



The tale of Ferdinand, a giant bull who prefers flowers to fighting, has captured the hearts of millions since it was first told in the 1936 book “The Story of Ferdinand” by author Munro Leaf and illustrator Robert Lawson. A warm and charming take on how appearances can be deceptive (or, why you should never judge a bull by its cover...) the book’s message of love and acceptance has resonated for decades. Now, this holiday season, a new generation of moviegoers can enjoy a delightful CG-animated family film inspired by the classic story when 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Animation and Blue Sky Studios’ FERDINAND is released in US theaters on December 15.

Directed by Academy Award® nominee Carlos Saldanha, creator and director of the RIO series and director of many of the ICE AGE movies, FERDINAND centers on the adventures of a peace-loving bull (voiced by John Cena), who is adopted by a loving farmer and daughter. However, his idyllic life changes after he’s mistaken for a vicious beast and is taken away to the last place on earth he wants to be, a bull training camp. But Ferdinand is determined to get back home. Along the way, the kind-hearted bull makes many friends and changes the lives of those he meets. But there still one great obstacle he’ll have to overcome... in the film’s thrilling

climactic scene, Ferdinand has to face the matador El Primero in a packed arena, but he valiantly stays true to his peaceful nature, and inspires all those around him.

The plan to bring Ferdinand's tale to the big screen began more than six years ago when Saldanha was still working on RIO 2. "I was very excited when I found out that Fox and Blue Sky were thinking of developing a movie based on the book," recalls Saldanha. "I had read the book and fallen in love with the story and its wonderful message of acceptance and diversity. I thought that this was the right moment to take this lovely little book and develop it into a family movie for today's audiences."

For long-time Blue Sky Studios producer Lori Forte, the film offered a chance to reunite with Saldanha, who had worked with her on the first three ICE AGE movies. "Carlos had wanted to work on a movie which had a bull as its main character," recalls Forte. "I loved working with him on the ICE AGE movies. I knew that he was passionate about this project, and his strong feelings for the story and its message also inspired me and everyone else around him."

Another major figure in realizing the movie was producer John Davis, whose many family-friendly projects include the DR. DOLITTLE and GARFIELD movies and MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS. Davis had been after the rights to "The Story of Ferdinand" for more than ten years, and when they finally became available, he jumped at the chance to acquire them and take the project to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.

"Ferdinand was one of the classic books my wife and I had read our children at bedtime when they were younger," Davis recalls. "We saw firsthand how the gentle message of this book and other similar classics informed their sense of self and morality and taught them about kindness towards others. In the past, I had made many movies based on similar properties that both my children and I felt very passionate about. The family that owned the rights to the book

wanted the spirit of the book preserved, and I knew the team at Fox and Blue Sky would do justice to this wonderful story.”

Producer Bruce Anderson, who also worked with Saldanha on the two RIO movies, says FERDINAND provided him a chance to revisit one of the favorite books of his childhood. “My mom was an elementary school librarian, and this was one of our favorite go-to books,” he notes. “It has always struck a chord with me because it champions non-conformity. It shows you that the world is made of all kinds of different people, and it is that diversity that makes us better. When you are a kid and you’re not as competitive as your classmates, the message of this book can really help you find your way.”

### **From Page to the Big Screen**

One of the major challenges in turning the brief book into a full-length feature was expanding its storyline and introducing new characters to accompany the central character on his journey. “The story has a very strong beginning and ending, so we took those very powerful components and created this middle part that helped us really get attached to Ferdinand,” notes Anderson. “We were able to spend more time with him and experience his world as he grows up in a more contemporary, relatable way. We also had the freedom to introduce all these other colorful and memorable characters that weren’t in the book. However, they all also had to fit this world and echo the message and sensibilities of the piece.”

Saldanha and Forte both point out that the deeply layered messages of the property allowed them to expand the storyline in a logical fashion. “The more research we did, the more it became obvious to us that people can interpret the story in so many different ways,” notes Saldanha. “Our story has a deeper meaning in the difficult world we all live in today.”

As Forte explains, when you open up a small story, a lot of attention has to be paid to make sure the expanded journey of the hero and all the newly introduced sidekicks and other characters are just as satisfying and loveable as the main one. “Everyone worked hard to make sure the movie as a whole would be as universal and timeless as the original story that inspired the project,” she notes. “I was very familiar with the book. It has such a simple and powerful message that is attractive for kids and adults. Of course, that message is just as resonant today as it was when the book was first published in the ’30s.”

“Carlos is an amazing storyteller and a very sensitive human being,” adds Davis. “There is so much heart in this movie. Kids can relate to the whole notion of having to leave home and going to a less protective and more competitive adult world. Ferdinand has a set of values and he adheres to them, although the world doesn’t understand him. Just like the classic animated movies, FERDINAND taps into the collective unconscious and expresses our fears, anxieties and our dreams. It makes you feel very deeply.”

### **The Trip to Spain**

As both the book and the movie are set in colorful and historic places in Spain, Saldanha and a few of his colleagues visited the country to seek visual inspiration and authentic backdrops for their project. “We were inspired by the beauty of the landscapes and unique architecture of Spain,” says the director. “The color palette of the movie has a lot of earth tones to it, and is very different from the tropical colors that we used in the RIO movies. We took in the magnificent architecture of some of the cities and traveled south to the lovely region of Andalusia.”

The mountain-top city of Ronda in Spain’s Malaga province inspired the location for the farm where Ferdinand finds happiness with the young girl Nina and her father. “We wanted the

art to reflect the beauty of this world,” explains Saldanha. “We wanted the locations to express the possibilities of an animated movie, but also be truthful to the art, history and culture of Spain.”

The team retraced Ferdinand’s journey to Madrid, Seville and farmlands in the South of the country. “The old and the new co-exist beautifully here,” notes Saldanha. “There are old windmills and modern highways and these ancient white cities that offer a beautiful contrast to the modern elements of Spain. We visited the haciendas where they raise the cattle and took in every little detail, the vegetation, the colors, the small villages and the people. We also saw the windmills of La Mancha and the famous Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas in Madrid. All these locations help us create an authentic world for our characters.”

### **Light and Shadow**

Thanks to the latest advancements in CG technology, the artists and technical teams at Blue Sky were able to deliver animation that is meticulous in its attention to detail — from each blade of grass in the field, to the texture of the vibrant costumes, to the play of light and shadow in the landscape of Andalusia.

“Every year, we develop new versions of the proprietary rendering software at Blue Sky [called CGI Studio],” explains Saldanha. “We made the best use of the technology to make a big artistic impression. FERDINAND is not a movie with huge special effects. Our goal was to best use the technology to create the right look that helps serve the art direction and the lighting. Everything has been ray-traced [*the rendering technique for generating an image by tracing the path of light through pixels on an image plane*] meticulously, and it looks beautiful. The team succeeded in solving complex challenges in the depiction of the crowd scenes as well. They were

able to pull it off in a very subtle way, so that the technology isn't overtly obvious on the screen.”

Producer Bruce Anderson agrees: “The technology allowed us to really create the same way light hits the fields in Spain. Our lighting and production and engineering teams really took full advantage of everything that was available in their tool box to bring us the look and feel of that country. I think the movie’s visuals are going to lure people to travel to Spain!”

### **Glorious Colors & Dynamic Designs**

Production Designer Thomas Cardone, whose Blue Sky credits include RIO 2, HORTON HEARS A WHO! and ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN, was immediately drawn to FERDINAND: “I found the project instantly appealing because it’s a big story with just a few characters, so you can create this intimate feeling. It’s a story with a lot of heart.”

Cardone notes that character designer Sang Jun Lee came up with the philosophy for Ferdinand’s physical look, which was born out of the friendly bull’s personality. “You have this good-natured, big-hearted character that is very large, but is also very curvy,” he explains. “Ferdinand is a big, black bull, and there are no marks or costumes, so his silhouette and overall shape was very important. He is also on screen in most of the film’s shots, so we made a lot of effort to really nail down his form and the way he moves and is positioned throughout the movie.”

The specific landscapes of the Southern region of Spain and its flora and fauna played a major role in inspiring the film’s design principle. “The rolling hills, the olive trees, all those sweeping curves were in harmony with the smooth curves of Ferdinand,” explains Cardone. “Anything that opposes him is more angular and vertical — like the man-made structures. The

same is true for his adversary, the Matador. The humans are skinny and taller than they would be in real life, so that dictated the height of the buildings, the doors, the cars ... everything around them. These two ideas, harmony and conflict, really influenced the whole shape and style of the movie.”

Ferdinand’s inner emotions are also reflected in the choice of background locations. As Cardone explains, the farm in Ronda where the heroic bull longs to return to is depicted as a green and happy place, with lots of flowers and vegetation. “But the bull ranch where he is imprisoned is arid looking, which you also get in Spain during the more severe seasons,” he notes.

The region’s white stucco buildings with their terra cotta roofs also provide neutral backgrounds against which the artists played around with memorable splashes of color. “We placed bold colors, like a bright blue wheelbarrow, a turquoise bucket or a green farm implement against the neutral canvas,” recalls Cardone. “We would also balance the compositions with differently colored animals. The color red was especially reserved for specific key moments, like Ferdinand’s favorite poppies in the farm or the carnations in the arena or the matador’s cape.”

The Production Designer points out that all the artistic elements work together to deliver the heartfelt message of the movie. “I think this movie has such a big heart, so I was very pleased with the way the style, the design, the lighting and all the technical elements join forces to serve a common goal.”

### **Filling the Farm with Familiar and Diverse Voices**

Casting the right actors and actresses to voice the wide variety of memorable characters of the movie was one of the most important steps in realizing the director’s and producers’

vision. Thanks to the efforts of veteran casting director Christian Kaplan, who has been responsible for finding the voices for many of the Fox/Blue Sky Studios features for the past 14 years, FERDINAND features an eclectic voice cast that includes John Cena (Ferdinand), Kate McKinnon (Lupe), David Tennant (Angus), Gina Rodriguez (Una), Peyton Manning (Guapo), Bobby Cannavale (Valiente), Anthony Anderson (Bones), Jerrod Carmichael (Paco), Flula Borg (Hans), Daveed Diggs (Dos), Raúl Esparza (Moreno), Sally Phillips (Greta), Boris Kodjoe (Klaus) and Gabriel Iglesias (Cuatro).

“When we cast our films, we often don’t know who is providing the voices we are hearing,” says producer Lori Forte. “Our talent executive sends us a lot of voices, so we look at the designs of the characters and the maquettes [*prototype sculptures*] and figure out which voice fits the character best. I think we really hit a home run with this movie. Each voice sounds very specific and distinct and has its own special attitude. We cast a wide net to find the perfect voices for the roles, and I think each one of them are able to reflect the colorful personalities of the different characters extremely well.”

Adds Saldanha: “For this movie, we were delighted to have John Cena as our main character. We wanted the voice to reflect someone who was strong and gentle at the same time. He looks tough on the outside, but has a big heart inside – a true gentle giant. He really grounded the character with his own persona, you can’t help fall in love with the unique way he brings Ferdinand to life.”

### **The Gentle Giant**

“They won me over as soon as they showed me a few clips in the theater,” recalls Cena. “Carlos was up at the podium, trying to pitch me on this project, and I told him, ‘Dude, just



stop...I'm in. When do we do this!?' From there on, it's been such a joy to work with him. We worked so well together, and the quality of animation that Blue Sky produces is simply amazing."

The WWE superstar, who has also made a big impression as a great comic actor in films such as DADDY'S HOME and TRAINWRECK is a huge fan of the film's remarkable animation. "It's so vibrant, colorful, and just explosive with energy," he says. "But at the same time, it's both wild and realistic. You can really understand the animals' unique personalities: Ferdinand is definitely a bull, but you can see his endearing qualities in the way he is designed. You can see Valiente's [*The alpha at Casa del Toro*] arrogance in the animation, and Lupe [*Ferdinand's goat friend*], well, she is just indescribable. The human characters are remarkable too, from the realistic nature of the people at a flower festival to the frailty of the old lady in the china shop."

"Ferdinand is a very big, strong, kind-hearted and happy bull who finds himself in an arena of people where he needs to fight for his life," continues Cena. "The audience finally sees his approach to life and appreciates that and rewards him for it. That's my life, so that's me! I am Ferdinand!"

Many of the film's messages struck a chord with the actor: "You get to see Ferdinand search for his perfect life, and struggle at times. So, for a guy who preaches 'never give up' all the time, it's truly a story about knowing what you want out of life and believing that there's something more out there when you get stuck. But it doesn't come without hard work. The whole message of being true to who you are really resonated a lot with me."

Saldanha says he believes that they also found the perfect voice for Lupe, Ferdinand's hilarious goat coach and friend: "To have the amazing comedic talents of Kate McKinnon

featured in the movie was a huge win for us,” says Saldanha. “She created this completely new character and brought it to life with a winning combination of wit, and her unique delivery. You can really relate to this character, as she adds lots of levity to the story, and offers a brilliant pairing with John.”

### **Getting The Goat**

McKinnon (FINDING DORY, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE) is typically hilarious when asked to describe the character she voices: “Okay... Lupe. Well, Lupe is like Ferdinand’s coach. And she pretty much is happy with the basics. She eats garbage, she sleeps in a bucket, and she’s just fine with this. She’s just happy if no one is kicking her in the face. So, if that’s not happening, she’s just having a good day.”

The actor and comedian was already familiar with Ferdinand, having read the book as a child. “It was one of my favorite books,” she recalls. “I remember it had a red cover and some flowers on the front. And Ferdinand loved his flowers and I really felt for him because he was not like any of the other bulls. I think most people can relate to that in some aspect of their lives. They feel like they don’t fit in with the rest of the culture.”

As a fan, McKinnon was thrilled to learn that the book was being turned into a movie: “When I heard they were making a movie of the book, I went like - *[yells]* AHHHHH! Cause I was so excited that they were finally doing something with this wonderful story. And then when they told me the idea of the character I would play, which was like a garbage-eating goat, I said, ‘Yes. I will!’ Because, to be frank, it’s not too far from who I am in real life. I pretty much scarf whatever there is in a room that’s edible...”

## **A Scottish Favorite**

Actor David Tennant (DOCTOR WHO, BROADCHURCH) who voices Angus the Scottish Highland bull, says he was very impressed by Saldanha's dynamic energy and vision for the project when they first met. "You have to put your trust in his vision, because you don't see the rest of the film when you're recording your part in the studio. You don't know what else is going on and, then bit by bit, you start to get these tiny little snippets. But the whole thing is only really in Carlos' head in full Technicolor, until the very last moment when the film is released into the world. That's why you have to believe that this is a journey worth going on, because, the people who are involved are so talented. So, I'll just steal some of their reflected glory quite happily!"

Tennant says he had great fun playing the Scottish bull. "Angus is one of those bulls that believes that his destiny in life is to fight," he explains. "When Ferdinand becomes part of the gang at Casa del Toro, it's all very confusing for them because they don't really understand a pacifist bull. Slowly, Ferdinand makes them see the world in a different way, so the movie shows how they are changed by the biggest and kindest bull of them all. I think Ferdinand and his positive message are the kind of role models we all need, especially when the world is in turmoil."

The actor enjoyed being involved in the animated project and witnessing the ideas that initially only existed in Saldanha's head becoming a reality. "Carlos is in every session, and he's modulating and making things all come together perfectly," he says. "He has such energy, enthusiasm and insight. It was also an honor to be part of the talented Blue Sky family. You can say I'm the weird Scottish uncle: They have made such beautiful movies and FERDINAND will

be a worthy addition to that roster. I can't wait to see how the whole project comes to pulsating life on the big screen."

### **The Little Ally**

Voicing Bones, one of Ferdinand's bull friends is actor Anthony Anderson, best known for his roles in BLACK-ISH and THE DEAPRTED. "Bones is probably the scrawniest bull you'll ever see" offers Anderson. "He's always being thrown around and getting caught and squeezed in some place. Bones is the first character that is inspired and changed by Ferdinand. He realizes that they need to get out of their ranch. So, they forge a friendship first, and then, everybody else comes on board and realizes that they have to escape."

Like many of his cast-mates, Anderson is proud of the powerful message of the movie. "I can't wait to see this movie with my family," he says. "This movie has everything a family film should have: There's heart, there's comedy and suspense and action. There is a scene between Ferdinand and Bones, and the conversation that these animated characters have with one another is so real and touching. That's what is going to resonate with the audience—the real moments between a father and a son, or two friends."

### **A Handsome Quarterback**

Peyton Manning, who is considered one of the greatest football quarterbacks of all time, is also part of the star-studded cast of the movie. Manning, who plays the handsome and nervous bull named Guapo, says he jumped at the chance of being part of the movie. "I was very flattered to be asked because I had never worked on an animated project before," he says. "We have six-

year-old twins, and we love seeing animated movies in theaters and at home, so I am very excited to see FERDINAND with them.”

“Guapo means handsome, so it might be a stretch that I play the role of this handsome character, but I did my best!” jokes Manning. “Guapo is a good-looking bull, but he kind of gets nervous in some of the more stressful moments. Just because a bull looks like a great fighter doesn’t mean that that’s what they want to be. That’s the case for Ferdinand, but it’s also somewhat true for Guapo.”

Manning adds, “The movie is about not doing what everyone expects you to do, and choosing your own path. I’ve certainly played football for a long time and now I’ve had a chance to do different things. All of a sudden, you begin to ask yourself, ‘Hey, what am I doing here?’ In addition, I think the movie really celebrates the importance of friendship, as we see how Ferdinand wants to be friends with everyone. It reminds me of all the different types of personalities I have met in my life, and how my life has been enriched by all of them, the players, the coaches, the support staff, everyone.”

### **The Feisty Hedgehog**

Actress Gina Rodriguez (JANE THE VIRGIN, THE STAR) is among the film’s many other voice characters who bring their special talents and unique personality to their parts. The dynamic actress plays Una, a feisty hedgehog, who oversees her two brothers Dos and Cuatro (They never speak of Tres...) and helps Ferdinand escape from the bull ranch.

“I think Una reminds me of myself when I was younger,” says Rodriguez. “She’s just feisty and doesn’t really think about what she’s saying or doing, and jumps into things first. So, I definitely channeled my inner and younger Gina!”

The actress also praises the director for his beautiful vision. “Carlos is incredible at animation, but he has such a kind heart and you can really see it in Ferdinand,” says Rodriguez. “You can really see his ability to recreate humanity in a way that is kind, loving and gentle. Working with him was really, really fun because he’s acting it out with you: Animation can be lonely at times when it’s just you and a screen, so it’s nice that Carlos was so involved and engaging.”

She also believes that the movie’s simple message is something that is relatable for everyone. “I believe we’re all in a constant journey to being the best and truest version of ourselves. We’re always walking through life fighting stereotypes or generalizations or the ideas of others onto ourselves. So, you have to fight to remember your dreams and for who you truly are. It’s an important lesson to impart to children and for adults to remember as well.”

### **Home Is Where The Heart Is**

It wasn’t only the cast who were impressed by the film’s message – singer/songwriter Nick Jonas was equally moved: “I was already familiar with the story and when they showed me the materials for the movie, I was thrilled,” he recalls. “I’ve always wanted to write an original song for a film.”

That song would be “Home”, which plays in the film and reprises during the end credits and encompasses the film’s theme of acceptance: “I wrote this song with good friends of mine Justin Tranter and Nick Monson,” says Jonas. “And we wrote about feeling accepted and feeling loved and wherever that place is for you. For me it’s home, it’s my family, people I have closest to me; and the experiences we’ve shared.”

Spreading the profound and universal's message of FERDINAND has been a joyous and rewarding experience for Saldhana and the talented cast and crew of the movie at Blue Sky Studios and Fox Animation Studios. Audiences will be able to enjoy the beautiful colors, the memorable characters and engaging adventures of FERDINAND and his friends in US theaters on December 15, 2017.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

FERDINAND is based on the book "The Story of Ferdinand" by MUNRO LEAF and ROBERT LAWSON. This classic has been in publication for over seventy-five years, been translated into more than sixteen languages, and is included on TIME's 100 Best Children's Books of All Time.

The book's message of amity and acceptance is as relevant today as it was when it first came out, and serves as the perfect opportunity for parents to share this moral with even the youngest of children.

## FERDINAND FACT SHEET

- Ferdinand is Blue Sky Studios' 12<sup>th</sup> animated feature. It's the studio's seventh feature directed or co-directed by Carlos Saldanha.
- First published in 1936, *The Story of Ferdinand* was written by writer Munro Leaf and illustrated by Robert Lawson. It has sold millions of copies worldwide.
- During its first run, the book sold 14,000 copies at \$1 each. The following year, the sales increased to 68,000 and by 1938, the book was selling at 3,000 per week. In 1938, it outsold *Gone with the Wind* to become the number one bestseller in the U.S. The book has been translated into more than 60 languages and has never been out of print.
- Leaf wrote the story on a whim in an afternoon in 1935 to provide his friend, illustrator Robert Lawson a place to showcase his talents.
- The Spanish landscape featured in both the book and the movie are based on the view of the city of Ronda in Andalusia.
- A first-edition copy of *The Story of Ferdinand* sold for \$16,500 in 2014.
- Ferdinand is referenced in the 2009 movie *The Blind Side*, the story of Michael Oher, a film with a similar message as Leaf's book. The movie includes a scene where a coach mentions that Oher would rather stare at balloons than hit someone. The character played by Sandra Bullock replies "Ferdinand the Bull."
- The story was adapted by Walt Disney as a short animated film titled *Ferdinand the Bull* in 1938. Directed by Dick Rickard, *Ferdinand the Bull* won the 1938 Academy Award for Best Short Subject Cartoon.

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## FERDINAND CAST BIOS

### JOHN CENA (FERDINAND)

John Cena is an actor, producer, host, entrepreneur and WWE Superstar.

He stars in the recently released action thriller “The Wall”, directed by Doug Liman and co-starring Golden Globe winner Aaron Taylor-Johnson. He was honored as “Action Star of the Year” at this year’s CinemaCon for his role in the movie. He stars in Universal’s “The Pact” alongside Leslie Mann and Ike Barinholtz. The comedy comes out in April 2018 with Kay Cannon directing and Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg and James Weaver producing for Point Grey. John has received much attention for his role opposite Amy Schumer in Universal’s hit comedy “Trainwreck” directed by Judd Apatow. He can also be seen in the Tina Fey/Amy Poehler film “Sisters” and in a cameo role for the Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg comedy “Daddy’s Home”, produced by Adam McKay and Will Ferrell. He reprises his role in this year’s “Daddy’s Home 2”. John has signed on to star as the antagonist in the Transformer’s spinoff “Bumblebee” as “Agent Burns.” The movie will be released by Paramount on December 21, 2018. It was also recently announced that John will executive produce and be the voice of “Robo” in the animated series “Dallas & Robo” YouTube Red premiering early 2018.

In 2016, Cena served as host and executive producer of “American Grit”, the second season of which will premiere in June 2017. Additionally in 2016, John hosted the ESPYS, the Teen Choice Awards and “Saturday Night Live”. In 2017, Cena hosted the Kids’ Choice Awards and he frequently co-hosts the 9 a.m. hour of “Today”. He also has an upcoming role in HBO’s summer mockumentary “Tour de Pharmacy,” starring Andy Samberg.

Cena devotes much of his time working on behalf of numerous charitable causes. He is Make-A-Wish’s most requested wish granter of all time and the only celebrity to grant 500 wishes. He is also committed to Susan G. Komen and has helped raise more than \$1.6 million for breast cancer research and awareness. Cena is a longtime supporter of the U.S. military, recently recognized by USO Metro as the recipient of their 2016 Legacy of Achievement Award. He recently starred in Ad Council’s Love Has No Labels campaign, ‘We Are America’ to further the message of acceptance and love for all communities across the United States. He joined Rotary’s ‘END POLIO NOW’ campaign in 2017 as a celebrity ambassador and interviewed Bill Gates last spring of 2017 about his work on eradicating polio.

In addition to his work in the community, Cena is a powerhouse on social media with 45 million Facebook fans, making him the most popular active U.S. athlete on Facebook. He is also one of the most followed athletes on Twitter and Instagram 10 and 7.4 million followers respectively.

Cena has proven himself to be a powerful marketing force. He is the face of Crocs' "Come As You Are" campaign that celebrates the uniqueness of individuals of all ages around the world. He is the voice of "Ernie the Elephant" for Wonderful Pistachios' biggest advertising campaign ever and he stars in Hefty's national campaign. He is an ambassador for Cricket Wireless and his video, *The Unexpected John Cena Prank*, has been viewed more than 17 million times. The follow up video, *John Cena Reacts*, has had over 100 million views on Facebook alone in the first week. John is a brand ambassador for Tapout, the official fitness and training partner of WWE as well. As the face of the WWE and a 16-time World Champion, John Cena combines his athleticism, charisma, strong work ethic and genuine personality to make him one of today's brightest stars.

#### KATE MCKINNON (LUPE)

Emmy Award winner Kate McKinnon currently be seen on NBC's iconic late-night franchise "Saturday Night Live." It is her seventh season as a regular on the show.

McKinnon won the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series in 2017 and 2016 and was nominated in 2015 and 2014. In addition, she earned a 2014 American Comedy Award for TV Best Supporting Actress and a Critics' Choice Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series in 2016. In 2017 she was nominated for the Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Performer in an Animated Program for "Nature Cat."

McKinnon has entertained viewers with her critically acclaimed impression of Hillary Rodham Clinton as well as other notable impressions, including Justin Bieber and Ellen DeGeneres. She is also known for her standout "Weekend Update" turns as artist Cecilia Gimenez, Russian meteor witness Olga Povlatsky and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

McKinnon, who recently co-starred in the film "Rough Night," has had leading roles in other films, including Paul Feig's reboot of "Ghostbusters" and "Office Christmas Party," with Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston. In addition, she has lent her voice to the animated feature films "Angry Birds," "Finding Dory" and several series, including "The Magic School Bus Rides Again," "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy." She will next lend her voice in the animated feature "Ferdinand."

McKinnon also co-hosted the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards with “Silicon Valley’s” Kumail Nanjiani.

McKinnon studied theater at Columbia University. She is a native of Sea Cliff, N.Y., and currently lives in New York City.

#### ANTHONY ANDERSON (BONES)

Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor, Anthony Anderson is the star and executive producer of ABC’s multi-award nominated sitcom “black-ish.” He portrays Andre “Dre” Johnson, a family man who struggles to gain a sense of cultural identity while raising his kids in a predominantly white, upper-middle class neighborhood. Anderson has received three consecutive Emmy nominations for “Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series”, a Golden Globe nomination and two Critics Choice nominations for his popular role in “black-ish.” Additionally, in 2016, he won his third individual Image Award in the category of “Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series”.

Currently, Anderson is set to host his third season of the ABC game show “To Tell the Truth,” a popular primetime re-imagination of the beloved classic game show of the same name. He is also producing “grown-ish,” a “black-ish” spin off to debut in 2018 on Freeform.

On the big screen, Anderson most recently starred in Warner Bros.’ BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT and is starring in the January 2018 film SMALL TOWN CRIME opposite Octavia Spencer, John Hawkes and Dale Dickey which premiered at SXSW. Anderson has two animated projects debuting this holiday season. In THE STAR, a Columbia Pictures film with Tyler Perry, Gina Rodriguez and Oprah Winfrey, he lends his voice to Zach the goat who becomes one of the unsung heroes in the first Christmas. In the 20th Century Fox feature FERDINAND, Anderson portrays a bull named Bones helping the film’s eponymous bull (John Cena) to get back home after a series of misadventures.

Anderson has become familiar to audiences through roles in such prominent films as the Michael Bay blockbuster TRANSFORMERS, Martin Scorsese’s Oscar-winning feature THE DEPARTED alongside a stellar cast including Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson, and the all-star comedy THE BIG YEAR. Anderson first gained attention as one of Jim Carrey’s sons in ME, MYSELF, AND IRENE and has since appeared in such films as BARBERSHOP, SCARY MOVIE 3, KANGAROO JACK, EXIT WOUNDS, CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE, TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME, MALIBU’S MOST WANTED, MY BABY’S DADDY, AGENT CODY BANKS 2 and HAROLD AND KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE.

On the small screen, Anderson brought his talent and humor to his own WB sitcom “All About the Andersons” which was loosely based on his life. Anderson also had a recurring role in the police-drama television series, “The Shield,” opposite Michael Chiklis and Glenn Close and in NBC’s “Guys with Kids.” He went on to star as Kevin Bernard in “Law & Order” where he earned his fourth consecutive NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series for the 2010 season. He has received 12 total Image Award nominations in his career.

Active in his community as an advocate and philanthropist, Anderson recently hosted his first annual Anthony Anderson Celebrity Golf Classic, benefiting the American Diabetes Association, Los Angeles Mission and Boys & Girls Club of America. He also proudly serves on the GOOD+ Foundation’s Fatherhood Leadership Council and was recently inducted into the Class of 2017 Boys & Girls Club of America National Alumni Hall of Fame.

Born in Compton, California in 1970, Anderson pursued his acting career as he continued his education by attending Hollywood High School for the Performing Arts, where he earned first place in the NAACP’s ACTSO Awards with his performance of the classic monologue from “The Great White Hope.” That performance, along with his dedication to his craft, earned him an arts scholarship to Howard University.

Anderson currently lives in Los Angeles.

#### BOBBY CANNAVALE (VALIENTE)

Bobby Cannavale’s breakthrough role for moviegoers was as Joe in Tom McCarthy’s award-winning “The Station Agent,” for which he received a SAG nomination as part of the ensemble.

Upcoming films include “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” opposite Dwayne Johnson and Jack Black and “I, Tonya” with Margot Robbie both being released later this year. He is currently shooting Martin Scorsese’s “The Irishman” and a sequel to Marvel’s “Ant-Man.”

Cannavale won his second Emmy Award and received a SAG nomination for his role as Gyp Rosetti in the acclaimed HBO series “Boardwalk Empire.” He also received two Emmy nominations for his role on “Nurse Jackie,” for which he also received a SAG nomination. Cannavale won his first Emmy for his role as Will’s boyfriend on the comedy “Will & Grace.” He starred in HBO’s series “Vinyl” and in a recurring role in the

critically acclaimed “Master of None.” He is costarring in the current season of “Mr. Robot.”

Cannavale’s additional film credits include: “Danny Collins,” “Adult Beginners,” “Ant-Man,” “Blue Jasmine,” “Win Win,” “Shall We Dance,” “Happy Endings,” “Roadie,” “Fast Food Nation,” “Romance & Cigarettes,” “Movie 43,” “Lovelace,” and “Parker”. TV credits include: “Third Watch,” “100 Centre Street,” “Ally McBeal,” “Six Feet Under,” and “Modern Family”. Broadway credits include: “The Big Knife,” “Glengarry Glen Ross,” “The Motherf\*\*ker With the Hat” (Drama Desk Award and a Tony nomination) and “Mauritius” (Tony nomination). Off Broadway credits include: “Hurlyburly,” “F--ing A”, and “The Gingerbread House”.

#### DAVID TENNANT (ANGUS)

Over his twenty-seven year long acting career, David Tennant has left a trail of memorable characters over an expansive and diverse array of film, television and on-stage credits.

Currently, Tennant is in production on Amazon Studios’ upcoming television series “Good Omens.” The show, based on Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett’s book of the same name, is set in 2018 on the brink of an apocalypse as humanity prepares for a final judgment. But Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a demon, aren’t enthusiastic about the end of the world, and can’t seem to find the Antichrist. Tennant will play “Crowley” alongside Michael Sheen’s “Aziraphale.” The show will consist of six one-hour episodes.

Tennant, also currently voices “Scrooge McDuck” in Disney XD’s animation television series, “Duck Tales.”

In December 2017, Tennant will voice the character “Angus” in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox’s “Ferdinand.” The film tells the story of a giant bull, Ferdinand (John Cena), with a big heart, who after being mistaken for a dangerous beast, is captured and torn from his home. Determined to return to his family, he rallies a misfit team on the ultimate adventure. The film will be released nationwide on December 15, 2017.

Tennant has wrapped production on Daisy Aitkens’ romantic-comedy You, Me and Him, which co-stars Lucy Punch and Faye Marsay. The film tells the story of a lesbian couple’s differing experiences with pregnancy and Tennant will play ‘John,’ their obnoxious neighbor who is closely linked to one of the women and is set to release later this year.

In February 2017, Tennant starred as the world-renowned Scottish psychiatrist 'RD Laing' in Robert Mullan's *Mad to be Normal* alongside Elizabeth Moss. The story follows Dr. Laing and his unique community at Kingsley Hall, East London during the 1960's. The film completed production and is set to release later this year.

Tennant is most recently known for his role as detective 'Alec Hardy,' on the critically acclaimed ITV crime series *Broadchurch*. Tennant's character was brought to the small town of Broadchurch to investigate the murder of an 11-year-old local boy. In its second season, *Broadchurch* was nominated and won several awards, including the 2014 BAFTA TV Award for "Best Drama Series." Season 3 of the series premiered in the UK in February 2017 and will premiere in the US on BBC America on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

In 2017, Tennant was seen on-stage as Don Juan in Patrick Marber's "Don Juan in Soho." Loosely based on Molière's tragicomedy "Don Juan", this hilarious modern update transports the action to contemporary London and follows the final adventures of its debauched protagonist - a cruel seducer who lives only for pleasure. The play ran for a limited season at Wyndham Theatre and closed on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

In 2016, Tennant was seen on-stage as the title character in Shakespeare's "Richard II" as a part of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "King & Country: Shakespeare's Great Cycle Of Kings" series. The series marked the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death and ran at the BAM Harvey Theater for a 6-week period.

In November 2015, Tennant starred as the villainous 'Dr. Zebediah Kilgrave' otherwise known as 'The Purple Man' opposite Krystin Ritter in the Netflix Marvel series *Jessica Jones*. The streaming service aired the 13-episode in its entirety on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Tennant starred alongside Rosamund Pike in the British comedy *What We Did on Our Holiday* as the dad of a family who struggles keeping any secret quiet on their family trip. Lionsgate released the film in the US and on VOD on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Tennant is most recognizable for his portrayal as the 10<sup>th</sup> Doctor on the widely beloved series *Doctor Who*. The BBC science fiction series itself has become a pop culture fixture and a fifty-year cult favorite. It depicts the adventures of the time traveling humanoid alien Doctor as he defends himself against foes and protects whole civilizations and people in need. In November 2013, and 2015 as part of *Doctor Who*'s 50th Anniversary celebrations, Tennant's Doctor was voted "The [UK's Favourite Doctor](#)" in a survey held by the *Radio Times* magazine. Tennant has appeared in many spin-offs of the series. These include: his directorial debut on the 2007 "Doctor Who Confidential" episode; a small role in the show's webcast "Scream of the Shalka"; an appearance as the Doctor in

an animated version of the show for CBBC's Totally Doctor Who, The Infinite Quest; and a starring role as the Doctor in another animated six-part Doctor Who series entitled Dreamland. An enthusiast and loyal supporter of the series, Tennant announced that he would be stepping down from the role in 2008 after his participation in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary special, "The Day of the Doctor." For his part in the show, Tennant won three TV Quick Awards, three SFX Awards, four National Television Awards, and two BAFTA awards, among numerous other nominations over the course of his four-year Doctor tenure.

Since then, Tennant has gone on to star in a series of prodigious film roles. In April 2012, he played the lead in a one-off drama entitled The Minor Character for Sky Arts. Between April and June of the same year, he played the lead role of 'Jean-François Mercier' in the BBC Four mini-series Spies of Warsaw. In 2010 he starred as a widowed father in the British drama Single Father, which followed his character 'Dave' as he struggled to raise five children after the death of his partner. For this role, he was nominated as "Best Actor" at the Royal Television Society Programme Awards. Among his other accolades was a 2009 Critics Choice Award for "Best Shakespearean Performance" for his titular role in the Royal Shakespeare Company production of Hamlet.

In November 2008, Tennant starred in the BBC and HBO biopic Einstein and Eddington. The TV movie featured him in the role of 'Sir Arthur Eddington,' who was the first physicist to lend a helping hand to Albert Einstein as he sought to prove his experimental and controversial theories.

In February of 2007, Tennant starred in Recovery, a 90-minute BBC One drama written by Tony Marchant. He played 'Alan,' an ambitious site-manager attempting to rebuild his life after a tragic brain injury. Later that same year, Tennant starred in the BBC comedy drama Learners. The film, written by and starring Jessica Hynes, featured Tennant as Christian driving instructor 'Chris,' who finds himself the unsolicited object of a student's affection.

In 2005, the National Video Archive of Performance recorded Tennant as 'Jimmy Porter' in the Theatre Royal play Look Back in Anger for the Victoria and Albert Museum Theatre Collection. Further solidifying his place as one of the UK's elite, Tennant made an appearance in the popular J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series as 'Barty Crouch Jr.' in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire in the same year. Also in 2005, Tennant portrayed the younger 'Casanova' in the British television comedy drama serial Casanova.

As well as being a seasoned professional actor, he is an award-winning voice-over actor. He has lent his voice to a wide range of characters, including 'Huyand' in animated series Star Wars: The Clone Wars; "Spitelout" in How to Train Your Dragon; and 'Twigs' in Tree Fu Tom, among others.

In 1996, at 25 years old, Tennant joined the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) as Touchstone in *As You Like It* and went on to play Jack Lane in *The Herbal Bed*, the leading role in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Antipholus of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors* (for which he received a nomination in the 2000 Ian Charleson awards for Best Classical Actor under 30).

He returned to the RSC to play Berowne in *Love's Labour's Lost* and a much acclaimed Hamlet in 2008 which the BBC made into a TV film version starring Tennant in 2009. It was also the subject of a recent documentary as part of the BBC's *Shakespeare Unlocked* series in 2012.

From his first projects with the Royal Shakespeare Company, to his first role in the 1996 Touchstone production of *As You Like It*, to his present day resume of timeless characters in all areas of performance, Tennant continues to amass an ever-growing fanbase worldwide.

#### GINA RODRIGUEZ (UNA)

Golden Globe winner Gina Rodriguez's profile has been rising steadily since her breakout performance as the titular character in *Filly Brown* at the Sundance Film Festival in 2012. Named the "Next Big Thing" and one of the "Top 35 Latinos Under 35," by The Hollywood Reporter. Gina continues to be noticed for her incredible acting ability, philanthropy, producing, and *Movement Mondays*. The Los Angeles Times has referred to her as "forthright and formidable, a festival ingénue who deserves to be discussed in the same breath as Elizabeth Olsen and Jennifer Lawrence." She was recently named by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world and awarded Variety's Humanitarian Award.

Rodriguez can currently be seen playing the title role on the CW series "*Jane the Virgin*," which recently returned for its fourth season. It is for her work on the show that Rodriguez won the Golden Globe for "Best Actress – Television Series Musical or Comedy" in 2015. "*Jane The Virgin*" has also gained recognition and been honored with Golden Globe nomination for "Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy" in 2016 and 2017 and a Critics' Choice Award for "Best Comedy Series" in 2015 and 2016 as well as an America Film Institute Award, People's Choice Award and Peabody Award. The show



is based on the successful Venezuelan telenovela, “Juana la Virgen,” the series centers on Jane, a hard-working religious girl who, due to a series of outrageous events, is accidentally arterially inseminated. The series is from writer Jennie Snyder Urman and executive produced by Ben Silverman, Gary Pearl, and Jorge Granier.

Next, she will lend her voice to Sony’s animated film *The Star*, which is an original take on the Nativity story as told from the point of the donkey. Gina will star as ‘Mary’ opposite Zachary Levi’s ‘Joseph’ and Steven Yuen’s ‘Bo,’ a small but brave donkey who along with his friends become the accidental heroes of the greatest story ever told. The film is scheduled to be released on November 17.

Rodriguez will also lend her voice to Twentieth Century Fox’s animated film *Ferdinand* in which she will play a hedgehog named ‘Una’ alongside John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Anthony Anderson and Daveed Diggs. Based on the beloved children’s story about a bull who would rather smell the flowers than fight, the film is scheduled to be released on December 15.

She will soon be seen in Paramount’s *Annihilation* alongside Natalie Portman, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Tessa Thompson. Written and directed by Alex Garland (Ex Machina), the film will tell the story of a biologist that signs up for a dangerous, secret expedition where the laws of nature don’t apply. The film will be released on February 23, 2018.

She recently wrapped production on Catherine Hardwicke’s *Miss Bala*, a remake of the Mexican entry for Best Foreign Film Oscar in 2011. Rodriguez stars opposite Ismael Cruz Córdova as Gloria, who after her friend goes missing in Tijuana, finds herself a pawn in a dangerous game being played by the CIA, the DEA and a charismatic young crime boss. The film is slated for a 2018 release.

Rodriguez was recently seen on the big screen in Peter Berg’s Sept. 2016 release, *Deepwater Horizon* opposite Mark Wahlberg. The film details the 2010 explosion on the BP rig that resulted in the biggest oil spill in U.S. history. Gina portrayed Andrea Fleytas, the 23-year-old, who was monitoring the oil rig’s safety systems in the moments before the explosion.

In addition to acting, Rodriguez is a leader in supporting and empowering women and diversity. This passion led Rodriguez to create, with her production company, I Can & I Will Productions, the first annual Marie Claire’s Young Women’s Honors. Young Women’s Honors is a global platform that discovers, honors and celebrates women who demonstrate confidence, intelligence and leadership, that will inspire others to follow. The second annual installation of the awards show is scheduled for 2018.

Additionally, Gina created another passion project, Movement Mondays which has her highlighting artists of diversity each Monday to her social media following.

Currently, Gina is working on a book being published by Simon & Schuster encompassing all of the lessons she has learned from her father, Genaro Rodriguez. The book titled, “I Can And I Will: Tools My Daddy Gave Me,” is expected to be released in 2018.

Gina is a grand supporter of the Latino community and is actively involved with the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, NCLR, CHCI, NALIP and Votolatio. Additionally, she recently established her We Will Foundation, which is designed to focus on arts education and scholarship funding for the less fortunate, with the aim of empowering young woman.

Born and raised in Chicago, Gina currently lives in Los Angeles, and is a graduate of New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

#### PEYTON MANNING (GUAPO)

Legendary quarterback Peyton Manning, the NFL’s only five-time Most Valuable Player and a 14-time Pro Bowl selection, earned his place among the greatest quarterbacks in league history as a leader in nearly every statistical passing category.

During the 2015/2016 season, Manning led the Denver Broncos to a 24-10 win over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50, making him the first starting quarterback in NFL history to win a Super Bowl with two different teams.

Manning entered the NFL in 1998 with the Indianapolis Colts as the first overall draft pick. He amassed the most career touchdown passes in league history in addition to ranking first all-time in wins by a starting quarterback (200), completions and passing yards during his tenure.

Named a first-team All-Pro selection by the Associated Press on seven occasions, Manning owns more postseason berths and 300-yard passing games than any quarterback in NFL history. A native of New Orleans, he was named the No. 1 greatest athlete to hail from the state of Louisiana by The Times-Picayune.

In 2013, Manning was named Sportsman of the Year by Sports Illustrated. In his first year with the Broncos in 2012—and after missing the entire 2011 campaign with a neck

injury—Manning finished as the Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year and runner-up for the league's MVP.

During his first 14 NFL seasons with the Colts, Manning set club records in nearly every career passing category. He led the franchise to its first World Championship in 36 years during the 2006 season, earning MVP honors in the Colts' 29-17 win over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI.

During his time at the University of Tennessee, Manning epitomized the term "student-athlete." He claimed 43 records at the school, conference and national levels while graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

He led Tennessee to an SEC Championship as a senior in 1997 and earned consensus All-America honors. Following his senior season, Manning was honored with the Sullivan Award for the nation's top amateur athlete based on character, leadership, athletic ability and the ideals of amateurism.

For his actions off the field, Manning was honored as the recipient of the Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award and the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2005, the Bart Starr Award in 2015, and the Lincoln Medal in 2017.

Manning serves as a member of the American Red Cross National Celebrity Cabinet and The Pat Summitt Foundation Advisory Board, and maintains a strong relationship with St. Vincent's Children's Hospital (Indianapolis), which in 2007 was renamed the "Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent."

He and his wife, Ashley, established the PeyBack Foundation in 1999 to promote the future success of disadvantaged youth. Since its inception, the PeyBack Foundation has provided more than \$13 million in grants and programs that provide leadership and growth opportunities for children at risk.

Peyton Williams Manning was born on March 24, 1976, in New Orleans. He and Ashley have twins—a boy and a girl, Marshall Williams and Mosley Thompson.

## MIGUEL ÁNGEL SILVESTRE

Miguel Ángel Silvestre is a Spanish actor who first appeared in the acclaimed series "Sin Tetas No Hay Paraíso" (*"Without Tits There is No Paradise"*), which was an

international hit and catapulted him into the mainstream in 2008. He starred in Pedro Almodóvar's comedic film, "I'm So Excited", alongside Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz. Miguel was one of the leads of the massive hit Spanish series "Velvet," which has averaged more than a 25% market share of Spain's television audience every time it aired. Season 1, which is also currently on Netflix, debuted in Italy and France where it had audiences of more than 4.5 million in each country for each episode.

Silvestre made his American debut as one of the leads of Netflix's series "Sense8," which was created and directed by Lana and Lily Wachowski. Set in 16 cities and 11 countries around the world in Season 2, the show created international fan fervor. His character of 'Lito' was one of the breakout characters of the series, which is currently shooting a two-hour finale to satisfy massive fan outcry when the show was announced to be ending after two seasons. In addition to recurring on Season 3 of Netflix's NARCOS, Silvestre is the voice of 'Matador' in the upcoming Fox animated feature FERDINAND for acclaimed director Carlos Saldanha.

He just completed shooting the Good Universe comedy film "Ibiza", produced by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay.

#### JERROD CARMICHAEL (PACO)

Jerrold Carmichael is an LA-based standup comedian and performer originally from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Jerrod can be seen on the NBC Series "The Carmichael Show" which he starred in and executive produced. This past year Jerrod also starred alongside Mark Wahlberg in "Transformers 5: The Last Knight". Jerrod also starred in the Nick Stoller-directed Universal summer blockbuster "Neighbors" opposite Seth Rogen and Zac Efron. His second HBO stand-up special "8", directed by Bo Burnham premiered this past March. Jerrod's first HBO special "Love at the Store" was directed by Spike Lee and premiered in the fall of 2014. He was also selected in 2015's Variety Comedy Impact Report.

#### FLULA BORG (HANS)

Flula Borg was born and raised in Erlangen, Germany, starting his career as a traditional Bavarian Schuhplattler before bringing his absurdist humor and spontaneous charm to all corners of Hollywood.

In the film world Flula is best known for starring opposite Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick, and Adam Devine in Universal Pictures' "Pitch Perfect 2" as well as in 20th Century Fox's "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip" and Orion's Slamdance-winning "Buddymoon," which he also co-wrote. Flula has made regular television appearances

on Comedy Central's "@Midnight", TV Land's "Younger," Netflix's "Chelsea," HBO's "Silicon Valley," the latest season of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," the lead role in the NBC pilot "Cuckoo," J.K. Simmons' upcoming dystopian Starz drama, "Counterpart," and TBS' "Conan," where he served as Conan O'Brien's personal tour guide of Berlin.

Flula has lent his voice to several projects including "Tangled," "Archer," "Mr. Peabody & Sherman Show," "Pickle and Peanut," and upcoming animated films for Nickelodeon and Disney. Borg has also amassed a strong online following with over 750k subscribers and 90 million views on YouTube.

Borg was recently named one of the Ten Comics To Watch by Variety, and was once voted Northern Bavaria's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sexiest Male.

## JUANES (JUAN)

Born and raised in Medellín, Colombia, Juan Esteban Aristizábal - better known to most of the world as Juanes, has become Latin Rock's leading global ambassador. Hailed by TIME as "one of the 100 Most-Influential People in the World," and The New York Times as "Latin America's hottest singer-songwriter... a soulful poet with electric guitar," Juanes has built a distinctive sound that fuses his love of rock & pop music with smartly crafted, multi-layered songwriting and a deep reverence for the traditional folk and other indigenous rhythms of Colombia and Latin America. With seven multi-platinum studio albums, a critically-praised MTV Unplugged release, and Disney soundtrack work to his credit, Juanes has sold millions of albums around the world, notched ELEVEN #1 Billboard singles, holds multiple records for Latin rock chart duration, and has been recognized with numerous awards, including a staggering TWENTY-THREE combined GRAMMY & Latin Grammy Awards.

Frequently recognized as one of Latin music's leading social media voices (with an online following of over 25 million fans), Juanes has also made several groundbreaking TV and special event appearances – such as the first Spanish Language Grammy performance in a decade, the first Spanish language performances on The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tonight Show Featuring Jimmy Fallon, and The TODAY Show Plaza concert series. Juanes has also represented the Latin Music community with performances at the World Cup, the Vatican's "Festival of Families" event with Pope Francis, a bilingual educational performance on Sesame Street, primetime TV Tribute concerts to John Lennon & Frank Sinatra, and multiple appearances at both The Kennedy Center Honors and The Nobel Peace Prize Concert.

The Colombian superstar is also a dedicated global activist, with wide ranging charitable work for his own Mi Sangre Foundation (spotlighted in a special Billboard's Philanthropy issue) and as a co-founder of the "Paz sin Fronteras" (Peace Without Borders) organization- which utilizes music to unite populaces regardless of political or geographic divides and advocates that all people are entitled to the basic human right of peace.

This year has seen Juanes continue to break new ground for Latin Music with the release of the genre's first full visual concept album – *Mis Planes Son Amarte*, a new 12-song collection and accompanying live-action film that details an astronaut's search for true love across time and space. It debuted at #1 on the Billboard Latin Album chart, and likewise atop the iTunes charts in numerous countries. The album's first single, the propulsive "Fuego" quickly vaulted to #1 on charts in 17 countries.

#### DAVEED DIGGS (DOS)

Daveed burst onto the New York theatre scene with his electrifying, Tony-winning performance in the dual roles of 'Thomas Jefferson' and 'Marquis de Lafayette' in Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway sensation, *HAMILTON*. In addition to a Tony and Grammy Award, Diggs also earned a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Supporting Actor. While performing on Broadway, Diggs recurred on NBC's long-running drama, *LAW & ORDER: SVU* and the Netflix series, *THE GET DOWN*, created by visionary director Baz Luhrmann.

Daveed most recently had arcs on ABC's Emmy-nominated series, *BLACKISH*, and Netflix's *UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT*. He will next be seen on TNT's *SNOWPIERCER* and Fox's *BOB'S BURGERS*. Daveed is also executive producing the upcoming ABC series, *THE MAYOR*.

On the feature side, Daveed will next appear in *WONDER*, opposite Julia Roberts and Jacob Tremblay, as well as the Fox animated feature *FERDINAND*. He was recently seen in HBO's *TOUR DE PHARMACY*, alongside Andy Samberg and Orlando Bloom, and he recently shot *BLINDSPOTTING*, a feature he co-wrote, produced, and stars in. Before *HAMILTON*, Diggs was already well-respected in the underground hip-hop scene as a member of the West Coast-based experimental trio "clipping." Diggs has toured nationally and internationally, both as a solo artist and with "clipping," playing venues including Sonar Festival in Barcelona; Off Festival in Krakow; ATP Iceland in Keflavik; and Brooklyn's AfroPunk Fest. Special engagement bookings include the Red Bull Music Academy and Moog Electronics, and he is also collaborating with HBO Def

Poet Rafael Casal on writing a new musical called THE LIMP and original music for ESPN.

## BORIS KODJOE (KLAUS)

From his big screen and television roles to his theater and entrepreneurial skills, Boris Kodjoe has proven to be one of the most quintessential men in Hollywood. Boris is best known for his role as Damon Carter on the hit Showtime TV series “Soul Food.” The show earned him three NAACP Award nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor. He can currently be seen opposite Kevin Hart, Nick Cannon and JB Smoove in the BET hit comedy series “The Real Husbands of Hollywood” which has earned him two NAACP Image Award nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series. He also stars as Dr. Will Campbell in the CBS drama “Code Black” with Marcia Gay Harden and Rob Lowe.

Last summer, Boris took on the role as daytime talk show host with his wife, actress Nicole Ari Parker. “The Boris & Nicole Show” had a 4 week run on select FOX owned stations in over 20 markets including New York and Los Angeles. He also spent two seasons as “Phil Miller #2” on the second season of the FOX comedy series “Last Man on Earth” opposite Will Forte, Kristen Schaal, January Jones and Mary Steenburgen.

Previously, Boris was handpicked by JJ Abrams to star in his NBC drama series “Undercovers” which aired during the 2010 TV season. He was also seen reprising his role as Luther West in the box office hit Resident Evil: Retribution and appeared in the Fox Searchlight film Baggage Claim opposite Paula Patton, Derek Luke and Trey Songz.

Boris was born in Vienna, Austria, to Ursula Kodjoe, a psychologist from Germany, and Eric Kodjoe, a physician from Ghana, West Africa. He grew up in Germany with brother Patrick and sister Nadja, where he went to school and was exposed to athletics and the arts early in his life. He became one of the best tennis players in the country, and accepted a tennis scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University in the Fall of 1992.

While studying in Richmond, he was approached by a Ford Modeling agency which he joined after earning his marketing degree in May of 1996. Immediately he booked twelve campaigns such as Ralph Lauren, Perry Ellis, Yves Saint Laurent, and The GAP, within the first seven months. His career skyrocketed as he quickly became one of the most recognizable faces amongst male supermodels which ultimately led to him being Awarded a Supermodel Award at the Fall '98 fashion shows.

Hollywood soon took notice of Boris. While studying with acting coach Janet Alhanti, he started guest starring on sitcoms such as “For Your Love,” and landed a supporting role in the Spike Lee produced feature film Love and Basketball.

Boris also starred in the feature Brown Sugar, alongside Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan, for which he was nominated for an NAACP Award for the Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture. Previously, Boris co-starred in the hit movie Tyler Perry’s Madea’s Family Reunion and was the lead in The Gospel which was a surprise hit at the boxoffice. Boris also starred opposite Bruce Willis for director Jonathan Mostow in the Disney thriller Surrogates and in Resident Evil: Afterlife with Milla Jovovich, Wentworth Miller and Ali Larter.

On stage, Boris made his Broadway debut in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, opposite James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad and Anika Noni Rose for director Debbie Allen. Previously, he toured the country in the play Whatever She Wants with Vivica A. Fox and Richard Roundtree.

As an entrepreneur, Boris launched his own clothing company ALFA (Affordable Luxury For All) with his brother Patrick Kodjoe, bringing the luxury of custom made clothing to every man and woman in America at affordable prices. The line can be accessed at [www.worldofalfa.com](http://www.worldofalfa.com).

Boris' main personal interest is to raise funds for Sophie’s Voice Foundation ([www.sophiesvoicefoundation.org](http://www.sophiesvoicefoundation.org)), a foundation he started with his wife in honor of his daughter Sophie, who was diagnosed with spina bifida at birth.

Boris currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife Nicole, and their two children, Sophie and Nicolas.

## GABRIEL IGLESIAS (CUATRO)

Born in Chula Vista, California, Gabriel Iglesias is the youngest of six children, raised by a single mother in Long Beach, CA. It was during his childhood that he developed a strong sense of humor to deal with the obstacles he faced. In 1997, he set out to hone his comedic skills, and performed stand-up anywhere he could find an audience; including biker bars and hole-in-the-wall joints. Gabriel’s stand-up comedy is a mixture of storytelling, parodies, characters and sound effects that bring his personal experiences to life. His unique and animated comedy style has made him popular among fans of all ages.



Iglesias is one of America's most successful stand-up comedians performing to sold-out concerts around the world. He is also one of the most watched comedians on YouTube with over 300,000,000 views. The comedian has also had the distinct honor of being one of the few to headline and sell-out Madison Square Garden and The Microsoft Theater. Celebrating 20 years in standup comedy, Iglesias is currently on the new world tour, FluffyMania World Tour: 20 Years of Comedy.

Iglesias can next be heard voicing the role of "Head Clerk" in Pixar's upcoming animated film *Coco*, in theaters November 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will also voice "Rufus the Dog" in Sony's animated holiday film *The Star* (in theaters November 17<sup>th</sup>) and "Cuatro" in Fox 20<sup>th</sup> Century Film's animated film *Ferdinand* (in theaters December 15<sup>th</sup>.) Iglesias also reprised his role of "Jimmy" in the animated film *The Nut Job 2* along with Will Arnett and Maya Rudolph and Katherine Heigl.

Fluffy's Food Adventures, a non-scripted comedic docu-follow series co-starring Gabriel's eccentric tour mates and fellow comedians Martin Moreno, Rick Gutierrez, G Reilly and Alfred Robles launched its 3<sup>rd</sup> season (formally Fluffy Breaks Even) on FUSE TV in July 2017. The show follows Gabriel and his crew on a coast-to-coast culinary trip in search of the country's most mouthwatering dishes as they discover local gems, unique activities and a few celebrities along the way.

At the end of 2016, Iglesias released his 6<sup>th</sup> one-hour comedy special, *I'm Sorry For What I Said When I Was Hungry* on Netflix worldwide. He filmed the special at the Allstate Arena in Chicago to 2 sold-out shows with a total of 20,000 fans in attendance.

In 2015, he co-starred with Channing Tatum in Warner Bros' *Magic Mike XXL*, reprising his role as Tobias. Gabriel also lit up the small screen on the ABC sitcom *Cristela*.

Other feature film credits include co-starring roles in *A Haunted House 2*, and his voice can be heard in numerous animated films *Smurfs: The Lost Village*, *Norm of the North*, *The Book of Life*, *The Nut Job* and Disney's *Planes*. Gabriel also starred in the theatrical stand-up concert comedy film, *The Fluffy Movie*. For the past three years Comedy Central has aired Iglesias' hit series *Stand-Up Revolution*. The cable network also premiered Gabriel Iglesias: *Aloha Fluffy* in an unprecedented two-night comedy special to over 15 million viewers. The special was a follow-up to his previous DVD specials, *Hot & Fluffy* and *I'm Not Fat...I'm Fluffy*, which have sold a combined total of over 2 million copies

## JEREMY SISTO (FERDINAND'S FATHER)

Jeremy Sisto can next be seen starring in National Geographic's docudrama *THE LONG ROAD HOME* alongside Michael Kelly, Jason Ritter, and Kate Bosworth. The mini-series is based on Martha Raddatz's best-selling book, and relives a heroic fight for survival when the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood was ambushed on April 4, 2004, in Sadr City, Baghdad — a day that came to be known as "Black Sunday."

Sisto is gearing up to begin shooting the second season of DirecTV's *ICE*, returning in the first quarter of 2018. From Antoine Fuqua, the crime drama follows a family as they plunge into the underbelly of the Los Angeles diamond trade. Jeremy will be playing the lead role of Freddy and stars alongside Cam Gigandet, Ray Winstone and Donald Sutherland.

Sisto will soon be coming to the big screen as part of the animated cast of *FERDINAND* out this December. The film's cast also includes Kate McKinnon, Gina Rodriguez, John Cena and Anthony Anderson.

In television, Sisto previously starred in ABC's *WICKED CITY* and A&E's drama series *THE RETURNED*, based on the acclaimed French Series of the same title. He also had a 3-season run starring on the hit ABC comedy series, *SUBURGATORY*.

Sisto is best known for playing Billy Chenoweth on Alan Ball's *SIX FEET UNDER* for five years, a role which Alan wrote for him. In 2010, he finished a three-year run on *LAW & ORDER* as Detective Cyrus Lupo. He was also the lead in the critically acclaimed Jason Smilovic show *KIDNAPPED*.

In film, Sisto starred in the tennis comedy, *BREAK POINT*, which he also co-wrote and produced. Sisto also starred in Fox International's genre film, *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR*, and *HANGMAN*, which premiered at the 2015 SXSW Film Festival, and which Sisto also produced. He was last seen in the indie films *AS COOL AS I AM* with Claire Danes and James Marsden, and "Robot and Frank" with Frank Langella and Liv Tyler. Additional film credits are eclectic and date back to the early nineties with titles such as *GRAND CANYON*, *CLUELESS*, *HIDEAWAY*, *MOONLIGHT AND VALENTINO*, *WHITE SQUALL*, *WITHOUT LIMITS*, *SUICIDE KINGS*, *THIRTEEN*, *WRONG TURN* and *WAITRESS*.

Sisto's Los Angeles theater credits include "Take Me Out," (the role earned him a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Featured Performance), Sidney Kingsley's "Dead End" at the Ahmanson Theater, and the one man show "Sanguine" at the 2nd Stage. In New York, he made his Broadway debut in "Festen," a stage adaptation of Thomas

Vinterberg's film "The Celebration," and he recently finished Beau Willimon's "Spirit Control" at the Manhattan Theater Club – a story that explores a man's thirty-year struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. He also starred with Brian Dennehy in Bertolt Brecht's "Galileo" in Chicago. The play was directed by Robert Falls.

He currently resides in Los Angeles.

#### KARLA MARTINEZ (VILLAGE MOTHER)

Every morning, Monday through Friday, the Hispanic community in the United States wakes up alongside Karla Martinez, watching her on Univision's morning show "Despierta America" – the highest rated morning show in the Hispanic market in the United States.

Karla, who is currently the spokesperson for "Colgate," is one of the most beloved and respected professionals in the Hispanic community. Since joining the morning show's hosting team in December 2006, Martinez has co-hosted numerous Univision specials, including "La Boda Real" ("The Royal Wedding"), and has participated in several public service campaigns. Raised in Texas, where she moved as a young girl, Karla began her career in television as a reporter for KINT-Channel 26 in Texas, while at the same time working on her degree in Communications from the University of Texas. In 1995, she moved on to the Univision Network serving as the El Paso correspondent for the network newscast "Noticiero Univision" and the newsmagazine, "Primer Impacto." She was also a reporter for the Network's top entertainment news show, "El Gordo y la Flaca," and came to host Univision's popular youth-oriented lifestyle program "Control" for five years. Karla's been honored as one of People en Español's "50 Most Beautiful", and has been recognized for her career success with the coveted "Premios TV y Novelas" Award. She has been the spokesperson for prestigious brands such as Johnson and Johnson, General Mills, Aveeno Baby, Got Milk?, and Cablevision, and is also the author of "El Poder de una Sonrisa" ("The Power of a Smile"), in which she discusses how to overcome difficult moments in life. Karla won a TV y Novelas award as Best Host 2015.

## **ABOUT THE FERDINAND CREW**

### **CARLOS SALDANHA (DIRECTED BY)**

Carlos Saldanha has been one of the principal creative forces at Blue Sky Studios since 1993. Saldanha was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and left his hometown in 1991 to follow his artistic instinct and passion for animation. With a background in computer science and a natural artistic sensibility, he found New York City the perfect locale to merge these skills and become an animator. He attended the MFA program at New York's School of Visual Arts, where he graduated with honors in 1993 after completing two animated shorts, "The Adventures of Korky, the Corkscrew" (1992) and "Time For Love" (1993). The shorts have been screened at animation festivals around the world. At SVA, Saldanha met Chris Wedge, one of the co-founders of Blue Sky Studios, who invited Saldanha to join their growing team of artists.

Saldanha was Blue Sky's supervising animator for the talking and dancing roaches in the feature film "Joe's Apartment" (1996). He was the director of animation for the computer-generated characters in "Fight Club" (1999). Soon thereafter, Saldanha teamed with Chris Wedge to co-direct Blue Sky's first animated features, "Ice Age" (2002) and "Robots" (2005). "Ice Age" was nominated for an Oscar in 2003. In 2002 Saldanha directed the animated short film "Gone Nutty," which was nominated for an Oscar in 2004.

After the success of "Ice Age," Saldanha took the directorial reins on "Ice Age: The Meltdown" (2006), the third computer-animated feature film from Twentieth Century Fox and Blue Sky Studios, which was the most profitable animated movie of the year. Next came the even more successful "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," which became one of the biggest grossing animated films of all time, grossing over \$887 million worldwide. In 2001 Saldanha created and directed "Rio," a love letter to his hometown, which became a worldwide success, followed by "Rio 2" in 2013. He is currently in post-production on "Ferdinand," which will be in theaters everywhere in December 2017.

### **JOHN DAVIS (PRODUCED BY)**

John Davis, Chairman of Los Angeles-based Davis Entertainment, is one of Hollywood's

most prolific veterans, having produced more than 92 feature and television films that have grossed more than \$5 billion worldwide. In television, Davis Entertainment has put six network series on the air in the last four years, including the international hit “The Blacklist”.

John Davis was Show West’s producer of the year in 2004, and Hollywood Reporter’s producer of the year in 2015. He has also won two People’s Choice awards for The Firm and Grumpy Old Men, and his films have received several Academy nominations.

Upcoming Davis Entertainment films include a “Predator” re-imagining with Shane Black directing, the animated film “Ferdinand”, and “Game Night”, a comedy at New Line Studios.

Davis Entertainment currently has four network series on the air: “The Blacklist”, “Blacklist Redemption”, and “Timeless” on NBC, as well as “Dr. Ken” on ABC. Also in production are pilots “Behind Enemy Lines” at Fox with McG directing and based on the company’s hit film, and “Start Up” at ABC with Zach Braff acting and directing. The company is also developing pilots at MTV, Showtime, and Lifetime.

Davis’s many successful productions include the \$100 million-plus micro-budgeted hit “Chronicle”; the sci-fi thriller “I, Robot”, starring Will Smith, and the Jim Carrey-starrer “Mr. Popper’s Penguins”, among many more.

Previous Davis productions include “Joy” with Jennifer Lawrence, “Norbit”, the hit comedy starring Eddie Murphy for DreamWorks/Paramount; the blockbuster “The Firm”, starring Tom Cruise; the two hugely successful “Dr. Dolittle” films, starring Eddie Murphy; the Jack Black international hit adventure comedy “Gulliver’s Travels”, “Courage Under Fire”, starring Denzel Washington and Meg Ryan, the “Garfield” franchise series for Fox, “Waterworld”, starring Kevin Costner; the \$100 million-plus hit Eddie Murphy comedy “Daddy Day Care”, the Jack Lemmon/Walter Matthau trilogy “Out to Sea”, “Grumpy Old Men”, and “Grumpier Old Men”, “Behind Enemy Lines”, starring Owen Wilson and Gene Hackman, “Predator 2”, John Woo’s “Paycheck”, starring Ben Affleck and Uma Thurman, for Paramount; and the “Predator” trilogy, “Predator”, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, “Predator 2”, and “Alien vs. Predator”.

Davis’ successful business ventures also include the unique fast casual pizza franchise, “Blaze Pizza”, named the fastest growing restaurant company in America. His partners include basketball star LeBron James, and Boston Red Sox co-owner Tom Werner.

Davis Entertainment has also owned and run five small market television stations over the last twenty years. The company has recently sold its last station.

Davis was born and raised near Denver, Colorado. His passion for cinema began as a

youth when he worked at a neighborhood movie theater and viewed up to 300 films a year. Davis graduated from Bowdoin College, attended Amherst College and received an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School.

#### LISA MARIE STETLER (PRODUCED BY)

Lisa Marie Stetler is a writer and producer who began her entertainment career in development at Geffen Pictures. She has worked behind the scenes on several high-profile movies and TV shows, including DreamWorks' first police drama, "High Incident" created by Steven Spielberg, "True Romance" directed by Tony Scott, and "The Hunted" directed by William Friedkin. Following her production experience, Stetler worked at Miramax, Los Angeles, in international distribution and participated in the American Film Market.

"Ferdinand" is her first animated feature, which she successfully set up at Fox Animation after pitching the project for more than 15 years. She is currently developing and writing two animated features in addition to several live action projects.

A dedicated global philanthropist, Stetler has been part of humanitarian aid teams to Zimbabwe, China, Egypt, South Africa, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and Cuba. Stetler grew up in Waverly, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Bucknell University, with a course focus in Economics.

#### LORI FORTE, p.g.a. (PRODUCED BY)

Lori Forte, who is best known for bringing the "Ice Age" franchise to life, began her career in feature animation at Disney, where she was the creative executive on the Academy-Award nominated film, "Toy Story" and the Oscar nominated short film "Runaway Brain." Forte then became a producer for Fox Animation Studios, where she developed several feature film ideas.

Having always been fascinated by the Ice Age and by the majesty of its unique creatures, Forte came up with the idea to make a movie that captured that icy world and its extraordinary inhabitants. A movie franchise was born when "Ice Age" sub-zero heroes Manny, Sid, Diego and Scrat – and their incredible world – arrived in theaters around the globe. Forte went on to develop and produce "Ice Age: The Meltdown", "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs", "Ice Age: Continental Drift" (for which she received a co-'story by' credit) and "Ice Age: Collision Course". She also produced the Academy Award-nominated short "No Time for Nuts."

She was producer on “Epic” and executive produced two “Ice Age” television specials: “Ice Age: Mammoth Christmas” (2011) and “Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade.”

Previously, Forte was a development executive at NBC-TV, where she helped develop television comedy series. Forte then joined Columbia Pictures Television, where she was vice president of comedy development, overseeing a variety of pilots and series.

#### BRUCE ANDERSON, p.g.a. (PRODUCED BY)

Bruce Anderson started his entertainment career in live action films, working up to segment producer on the popular early-90s television series, "The All New Mickey Mouse Club," after which he worked on the production side of several shows for The Disney Channel and Nickelodeon. Anderson crossed over to the world of animation in 1996, when he accepted a position at Walt Disney Feature Animation in Florida. After serving as department manager on “Mulan,” “Lilo and Stitch” and “Tarzan,” Anderson was production manager on Disney’s “Brother Bear.”

In 2004, Anderson moved with his family to Connecticut and joined Blue Sky Studios, where he worked as the production manager of “Ice Age: The Meltdown,” which grossed over 600 million dollars worldwide. He went on to serve as producer on the critically acclaimed film “Dr. Seuss’ Horton Hears A Who!” based on the classic book, and on both “Rio” and “Rio 2”.

#### CHRIS WEDGE (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Chris Wedge is an Academy Award-winning film director, producer, and co-founder of Blue Sky Studios. Beginning his career as a stop-motion animator, Wedge later joined MAGI/SynthaVision, where he was one of the principal animators for the groundbreaking Disney movie “Tron” (1982). He directed the character animation sequences for the Warner Bros./Geffen Films production “Joe’s Apartment” (1996), and served as creative supervisor on numerous feature films and commercials.

In 1998, he wrote and directed Blue Sky’s first film, the touching short, “Bunny”, which won an Academy Award for best animated short film, and over 25 international awards for animation excellence.

Wedge went on to direct Blue Sky’s first feature length film, “Ice Age” (2002), which was

nominated for an Academy Award for best animated feature film, followed by “Robots” (2005). and “Epic” (2013).

He was executive producer of “Ice Age: The Meltdown” (2006), “Dr. Seuss’ Horton Hears a Who!” (2008), “Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs” (2009), “Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012), “Rio” (2011), “Rio 2” (2014) and “Ice Age: Collision Course” (2016).

This year, Wedge directed the science fiction adventure film “Monster Trucks,” for Paramount Pictures.

He is a graduate of the SUNY Purchase film department and received his Master of Arts degree in computer graphics and art education from the Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and at Ohio State University.

ROBERT L. BAIRD and TIM FEDERLE and BRAD COPELAND (SCREENPLAY BY)

Robert L. Baird has made his mark as a screenwriter on some of the most popular animated hits of the past fifteen years. He was a contributing writer on Pixar Animation Studios’ “Monsters, Inc.” and Golden Globe-winning “Cars”. He was the co-screenwriter of 2013’s “Monsters University”. For Walt Disney Animation Studios, Baird’s credits include 2005’s “Chicken Little,” 2007’s “Meet the Robinsons” and the 2012 animated short “Tangled Ever After.” In 2015 he co-wrote the screenplay for “Big Hero 6” which earned an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. Most recently, Baird co-wrote the screenplay for “Ferdinand”, from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and Blue Sky Studios, which will be released in December 2017. Just last month, Baird has been brought on as Co-President of Fox Animation, along side Andrea Miloro.

Tim Federle is “a prolific scribe whose breezy wit isn’t bound to a single genre” (*Huffington Post*). Tim’s award-winning novels include the *New York Times* notable books “The Great American Whatever” and “Better Nate Than Ever” — which Lin-Manuel Miranda called “a wonderful evocation of what it’s like to be a theater kid” (*New York Times*). Tim’s cocktail recipe books, including the worldwide bestseller “Tequila Mockingbird”, have sold over half a million copies. Recently, Tim co-wrote the Tony-nominated Broadway musical “Tuck Everlasting”, and he is developing projects for Fox Animation/Blue Sky Studios and Netflix. Tim sits on the boards of Rosie’s Theater Kids and the National Coalition Against Censorship. A native of San Francisco who grew up in Pittsburgh, he now divides his time between New York and the internet (@TimFederle).

Brad Copeland has written extensively for television and movies, including the acclaimed series “Arrested Development,” for which he earned three Emmy



nominations, “My Name Is Earl” and “Eastbound & Down.” Copeland’s first motion picture screenplay, the biker comedy “Wild Hogs,” became one of the highest-grossing films of 2007. In addition, he wrote “Yogi Bear” and wrote and directed the 2013 cult favorite “Coffee Town.” Currently, Copeland is involved in the big-screen adaptation of “Knight Rider” and is an Executive Producer of the hit CBS series “Life in Pieces,” now in its third season. Copeland was born and raised in Orlando, Fla., and currently lives in Sherman Oaks, Calif., with his wife and two sons.

#### RON BURCH & DAVID KIDD & DON RHYMER (SCREEN STORY BY)

Ron Burch and David Kidd are currently the Executive Producers, Head Writers and Showrunners of DreamWorks Animation’s Netflix Original series “Dinotrux”.

Burch & Kidd got their start on the CBS sitcom, “The Closer,” starring Tom Selleck, for which they were nominated for a Primetime Emmy for the song "You Don't Know Jack," performed in the show by Michael Feinstein and Bernadette Peters. In 2000 their movie “Head Over Heels” was released. Produced by Robert Simonds and directed by Mark Waters, it starred Freddie Prinze Jr. and Monica Potter. In 2005 their remake of “Yours, Mine & Ours” for Paramount and MGM was released, starring Dennis Quaid and Renee Russo. Burch and Kidd have developed and acted as script doctors for a number of family movies for most of the Hollywood studios including “Beverly Hills Chihuahua” for Disney starring Drew Barrymore and Jamie Lee Curtis; they also served as Story Consultants for “Inspector Gadget” (Disney) and “Elmo in Grouchland” (Columbia TriStar). They have developed television pilots for MTV, ABC Family, Warner Brothers, FX, Fox, and TBS.

Don Rhymer’s previous work includes writing the story for “Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son,” and the screenplay for “Big Momma’s House 2.” His other feature comedy credits include “Rio,” “Rio 2,” “Surf’s Up,” “Carpool,” “Big Momma’s House” (co-written with Darryl Quarles), “The Santa Clause 2,” “Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London,” and the big-screen adaptation of “The Honeymooners.”

Rhymer also enjoyed a successful TV career, and wrote and produced such sitcoms as “The Hogan Family,” “Coach,” “Bagdad Café,” “Evening Shade,” “Hearts Afire,” “Caroline in the City,” “Chicago Sons,” and “Fired Up.” In addition, he wrote the telefilms “Banner Times,” “Past the Bleachers,” and “Under Wraps.”

Rhymer passed away in November 2012 during the production of “Rio 2”

#### JOHN POWELL (MUSIC BY)

John Powell was catapulted into the realm of A-list composers by displaying an entirely original voice with his oft-referenced scores to the Matt Damon Bourne trilogy. He has become the go-to writer for family animated films, scoring such hits as “Shrek”, “Chicken Run”, “Ice Age” (2 & 3), “Bolt”, “Rio”, “Happy Feet” (1 & 2) and “Kung Fu Panda” (1 & 2). His pulsating action music has provided the fuel for “Hancock”, “Green Zone”, “Stop Loss”, “Mr. and Mrs. Smith”, and “The Italian Job”. His music has also sweetened the romance of “Two Weeks’ Notice” and “P.S. I Love You”, empowered “X-Men: The Last Stand”, lent tenderness to “I Am Sam” and gripping drama to “United 93”. His infectious score for “How to Train Your Dragon” earned him his first Academy Award nomination. Powell has also lent his voice to the score of Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax”, “Ice Age 4: Continental Drift”, “Rio 2”, directed by Carlos Saldanha, and the critically acclaimed DreamWorks’ film “How To Train Your Dragon 2”. His most recent work was Warner Bros.’ “Pan” starring Hugh Jackman and Universal Pictures’ action-thriller “Jason Bourne” starring Matt Damon. Up next for Powell is Fox’s “Ferdinand” and Disney’s highly anticipated “Solo: A Star Wars Story”, directed by Ron Howard.

A native of London, Powell was an accomplished violinist as a child, wrote music for commercials out of school, and assisted composer Patrick Doyle in the early 1990s. He moved to the U.S. in 1997, co-wrote the score for “Antz”, and quickly became one of the most desirable, versatile, and exciting composers in town.

#### NICK JONAS (SONG BY)

Multi-platinum and Grammy nominated recording artist, actor, and award-winning songwriter, Nick Jonas released his self-titled debut album in November 2014. The critically-acclaimed album included the double-platinum and #1 U.S. radio hit, “Jealous” and his sultry chart-climbing radio single, “Chains.” A recipient of the Songwriters Hall of Fame’s prestigious Hal David Starlight Award, Jonas released his sophomore solo album ‘Last Year Was Complicated’ in June 2016. The album, which included the platinum hit “Close” featuring Tove Lo, debuted as the #1 selling album of the week. He recently co-headlined the Honda Civic Tour: Future Now with Safehouse record partner Demi Lovato.

As an actor, Jonas garnered unanimous critical praise for his lead role in the 2016 Sundance Film Festival favorite ‘Goat’, which was produced by and featured James Franco. He also appeared in a guest-starring role in Fox’s horror-comedy series, ‘Scream Queens.’ Jonas starred in the gritty television show ‘Kingdom’, a mixed martial arts drama that premiered in the fall of 2014. Next, Jonas will appear alongside Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, and Jack Black in Sony’s reimagining of ‘Jumanji,’ out December

20th. Jonas is currently in production on Lionsgate's post-apocalyptic thriller, 'Chaos Walking'. Also starring Daisy Ridley and Tom Holland, the film is scheduled for release in March 2019.