a part, they each went into intensive training, learning all the complex actions and expressions they would need to bring their characters to life. Narr, who has worked in the business for more than 30 years, was amazed by the talent and skill of this particular cast. “I’ve trained dogs before who seemed great but when they got before the camera, they just froze. But all of the dogs on UNDERDOG just loved performing,” he says. “They loved their jobs and being in front of the camera and it shows on screen.”

One of Narr’s initial challenges was turning the kids, Alex and Taylor, and their respective dogs, Leo and Ginger, into instant best-friends, with the kind of bond that usually only years of companionship can build. “Trying to get a dog to act like he belongs to a specific person is one of the most difficult things you can teach,” Narr explains. “You have to build a relationship between the actor and the dog in a short amount of time.

Throughout the entire production, the American Humane Association had an on-set representative who assured that both the animals and humans were safe in all their scenes together. Not only did American Humane analyze the script and storyboards to ferret out any potential trouble spots,

but AHA rep Marisa Bellis was present for every single scene that included animals. “This movie has been quite a remarkable experience,” she says. “The trainers have been extraordinary. They're very safe. They're some of the safest trainers I've worked with--they don't take any chances.”

American Humane was also enthusiastic about the underlying themes of UNDERDOG. “One of the reasons I'm so excited about this film is that American Humane is a big believer in the idea that films can be a great tool to show the power of the animal-human bond,” says Jone Bouman of American Humane. “UNDERDOG is about a hero dog who positively affects a family. That's the kind of message we think is outstanding and it got all of our support.”

### **LOOK UP IN THE SKY: MAKING UNDERDOG FLY**

From the beginning, director Frederik Du Chau knew that UNDERDOG would hinge on creating a real dog who appeared both to be able to speak and to fly supersonically, albeit not entirely under control! He and his team spent months devising and honing a process that produced the uncanny illusion of a caped canine whizzing through the skies. It began with the real dogs and ended with digital wizardry. “First, we trained Leo to sit on a boom operated to fly in front of a green screen with wind machines blowing in front of him,” explains Du Chau. “We used these shots in a number of scenes by merging the shots of Leo with background plates shot from a helicopter that takes us through the city. Then, to make him *really* soar we also used a completely CG dog that looks just as realistic as Leo.”

The training aspect was exciting for animal coordinator Boone Narr, who says, “no one can resist a flying dog.” He explains how Leo attained lift-off: “We created a special flying rig that we could lift off the ground and roll and tilt to make it look like Leo's flying. But of course, the dog had to like it! Lucky for us, Leo loved to fly. I think for him it was like hanging his head out of a car window times ten.”

Du Chau also worked closely with visual effects supervisor Hoyt Yeatman, an industry veteran whose ground-breaking work on the undersea world of James Cameron's “The Abyss” earned him an Academy Award®. “Frederik has a great vision and on effects-driven films where a lot of things have to be fabricated, that vision is very important. He's a director who respects and understands the complexity of what we're doing,” says Yeatman.

Yeatman's primary task was bringing the digital version of Underdog to life. “Leo, the real Lemon Beagle, was our model that we always tried to emulate and copy faithfully,” Yeatman explains.

“But we also had an exciting opportunity to push that reality just enough that he was able to do superhero type of things, while not pushing him so far as to look like a cartoon. That was the fine line of creativity we had to walk, which was really exciting.”

While only Shoeshine/Underdog can fly and communicate with humans, all the dogs in the film can talk—if only to one another. Creating a believable talking dog with realistic mouth movements was another challenge for Yeatman. He says, “We used a process on UNDERDOG where you first shoot the real-life dog making all its prompted head bobs and turns, then the editor cuts it to an audio track so that the movement feels in synch with the intent of the character. We then project that image onto a three-dimensional model, sculpting a head in the computer, like a decal that forms around the actual character, after which the computer ‘grows’ fur on the model. Once this is complete, an animator can actually form vowels and expression with the animal’s face. From there, it’s composited with the live-action dog again. Done properly, it looks seamless. But it takes a tremendous amount of work and time. Hundreds of hours went into the compositing and 3-D.”

Du Chau also put an emphasis on old-fashioned special effects. “I wanted all our action to be set up with stunts and physical effects that make the audience feel as if it is all really happening,” notes Du Chau, “meaning that if Shoeshine flies by, there’s a huge wind machine that blasts the surroundings. If he crashes into flower pots, real planters are actually thrown about, and so forth.”

Du Chau notes that one of the best examples of how he mixed old school techniques with cutting-edge CGI throughout the film can be seen in the moment when our fur-bearing hero slips into a phone booth as an average dog and smashes out of it as an empowered superhero. “This scene is a perfect example of how we designed the whole movie, because we used the real trained Beagle to go into the phone booth; then, we combined that with a CGI dog with a CGI costume to fly out of the phone booth; and then we added physical special effects, in which we made the actual phone booth explode. The close interplay of all these elements lets the audience believe that a real dog turns into Underdog and actually flies, which is what this story is all about!”

Also helping to forge UNDERDOG’s look was production designer Garth Stover, who turned the Rhode Island capitol of Providence into Capitol City, and director of photography David Eggby, who found himself literally going to the dogs, finding unique angles and shots to express a dog’s eye-view of the metropolis.

“One of the most challenging things from a cinematography perspective is that whenever we see the dogs, most of the camera angles are at dog eye-line or lower,” Eggby explains. “After Frederik and I watched ‘Lady and The Tramp,’ and we noticed that 99% of the shots of the animals were drawn from those positions, we made a conscious decision that we would never look down at the dogs. That

means the camera is basically a foot off the ground a lot of the time! And when we shoot Polly, she's even lower than Shoeshine. So it's a dog's world we're in – which is fun for the audience.”

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## ABOUT THE CAST

**JASON LEE (Voice of Shoeshine/Underdog)** is in the midst of a flourishing career that includes an Independent Spirit Award for his performance in Kevin Smith's "Chasing Amy." He has received two Golden Globe nominations for Best Actor in a Television Series and two SAG nominations for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor for his starring role as Earl Hickey on NBC's hit comedy series "My Name Is Earl." Lee not only stars, but also serves as a producer on the show about a hapless crook who has an epiphany after winning a small fortune in the lottery.

Over his recent summer hiatus from "Earl," Lee starred in the CG/live-action hybrid feature film "Alvin and the Chipmunks." He plays Dave Seville, the songwriter/father-figure to singing chipmunks Alvin, Simon and Theodore. A December 14, 2007 release is anticipated.

Lee previously voiced the role of Syndrome in Walt Disney Pictures' and Pixar's Academy Award-winning animated feature "The Incredibles." He also did voice work on the motion-capture feature "Monster House," about three teenagers who discover their neighbor's house is a monster.

Born and raised in Huntington Beach, California, Lee turned a childhood pastime of skateboarding into a professional career. However, once moving to Los Angeles during his early 20s, he began developing an interest in acting. "After watching Steve Buscemi as the bellboy in 'Barton Fink,' I knew I wanted to be in movies," says Lee.

Lee's big break came in 1995 with the lead role in writer-director Smith's comedy "Mallrats," in which he deftly portrayed the inconsiderate slacker Brodie. Lee then went on to star in Smith's "Chasing Amy" (for which he won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Male for his role as Banky) and as the demonic Azrael in Smith's supernatural comedy "Dogma." He reunited with Smith in the Dimension Films comedy, "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," and most recently, he had a cameo role in Smith's "Clerks II."

Lee co-starred in Cameron Crowe's Golden Globe-winning ensemble feature, "Almost Famous," in the role of Jeff Bebe, the lead singer of a 1970s rock band called Stillwater. He then re-teamed with Crowe on the writer-director's film "Vanilla Sky."

After working with director Lawrence Kasdan's ensemble comedy "Mumford," Lee reunited with Kasdan for the director's suspense thriller, "Dreamcatcher."

Lee's additional film credits include writer-director Rebecca Miller's feature, "The Ballad of Jack and Rose" (with Daniel Day-Lewis and Catherine Keener), director Barry Sonnenfeld's ensemble comedy "Big Trouble," "Enemy of the State," and "Kissing a Fool."

In Summer 2006, Lee wrote and directed the short film, "The White Door," which stars Giovanni Ribisi and Beth Riesgraf. The film will have a future DVD release.

Lee is also a professional photographer, as well as an avid supporter and collector of the arts. He is currently shooting 20"x24" Polaroid portraits for an upcoming gallery and book series. When not working on personal projects, Lee photographs for Los Angeles-based Anthem magazine. He is also actively involved with his skateboard company, Stereo Skateboards, which recently celebrated its 15-year anniversary.

**LEO (Shoeshine/Underdog)** is a talented little Lemon Beagle, a light yellow variation on the friendly, outgoing hound dog breed, of which numerous famous dogs, including Snoopy is a member. It's hard to believe now, but Leo was down-and-out just a short time ago, having been taken in by Beagle Buddies, a rescue organization in Orange County that helps to find homes for wayward hounds. Beagle Buddies sent UNDERDOG's animal coordinator Boone Narr photographs of Leo that won him over – but when Boone met Leo he wasn't exactly ready for his close-up. He was overweight, out of shape and beyond all human control! Yet, just like Underdog himself, Leo was about to discover the extraordinary potential within. After just a few weeks of training, exercise and affection, he was a new dog, ready to tackle all the comical expressions, challenging emotions and even the flying stunts – which Leo adored -- that bring his character to life.

Academy Award® nominated actress **AMY ADAMS (Voice of Polly Purebred)** has built an impressive list of credits in a remarkably short period of time, challenging herself with each new role. In Phil Morrison's "Junebug," Adams earned nominations for an Academy Award ®and a SAG Award. She won an Independent Spirit Award, Broadcast Film Critics Association Award, National Society of Film Critics Award, a San Francisco Film Critics Society Award, as well as the Breakthrough Gotham Award. Adams also won the Special Jury Prize for Acting at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival for her role as the pregnant, childlike 'Ashley,' who is awe-struck by the arrival of her glamorous sister-in-law.

Adams recently starred with Will Ferrell in the comedy "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and will next be seen in the Disney romantic fable "Enchanted" opposite Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Idina Menzel, and Susan Sarandon. Adams will also star opposite Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman in the screen adaptation of Pulitzer Prize winning play "Doubt" for Miramax Films.

Adams' other film credits include Clare Kilner's "The Wedding Date" with Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney, Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," Reginald Hudlin's "Serving Sara," Anthony Abrams' "Pumpkin," "Drop Dead Gorgeous," and "Psycho Beach Party." Adams has also guest-starred on several television series including "The Office" and "The West Wing."

**GINGER (Polly Purebred)** is a knockout Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who hails from San Diego. Though she might be described as a “toy” Spaniel and weighs in at just over ten pounds, Ginger makes a big impression with her beauty and personality. Her ancestry goes all the way back to 11<sup>th</sup> Century England and to Spaniels who were the house pets of the royal families of Europe. With her large, expressive eyes and lovely feathered coat, Ginger had the looks but it was when she ran joyously up to Boone Narr at their first meeting – defying the breed’s sometimes shy personality – that Narr suspected that Ginger was the perfect romantic foil for Underdog. Then, he put her next to Leo and the chemistry was clear. Despite their breed and size differences, it was love at first sniff.

**JIM BELUSHI (Dan Unger)** is heading into his seventh season as the star and executive producer of the ABC hit comedy, “According to Jim,” in which he plays the husband in a marriage that actually works, and the father of three young children. The show co-stars Courtney Thorne-Smith, Kimberly Williams-Paisley and Larry Joe Campbell.

A native of Chicago, Belushi began his career as a resident member of the famed Second City, from 1976-80. In 1979 he left for Hollywood, when writer-producer Garry Marshall cast him in the Paramount Television series “Who’s Watching the Kids,” and later in “Working Stiffs” with Michael Keaton. Among Belushi’s other television credits as an actor and writer are “Saturday Night Live,” “Parallel Lives,” the Oliver Stone/ABC miniseries “Wild Palms,” the movie “Sahara” for Showtime and the critically acclaimed series “Beggars and Choosers.”

In 2000 Belushi co-starred in MGM’s “Return to Me,” directed by Bonnie Hunt and starring David Duchovny and Minnie Driver, and he received rave reviews for his work with Gregory Hines in Showtime’s “Who Killed Atlanta’s Children?” It was his work in Edward Zwick’s “About Last Night,” with Rob Lowe and Demi Moore, that brought Belushi his first serious attention as a film star. In the 1986 feature, he reprised the role he had played on stage in David Mamet’s Obie Award-winning “Sexual Perversity in Chicago,” from which the film was adapted. His feature credits since then show an extraordinary range: he was James Woods’ spacey DJ buddy, Dr. Rock, in Oliver Stone’s “Salvador”; the mentally handicapped dishwasher befriended by Whoopi Goldberg in the Andrei

Konchalovsky film, "Homer and Eddie"; and the defiant high school principal standing up to drug dealers in "The Principal."

Other starring roles include "Joe Somebody," the "K-9" franchise, "Red Heat," "Curly Sue," "Taking Care of Business," "Once Upon a Crime," "Mr. Destiny," "Only the Lonely," Michael Mann's "Thief," "The Man with One Red Shoe," "Real Men," "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Jingle All the Way," "Retroactive" and "Gang Related." Belushi has performed on Broadway in Herb Gardner's acclaimed "Conversations with My Father" at the Royal Theatre, off-Broadway in "True West," at the Cherry Lane Theatre in the Williamstown Theatre Festival production of John Guare's "Moon Over Miami," and for Joseph Papp as the Pirate King in "Pirates of Penzance." In addition he does numerous voiceovers for film, television and for commercials.

Besides acting, Belushi loves music. The Sacred Hearts are a rhythm-and-blues band who have been together for years, performing 40 nights a year at clubs, casinos and corporate events all over the country. They are the "official house band" for The House of Blues, in which Belushi is a partner, and have entertained former President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Big Men Big Music is a project that Belushi is doing with his friend, Dan Aykroyd. They performed at the SARS benefit in Toronto for over 400,000 people with the Rolling Stones, and their CD was number one on the blues chart last summer. Belushi currently has three CD's out: "Blues Brothers Live from Chicago," The Sacred Hearts' "36 x 22 x 36," and the recently released Big Men Big Music CD, "Have Love Will Travel."

At fourteen years old, Minnesotan, **ALEX NEUBERGER (Jack Unger)**, is making an imprint in Hollywood as a leading young man. He will steal the hearts of audiences as the lead role of Jack in UNDERDOG. His performance as Paul Walker's son in "Running Scared" for New Line has received much attention. Buzzine.com referred to his performance as "excellent" stating, "this is Neuberger's very first acting role – and he nails it." His performance in "Running Scared" has earned him a Young Artist Awards Nomination as Best Performance by a Leading Young Male in a Feature Film.

Neuberger is an actor to keep your eye on as he solidifies his place in Hollywood as a leading young man.

An actress whose poise and range reaches well beyond her years, **TAYLOR MOMSEN (Molly)** is making her mark in Hollywood. Working with directors ranging from Ron Howard to Gus Van Sant, she is one of the industry's most respected and sought after young actors.

This Fall, Momsen will star in the highly anticipated new CW show "Gossip Girl." Momsen stars as Jenny Humphrey, the freshman from Downtown Soho, who tries to fit in with the wealthy kids from New York's Upper East side. Shot on location in New York, "Gossip Girl" is premiering in September on Wednesday's at 9PM following "America's Next Top Model."

Momsen will next be seen in Gus Van Sant's "Paranoid Park" for IFC Films. The film revolves around a teenage skateboarder who's life begins to fray after he is involved in the accidental death of a security guard. The film premiered to rave reviews and won the 60th Anniversary Award at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

In 2000, Momsen starred in her breakthrough performance in Ron Howard's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" as Cindy Loo Who opposite Jim Carrey for Imagine Entertainment and Universal Studios. The film grossed over \$340 million worldwide.

Additional film credits include: Robert Rodriguez's "Spy Kids 2," and Randall Wallace's "We Were Soldiers" starring Mel Gibson.

Momsen was born in St. Louis, Missouri and currently resides in Maryland.

**PETER DINKLAGE (Dr. Simon Barsinister)** first came to fore as Tito, the dwarf actor in Tom Decillo's "Living In Oblivion," in which he delivered an open rant to an entire generation of would-be filmmakers, refusing to be used as a gag or a prop – while honoring his craft with an unforgettable fierceness and dignity. Dinklage later went on to redefine the concept of a leading man with his starring role in the 2003 Sundance Audience Award winner "The Station Agent."

For his work in "The Station Agent," Dinklage was recognized with a "Best Actor" nomination in the 2003 Independent Spirit Awards, as well as being named one of the top 5 "Breakout Stars" of the year by Entertainment Weekly. Also in 2003, Dinklage received critical raves for his appearance in the Will Ferrell box office hit "Elf," where he played scene-stealing children's author Miles Finch.

His recent films include Sidney Lumet's "Find Me Guilty" starring opposite Vin Diesel, "Lassie" opposite Peter O'Toole and Michael Showalter's "The Baxter." Dinklage stars this fall in Frank Oz's British comedy "Death at a Funeral" and the offbeat fable "Penelope" starring Christina Ricci, James McAvoy and Reese Witherspoon.

Dinklage recently completed filming on "3/5 a Man," about Nat Turner and the 1831 Slave Rebellion, and is currently shooting "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian." Upcoming projects also include "Mendel's Dwarf" for Barbara Streisand's Barwood Films and the "Affair of the Sorcerers" franchise.

Other feature credits include Michel Gondry's "Human Nature" written by Charlie Kaufman; John Hamburg's "Safe Men"; Eric Shaeffer's "Never Again"; Alexandre Rockwells' "13 Moons" and Greg Pritikin's "Surviving Eden." On television, he has been seen in the CBS sci-fi series "Threshold" and in a recurring role on the popular "Nip/Tuck."

On stage, Dinklage recently starred in a production of "Endgame" with Gary Oldman as part of the Samuel Beckett 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Beckett festival in Dublin, Ireland. In 2005, he was nominated for a Drama League Distinguished Performance Award for his portrayal of Richard III at New York's Public Theater and he starred in the Charlie Kaufman New Ear radio play "Hope Leaves the Theater" opposite Meryl Streep and Hope Davis. Dinklage has also appeared Off-Broadway in such plays as Marc Spitz's "I Wanna Be Adored," Brandon Cole's "Imperfect Love" and Jonathan Marc Sherman's "Evolution."

**BRAD GARRETT (Voice of Riff Raff)** played Ray Romano's big brother Robert on the hit series "Everybody Loves Raymond," earning five Emmy Award nominations and Emmy wins in 2002, 2003 and 2005 for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series. He currently stars in the FOX series "Til Death . . ."

Garrett, raised in Woodland Hills, CA, was born on April 14, 1960. After high school graduation, Garrett began performing his stand-up act at various Los Angeles comedy clubs, getting his start at the Ice House in Pasadena and The Improv in Hollywood. His first appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" at age 23 made him one of the youngest comedians ever to perform on the program. Garrett's stand-up career then took off, garnering him headlining gigs at national venues as well as opening spots for legends, including Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Julio Iglesias, Liza Minnelli and Sammy Davis Jr. In 1989, the Las Vegas Review Journal named Garrett the "Best Comedian" working on the Strip.

Garrett next made his foray into the world of television. His television guest roles range from stints on "Roseanne" and "Mad About You" to his trademark role of the obsessive mechanic on "Seinfeld." In its nine seasons, "Everybody Loves Raymond" was a critical and ratings success. Garrett portrayed Ray Barone's (Ray Romano) brother "Robert," the NYPD policeman whose existence was constantly overshadowed by his sports-writer sibling. Their rivalry helped coin the title line, "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Garrett's voiceover work includes giving life to "Fatso," the ghost in the 1995 feature "Casper." He can also be heard as "Dim," the rhinoceros beetle, in the feature "A Bug's Life," "Bloat" the blowfish in "Finding Nemo" and most recently the chef "Gusteau" in "Ratatouille."

Garrett has since been seen on cable TV's "Don King: Only in America." His feature film credits include "George B" with David Morse, which was a finalist at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival; "Suicide Kings" with Christopher Walken; Showtime's "Clubland" with Alan Alda; and director Woody Allen's "Sweet & Lowdown," with Sean Penn and Uma Thurman. Garrett has also guest-hosted "The Late Show" for a sidelined David Letterman.

In 2002, Garrett played Jackie Gleason in the critically acclaimed network television film "Gleason," for which he earned an Emmy Award nomination and a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for Outstanding Actor in a Movie or Miniseries. He starred in the hit comedy "The Pacifier," and on Broadway in Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." Garrett was most recently seen in the feature "Music and Lyrics By" with Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore.

**BRONCO (Riff Raff)** joins the ranks of great canine villains in the role of Riff Raff – but couldn't be a sweeter dog. Things were looking down for Bronco, who was languishing without a home in a city shelter, when Boone Narr's team rescued him and turned his story from rags to riches, discovering his star potential. Like most Rottweilers, Bronco is large, intelligent and powerful with a handsome black-and-tan face. But he also proved quick to learn new tricks, allowing him to play a part quite different from himself!

**PATRICK WARBURTON (Cad)** is well known for his role on the hit comedy "Seinfeld" as Puddy, Elaine's enigmatic, on-again, off-again boyfriend who broke up with her at least 12 times in one episode. His television credits also include such series as "Dave's World" and "NewsRadio" as well as playing the title character of the cult superhero comedy "The Tick." He has been the long-running voice of Joe on the popular FOX animated series "Family Guy," was also the voice of the Savior of the Universe on the Disney Saturday morning TV series "Buzz Lightyear of Star Command" and can be heard as Mr. Barkin on the Disney Channel's "Kim Possible." Warburton currently stars in the hit CBS show "Rules of Engagement" opposite David Spade and Oliver Hudson, which returns for its second season in September 2007.

On the big screen, Warburton has been seen in a wide variety of films. His comic ease has made him popular with comedy directors and his recent voice roles include "Kronk" in "The Emperor's New Groove" and a new version of the Big Bad Wolf in "Hoodwinked." Warburton also lends his voice to the big screen in the highly anticipated film "Bee Movie" (November 2007), where he plays Renee Zellweger's boyfriend as she tries to win the heart of Jerry Seinfeld. In live-action movies, he has

traversed from blockbusters to indie comedies and dramas with credits that include “Men in Black II,” “The Dish,” “Joe Somebody,” “Angels in the Infield,” “Big Trouble” and “The Woman Chaser.” Warburton also stars in a mystery/comedy about a hunt for an alleged alien living in a small town in the movie “I’ll Believe You” hitting theaters September 2007.

**JOHN SLATTERY (The Mayor)** most recently appeared in Clint Eastwood’s “Flags of Our Fathers” and will be seen in the upcoming features, “Charlie Wilson’s War” directed by Mike Nichols, and “Reservation Road” from Terry George. His other films include “Mona Lisa Smile,” “Bad Company,” “Traffic,” “The Station Agent” and “Sleepers.” His extensive TV roles include a recurring role in the hit series “Desperate Housewives,” the TV film “The Brooke Ellison Story,” series regular on “Jack and Bobby,” “K Street,” and “Ed” and memorable guest appearances on “Sex and the City” and “Will & Grace.”

**SUSIE CASTILLO (Diana Flores)** is quickly emerging as one of television’s most recognizable faces. Born in Methuen, Massachusetts, Castillo is of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent and speaks Spanish fluently. Castillo is most known for being the host of MTV’s most popular show, “TRL” (Total Request Live.) She has also hosted various MTV specials such as “Hits,” “TRL New Year’s Eve” and the Video Music Awards. Castillo was recently named the new “Face” of Neutrogena. As the new spokesperson for the brand, Castillo is featured in a national television campaign that launched this spring.

An up-and-coming actor, Hollywood spotted Castillo early in her career. She has guest-starred on such notable shows as “My Wife and Kids” and “Half & Half.” Castillo’s poise in front of the camera has also led to various high-profile hosting gigs, including the live telecast of the 2005 “Miss Teen USA Pageant,” “The I Do Diaries: Instant Wedding” on Lifetime and The TV Guide Channel’s special on the Miss USA pageant. Castillo was also a guest commentator for the 2004 “Miss USA Pageant” and shared the stage with Regis Philbin when she co-hosted “Live! With Regis and Kelly.”

In 2003, Castillo became the third Latina ever to become Miss USA, prompting *People en Espanol* to name her one of the “25 Most Beautiful People.”

**SAMANTHA BEE (The Principal)** is the female correspondent on The Emmy Award-winning series “Comedy Central’s The Daily Show” starring Jon Stewart. Born in Toronto, Samantha began her career appearing in various theatrical productions on stages throughout Ontario. In addition

to her theatre work, Samantha became very involved in sketch comedy. Samantha is a member of the popular Toronto based sketch troupe The Atomic Fireballs – whose reputation attracted the attention of New York’s Broadway Video (producers of “Saturday Night Live) who offered the girls a development deal in 2002. Samantha’s popularity as a “Fireball” lead to interest from many of Toronto’s casting directors and Sam quickly began starring in ad campaigns.

Samantha appeared in the Showtime movie “Jasper Texas” starring Jon Voight, in the short film “Fat Kid” and made her Canadian feature film debut in the critically acclaimed “Ham and Cheese,” for which she was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**FREDERIK DU CHAU (Director)** previously directed (and co-wrote) the family adventure “Racing Stripes,” the popular film about a young zebra who aspires to racing stardom, featuring the voices of such luminaries as Whoopi Goldberg, Dustin Hoffman and Joe Pantoliano.

Du Chau was born in Belgium, where studied film at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, while simultaneously traveling the world as a camera assistant for several major European news organizations. He then began his career as both an animator and a director for television and commercials in Europe. In 1989, his short story, “The Mystery of the Lamb,” was selected for the Los Angeles Animation Celebration film festival, which brought him to the United States. At the Baer Animation Studio in Los Angeles, he worked as an animator on numerous commercials that combined animation with live action. He then co-directed the animation for the video hit “Land Before Time: Time of the Great Giving.”

After spending time working as a storyboard artist for animation legend Chuck Jones, he directed the feature film “Quest for Camelot,” which received a Vision Award for Best Picture in 1999. He also directed a pilot presentation for Forest Whitaker’s Spirit Dance Entertainment entitled “Stripped,” for which he created a new look that transforms live action into animation in real time.

In 2000, Du Chau, along with Kirk DeMicco, wrote “Hong Kong Phooey,” a live action comedy about a Kung Fu fighting dog, based on the popular Hanna-Barbera cartoon. This project was sold to Alcon Entertainment.

When not directing movies, Frederik draws and writes on his own comic book called "Fish Out Of Water." He is also working on a children's book based on characters he developed called Menehunes.

**ROGER BIRNBAUM (Producer)** founded the production and finance company, Spyglass Entertainment, with partner Gary Barber, where they share the title of Co-Chairman and CEO. The company develops and finances all of its projects independently.

The company's box office successes range from “the Sixth Sense” with Bruce Willis, which earned \$661 million in worldwide box-office, to the smash hit “Bruce Almighty” starring Jim Carrey, which earned \$485 million. Also included in the Spyglass library are Oscar®-nominated favorites such as “Seabiscuit” with Tobey Maguire, and “The Insider” with Russell Crowe and Al Pacino. In total, Spyglass has cumed over 26 Oscar® nominations, including three wins. Other company successes include “The Count of Monte Cristo” with Jim Caviezel and Guy Pearce, “Keeping the Faith” with Ben

Stiller and Edward Norton, the dual hits “Shanghai Noon” and its sequel “Shanghai Knights” with Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson, “The Recruit” with Al Pacino and Colin Farrell, “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” starring Sam Rockwell and Mos Def, and the smash family film, “The Pacifier” with Vin Diesel.

Spyglass also co-financed and executive produced “The Legend of Zorro,” the sequel to “the Mask of Zorro” with Catherine Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas, and director Martin Campbell, and “Memoirs of a Geisha”, the adaptation of the best-selling novel directed by Rob Marshall (“Chicago”). Both films were released internationally by Spyglass and have grossed over \$150 million dollars each in worldwide box office to date. “Memoirs of a Geisha” drew numerous kudos and awards throughout the season, culminating in three Academy Awards®.

In 2006, Mr. Birnbaum co-financed and produced the action adventure “Eight Below,” based on the true survival story about a group of sled dogs’ in Antarctica. The film had strong legs at the box office, with earnings over \$120 million worldwide. Spyglass also produced and financed the crime thriller “The Lookout,” helmed by acclaimed writer turned first time director Scott Frank.

First part of 2007 saw the releases of “The Invisible” and “Evan Almighty”. Next up for Spyglass are the productions of “27 Dresses” with Katherine Heigl and “The Ruins,” a horror/thriller in association with DreamWorks.

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

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

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

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

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

**GARY BARBER (Producer)** founded the production, finance and distribution company, Spyglass Entertainment, with partner Roger Birnbaum where he serves as Co-Chairman and CEO.

The company's savvy production choices from the beginning led to the phenomenal box office success of "The Sixth Sense," starring Bruce Willis, which went on to gross over \$661 million and garnered six Academy Award® nominations. Further successes include "The Count of Monte Cristo," with Jim Caviezel and Guy Pearce, "Keeping the Faith," with Ben Stiller and Edward Norton, "Shanghai Noon," with Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson, and its sequel "Shanghai Knights," as well as the dynamic teaming of Al Pacino and Colin Farrell in "The Recruit."

Mr. Barber executive produced and co-financed two milestone movies: "Bruce Almighty," starring Jim Carrey and Jennifer Aniston, which grossed over \$485 million in worldwide box office and is considered one of the blockbuster comedies of all time, and "Seabiscuit," the tale of a legendary racehorse, starring Tobey Maguire, Chris Cooper, and Jeff Bridges, which received seven Oscar® nominations with its moving story of triumph over adversity.

Mr. Barber went on to produce "The Pacifier" and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." "The Pacifier," a family comedy starring Vin Diesel, earned approximately \$200 million in worldwide box office, while "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," an adaptation to the Douglas Adams's bestseller, crossed the \$100 million mark globally.

Spyglass also co-financed and Mr. Barber executive-produced: "The Legend of Zorro," the sequel to the 1998 smash hit, with Catherine Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas, and director Martin Campbell, and "Memoirs of a Geisha," based on the best-selling novel, helmed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago") and starring Ziyi Zhang and Ken Watanabe. "Memoirs of a Geisha" earned Spyglass three Oscar® wins out of six nominations, bringing a total of twenty-six nominations.

2006's successful Walt Disney Pictures' "Eight Below" was co-financed by Spyglass and executive produced by Mr. Barber. In the spring of 2007 Spyglass produced and financed the releases of "The Invisible" and "The Lookout," through Miramax Films and Touchstone Pictures respectively.

Spyglass is currently in production on two films: "27 Dresses," starring Katherine Heigl and "The Ruins," a horror/thriller in association with DreamWorks.

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

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

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

Barber has produced or executive produced over 50 feature films and TV shows including the 1994 hit that rocketed Jim Carrey to stardom, "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," and its highly successful sequel, "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls," and the 1991 blockbuster, "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," starring Kevin Costner.

**JONATHAN GLICKMAN (Producer)** is responsible for the development and production of all Spyglass films. In 1993, Glickman joined Caravan Pictures as an intern and by 1997 he had worked his way up to President of the company. During this time he brought in such projects as "The Jerky Boys" and "While You Were Sleeping," serving as associate producer on both films. Later, Glickman executive produced "Grosse Pointe Blank" and Walt Disney's "Inspector Gadget". In addition, he also produced the international smash hits "Rush Hour" and its sequel "Rush Hour II."

In 1998, Glickman was named President of Production for Spyglass Entertainment and in 2003 was promoted to President of Spyglass Entertainment. While at Spyglass, Glickman has produced "Shanghai Noon," "Count Of Monte Cristo," "Connie & Carla," "Mr. 3000," "The Pacifier," "Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy" and "The Invisible." He recently served as executive producer of "Stay Alive," "Stick It" and "The Lookout." Glickman has also produced the forthcoming ping-pong comedy "Balls Of Fury" and "Rush Hour 3."

Glickman, who is married to television writer Christy Callahan, graduated with honors in English from the University of Michigan and attended University of Southern California's Peter Stark program.

**JAY POLSTEIN (Producer)** is an independent producer in Los Angeles. He also produced in association with Maverick Films the forthcoming "My Sassy Girl," directed by Yann Samuel, a remake of the smash Korean romantic comedy about a guy who has the misfortune of falling for a girl soured by a broken heart; and he previously produced the Oscar®-winning "Frida," an acclaimed biography of the painter Frida Kahlo starring Salma Hayek in the title role.

Formerly Head of Production for the management/production company Handprint Entertainment, he supervised the development of numerous projects including "The Fighting Temptations," starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Steve Harvey and Beyonce Knowles.

Prior to Handprint, Polstein was Vice President of Production at Trimark Pictures where he co-produced several films including the critically acclaimed "Eve's Bayou," directed by Kasi Lemmons.

Polstein began his career as an attorney specializing in entertainment law, before leaving to join ICM talent agency as a story editor. Following ICM, he joined Goldwyn Films, where he was the Director of Production. Polstein is a graduate of Georgetown University and UCLA School of Law.

A graduate of Georgetown University, **JOE PISCATELLA (Writer)** attended the Masters of Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California, where he met **CRAIG A. WILLIAMS (Writer)**. After making their start in television on shows for NBC, Warner Brothers, and Nickelodeon, Joe and Craig made their foray into feature films, having written multiple projects for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, Dreamworks, Spyglass and Starz Animation. They are currently writing a pilot for Touchstone Television and an animated feature for Sony. Before becoming a screenwriter, Joe was a food and travel writer who once had a tryout in the Canadian Football League as a punter. A graduate of the University of California, Irvine and native southern Californian, Craig's adventures as a teenage rock star during Hollywood's glam metal era are chronicled in his book, Mom, Have You Seen My Leather Pants?, which will be published by Crown on August 28, 2007.

**ADAM RIFKIN (Writer)** is a writer/director/producer whose eclectic career ranges from broad family comedies to cult classics to dark and gritty urban dramas. As a writer, he made his mark with films like "Mousehunt," starring Nathan Lane and "Small Soldiers," starring Tommy Lee Jones for

Dreamworks. Recent credits also include Sony's "Zoom," starring Tim Allen.

In 1991, Rifkin earned cult status when his film "The Dark Backward," which he wrote and directed, was named one of the top ten films of the year by The New York Post. He would go on to be immortalized as the director responsible for New Line Cinema's "Detroit Rock City," a cult classic that introduced a whole new generation of fans to the "hottest band in the world...Kiss!!!"

Rifkin gained recognition for his film "Night at the Golden Eagle," a film which he not only wrote and directed, but also produced. The film was an official selection of the London Film Festival and opened to rave reviews.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Rifkin will unleash his latest film. Armed with the knowledge that Americans are captured on surveillance cameras at least 200 times a day, mostly without their knowledge, Rifkin wrote and directed "Look." The film, which won the Grand Jury prize at the 2007 CineVegas Film Festival, tells its story exclusively through the eyes of the countless security cameras throughout the city, bringing to light the harsh realities of what it means to be watched 24/7.

Additionally, in 2007, Rifkin will add acting to his resume when he stars opposite Ali Larter as an idealistic caveman searching for love and life beyond the cave in National Lampoon's "Homo Erectus." Rifkin, who wrote and directed the film, was inspired by the early comedies of Woody Allen like "Sleepers," "Bananas," and "Love and Death." The prehistoric comedy will also be responsible for helping re-launch the Lampoon brand.

**BOONE NARR (Animal Coordinator)** operates Boone's Animals For Hollywood, Inc., an internationally known and respected animal training facility. For the past three decades the company and its trainers have worked with every major studio on hundreds of films, TV shows, and commercials.

Their dogs, cats and other, sometimes more exotic animals have worked all over the United States and around the world. Time spent filming in Canada, Czech Republic, Australia, Mexico, Africa, Korea, India, New Zealand, Israel, New Guinea, Germany and Italy have provided a wide knowledge of acquiring permits and importing/exporting animals for film work.

Boone's Animals For Hollywood has extensive experience with difficult animal work, stunts, and cutting edge computer enhanced film making technology.

His extensive credits include: "Catwoman," "Pirates Of The Caribbean 1, 2 & 3," "Stuart Little 1 & 2," "Cats And Dogs," "Troy," "National Treasure," "The Forgotten," "Raising Helen," "Peter Pan," "Skipping Christmas," "Around The Bend," "Open Range," "Green Mile," "Mouse Hunt," "The Pacifier," "Paulie," "Batman And Robin," "Father Of The Bride," "Willard," "Buddy," "Haunted

Mansion,” “Rat Race,” “Bingo,” “Looney Tunes: Back In Action,,” “America’s Sweethearts,” “The Ring,” “Kate And Leopold,” “What Women Want” and “Must Love Dogs.”

**TOM FINAN (Editor)** has worked on a host of notable films including “Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas,” “The Emperor’s New Groove,” “Stuart Little,” “Hercules,” “The Lion King,” “Pet Cemetery II,” “Grand Isle,” “Problem Child,” “It Had to Be You,” “Wizard” and “Racing Stripes,” his second collaboration with director Frederik Du Chau. His television credits include “They’ve Taken Our Children: The Chowchilla Kidnapping,” “Writer’s Block,” “Tales From the Crypt” and “Alfred Hitchcock Presents.”

As an associate editor, Finan worked on Oliver Stone’s “Platoon,” which won Oscars® for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Editing, and Stone’s “Salvador.” Among his assistant editor credits are “Gremlins” and “Coal Miner’s Daughter.”

**DAVID EGGBY, ACS (Director of Photography)** began his career in stills. Then served as a Naval Airman Photographer with the Royal Australian Navy for 6 years. He then worked on several police TV dramas, commercial, mini series and made-for-television movies. His first feature film was George Miller’s groundbreaking futuristic adventure “Mad Max” in 1977. Since then, he has established himself and is well known in the U.S. and overseas for his visually innovative style.

His talent for visual effects and action movies garnered him repeat collaborations with several directors including Rob Cohen (“Daylight,” “Dragonheart,” “Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story”), Simon Wincer (“Harley Davidson & The Marlboro Man,” “Quigley Down Under,” “Lightning Jack”) and now Frederik Du Chau, with whom he first worked on “Racing Stripes.”

Eggy’s film credits also include “Scooby Doo,” “Pitch Black,” “Horseplay,” “Blue Streak,” “Virus,” “Fortress,” “Warlock,” “The Blood of Heroes,” “The Naked Country,” “Buddies,” “Kansas,” “Euro Trip,” “Crossfire Trail,” “Monte Walsh and “The Marine.”

**GARRETH STOVER’S (Production Designer)** extensive and varied credits as production designer include “Christmas with the Kranks” and “America’s Sweethearts” (directed by Joe Roth), “Big Trouble” (Barry Sonnenfeld), “Daddy Day Care” (Steve Carr), “The Kid,” “Instinct,” “Phenomenon” and “While You Were Sleeping” (Jon Turteltaub), “Lost Souls” (Janusz Kaminski) and “Unstrung

Heroes” (Diane Keaton). Beyond the United States, his work has taken him to Jamaica, Curacao, Russia, France, Portugal and Iceland.

Academy Award®-nominee **GARY JONES (Costume Designer)** has designed for a wide range of feature films including “Spiderman 2,” “Raising Helen,” “Two Weeks Notice,” “The Princess Diaries 1 & 2,” “Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood,” “Secondhand Lions,” “Vanya on 42nd Street,” “The Mosquito Coast” and “The Trip to Bountiful.” Gary has also enjoyed a long creative collaboration with Designer Ann Roth, and together they shared an Academy Award® nomination for the “Talented Mr. Ripley.” Other films they collaborated on were “The English Patient,” “Primary Colors,” “Sabrina,” “The Mambo Kings” and “Dressed to Kill.” Most recently, Jones designed costumes for Garry Marshall’s “Georgia Rule” starring Jane Fonda, Lindsay Lohan and Felicity Huffman. His upcoming films include “Definitely Maybe” starring Ryan Reynolds, Rachel Weisz and Abigail Breslin; as well as “All About Steve” starring Sandra Bullock.

**HOYT YEATMAN (Visual Effects Supervisor)** has contributed to the conception, design, supervision and production of visual effects for more than 100 motion picture, television, and commercial projects. He was also one of the original founders of Dream Quest Images, an Academy Award®-winning visual effects company. He has always been drawn to the visually artistic and the technically complex, and the challenge in blending these two worlds seamlessly.

Yeatman’s dramatic use of miniature and underwater bluescreen photography in the 1989 film “The Abyss” won an Oscar® for Best Achievement in Visual Effects. Currently Yeatman is developing a hybrid CG/live action film called “G-Force” and was responsible for the visual effects and the photo-realistic 3D character animation for the Jerry Bruckheimer production “Kangaroo Jack.” He was also visual effects supervisor on the 1998 Academy Award®-nominated “Mighty Joe Young,” as well as “The Rock,” “Crimson Tide” and “Armageddon.”

In March 2000, Yeatman and the Eastman Kodak Company were honored with a Scientific and Technical Achievement Certificate from the Academy for their joint development of a new visual effects film stock, SFX 200T. Additionally, he has directed special attraction films for Warner Bros. Recreation, Sony Wonder, Imax Corp. and Samsung.

Yeatman was a co-founder of Dream Quest Images that was acquired by The Walt Disney Company in 1996 and became The Secret Lab, the digital production studio of Walt Disney Feature

Animation, in 1999. Currently Hoyt is directing a feature hybrid live action / animated film entitled G-FORCE for Jerry Bruckheimer and Walt Disney Studios.

**PAUL LOMBARDI (Special Effects Coordinator)** was raised in the special effects business—his family’s credits go back to 1947, when his father started at Desilu. Paul’s credits include “The Last Samurai,” “Charlie’s Angels,” “Courage Under Fire,” “Con Air,” “Bad Santa” and the television series “X-Files” and “Superstition.”