

# ZOOM

Revolution Studios' comedy *Zoom* is the story of four kids who, because of their extraordinary powers, just can't seem to fit in. With the help of Jack (Tim Allen), a.k.a. Captain Zoom, an out-of-shape former superhero who has lost his powers, they learn how to make use of their special skills and become superheroes intent on saving the world from certain destruction ... as long as they make it home in time for dinner. Underage, undercover and underestimated, these kids form a team the likes of which the world has never seen.

## SYNOPSIS

Four kids (Spencer Breslin, Kate Mara, Ryan Newman and Michael Cassidy) — one big problem. They each possess a unique special power that sets them apart from everybody else their age. They also have something else in common — they just want to be normal.

Now it's up to a down-on-his-luck former superhero once known as Captain Zoom (Tim Allen) to teach them how to harness their extraordinary talents and save the world from certain destruction!

If anybody can convince him to do so.

A little backstory. Many years ago, there was a colossal battle between the Team Zenith (led by the faster-than-light Captain Zoom) and their arch-nemeses, Concussion. Zoom finally destroyed Concussion, but not before his entire team was slain at the hands of Concussion's sonic blasts. As the dust settled, secret departments within the military were already disseminating an "official" story: The turbulence was caused by an earthquake. When it was discovered that Captain Zoom had sacrificed all his powers to defeat his enemy, the military no longer had any use for him, and he once again became simply Jack Shepard.

After many years, the masterminds behind the old Zenith Program, General Larraby (Rip Torn) and Dr. Grant (Chevy Chase), have reunited after detecting alarming patterns of disruption from the dimensions beyond that could threaten the fabric of human life. Their only hope is to reactivate the Zenith Program. A new talent in the studies of latent supernatural abilities, Marsha Holloway (Courteney Cox), finds four youngsters with the potential to be superhero fighters. But the reluctant quartet needs someone to teach them how to save the world — and fast! — and there's only one man for the job, Jack Shepard.

Revolution Studios Presents A Team Todd    Boxing Cat Films Production *Zoom* starring Tim Allen, Courteney Cox, Chevy Chase, Spencer Breslin and Rip Torn, a Columbia Pictures release. Directed by Peter Hewitt, from a screenplay by Adam Rifkin and David Berenbaum from a screen story by Adam Rifkin based on Jason Lethcoe's book *Zoom's Academy*. The film is produced by Suzanne Todd, Jennifer Todd and Todd Garner. The executive producers are Neil Machlis, Nicholas Osborne and Trevor Engelson. David Tattersall BSC is director of photography and Barry Chusid is production designer. The editor is Lawrence Jordan. The co-producer is Julie Ragland. The costume designer is Ha Nguyen. The music is by Christophe Beck. The music supervision is by John Houlihan.

*Zoom* has been rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for Brief Rude Humor, Language and Mild Action.

*Zoom* will be released by Columbia Pictures on August 11, 2006.

## ABOUT THE STORY

Revolution Studios' family comedy *Zoom* is about the untapped hero in all of us. Four youngsters (Spencer Breslin, Kate Mara, Ryan Newman and Michael Cassidy), each with a special gift they regard as more of a curse than a blessing, are being groomed for a special mission — to save the planet! But they don't want to rescue the earth from destruction. They just want to be kids.

The only person who can train them for this impossible mission is another reluctant superhero, Jack Shepard, once known as Captain Zoom, who has lost his special powers and doesn't want them back — hardly the ideal mentor for four underachievers.

The “underdog” aspect of the story was initially what attracted director Peter Hewitt to *Zoom*, he claims. “*Zoom* is really in the tradition of great comedies that are multi-layered,” he says. “Our heroes have extraordinary powers, but life isn't great for them. They're bullied and they have a bad time at school. Even though they have special powers, they're not quite sure what to do with them. It's only when they come together and learn how to use their powers that they become true heroes. That's a great message for everyone and something that I thought I'd have a lot of fun doing.”

“The movie is essentially about bringing out the best in yourself,” says one of the film's producers, Todd Garner, “recognizing what it is within you that makes you

different, learning to be comfortable with it, and recognizing that your greatest differences may well be your greatest strengths and what makes you most interesting as a person.”

“The superhero genre is a really good way to explore that theme,” Garner continues, “and to show kids that, although they’re different, and although they may feel they don’t fit in, their greatest power is to believe in themselves and their team.”

*Zoom* made its first step to the screen when producers Suzanne Todd and Jennifer Todd brought Jason Lethcoe’s book *Zoom’s Academy* to Revolution Studios’ producer Todd Garner.

As the three producers started to develop the project, they thought it would be fun to take the story a step further by exploring the idea that behind Area 51 (where UFO material was allegedly hidden) there was a more covert area — Area 52 — where the real secrets are kept. In this ultra-secret installation, General Larraby (Rip Torn), Dr. Grant (Chevy Chase) and Dr. Marsha Holloway (Courteney Cox) are hatching a plot to teach a group of prospective young superheroes how to harness and use their special gifts by bringing back a reluctant 1970s superhero, Captain Zoom, a.k.a. Jack Shepard (Tim Allen), to train them.

“As the project developed, we realized there was only one guy who could capture the wry attitude of Captain Zoom, and that was the gifted comic actor Tim Allen,” says producer Garner. “Tim was really our linchpin. Once we had him, we knew we had a movie.”

Adds producer Jennifer Todd: “Tim really responded to the film’s themes about kids who are special, but feel like outcasts. Also, Tim thought it would be fun to play a character who returns to redeem himself for mistakes he made in his past.

Because he signed on to the project in its early stages, we were able to develop the character to Tim's talents."

"Captain Zoom was once phenomenal, powerful," comments Tim Allen about his character. "When he lost his powers, he felt like he'd lost his identity, his purpose in life. Now he gets a shot at redemption by being able to encourage the kids he's teaching to embrace their uniqueness, become heroes and tap into their potential. The mission satisfies something in his soul. I think for all of us, when you put aside self-pity and regret, and concentrate only on achieving a goal, the miraculous can happen and you can discover your inner hero again."

The producers tapped the British-born Peter Hewitt to direct the film because, "Pete's great with family comedy, and when we met with him, he really seemed to understand what Tim could bring to it, and be very collaborative," says Jennifer Todd.

"I think there's a great balance between the comedic and the spectacular in this movie and Pete was perfectly suited to exploit both these elements to the fullest," adds Garner. "One of the biggest challenges in a movie like this is putting young children through the rigors of shooting special effects, and with Pete's extensive experience in that area, we figured that would give us the upper hand."

For Hewitt, the opportunity to work with a true comic star like Allen was irresistible. "I'm a huge fan of Tim's. He's a truly funny and inventive comedian." Also, having been a comic book fan growing up, directing a family movie about superheroes had enormous appeal for Hewitt. "I think we're all fascinated by the idea of a superhero, especially when it's in the context of a family movie that I can take my three daughters to see and that works across generations."

Although the movie boasts great special effects and plenty of action, Hewitt, the Todds and Garner all agree that it is first and foremost a comedy. Says Garner,

“As we started to cast, we wanted to be true to the genre and felt strongly that casting comedians was the way to go.”

Rounding out the stellar comedic lineup are Chevy Chase, Rip Torn and Courteney Cox. Chase plays altruistic scientist Dr. Grant, who has been a major fan of Captain Zoom’s since his youthful superhero days. “This is a guy who was with the Zenith program back when it was in its heyday,” explains Garner. “He’s stuck with it because he is a true believer, and thinks that Zoom and his teammates were doing the right thing.”

“Dr. Grant believed so strongly that the Zenith Program was worth saving that he remained underground in Area 52 for 30 years,” says Chase. “For the movie, I wasn’t allowed out in the sun all summer so I’d look like a guy who’d been underground for three decades.”

Says Allen of Chase’s character, “Because he’s never left Area 52, he’s pretty much stuck in the late ‘60s. And so is Chevy, I might add. I have been so fortunate in my last three movies to have worked with comedy icons like Dan Aykroyd, Jane Curtin and now, Chevy Chase. Life changed for me because of ‘Saturday Night Live,’ and now I’ve gotten to work with the guys who started it.”

Torn plays the crusty General Larraby. “Larraby is every autocratic bureaucrat lumped into one guy, and Rip Torn was the director’s immediate choice,” according to Allen.

“Back in the ‘70s, Larraby believed the way to get the best out of people was through gamma radiation,” explains Garner. “He still feels that’s the best way to get this new group of kids to reach their full potential.”

Courteney Cox is the nerdy comic-book-obsessed scientist Marsha Holloway. A true optimist, Holloway is opposed to Larraby’s method of bombarding the

budding superheroes with gamma rays. “She believes she can bring these kids to their superpowers by building their morale and self-esteem,” says Garner.

“Courtney was literally our first choice for the role,” says Jennifer Todd. “She has brilliant comedic timing and a great sensibility of knowing what’s funny and how to use herself in that way. She’s just really, really gifted.”

Says Cox, “When I first read the script, I loved the heart of the movie, and I loved the fact that it was really fun, and that this was something my daughter would love to see one day. As a mom, I feel strongly about finding ways to make kids feel good about themselves, and that’s kind of what I’m doing in this movie.”

“Ironically, in this film, Courtney’s doing the physical gags and Chevy’s playing the more straight-ahead comedian,” says Garner. “Sometimes, on the set, I’d see the two actors off to the side and I suspected that Chevy was giving her a few pointers.”

Cox liked the idea of the doing physical comedy, and developed her character to be even clumsier than originally written. “I had to do some pratfalls in front of Chevy, which is interesting considering he’s a master physical comedian,” she says.

## **SUPERHEROES IN THE MAKING**

The cast of young actors in *Zoom* includes Spencer Breslin, Michael Cassidy, Kate Mara and Ryan Newman. Breslin (with the help of a fat suit) plays Tucker, a chubby kid who can make himself bigger. “He can expand to the size of a house,” explains Breslin, who adds that his “really cool power comes in handy a couple of times during the course of the movie.”

“My character in the story is a fan of the Zoom comic books — so when I first meet Jack Shepard, I’m disappointed because he’s not the nicest guy,” explains Breslin. “I mean, they took him 30 years ago and pushed him into being a superhero, without really caring what he thought or how he felt. So he’s always been kind of bitter about that. But he soon realizes that Zoom really is nice and does care about helping them.”

Michael Cassidy plays Dylan, a reflective changeling who’s very skeptical of the Program. “Dylan doesn’t want to be in Area 52. He is very much against authority, and against Zoom being his teacher,” says Cassidy. “But as the movie progresses, he actually has a change of heart and even begins to find his way as the team leader.”

The telekinetic empath, Summer, is played by Kate Mara. “Summer is a young girl whose parents not only don’t understand her gift but are freaked out by it,” explains Mara. “So when she’s sent to the Zenith Program, she’s actually comforted to be with other kids with their own kind of powers. It makes her feel more confident.”

“Kate has a special quality to her. She’s very likeable but at the same time, very determined, a quality this character really needed,” says Jennifer Todd.

Seven-year-old newcomer Ryan Newman plays Cindy, a little powerhouse who can lift 4,000 pounds effortlessly, belying her sweet, shy and innocent exterior.

“Ryan is very sweet and really disciplined, and everyone loves her,” remarks Jennifer Todd.

Comments Newman, “Making movies is very fun. Sometimes I wish I could work the whole entire day, and the weekends, because I love it. I just want to be on set all the time.”



Before filming started, the four young actors trained in karate and wire training for their roles. “In the mornings, we’d do a little bit of punching and kicking, followed by some tumbling, and learning how to do flips,” says Cassidy. “Then in the afternoons, we were up on the wires wearing harnesses. It was a blast. It’s pretty cool to have physical training for a role.”

“The role calls for me to perform some karate,” adds Breslin. “At first they had me trying it without my fat suit, and I was getting better every week. But one day they stuck me in the fat suit. I’d go to do a roll and get stuck on my head, and my legs would be sticking up. I also had some stunt training for the bits that I do with Ryan. She’s a tiny thing, and she has to pick me up. Since I’m in my fat suit, it looks really funny. In one scene, she actually has to give me a piggyback ride.”

In the film, the prospective young superheroes are called to audition for the Zenith Program — along with several other kids of questionable talents. “There’s mucus boy, who could blow out a great bubble of mucus, which was ‘really gross,’” recalls Ryan Newman. “There were also the gas boy and a little girl who can blink really fast.”

Comments Allen: “I find shows like ‘American Idol’ really curious, but maybe that’s because, as a kid, I was in so many talent shows myself. I never really approved of the judging process — and the circus-type atmosphere surrounding it. So, I saw *Zoom* as an opportunity to parody those shows, but in superhero terms. In the movie, kids with dubious talents think they’re just as good as the kids who really are special. Fortunately, I get to be one of the judges, and I actually do recognize true talent.”

“This group of superheroes-in-training are arguably not the coolest in their class, or the most talented,” Allen continues, “but most shocking to themselves, they turn out to be the most extraordinary.”

"These kids feel they're different," comments Mara. "We don't think our powers are cool at all. We think there's something wrong with us. But in the end, we realize we're all special."

"And," adds Breslin, "by then we're all just stylin' with our moves."

There are a great many antics as the kids transition into a truly unlikely group of superheroes. One of the best is a food fight. "I start it," confesses young Newman. "I pick a chicken nugget off of my plate and throw it at Dylan (Michael Cassidy). Then we all just start throwing stuff at each other — everything we have on our plates — mashed potatoes, peas, muffins, brownies, even french fries. It was a real food fight and it was very fun."

Recalls Cassidy, "There were two cameras on a dolly on a circular track and they just kept going around and around us while we were chucking food at each other. At one point, I looked up and realized the cameras had plastic covering them and all the crew members were in rain gear."

While Breslin says he found it very easy to be "in the moment" on the day the food fight scene was filmed, Mara admits she wasn't as enthusiastic about the prospects of having food tossed in her face. "But Ryan was excited about it, so I kind of played along," she adds good-naturedly.

By all accounts, the kids said they had a great time filming *Zoom* and they all agreed that the reason was because of the chance to work with Allen. "Tim's a force to be reckoned with," says Garner. "Whether it's the offhand remarks he made when the cameras weren't rolling, his ability to do physical comedy, or just to deliver a funny line, Tim always found a way to make it not only humorous, but also perform it in a way that made everyone feel good about coming to work every day."

“There was always a different energy when Tim was on set,” says Breslin. “There was always something funny going on, always a funny joke, which put everyone in a good mood.”

“Tim made me laugh every single day,” admits Cox. “I loved working with him.”

Summing up the experience, Garner says, “The key to Tim’s success, both on and off camera, is his ability to connect with anybody who likes to laugh.”

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

Production designer Barry Chusid, who has created the look of such films as *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Serenity*, was responsible for the eye-catching visual atmosphere of *Zoom*.

Rather than using a sound stage and copping up the sets to create Area 52, Chusid was fortunate enough to find a giant “sound stage” — a now defunct hockey arena, where the unit shot for six weeks. “We built a number of our key sets, such as the FE-12 Flying Saucer Hangar, the Training Room and the Observation Room. We tried to use the natural landscape of the arena to make it feel underground, taking advantage of the rake of the stairs and the natural topography to create Area 52’s myriad corridors and sublevels. My favorite part of designing this film will be when someone in the audience is watching the movie and they believe that all of this is actually taking place in a mountainside.”

An empty hospital wing provided the location for Dr. Grant’s Research Lab, as well as the dormitories and the canteen set. A Toronto soundstage housed the other main interior sets of Area 52, including the interior of the FE-12, the

Gamma 13 Radiation Room with its imposing Gamma Ray Gun, as well as the Mission Simulator.

“We’re trying to do as much in-camera as possible so that we have the feeling of a live event,” says Todd. “We’re incredibly fortunate to have David Tattersall as our director of photography. He has such a wonderful eye and a distinct visual style. Of course, it’s hard when you have a seven-year-old girl throw a three-ton weight, so there were lots of special effects as well.”

Director Hewitt, Chusid and Tattersall worked closely with Digital Domain's visual effects supervisor Marko Forker, visual effects producer David James and their team to seamlessly blend the effects into the heart of the story.

Forker and his team were responsible for the amazing superhero effects in the film. “These young superheroes have a lot of powers and skills they’re not quite adept at yet,” says James, “so there are a lot of accidents happening in the early part of the script. A lot of the effects we created were based on their inability to control their powers.”

“With Dylan there’s a sort of in-between world where he’s attempting to reach full invisibility, but there are still parts of him that can be seen,” he continues. “And Tucker is still trying to learn how to control his expansion, so sometimes just parts of him are blown up. It must be every kid’s lifelong desire to run really fast like Zoom or be able to fly or become invisible,” says James. “These are the fantasies that visual effects can make come true — at least on film — and help people find the kid in themselves again.”

Digital Domain needed to build, animate, light and composite a 3D version of the film’s spacecraft into both plates and CG set extended environments. “The creation of the spaceship called for some traditional 3D tools such as Maya, Renderman and Photoshop,” says Forker. “In addition, some of Digital Domain’s

own proprietary tools such as Tweak and Nuke were used for lighting and compositing respectively. It was a lot of fun and as proper geeks, we are always looking for excuses to build and animate on spaceships.”

Adds David James, “In the end, we concentrated on a more photo-real-looking FE-12 that truly looks like it exists in the environment.”

What really makes the great special effects come to life, notes Hewitt, is the acting that goes along with it. “It’s the reactions you get from the kids who have to stand there and stare at their hands and make you believe it’s turning to jelly that really makes the effects work,” he says. “It’s all about them pretending that something is happening, when the effect hasn’t even been laid in yet, that truly sells the idea.”

Costume designer Ha Nguyen was responsible for helping the actors find their inner superheroes with her innovative designs. “Because of the nature of the film, we wanted to bring a bright, happy feel to the characters,” she says. “We decided against the typical OD green or Army-like colors in favor of a mango color for the flight suits. For the supersuits that show up at the end of film, I used a bright white nylon with lots of detail.”

Nguyen made eight different costumes for the character of Cindy. “She’s a girly girl who loves pink and loves to dress up in great princess and ballerina costumes,” explains Nguyen. “She looks so adorable, you’d never believe she can do what she does. She was definitely dressed counter to her superpower.”

“We had to build a fat suit for Spencer’s character, Tucker,” continues Nguyen. “When Tucker got angry, he’d blow up even bigger. The challenge was finding a fabric that would do that believably on screen.”

Nguyen adds, “Spencer is one of the most patient actors I’ve ever worked with. He’d just stand for hours while we built his costume. Whatever needed to be done, he’d do it. He had to wear the fat suit all day long and also had to learn the mannerisms and the walk of a chubby kid. It was a very hot costume, and Toronto’s heat wave made it all the more difficult. What a trooper he was.”

One of Nguyen’s biggest challenges was making Courteney Cox look unsexy, “because she looks good in anything,” says Nguyen. “I gave her a lab coat and heavy, thick glasses. We tried to make her look as geeky as possible, which is a very hard thing to do.”

“As for Jack (Allen),” says Nguyen, “he had to squeeze into a fitted superhero suit that was made for him 30 years ago by Dr. Grant.”

“Ha Nguyen is at the top of her game when designing movies like this,” says Todd. “She has so much experience with films in which you have to pre-build. It’s a different kind of movie, because so much has to be planned before you shoot. Everything has to be pre-built and you have to map out every special effect shot. It’s a very special art form.”

“We’ve really worked hard to make sure that the themes of working as a team, as well as that of finding yourself, believing in yourself and ultimately having a family, came through,” says Garner. “By the end of the movie, this team of reluctant heroes has come together, embraced who they are and found a way to make each of their talents help the other.”

“This is a movie that will appeal to everyone,” enthuses Cox. “It is an adventurous story with heart.”

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**TIM ALLEN** (Jack Shepard) was last seen in Disney's *The Shaggy Dog*, an update of the family classic, in which he starred as a lawyer whose devotion to his career comes at the expense of his family.

Prior to that, he starred in Revolution Studios' holiday comedy *Christmas with the Kranks*. The film, directed by Joe Roth, was an adaptation of John Grisham's best-selling novel Skipping Christmas.

Allen will be seen this November in Disney's *The Santa Clause 3*. He recently wrapped production on the Touchstone Pictures' comedy *Wild Hogs*, which revolves around a group of frustrated, middle-age suburban biker wannabes who hit the open road in search of adventure, only to encounter a group of real Hells Angels.

Allen honed his talents as a stand-up comic throughout the 1980s, providing the perfect lead-in to his highly successful ABC television series "Home Improvement," for which he garnered a Golden Globe Award, an Emmy nomination and the People's Choice Award for Favorite Male Performer in a Television Series for an unprecedented eight years in a row. While passionately ensconced in a hit sitcom, Allen still found time to expand his talents.

He made his film debut in 1994, playing the historic holiday icon in the blockbuster hit *The Santa Clause*, which earned him another People's Choice Award. He gave voice to the beloved, yet deluded, space ranger Buzz Lightyear in the computer animated smash hit, *Toy Story*, and starred in Disney's *Jungle 2 Jungle* with Martin Short and *For Richer or Poorer* with Kirstie Alley.

While the Taylor family was still at the top of the prime-time charts, Allen revisited his comedy roots with a successful national concert tour that finished with a sell-out performance at Caesar's Palace, and found time to pen his first

book about the male perspective, Don't Stand Too Close to a Naked Man, which went on to top the New York Times Bestseller List. It was followed by his second bestseller, I'm Not Really Here, which focused on midlife, family and quantum physics.

In 1999, during the eighth and final season of "Home Improvement," Allen was honored with the TV Guide Award for Favorite Actor in a Comedy Series, and in a tearful farewell, he hung up his tool belt, shifting his film career into high gear. Allen reprised his character, Buzz Lightyear, in the sequel *Toy Story 2*, which grossed over \$250 million. He next starred in the popular sci-fi comedy *Galaxy Quest*, in which Allen portrayed the washed-up actor Jason Nesmith and his sci-fi alter ego Commander Peter Quincy Taggart. Representing the 'average Joe', Allen starred in *Joe Somebody* opposite Jim Belushi, and in 2001 he partnered with Rene Russo in the Barry Sonnenfeld ensemble comedy *Big Trouble*. In 2002, with an interesting departure from playing mythical icons and the average everyman, Allen took on the role of Critical Jim, a professional hit man in the comedy *Who Is Cletis Tout?* opposite Christian Slater, and that same year, he helped to successfully kick off the holiday season by reprising his role as the big man in red in *The Santa Clause 2*. In a brief return to television in April 2003, Allen's old Tool Time pals, Debbie Dunning and Richard Karn, joined Allen on stage for the live event ABC special "The Users Guide to Home Improvement."

**COURTENEY COX** (Marsha Holloway) is best known for her standout performance as Monica on the classic hit series "Friends," which won a 2002 Emmy Award for Best Comedy.

Cox moved to Los Angeles in 1985 and grabbed her first big break when she was cast in "Family Ties" as Michael J. Fox's girlfriend Lauren Miller.

Cox was recently seen in *November*, in which she starred as LA photographer Sophie Jacobs. Recently, she and husband David Arquette formed their own



production company, Coquette. As part of Coquette, Cox's first project was an interior design show for cable's WE (Women's Entertainment) Network called "Mix It Up." Cox served as creator and producer of the show, which profiled couples and roommates whose styles are at odds.

Cox is currently producing and starring in the F/X pilot "Dirt." Coquette Productions recently completed its first feature film, *The Tripper*, written and directed by David Arquette, and produced the TBS series "Daisy Does America."

Cox's standout performance as Gail Weathers in Wes Craven's horror/comedy film *Scream* in 1996 led to reprises of her role in the film's equally successful sequels. She had previously starred opposite Jim Carrey in 1994's breakout hit *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* directed by Tom Shadyac. The role brought her an American Comedy Award nomination. Other film credits include *The Longest Yard* with Adam Sandler, *3000 Miles to Graceland* opposite Kurt Russell and Kevin Costner, *Mr. Destiny* and *Cocoon: The Return*, among others.

Cox lives in California with her husband, daughter and dogs.

**CHEVY CHASE** (Dr. Grant) first came to national prominence as a writer and performer with the original cast of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," for which he won two Emmy Awards.

Chase's first feature film starring role was in the comedy-thriller *Foul Play* with Goldie Hawn. Other films he has starred in include: *Caddy Shack*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Fletch*, *National Lampoon's European Vacation*, *Spies Like Us*, *The Three Amigos*, *Funny Farm*, *Caddyshack II*, *Fletch Lives*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Memoirs of an Invisible Man*, *Cops and Robbers*, *Man of the House*, *Vegas Vacation* and *Snow Day*.

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

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

Chase resides in New York with his wife, Jayni, and three daughters.

**SPENCER BRESLIN** (Tucker) first garnered attention at the age of three when he starred alongside Charles Barkley in a memorable McDonald's commercial in which he recites all the ingredients for a Big Mac. His career continues to evolve with challenging and exciting new projects. Most recently he starred opposite Kate Hudson and his real-life sister, Abigail Breslin, in the Garry Marshall-directed comedy *Raising Helen*. Additionally, he starred in *The Cat In the Hat* alongside Mike Myers. His other film credits include *Disney's The Kid* in which he starred with Bruce Willis, *The Santa Claus 2* and *Return to Neverland*. He was most recently seen on the big screen starring in *The Shaggy Dog* again opposite Tim Allen and will once again be paired with him in *Santa Clause 3* later this year.

Segueing effortlessly between the big and small screen, Breslin has starred in the television projects "Wonderfalls," "Teamo Supremo," "Moms on Strike," "You Wish," the mini-series "Storm of the Century" and has guest-starred on the series "Law & Order." He also starred opposite John Goodman in the CBS series "Center of the Universe."

Breslin recently lent his voice to another dog-themed family comedy, *Air Buddies*, this time as a dog. He is preparing to direct his first feature, a documentary detailing what he and his young peers experienced in the aftermath of 9/11.

Breslin enjoys listening to music (Fleetwood Mac and Paul McCartney are his favorites), hanging out with friends and attending sporting events.

**RIP TORN** (General Larraby) has been honored repeatedly for his 50-year career in film, television and on the stage.

Torn's uproarious portrayal of Artie, the acerbic talk show producer on Garry Shandling's hit series "The Larry Sanders Show," garnered him an Emmy in 1996 for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series, two CableACE Awards, the American Comedy Award and six consecutive Emmy nominations.

His recent film credits include a starring role in Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette*, Chekhov's *The Sisters* with Maria Bello, *Retirement* with George Segal and Peter Falk, the animated feature *Cat Tale* with Jerry Seinfeld, the Sundance Film Festival Grand Prize winner *40 Shades Of Blue*, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* with Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller, *Yours, Mine & Ours* with Dennis Quaid and Rene Russo, *Welcome To Mooseport* with Gene Hackman and Ray Romano, *The Insider* and *Wonder Boys*. He also appeared in the two *Men in Black*™ films, *Rolling Kansas*, *Trial and Error* and as the voice of Zeus in the animated feature *Hercules*. At the same time, his starring roles in such critically lauded independent films such as *Where the River Runs North* have continued his stellar work in independent classics such as *Pay Day*, *Heartland* and *Cross Creek*, for which he received an Academy Award® nomination. Torn's role in the Albert Brooks' comedy *Defending Your Life* led to his being cast in "The Larry Sanders Show."

Torn's many other film credits include *Pork Chop Hill*, *Sweet Bird of Youth* (reprising his role from Broadway), *King of Kings*, *The Cincinnati Kid* and *Tropic of Cancer*. He also consulted on the Oscar®-winning documentary *Harlan County USA*.

Torn earned his reputation as an "actor's actor" on stage as well as on screen. His numerous theatrical accolades date back to his portrayal of Brick in the Broadway adaptation of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," as well as in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie." Through his own stage company, he recently directed his daughter Angelica and son John in John Paul Alexander's "Strangers in the Land of Canaan" at the Actors Studio. He has continued as a presence on the New York stage as actor (numerous Obie® Awards with special note as a leading interpreter of Tennessee Williams and Eugene O'Neill), director and company director, while maintaining one of the busiest performing schedules in theatrical films and television fare. Torn directed the stage productions "Richard III," "Walter" and "Look Away," the latter starring Geraldine Page and Maya Angelou. He directed and performed in "Two by Chekhov" and "The Village Wooing." Torn produced "The Button and Spider Rabbit" and directed, co-produced and performed in "The Bearding of the President."

**KATE MARA** (Summer) most recently appeared in Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* with Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. She will next star in the feature film *We Are Marshall* opposite Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox and David Strathairn to be directed by Mc G. This summer she will film *Shooter* opposite Mark Wahlberg for director Antoine Fuqua. She will also be seen in the comedy *Nothing But the Truth*.

Mara began her professional career at fourteen with the film *Random Hearts* directed by Sydney Pollack, acting alongside Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas. Other film credits include the Sundance winners *Tadpole* and *Joe Henry*.

On television, she was most recently seen in a recurring role on "24." Other TV credits include recurring roles on "Nip/Tuck," "Jack and Bobby," "Everwood" and appearances on "CSI," "CSI: Miami," "Boston Public," "Cold Case," "Law & Order: SVU," "Ed," "Madigan Men" and "Law & Order."

Mara made her professional theater debut at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in "Landscape of the Body" with Lili Taylor. She is an accomplished singer and travels between New York and Los Angeles.

**RYAN NEWMAN** (Cindy) made her feature film debut at the age of six in Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis' feature-length animation film *Monster House*, earning the distinction of being the youngest actor ever to be motion-captured.

Newman began begging her parents to get her into television and magazines at the age of two and was soon working regularly on modeling assignments. Over the next two-and-a-half years, Newman was booked on more than 20 print jobs (Guess, Walt Disney, Mary Kate and Ashley and Mattel) and 12 commercials (Kraft Singles, Maybelline, McDonalds, and The Gap with Sarah Jessica Parker and Josh Duhamel).

A native of Manhattan Beach, California, Newman enjoys ballet, hip hop, dancing and singing when she is not acting or in school.

**MICHAEL CASSIDY** (Dylan) is best known to audiences as high-schooler Zach Stevens in the hit television series "The O.C." Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Cassidy studied at the New Actors Workshop in New York. In 2004, Cassidy met director Mc G at an audition for *Superman Returns* and became one of the final six actors considered to play Superman. The director was so impressed by his performance that he set him up on an audition for the role of

the new love interest on “The O.C.” and in July 2004, Cassidy landed a recurring role on the show.

He recently filmed the independent feature *The Girl From Monday* directed by Hal Hartley.

Cassidy currently resides in New York. He is an avid golfer.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**PETER HEWITT** (Director) has helmed seven features to date. Prior to *Zoom*, he directed *Garfield* starring Bill Murray as Garfield. In 1991, Hewitt directed Keanu Reeves in *Bill and Ted’s Bogus Journey*, which was followed by *Tom and Huck*, *The Borrowers* starring John Goodman and Jim Broadbent and *Whatever Happened to Harold Smith?* starring Sir Tom Courtenay. In 2002, Hewitt produced and directed the feature comedy *Thunderpants*, which he co-wrote with Phil Hughes, with whom he also collaborated on *Chuckle Bears*, which Hewitt will direct.

Hewitt’s television credits include the mini-series “Wild Palms” produced by Oliver Stone and “Princess of Thieves” for The Wonderful World of Disney.

Hewitt, who hales from Brighton, England, graduated from the prestigious National Film and Television School in 1990. That same year he wrote and directed *The Candy Show*, which won the BAFTA Award for Best Short Film.

**ADAM RIFKIN** (Screenplay by, Screen Story by) is a writer/director/actor/producer whose eclectic career ranges from broad family comedies to dark and gritty urban dramas. He has written the screenplays for such films as *Mousehunt* and *Small Soldiers*. Also in the family film genre, he penned the big screen versions of *Underdog* and the upcoming *Where’s Waldo*.

Rifkin also wrote the mega-budget, sword and sorcery epic *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* for producer/director John Woo.

As a director Rifkin helmed the popular teen comedy *Detroit Rock City*. He also wrote and directed the car crash flick *The Chase* starring Charlie Sheen, a film that James Cameron described as “awesome.” In addition, he helmed the critically acclaimed *Night at the Golden Eagle*, a gritty drama starring James Caan, Natasha Lyonne and Vinnie Jones. It was an official selection of the London Film Festival and opened to rave reviews. The film won awards for Best Cinematography and Best Supporting Actor (for Vinnie Jones) at the New York Independent Film Festival. Rifkin also wrote and directed the cult classic *The Dark Backward*. When it was released, the film was named one of the Top 10 films of the year by the New York Post.

Most recently, Rifkin wrote and directed two features films back-to-back, *Look*, a drama that takes us into the foreboding world of hidden cameras, and *Homo Erectus*, a comedy set in caveman times that Rifkin not only wrote and directed but stars in as well.

**DAVID BERENBAUM** (Screenplay by) is a native of Philadelphia and graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.

His produced credits include *Elf* starring Will Ferrell and James Caan and *The Haunted Mansion* starring Eddie Murphy. He has recently adapted *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, wrote *The Manny* and *Guy Walks Into a Bar*, as well as *The Unexplainables* for Team Todd. He is currently writing *Zoo*.

Berenbaum is married, has a son, Noah, and a pug, Pico.

**JASON LETHCOE** (Based on the book by) the creator of Amazing Adventures From Zoom's Academy, is an accomplished artist and storyteller. He has worked

for over 15 years in story development for several Hollywood studios, including Disney Feature Animation, Dreamworks, and Warner Bros. Some of the films he has worked on include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Tigger Movie*, *Don Quixote*, *The Snow Queen*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Pagemaster*, and *Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas*. He has also directed commercials for Sega, McDonald's and an animated segment for the children's television show "The Puzzle Place." His illustration career includes The Marvelous Adventures of Gus Beezer, an upcoming comic book series for Marvel Comics. Jason is the owner of Little Gnome Books – his independent publishing company. In 2001, the Ninth Art Lighthouse Awards nominated his Random House comic book series Zoom's Academy For The Super Gifted as Best Debut.

Recently, Lethcoe has sold his Penguin Books novel Tales From The Wishworks Factory to Universal Pictures. His book treatment, The Mysterious Mr. Spines recently sold to Sony Animation.

Jason lives in Southern California with his wife Nancy, and his three children.

**SUZANNE TODD & JENNIFER TODD** (Producers) comprise the accomplished producing partnership, Team Todd, whose films have earned numerous Academy Award®, Golden Globe and Emmy nominations. In addition, the industrious sister team is responsible for producing the blockbuster *Austin Powers* franchise, which has grossed more than \$500 million worldwide.

Recognized for their consummate development skills for socially relevant, family-friendly and commercial fare, Team Todd carries an impressive track record of breaking new acting and filmmaker talent. Their passion for fostering filmmaker-driven material combined with their unparalleled creative energy has enabled the flourishing team to develop and produce major hits for nearly every motion picture studio.



Among Team Todd's notable credits, Suzanne and Jennifer produced *Boiler Room*, nominated for Best Feature and Best First Screenplay at the 2001 Independent Spirit Awards and *Memento*, the highly acclaimed independent film, which won the 2000 Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature and was Oscar®-nominated for best screenplay and best editing. The movie garnered the filmmaker Christopher Nolan MTV's Best New Filmmaker in 2002 and also won AFI's Screenwriter of the Year Award, in addition to being nominated for AFI's Best Picture.

Prior to forming Team Todd, Suzanne and Jennifer, in tandem with Demi Moore, produced such films as *G.I. Jane*, *Now and Then* and HBO's highest-rated movie to date "If These Walls Could Talk" and its follow-up "If These Walls Could Talk 2." They have been honored with several awards including Women in Film's celebrated Lucy Award, the People's Choice Award, Cosmo's Fun Fearless Female Award and several MTV Movie Awards.

Last year, Team Todd produced the successful romantic comedies *Must Love Dogs* starring John Cusack and Diane Lane and *Prime* starring Meryl Streep and Uma Thurman.

The energetic duo are currently in post-production on *Across the Universe* for Revolution Studios, a ground-breaking original musical told through the songs of the Beatles, directed by Julie Taymor and starring Evan Rachel Wood, to be released in 2007.

**TODD GARNER** (Producer) is a veteran producer and Hollywood creative executive with a unique gift for creating and nurturing mainstream, commercial motion pictures. In various capacities throughout his career, Garner has developed, overseen, executive-produced or produced well over 100 movies, many of them major hits for their respective studios. Formerly a founding partner

of Revolution Studios, Garner founded Broken Road Productions in summer 2005.

Known for his strong relationships with top actors, directors and writers, Garner has numerous projects in various stages of post-production, production, pre-production and development through Broken Road. In addition to *The Fog*, on which he was executive producer, Garner is also producing the sci-fi thriller *Next* and the Ice Cube comedy *Are We Done Yet?*

Garner joined Revolution Studios as a partner in May 2000. He was responsible for overseeing all aspects of development and production for the company's motion pictures during its remarkable first five years. Garner oversaw such hit Revolution films as *Black Hawk Down*, *Hellboy* and *Daddy Day Care*, and developed and served as executive producer on such films as *XXX*, *Anger Management*, *Radio*, *13 Going on 30*, *The Forgotten* and *Are We There Yet?*

Prior to joining Revolution Studios, Garner served as co-president of the Walt Disney Company's Buena Vista Motion Picture Group. Among the highly successful films he oversaw were *Pearl Harbor*, *Remember the Titans*, *Gone in 60 Seconds*, *Con Air*, *Coyote Ugly* and *The Waterboy*. Before that, Garner was executive vice president (1998-99) of Buena Vista Motion Picture Group. He began his ten-year association with Disney as a creative executive at Touchstone Pictures in 1990 and was subsequently promoted to director of production, vice president of production (1995-96) and senior vice president of production (1996-98).

Prior to joining Disney, Garner worked at Paramount Pictures in finance. He began his professional career as a freelance editor with credits on several commercials and music videos.

A graduate of Occidental College, Garner lives in Malibu, California.

**NEIL MACHLIS** (Executive Producer) has enjoyed a film career spanning more than 30 years, during which he has emerged as one of the entertainment industry's busiest and most highly respected producers.

Machlis has worked with some of the top directors of his generation, including Mike Nichols, Bob Fosse, Ron Howard and Joel Schumacher. His list of producing credits is equally impressive: *The Birdcage*, *Dr. Doolittle 2*, *Primary Colors*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Bedazzled*, *What Planet Are You From*, *I.Q.*, *Lenny*, *Postcards From the Edge*, and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.

Born and raised in Belle Harbor, New York, Machlis earned a BA degree from American University and began his film career at Astra Films in Washington. During the social unrest of the late '60s, Machlis found himself at the 1968 Democratic National Convention filming commentary for the U.S. Senate.

The following year, Machlis moved back to New York and entered the Directors Guild of America's training program as one of only 10 trainees accepted from more than 1,500 applicants. Under the guidance of the program, he began his formal training in filmmaking. He was associate producer on the hit films *Grease*, *American Gigolo*, *Johnny Dangerously* and *Cujo*.

**NICHOLAS OSBORNE** (Executive Producer) came to Los Angeles in 1995 to study for his MFA at the Peter Stark Producing Program at U.S.C. Within a couple of weeks, he wrangled himself an internship at Silver Pictures, before moving on to Phoenix Pictures, where he worked his way up to vice president of production over the next few years. As an executive, he worked on a diverse slate of pictures including *Apt Pupil*, *U-Turn*, *The Thin Red Line* and *Lake Placid*. In 1998, Nick shepherded the box office hit *Urban Legend* to the screen.

In early 1999, Osborne started his own production company, O/Z Films. O/Z had a first-look deal with Phoenix and, in 2000, he executive-produced the sequel to *Urban Legend*.

In 2001, O/Z Films metamorphosed into Underground Films and Mission Management (now Underground Management), which Osborne co-founded with Trevor Engelson. The sister companies are dedicated to producing quality films and finding and managing the careers of talented filmmakers and screenwriters.

Osborne is a native of Scotland where he grew up on a farm in the county of Angus. Before coming to Los Angeles, he got his BA in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University and prior to that worked as an aid worker/teacher with International Rescue Committee/Project Trust in Peshawar, Pakistan on the border of Afghanistan.

**TREVOR ENGELSON** (Executive Producer) started his film career on the set of the action movie *Deep Blue Sea* as a production assistant and moved on to work as an assistant to a motion picture literary agent at the Endeavor Agency and subsequently, an assistant at Underground.

Company head Nick Osborne was so impressed with Engelson's abilities that within two years he named him a full partner at Underground Films & Management.

Engelson is a graduate of the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California. He was born and raised in Great Neck, New York.

**DAVID TATTERSALL BSC** (Director of Photography) most recently lensed *Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, *XXX: State of the Union* and the black comedy *The Matador* starring Pierce Brosnan. Tattersall began his career as a

cinematographer for television's "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" in 1992. He went on to work on such major feature film productions as *Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, *Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones*, *Die Another Day*, *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*, *The Green Mile*, *Vertical Limit*, *Con Air*, *The Majestic*, *The Radioland Murders*, *Moll Flanders*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Soldier*.

**BARRY CHUSID** (Production Designer) is known for bringing a visual language to his work influenced by his early career in architecture, combining the contemporary landscape with futuristic vistas and otherworldly characters. He contributed a terrifying environmental future to earth in Roland Emmerich's box-office hit *The Day After Tomorrow* and moved our urban environment five minutes into the future for the superhero thriller *Daredevil*. Most recently he created a space-cowboy universe for Joss Whedon's science fiction adventure *Serenity*.

Chusid began his career in film as a set designer, most notably on *Wyatt Earp*. He has art directed such films as Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot*, *Domestic Disturbance*, *Seven*, *Mystery Men*, *The Thirteenth Floor*, *Blade*, *Anaconda* and *Last Man Standing*, among others.

**LAWRENCE JORDAN** (Editor) has been working in Hollywood for more than two decades. His credits include *Are We There Yet?*, *Riding in Cars with Boys*, *Dumb and Dumber: When Harry Met Lloyd*, *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, *Jack Frost* starring Michael Keaton and Kelly Preston, *Fallen* starring Denzel Washington and John Goodman, Kiefer Sutherland's directorial debut *Truth or Consequences*, *N.M.* and *Assassins* for director Richard Donner.

He edited the 1993-1994 season of the critically acclaimed television series "N.Y.P.D. Blue" for Steven Bochco Productions, for which he earned nominations from both the American Cinema Editors and the Academy of Television Arts and

Sciences. He is also credited as an associate editor on Danny DeVito's *The War of the Roses*, additional editor on Jodie Foster's *Little Man Tate* and associate producer on "The Tracey Ullman Show." He was the editor on the TV pilots for "Legally Blonde" and "Arless."

Jordan has contributed to the development of Avid's 24-frame-per-second "Film Composer" software and has consulted several digital technology companies. Recently, Jordan created 2-pop —The Final Cut Pro Information Site, an internet community dedicated to providing information about Apple Computer's revolutionary new editing and compositing software Final Cut Pro.

**HA NGUYEN** (Costume Designer) has designed the costumes for more 30 films, including such features as Oliver Stone's *Heaven and Earth* starring Tommy Lee Jones, *The Mask* starring Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz, *Vampire in Brooklyn* starring Eddie Murphy and Angela Bassett, *Conspiracy Theory* starring Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts, *Payback* starring Mel Gibson, Lucy Liu and James Coburn, *The Nutty Professor* starring Eddie Murphy, *Lethal Weapon 4* starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Chris Rock, *The Last Castle* starring Robert Redford and James Gandolfini and *Swordfish* starring John Travolta, Halle Berry and Hugh Jackman. Other recent features include *Mozart and the Whale* starring Josh Hartnett and Rhada Mitchell and *In the Mix* starring Usher.

Nguyen was born in Saigon. She fled the country with her family one day before the fall of Vietnam in 1975. They settled in San Diego.

After graduating from San Diego State University with a Fine Arts degree, she studied at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles, earning an Associate Arts degree in fashion design. She began her career as a clothing designer for some of the leading fashion houses in the country before making the switch to designing for film.

Nguyen is married to writer/director Dean Heyde. They live in the Hollywood Hills with two cats, a dog, a dozen birds and two deer named Betty and Boop.

**CHRISTOPHE BECK** (Music) has scored numerous films in almost every genre, from the teen comedy *Bring It On* to the adaptation of the bestseller *Under the Tuscan Sun*. His recent credits include Shawn Levy's *The Pink Panther*, *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Just Married*. Other credits include *Two for the Money* and *Confidence*. He most recently wrote the score for the Michael Douglas drama *The Sentinel*. He also scored groundbreaking TV series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," for which he received the Emmy for Outstanding Music Composition.

The Montreal native's interest in music began in childhood when, at the age of five, he began piano lessons. By the time he was 11, he was writing music for his band, Chris and the Cupcakes. During high school, he studied flute, saxophone, trombone and drums and performed in rock bands.

He continued his musical studies at Yale and while there, he had an epiphany: "I discovered my talent for composing was greater than my talent for performing." He wrote two musicals with his brother Jason (a.k.a. Chilly Gonzales, the Berlin-based hip-hop recording artist), as well as an opera, "The Tell-Tale Heart," based on the Edgar Allen Poe short story.

Upon graduation from Yale in 1992, he moved to Los Angeles to attend USC's prestigious film scoring program, where he studied with Jerry Goldsmith. A personal recommendation from Buddy Baker, the head of USC Music Department, led to his first assignment for the Canadian TV series "White Fang." Soon after, he received an invitation to score "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

**JOHN HOULIHAN** (Music Supervisor) most recently oversaw the music for *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*, *The Thing About My Folks*, *Two for Money*, *Assault on Precinct 13*, *New York Minute* and *13 Going on 30*. His work on the *Charlie's*

*Angels*® soundtrack album resulted in sales of more than three-million copies worldwide. The album's success was driven by the hit single "Independent Women, Part II" by Destiny's Child, which has become the most played record in radio history. Houlihan served in the same capacity on *Charlie's Angels*®: *Full Throttle*.

Houlihan has helped shape the music on more than 30 feature films and almost as many soundtrack albums. Highlights include his music supervision of all three *Austin Powers* films and their companion soundtracks. The *Austin Powers* albums have sold millions of copies worldwide and spawned hit singles and music videos by Madonna, Lenny Kravitz, Beyoncé Knowles (of Destiny's Child) and Britney Spears.

Other credits include *Biker Boyz*, *The Sweetest Thing* and *Training Day*, which earned Denzel Washington an Oscar® for Best Actor. Current projects include the upcoming live-action/CGI-effect-driven *Charlotte's Web*, which will be released in December 2006. *Charlotte's Web* stars Dakota Fanning and features animal character voices by Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey, Steve Buscemi, John Cleese, Robert Redford, Reba McEntire, and Kathy Bates.

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