

**Imagine That**  
**Production notes**  
**Notes provided by Paramount Pictures.**



Release Date: June 12, 2009

Studio: Paramount Pictures

Director: Karey Kirkpatrick

Screenwriter: Ed Solomon, Chris Matheson

Starring: Eddie Murphy, Thomas Haden Church, Yara Shahidi, Nicole Ari Parker, Ronny Cox, Martin Sheen

Genre: Comedy, Fantasy

MPAA Rating: PG (for some mild language and brief questionable behavior)

Like many busy professionals, Evan Danielson (Eddie Murphy) is so focused on his career that quality time with his young daughter, Olivia (Yara Shahidi), has fallen by the wayside. When an important promotion is suddenly within reach, stressed-out Evan starts to fall apart while trying to fend off his company rival (Thomas Haden Church) . But when little Olivia introduces him to the inhabitants of her imaginary land, Evan rediscovers his inner child and finds the answers to all his problems.

## About the Production

Before he found himself standing in front of his friends' house yelling for his daughter's purple security blanket in the middle of the night, Evan Danielson (Eddie Murphy) was just your average financial wizard - focused, successful and driven. But when his daughter introduced him to the princesses and their queen living in her imaginary world, Evan followed her on a hilarious adventure that forced him to reexamine the value of their relationship and redefine his meaning of success.

In Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies' family comedy "Imagine That," Evan and his seven-year-old daughter Olivia (Yara Shahidi) find it impossible to connect. He's too distracted by his career demands to understand the value of quality father-daughter time and she has all but given up on her Daddy. When the promotion of a lifetime is suddenly within his reach, Evan finds himself torn between his parental responsibilities and staving off his company rival, the annoyingly pseudo-mystical Johnny Whitefeather (Thomas Haden Church). Evan has always been a man in complete control, but when he really starts to lose it, Olivia steps in with her own bit of advice - winning stock tips courtesy of the princesses and queen who she visits through her security blanket - her "Goo-Gaa."

With Olivia and her imaginary friends leading the way, Evan is suddenly plunged into a world of dragons and other magical creatures - most of whom prove to be much less dangerous than some of his co-workers. He finds himself singing and dancing in public, eating ketchup-and-mustard-covered pancakes, and laughing with Olivia well into the night - and prospering in his career at the same time. Evan's growing need to climb even higher on the corporate ladder leads him to do some insanely childish things. It also makes him lose track of what is most valuable in his life. In the end, he learns that true success cannot be found in a stock portfolio.

Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies Present a di Bonaventura Pictures Production "Imagine That" starring Eddie Murphy, Thomas Haden Church, Yara Shahidi, Nicole Ari Parker, Ronny Cox and Martin Sheen. Karey Kirkpatrick directs the film from a screenplay written by Ed Solomon & Chris Matheson. The film is produced by Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Ed Solomon. Ric Kidney is the executive producer. The director of photography is John Lindley, ASC. The production designer is William Arnold. The film editor is David Moritz. The costume designer is Ruth E. Carter. The music is by Mark Mancina. The film has been rated PG for some mild language and brief questionable behavior.

## IMAGINING "IMAGINE THAT"

### "Soppida's Dragon! Please let me pass!"

- Evan

Evan Danielson's (Eddie Murphy) life, like that of so many parents today, can sometimes be all work and no play. He listens to his daughter without hearing her, is absent even when he's present. Without meaning to, he is neglecting his parental responsibilities as he chases career advancement. Never in his wildest dreams would it dawn on him that the secret to his success might spring from the imagination of his young daughter, Olivia (Yara Shahidi). This is the world conjured up in the inventive new family comedy from Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies, "Imagine That."

Ed Solomon, a busy writer and producer, was taking his six-year-old son Evan to school. In true out-of-the-mouth-of-babes fashion, Evan said something it took weeks for Solomon to truly hear, but when he finally did, it proved to be the inspiration for "Imagine That."

"While driving with my son," recalls Solomon, "I had to do something I usually don't do - make a phone call while he was in the car with me. Afterwards, I apologized and explained that I was in the middle of a business crisis that required immediate attention. The person on the other end was not being pleasant, and asking for things that were unfair. Evan simply said, 'Why don't you just kick him out?' I went on to explain in detail how that wasn't an option and why. I thought it was cute that he had such a straightforward, but clearly uninformed, answer. Three weeks later, with still no resolution to this problem, we actually had to fire the person. A few days later, he returned and apologized for being unfair and we proceeded to finish our work together."

It turned out my son was exactly right. That's when I had the idea: What if a guy had a son who had better business sense than he did?"

As Solomon developed the idea, he adjusted it to create a fresh and different look at a particular family dynamic. "The father-son relationship immediately bored me because, first of all, it seemed really pedestrian and, secondly, there are so many movies about fathers and sons. But then I thought about my daughter, who is a formidable presence and whose powerful feminine spirit is sometimes a bit intimidating for me. I remembered her vibrant imaginary world and realized that a father-daughter story would show the story from a unique perspective and that if the source of her business insight was the characters from within her imaginary world, the entire film would be much more magical and, hopefully, more special."

Enter the "Goo-Gaa."

"My daughter has a purple blanket," continues Solomon. The security comforter was the inspiration for the Goo-Gaa that belongs to the main character's daughter Olivia and is the wellspring for her imaginary world. "I thought the comedic hook could be that only Olivia has access to these imaginary characters and only through this blanket," Solomon adds. "Now I had a story about a guy who resents the heck out of the fact that his daughter carries around a security blanket everywhere she goes and he does everything he can to separate her from it. When he finds out that it may actually have magic powers that will help him succeed in his career, his attitude suddenly changes."

Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Solomon have been friends for years. When the idea for the story came up during a vacation, there was an immediate connection. Both men have young children and had been looking to work together on a project for a long time. "Imagine That" seemed to be the right project at the right time.

"Ed and I were on a family whitewater rafting trip together," recalls di Bonaventura, "and he told me about the fantasy world his daughter had created. As we spoke, Ed began to shape the story."

Several months later, Solomon turned to another friend and fellow writer, Chris Matheson, to help him write the screenplay. Matheson previously co-wrote the hit comedies "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey" with Solomon.

"Chris and I were working on an animated project for the internet and had been looking for a new film to write together," Solomon adds. "After I sold Lorenzo on the idea, I suggested we bring Chris in to write it with me."

With a solid script in hand, the journey of "Imagine That" continued to move toward the screen as di Bonaventura next sought out a director for the project, as well as the ideal actor to play Evan.

## **IMAGINE THAT PERFECT ENSEMBLE**

**"Hi Moppida and Koopida. I'm Mr. Danielson. I'm Olivia's Dad"**  
- Evan

The emotional core of "Imagine That" was the relationship between Evan and his daughter, Olivia, and the Goo-Gaa fantasy that ultimately brings them together. The role of Evan would require a balance of playing an ordinary parent who suddenly finds himself in extraordinary and comical circumstances. The actor would need to be someone with a flawless sense of comedy and a proven track record in family comedy, as well as his own magical ability to concoct original and memorable characters.

Sounds like a job for Eddie Murphy.

"After the second draft was finished, we contacted Eddie and sent him the script," recalls di Bonaventura. "Eddie was exactly the character we imagined. His ability to convey a range of emotions was crucial and, of course, his comedic versatility is without peer."

Both di Bonaventura and Solomon quickly discovered that the Oscar®-nominated star of "Dreamgirls" and the wildly successful "Shrek" and "Dr. Dolittle" franchises took an immediate liking to the script. "I responded to the story of 'Imagine That' emotionally," says Murphy. "I found it to be a sweet emotional piece, and it also offered the opportunity to find some funny moments."

Solomon was impressed with Murphy's instincts and his unique approach to the role of Evan Danielson. "Eddie knows how to be truthful and play the tiniest of moments with genuine poignancy," he adds. "Yet he never gets maudlin or sappy. Then, when the story calls for broadness and comic desperation, Eddie is never afraid to go all out without ever going over the top. At every stage, he is perfectly modulated. There's only one word for him, awesome."

Murphy smiles, "I really got into the spirit of this story. It's a movie about a man who starts off feeling like he's been cursed with this oddly imaginative child. But, in the end, he realizes that he's truly blessed to have such a wonderfully unique daughter in his life. Evan was a nicely defined and nuanced character, who grows throughout the story."

With Murphy anchoring "Imagine That," the producers began their search for a director who could bring to the project the right balance of humor, sensitivity and emotional honesty. Although this would be his first time at the helm of a live-action film, Karey Kirkpatrick was the clear-cut choice.

As a writer, Kirkpatrick had created family-friendly fare that displayed heart and humor, including the Golden Globe-nominated film "Chicken Run," "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and the wildly popular "Over the Hedge."

Di Bonaventura explains, "From the first meeting with Karey, he fundamentally understood the movie we were trying to make. But what really sold us was that in each subsequent meeting he brought in new

ideas and was able to shape them in a collaborative way. His background was pitch-perfect for reaching the widest possible audience we felt this movie could appeal to."

Moving forward with its ensemble cast, the filmmakers sought out Oscar®-nominated actor Thomas Haden Church ("Sideways") to portray Evan's archrival, Johnny Whitefeather. The recent Emmy Award winner for Walter Hill's "Broken Trail" (for which he also earned Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations) is blessed with a signature voice and sense of humor that would add considerable dimension to his role of the not-quite-who-he-seems Whitefeather. Church had already worked with Kirkpatrick previously on "Over the Hedge" and "Charlotte's Web," which re-affirmed his confidence that Kirkpatrick would be able to guide this project with the same skill and understanding he provided on their previous collaborations.

"The only way you're going to establish the necessary trust bond with a director," offers Haden Church, "especially with a first-time director, is to be confident they know what they're doing. And I came into the movie certain of this, having worked with Karey on two other pictures. Even though those films were animated features, he knows how to make adjustments in the moment. He's very precise in directing performance."

Finding a child actor to fill a pivotal role in a film is always a challenge, and casting the ideal Olivia proved to be no exception. The part demanded a youngster with personality and natural innocence who also had stamina, since she is in more than half the film's scenes. Add to that the pressure of being confident enough to share those scenes with a powerhouse talent like Murphy. The needle-in-a-haystack assignment of finding that spot-on young actress fell to casting director Jeanne McCarthy, who instituted a national search.

More than 3,000 young hopefuls were either submitted through agencies or tried their luck at an open call in Los Angeles. Casting sessions were also held through agencies in Miami, Texas, New York, Chicago and Washington, DC. After culling through hundreds of candidates, the search was narrowed to five hopefuls, who came to Los Angeles for screen tests and meetings. The top three finalists were tested opposite Murphy.

L.A.'s own Yara Shahidi clicked with Murphy, winning the hearts of the star and the filmmakers. "Imagine That" marks her feature film debut.

Recalls Murphy, "I first read with her and the other girls. All of them were adorable, but Yara was the most special. Something just clicked between us."

"Yara has that most elusive of qualities - star power," says di Bonaventura. "The screen absolutely lights up when she's on. Her chemistry with Eddie was immediate and her ability to take direction astounded us."

Relishing the task of serving a memorable meal of condiment-heavy pancakes to a cultural icon - one of her favorite scenes - was an unforgettable moment for the young Shahidi. Her thoughts on their first meeting? "Mr. Eddie is super funny in person," Shahidi giggles. "It was great working with him! He is really, really nice....and smart!"

Rounding out the ensemble are Nicole Ari Parker, Ronny Cox, DeRay Davis and, in a special appearance, Martin Sheen.

Multi-talented actress Nicole Ari Parker was cast as Trish, Evan's wife, from whom he is separated. Best known for work in such films as "Remember the Titans" and the "Soul Food" TV series, Parker found much to appreciate in her role.

"I was so excited," offers Parker candidly, "because a lot of people write the wife or the ex-wife as someone with nothing to say or as a real pill, which is supposed to explain why she's the ex-wife. But with Trish, the writers took the trouble to really develop her character. They gave her a real personality and let us see the situation from her perspective as well."

Veteran performer Ronny Cox plays Evan's boss, Mr. Stevens. With over a hundred films to his credit, Cox here is reunited with Murphy, with whom he worked as Lieutenant Bogomil in "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Beverly Hills Cop II." The actor knew the challenges ahead could only enhance the final film.

"I knew the problem they were going to have with this film," Cox says. "It was that it would be so funny it would be hard to settle on which take to use. If they ever put together a reel where they just show all the stuff that's not in the film, it could be a hit film in itself."

The talents of stand-up comedian/actor DeRay Davis as John, one of Evan's best friends, are immediately evident in the scenes in which he tries to psychoanalyze his overworked buddy, Evan.

"My character talks to grown men and gets them to find their inner child," explains Davis. "Hopefully it exists inside of them, and my job is to make it come out. But no one likes it, especially Evan. John helps a lot of the athletes and he is now trying to help Evan connect with his daughter."

Martin Sheen joins the cast for a small, but pivotal, role as financial guru extraordinaire Dante D'Enzo.

"I play this financial tycoon who is kind of a legendary financier," comments Sheen, "and these lads are vying for an opportunity to be a part of his company. They're both kind of presenting an audition piece, if you will, and their ideas about what they might do for our company."

Kirkpatrick and Sheen had several conversations about the character and the names of rich, big business titans were bantered about. Kirkpatrick preferred to think of D'Enzo as more Warren Buffet than Donald Trump, and Sheen agreed.

"Karey said that really powerful men or women don't have to express it," recalls Sheen. "Buffett gave most of his fortune away to the Gates Foundation to serve the Third World. I mean, that was a reflection of who he was, and I would like to think that, if I were in that situation, I'd do the same. So he was the image we chose. If Warren Buffet is listening and watching, I hope we did you justice."

### **IMAGINING "THAT" About The Design Team**

**"And Qwali. Thank you for, well, for letting me into your land. Because, honestly, it's very beautiful and fantastic."**

**- Evan**

Seeking to set "Imagine That" somewhere other than the obvious and overused Los Angeles and New York, the production searched for a believable and appropriately sized city. It would need to be a place that was sophisticated enough to be the home base for a major financial management company and still lend the film a different look.

"We wanted to get out of the L.A.-New York mind-set," acknowledges di Bonaventura. "We all knew Denver. My sister lives there, as do some friends. We felt it was a big enough city to house a major money-management firm. Also, we liked having a touch of the West, since Thomas Haden Church's character, Johnny Whitefeather, claims some Native American blood. The main advantage of filming in Denver is that it's a city that hasn't been used a lot in films. So there were a lot of choices that looked fresh and inviting."

Once the creative team began to scout the city for specific exteriors and interiors, the beauty of the city, its architecture and its spectacular vistas, quickly validated their choice to center the story there.

A variety of locations were chosen in and around the Mile-High City, including the historic Brown Palace Hotel in downtown. Built in 1892, the hotel with its unique carved sandstone façade has been host to diverse guests from U.S. presidents such as Teddy Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower to pop idols like the Beatles. Another of the production's locations, built in the late 1890s and also designed by architect Frank Edbrooke, was the George Schleier Mansion, which stood in as Trish's place of business.

Additionally, the Pepsi Center, home of the Denver Nuggets basketball team, was the site of a scene featuring Nuggets players Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony, who played themselves in the film.

Kirkpatrick was keen to surround himself with a group of top creative behind-the-scenes craftsmen. "The key to directing," he says, "is to hire a lot of people who know a lot more than you, and let them do what they do."

Assisting Kirkpatrick on every shot was director of photography John Lindley, whom Kirkpatrick referred to as his "right-hand man," and who was crucial in helping the director bring his vision to the screen.

"John shot one of my top-ten favorite movies of all time, 'Field of Dreams,'" Kirkpatrick says. "I could not have done this film without him. If you like the way this movie looks, you have to credit John. And even more than that, he has incredible story sense and a great feel for, not just pretty pictures, but the best way to use the camera to tell the story emotionally. He was an absolutely invaluable creative partner."

In addition to Lindley, Kirkpatrick's creative team included Academy Award®-nominated (for "Malcolm X" and "Amistad") costume designer Ruth E. Carter and noted production designer William Arnold.

"We started working about 12 weeks before shooting began," recalls Arnold. "We scouted Denver and Los Angeles to decide what would be shot where."

Many of the film's interiors were shot on the soundstages at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. None of them was more important to the story than Evan's loft. A man of good taste and money, Evan's apartment, as well as the suits he wears, needed to reflect his elegant, yet understated, style.

"The design for Evan's loft was based on scouting some of Denver's new luxury loft properties," explains Arnold. "We felt Evan would have selected a loft with the best view, one that was close to his workplace

downtown. He would have had a decorator furnish it with very little personal involvement. He would not be very connected to this space. The emptiness and oversized elements would make Evan look small, maybe even childlike. And as for Olivia, the place is almost overwhelming, not kid-friendly at all."

In keeping with the open and stark appearance of his apartment, the outfits Murphy wears were clean and sharp as well. Evan's clothes reflected how he saw himself as a successful and stylish businessman. Throughout the film, he is dressed in classic suits designed for him especially by costume designer Carter, who most recently worked with Murphy on "Meet Dave." The fabrics for each suit and shirt were carefully selected.

"Eddie's suits were all designed by me," says Carter. "I was very careful in selecting the fabrics that were light enough to be worn in Los Angeles, yet had a Midwest texture that would look suitable for a Denver climate."

Kirkpatrick was involved every step of the way in finalizing all of the design elements for the film - for the sets and for the costumes. And he recognized the importance of color selections in conveying feeling and mood.

"Karey was involved; he really liked the idea of striped tights for Olivia," continues Carter. "He even requested Evan's 'power suit' in the ranch scene, for it made him seem out of place in the rugged terrain. Karey liked the idea of using grey on Evan when his mood is 'grey' because the bottom has fallen out of his life and he's about to be fired."

At the other extreme from Evan's conservative style is that of his bitter rival. Whitefeather's look could not be more different than his rival in his approach to business and his preference for non-conformist office attire. Of uncertain ethnic background, Whitefeather is, nonetheless, playing the Native American card and his clothes have a distinctly Western feel. Carter found many of Whitefeather's outfits in well-known Denver outlets, including the Native American Trading Company and Shepler's Western Super Store.

Carter explains the difference in the two characters this way: "Overall, if one were to compare Evan's character with that of Whitefeather, you could say that they both, in their own way, had to look the part. Whitefeather adorned his exotic clothing accessories and details with traits of Native American culture, adding credibility to all the Native American metaphors he uses to impress potential investors."

Ultimately, while audiences may see the movie as a story about a father who learns to slow down and appreciate his daughter, and about the joys of imagination, Murphy wants them to come away with "that little fuzzy warm feeling you get when you've seen a good movie," he says. "You know, how you feel when you've had a good time and had some laughs. I don't want to send you away with a message, just a good feeling. Those are the kinds of movies I make. Good-time movies."

## **HOW THE CAST WOULD "IMAGINE THAT"**

**"You heard me! It's a sparkly company. And everybody loves sparkly things.**

## **So buy it! Because...it's sparkly!"**

**- Evan**

Throughout filming, the actors and filmmakers focused on one of the central themes of "Imagine That," the presence of imagination in our lives. It's a gift we all possess as children, and the lucky few who are open to it continue to exercise imagination into adulthood. The best actors and filmmakers possess unfettered imaginations, and help us see the world through its prism. So for the cast and filmmakers of "Imagine That," the theme of unleashing one's own imagination at any age was one they immediately took to heart. The following is a peek under their "Goo-Gaas" of inspiration.

Eddie Murphy: "Where would we be if we didn't have a chance to flex our imagination? Still, some of us tend to forget how to use it as adults because we have so much to deal with in our everyday lives. As a father, I'm always reminded by my children that you can still pretend and imagine. And it's even better when you spend time with them and create something together."

Thomas Haden Church: "I think that there is a wonderment, a kind of life-affirming eternal hope that dwells within children and what goes on in their imagination. Things are so mystical and magical to them. There's an innocence that unfortunately gets diminished as you get older, and it's just nice to be reminded of it."

Director Karey Kirkpatrick: "My favorite kind of kid is one with a spark in his or her eyes who is making things up and exploring the world and looking at it from their own unique perspective. With all three of my kids I sometimes see that moment happening and I try to surreptitiously set up a video camera to capture it. But usually they're hip to me. They see the red light coming on and it goes away. If you step into that world, you can see the way they get shaken out of it because it's something that's very private to them. I'm constantly intrigued by what must be going on in their heads. They're seeing things with an intensity that I've forgotten and I envy that. Kids use their mind in imaginative play in order to make sense of the world as they're starting to live in it, and that's how they learn how to grasp it."

Writer/Producer Ed Solomon: "For adults, 'Imagine That' is a story about a guy who thinks in terms of numbers and results, then suddenly discovers that he has a golden goose right under his nose. But in order to access the golden eggs, he needs to dive into a world of play and imagination - and a particularly feminine one at that. But for him it's not really about going into his (or her) imagination; it's really about a guy who comes to truly see and experience his daughter and the special world she inhabits. That is what truly sets him free as a parent and as a human being. For children, imagination is how they process the complexities of life. They use imagination and play. For a child, this is a story about a little girl whose father doesn't truly see her. Then she realizes that she has a gift that forces him to see her. It's the first time she's ever had any real power over him. The comedy comes from the fact that she is finally able to make him jump through hoops - and she does."

Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura: "Having two children has opened my eyes to the wonder of childhood and to the importance, as an adult, of trying to be open to unbridled imagination and enthusiasm. Grown-ups too often limit themselves, simply settling for what is possible. Imagination is about keeping one's universe as expansive as possible."

## ABOUT THE CAST

**EDDIE MURPHY (Evan Danielson)** most recently scored with the comedy hit "Norbit," in which he played three characters, Norbit, Rasputia and Mr. Wong, as well as being a screenwriter and producer. Prior to that, Murphy was seen in DreamWorks Pictures and Paramount Pictures' "Dreamgirls," for which he has earned critical acclaim, the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and Broadcast Film Critics Awards and an Oscar® nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of R&B singer James "Thunder" Early.

He was also recently heard as the voice of Donkey, whose non-stop talking nearly drove Shrek to distraction in the animated hit "Shrek the Third" and will again essay the character in the upcoming "Shrek Goes Fourth." Murphy won an Annie Award and earned BAFTA and MTV Movie Award nominations for his performance in the first award-winning "Shrek."

Murphy is the most commercially successful African-American actor in the history of the motion picture business, and is one of the industry's top-five box-office performers overall. Murphy is on the very short list of actors who have starred in multiple \$100 million pictures of the past three decades, from "Beverly Hills Cop" to "Daddy Day Care."

Murphy began his career as a stand-up comedian 25 years ago. In 1980, he joined the cast of "Saturday Night Live" at the age of 19, and has since gone on to establish a successful career on the big screen.

His films have been among the highest-grossing comedies in the industry, including "48 Hrs.," "Trading Places," "Dr. Dolittle," "Coming to America," and the "Beverly Hills Cop" franchise. Murphy garnered Golden Globe Award nominations for Best Actor in a Comedy for his performances in "Beverly Hills Cop," "Trading Places" and "48 Hrs."

In 1989, Murphy made his directorial debut with "Harlem Nights," a period comedy he also wrote and starred in, opposite Richard Pryor and Redd Foxx. In addition, Murphy starred in and produced the hit comedy "Life" co-starring Martin Lawrence, and starred opposite Steve Martin in the comedy hit "Bowfinger." He was also the voice of Mushu the Dragon in the successful animated epic "Mulan."

In 1996, Murphy portrayed seven different characters in the worldwide box office smash "The Nutty Professor," for which he received another Golden Globe Award nomination. He added a character to play a total of eight roles in the sequel "Nutty Professor II: The Klumps," co-starring Janet Jackson. His more recent hits include "Dr. Dolittle 2," "Daddy Day Care" and "The Haunted Mansion."

Murphy will next be seen in the comedy "A Thousand Words" and a remake of "The Incredible Shrinking Man."

**THOMAS HADEN CHURCH (Johnny Whitefeather)** received an Academy Award® nomination for his role as Jack, starring opposite Paul Giamatti in Alexander Payne's critically acclaimed film "Sideways." A Fox Searchlight Pictures release, "Sideways" premiered at the 29th Toronto International Film Festival and went on to win numerous awards in 2004 and 2005, including a Golden Globe for Best Comedy Picture, Broadcast Film Critics Award for Best Picture, a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award for Best Ensemble Cast and six Independent Spirit Awards. Church was also honored as Best Supporting Actor by the Broadcast Film Critics and the Independent Spirit Awards.

Church recently starred opposite Elisabeth Shue and Melissa Leo in "Don McKay," which premiered at the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival. Also this year, Church is starring in 20th Century Fox's dark comedy "All About Steve" opposite Sandra Bullock and Bradley Cooper as a manipulative, self-serving news reporter, Hartman Hughes. The film is set for release this fall.

Church's recent projects continue his mandate of tasteful choices as an actor. He starred opposite Dennis Quaid and Sarah Jessica Parker in Miramax's 2008 art-house film, "Smart People." He was also featured as the villain "Sandman" aka "Flint Marko" in the third installment of Sony Pictures' "Spider-Man" franchise, "Spider-Man 3," which was 2007's biggest box-office hit.

In 2007, Church won an Emmy Award and received Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations for his role as Tom Harte opposite the legendary Robert Duvall in the critically successful western epic "Broken Trail," directed by Walter Hill, which premiered on American Movie Classics. In 2006, Church utilized his unique voice in two voice-over roles: first as a cow in Dreamworks Animation's "Over the Hedge," and then as the crow, Brooks, in the remake of the classic "Charlotte's Web," released by Paramount Pictures.

Church made his feature film debut in the legendary "Tombstone" in 1993. His performance is hardly noteworthy, save for the way that he was riddled with bullets at the O.K. Corral. Church has proven himself to be a serviceable actor and is best known for his role as the bucket-headed mechanic Lowell Mather on the long-running NBC series "Wings." He is also known for his lead role in the FOX series "Ned and Stacey," in which he starred opposite Debra Messing as the self-righteous Ned Dorsey. In 1997, Time magazine proclaimed that "Ned Dorsey is one of the six reasons to watch television." That same year, and for the same performance, Church was declared "unfit to live with dogs" by National Public Radio.

Church has also had roles in numerous feature films, most notably opposite Brendan Fraser in the box-office blockbuster "George of the Jungle," and the straight-to-cable "Free Money" opposite the brilliant and bizarre Marlon Brando.

In addition, Church is co-screenwriter and director of the film "Rolling Kansas," which premiered as an official selection to the Sundance Film Festival in 2003. Acclaimed by no one, it now comfortably resides on Comedy Central.

Church resides on his ranch in Texas.

**YARA SHAHIDI (Olivia Danielson)** is making her motion picture debut starring opposite Eddie Murphy in "Imagine That." Shahidi was born and raised for the first four years of her life in Minneapolis, Minnesota, before her family made the move to California for her father's line of work. When she thinks back to what she misses most about Minnesota she will tell you, "Grampie and snow!"

She began her career at six weeks old, working alongside her mother in commercials and print ads. Shahidi can be seen in campaigns for Gap Kids, Guess Kids and Disney, to name a few. She frequently had the opportunity to work with her mother and younger brother in numerous print and broadcast campaigns. They can currently be seen in the Tropicana "Squeeze" commercial and print campaigns.

Shahidi is in the new ABC comedy "In the Motherhood," as Jessica St. Clair's daughter, which debuted March 26, 2009. She has the good fortune to be playing sister to her real-life brother, Sayeed, who is

also in the series. Her next film project is titled "Unthinkable," in which she and her real-life brother play the children of Samuel L. Jackson's character, and she was also recently cast in the Angelina Jolie film "Salt."

In her free time, Shahidi loves cooking with her father, learning to speak Farsi, traveling with her family, and conducting science experiments (she wants to build a laboratory in her garage one day). Her favorite subject in school is history, where she never tires of learning about the Renaissance.

Shahidi currently resides with her mother, father, two younger brothers and her fish, Cleophas.

Smart, classy, sexy, charming and versatile are just a few of the characteristics that define **NICOLE ARI PARKER (Trish)** and make her one of the hottest chameleons in the entertainment industry today. Parker's most recent appearance was in "Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins" with Martin Lawrence. Next up is the drama "Pastor Brown."

Parker is as adept at portraying strong, sexy women as she is at playing complicated, diverse characters. She has displayed her acting range in several mainstream and independent films, including "King's Ransom," "Brown Sugar," "Remember the Titans," "Blue Streak" with Martin Lawrence, "Boogie Nights" with Mark Wahlberg and the HBO Original Film "Dancing in September." She has also been featured in "200 Cigarettes," "Loving Jezebel," "Subway Stories" and "Sebastian Cole," a winner at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival.

Probably best known for captivating viewers each week in the outstanding role of Teri Joseph in Showtime's award-winning original series "Soul Food," Parker is much like the character of Teri, a strong, powerful woman, but also much more fun-loving. She recently starred opposite her then-fiancé Boris Kodjoe in the hit sitcom "Second Time Around," in which they played a once-married couple who, after years of being apart, decide to remarry and give their relationship a second try.

Parker has an extensive background in theater, having performed in off-Broadway productions such as "Chicago," "House of Lear" and "Romeo and Juliet." She also appeared in the television movies "The Wonderful World of Disney's The Loretta Claiborne Story," "Exiled" and "Mind Prey."

Growing up, Parker always knew she wanted to be an actress. She began pursuing her dream at the Baltimore Actors Theatre, and then it was on to Washington Ballet Company before moving to New York to continue her acting studies at New York University. She is a graduate of NYU's famed Tisch School of the Arts.

Recently, her natural beauty has been embraced by Oil of Olay in their nationwide special advertising campaign that ran in Vanity Fair, Harper's Bazaar, Elle and Vogue.

Parker has been nominated for six NAACP Image Awards and had the pleasure of presenting President Bill Clinton with a Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award at a ceremony hosted by the NAACP. She also received a special award at the Urban World Film Festival for Outstanding Body of Work as an Actress.

Parker is a participant of Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds homes for single mothers across the country, as well as in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada.

Parker, husband Boris Kodjoe and their two children, Sophie and Nicolas, divide their time between Los Angeles and Atlanta.

In January 2009, she was featured in People Magazine to introduce Sophie's Voice Foundation ([www.sophiesvoicefoundation.org](http://www.sophiesvoicefoundation.org)), the charitable organization she started with her husband to raise awareness about children and adults living with spina bifida.

Since his critically acclaimed debut in John Boorman's brilliant "Deliverance" in 1972, **RONNY COX (Tom Stevens)** has become one of the most respected and sought after character actors in Hollywood. His career has been marked by diversity, integrity and simplicity. Refusing to be pigeon-holed, he has played such diverse roles as Jerry Rubin in the BBC production of "The Chicago 7 Trial" (Britain's Television Show of the Year), the president of the United States in "Murder at 1600," editor Webb in the Peabody Award-winning production of "Our Town," John Ramsey in the CBS miniseries "Perfect Murder, Perfect Town," Ozark Blue, union-organizer and radio singer, in Hal Ashby's "Bound for Glory" and Warren G. Harding in the Pasadena Playhouse production of "Camping with Henry and Tom."

Cox has been in such mega-hits as "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Beverly Hills Cop II," both starring Eddie Murphy. He also played classic villains in "Robocop," "Total Recall" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Cox has also played a number of military and law enforcement characters in films including "Taps" co-starring Timothy Hutton, George C. Scott, Sean Penn and Tom Cruise; and Harold Becker's "The Onion Field" co-starring James Woods and Franklin Seales, as well as Chief Roger Kendrick in the short-lived series "Cop Rock."

In all, Cox has appeared in over 50 feature films and in innumerable television movies. On television, he starred in "Apple's Way," "St. Elsewhere" and "Sweet Justice." More recently, he appeared on "The Starter Wife."

Cox's stage work includes six years at Arena Stage, Broadway and off-Broadway, Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York, Shakespeare in the Park, and the touring company of "Summer and Smoke" with Eva Marie Saint, for which he won the Straw Hat Award.

Emmy and Golden Globe Award winner **MARTIN SHEEN (Dante D'Enzo)** is one of America's most celebrated, colorful and accomplished actors.

Moving flawlessly between artistic mediums, Sheen's acting range is breathtaking. On the big screen, the Ohio native has appeared in more than 65 feature films, including a star turn as Army Captain Benjamin L. Willard in Francis Ford Coppola's landmark film "Apocalypse Now," which brought Sheen worldwide recognition. The film also starred Marlon Brando, Dennis Hopper and Robert Duvall. Other notable credits include "Wall Street" co-starring son Charlie Sheen and Michael Douglas; the Academy Award®-winning "Ghandi" co-starring Sir Ben Kingsley; "Catch Me If You Can" with Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks; "The American President" co-starring Michael Douglas and Annette Bening; and his Golden Globe-nominated breakthrough performance as Timmy Cleary in "The Subject Was Roses" - a role he originated on Broadway and for which he received a Tony Award nomination as Best Featured Actor.

In 2006, Sheen appeared in two of the most lauded pictures of the year. He played ill-fated cop Oliver Queenan in Martin Scorsese's Academy Award® and Golden Globe-winning "The Departed" opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Mark Wahlberg and Alec Baldwin. He also was seen in another all-star ensemble cast, the highly acclaimed feature "Bobby" written and directed by his son Emilio Estevez. "Bobby" was nominated for a Golden Globe Award and a SAG Award and featured Anthony Hopkins, Harry Belafonte, Laurence Fishburne, Sharon Stone, William H. Macy, Elijah Wood, Demi Moore and Heather Graham.

Most recently, Sheen was seen in the thriller "Echelon Conspiracy" and in "Talk to Me" with Don Cheadle. Upcoming projects include the drama "Chamaco," the romantic drama "Traveling" and the ensemble drama "Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain."

For television, Sheen won an Emmy Award in 1994 for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series on the long-running sitcom "Murphy Brown" starring Candice Bergen. In 2006, Sheen was again nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series, this time for the CBS hit comedy "Two and a Half Men" starring Charlie Sheen.

Undoubtedly, Sheen is best recognized for his six-time Emmy nominated performance as President Josiah Bartlet in NBC's "The West Wing" (1999-2006). He won the Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor TV Series - Drama in 2001, as well as an ALMA Award and two individual SAG Awards for the White House-set series.

In addition to series television, Sheen has appeared in several important made-for-television movies and miniseries, including playing President John F. Kennedy in the miniseries "Kennedy," for which he received a Golden Globe nomination. Returning to his mother's native Ireland in 2006, Sheen fulfilled a lifelong dream of attending college, enrolling at the National University of Ireland, Galway. As a full-time student, he studied English literature, philosophy and oceanography.

Busy and diverse actor **DeRAY DAVIS (John Strother)** was recently seen in "Semi-Pro" opposite Will Ferrell, Andre 3000 and Woody Harrelson; the urban monster spoof "Frankenhood" with Charlie Murphy and Drew Sidora; and "License to Wed" opposite Mandy Moore and Robin Williams, as well as "School for Scoundrels," "Swap Meet" and "Code Name: The Cleaner."

Upcoming are "Old Dogs" with Robin Williams and John Travolta, the comedy/drama "3 of Us" and the romantic comedy "My Girlfriend's Back."

Davis' additional film credits include "The Fog," "Barbershop" and "Barbershop 2," the Will Smith-produced "The Seat Filler," "Johnson Family Vacation," "Jiminy Glick in Lalawood" and "Frank McKlusky."

On the small screen, Davis has been seen in HBO's "Entourage," Comedy Central's "Reno 911!" and "Premium Blend," ABC's "My Wife and Kids," Fox's "Cedric Presents...," VH1's "Love Lounge" and "Play'd," NBC's "Late Friday," and BET's "ComicView."

On the recording side, Davis wrote and performed the comedy skits on Kanye West's LPs "Late Registration" and "The College Dropout" and appeared at the 2006 Grammy Awards with West and Jamie Foxx. Davis can also be seen on MTV's "Wild N Out."

A born hustler from Chicago's South Side, Davis began his career in the comedy clubs and was first noticed by Hollywood at Atlanta's Laffapalooza Festival. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles, Davis won the Comedy Central Laugh Riots Competition and was a standout on the Cedric the Entertainer Tour and at the Montreal "Just for Laughs" Festival.

Davis currently resides in Los Angeles.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**KAREY KIRKPATRICK (Director)** has made a name for himself as the go-to writer of fantastical and family-friendly films with his keen sense of storytelling and smart, witty dialogue.

Kirkpatrick's first foray into directing, DreamWorks Animation's "Over the Hedge," premiered as an Official Selection at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. The film followed a raccoon who cons a close-knit group of forest creatures into helping him repay a debt of food by invading the new suburban sprawl that popped up while they were hibernating. The film, co-directed with Tim Johnson, was released in May 2006 and has grossed over \$330 million worldwide.

Kirkpatrick's next project will be directing "The Best a Man Can Get" based on John O'Farrell's novel *The Best a Man Can Get: A Novel of Fatherhood and Its Discontents* published in 2002 by Broadway Books. O'Farrell and Kirkpatrick will share screenwriting duties. Kirkpatrick will also produce, along with Kathleen Kennedy. Set in London, the film revolves around a commitment-phobic musician who leads a double life. In one life, he shares a bachelor pad with three pals, but in the other, he is also a married man and father of two small children. Kirkpatrick is also set to direct "Captain Abdul's Pirate School" for Nickelodeon Movies. Both films will be produced under Kirkpatrick's Blue Shirt Productions shingle through Nickelodeon/MTV.

Previously, Kirkpatrick wrote "James and the Giant Peach," "Flakes," "The Little Vampire," "Chicken Run" (which was nominated for a Golden Globe in 2000), "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," "Charlotte's Web," "Over the Hedge" and "The Spiderwick Chronicles," which he also produced. He contributed as a writer or story consultant on "The Road to El Dorado," "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" and "Madagascar."

Originally from Louisiana, Kirkpatrick is an alum of the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he won the Robert Riskin Screenwriting Award and the Jack Nicholson Screenwriting Award. After graduation, Kirkpatrick joined Disney Animation as a staff writer, where he began his career by co-writing the screenplay for "The Rescuers Down Under."

**ED SOLOMON (Written By/Producer)** has worked on numerous films, both as an original writer or contributing writer.

His solo screenplay credits include the blockbuster sci-fi action comedy "Men in Black" starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith, "Leaving Normal," and the independent film "Levity," which he also directed. He has been a contributing writer (credited and uncredited) on such films as "X-Men", "Charlie's Angels" and "The In-Laws" starring Michael Douglas and Albert Brooks. Solomon shared writing credits with Chris Matheson on "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and its sequel "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey." Among his television writing credits are "It's Garry Shandling's Show." He is currently writing "Tokyo

Suckerpunch" for Sony Pictures and director Gary Ross (to star Tobey Maguire), and "The Hardy Men" for 20th Century Fox (to star Ben Stiller and Tom Cruise).

Solomon lives in Santa Monica with his two children, Evan and Olivia.

**CHRIS MATHESON (Written by)** has partnered with Ed Solomon on several previous screenplays, including "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey." He served as both the director and screenwriter on "Evil Alien Conquerors" and "The Wise Ones."

Additional credits as screenwriter include the feature films "Mr. Wrong" and "A Goofy Movie."

Matheson currently lives in Oregon.

**LORENZO di BONAVENTURA (Producer)** formed di Bonaventura Pictures in 2003. Since that time, the company has enjoyed global box office success on such recent films as "Transformers" starring Shia LaBeouf, "Four Brothers" starring Mark Wahlberg and "Constantine" starring Keanu Reeves.

Located on the Paramount lot, di Bonaventura Pictures also produced "Shooter" starring Mark Wahlberg and Danny Glover, the chilling "1408," the critically acclaimed "Stardust" and the current "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" and the upcoming "G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra."

In February 1989, di Bonaventura joined Warner Bros. While at the studio, he was involved in over 130 productions. Among the biggest commercial and critical successes were "Falling Down" (1996), "Three Kings" (1999), "The Matrix" (1999), "Analyze This" (2000), "The Perfect Storm" (2000), "Ocean's Eleven" (2001), "Training Day" (2001) and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (2001).

Di Bonaventura received his undergraduate degree at Harvard College and earned a Master of Business Administration at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He began his professional life operating a river-rafting company and later joined Columbia Pictures and worked in distribution, marketing, and in the office of the president. Di Bonaventura has served on the board of directors of the American Cinematheque since 2003 and is a member of the Producers Guild of America.

**RIC KIDNEY (Executive Producer)** has previously served as producer or executive producer on such films as "Shooter," "Four Brothers," "Flight of the Phoenix," "The Rundown," "The Recruit," "Life or Something Like It," "Legally Blonde," "Mercury Rising," "Fear," "The Chamber," "A Simple Twist of Fate," "Six Degrees of Separation," "Other People's Money" and "After Dark, My Sweet."

During a feature film career spanning over two decades, JOHN LINDLEY, ASC (Director of Photography) has established longstanding creative collaborations, which include the multiple features he has shot for such directors as Mel Damski (the telefilms "An Invasion of Privacy" and "Badge of the Assassin"), Nora Ephron ("Michael," "You've Got Mail," "Lucky Numbers" and "Bewitched"), Jonathan Kaplan ("Immediate Family" and the telefilms "The Gentleman Bandit" and "Girls of the White Orchid"), Phil Alden Robinson (the Academy Award®-nominated "Field of Dreams," "Sneakers," "The Sum of All Fears" and "In the Mood"), Joseph Ruben ("The Stepfather," "Sleeping with the Enemy," "The Good Son," "Money Train" and "True Believer") and Charles Shyer ("Father of the Bride" and "I Love Trouble").

Lindley's work on Gary Ross' "Pleasantville," in both black-and-white and color, brought him acclaim as well as award nominations from the Online Film Critics Society and the Chlotrudis Society for Independent Film, among others.

After studying his craft at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, the native New Yorker began his career in documentaries for the BBC and in U.S. television.

Lindley's early credits included the TV series "Nurse," starring Michael Learned, and Emile Ardolino's Academy Award®-winning documentary feature "He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" (about choreographer Jacques d'Amboise).

Lindley's other feature credits as cinematographer include Laurie Anderson's "Home of the Brave," Wes Craven's "The Serpent and the Rainbow," Jon Amiel's "The Core," Jeff Nathanson's "The Last Shot" and, more recently, Bruce A. Evans' "Mr. Brooks," Terry George's "Reservation Road" and Scott Stewart's "Legion."

He has also shot music videos (notably, the Talking Heads' "Road to Nowhere," now included in the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection) and commercials (including the award-winning FedEx "Desert Island" spot).

**WILLIAM ARNOLD (Production Designer)** most recently crafted the production design for Michael Dowse's "Young Americans" and Paul Weitz's "Cirque du Freak." Other recent credits include Weitz's "American Dreamz" and "In Good Company," as well as Wayne Wang's "Last Holiday" and Steve Martin's "Shopgirl."

Arnold studied theater and design in his native state of Rhode Island before moving on to Chicago to pursue a career in the theater. He soon began working in motion pictures as well and, eventually, as art director on such feature films as "Music Box," "Losing Isaiah," "The Bridges of Madison County," "Primal Fear" and "Snow Falling on Cedars." Since moving to Los Angeles, his art direction credits have also included "L.A. Confidential" and "Pleasantville." Both films earned him Academy Award® nominations for Best Art Direction.

Arnold made his debut as a production designer on the feature film "Mo' Money." His other feature production design credits include "Magnolia," "Punch-Drunk Love" and "Confidence."

**DAVID MORITZ's (Film Editor)** most recent credits include "Hannah Montana: The Movie" and two films with director Richard La Gravenese: "P.S. I Love You" and "Freedom Writers." He has also worked with director Wes Anderson on three films: "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," "Rushmore" and "Bottle Rocket."

Moritz's additional film credits include "Elizabethtown," "Secondhand Lions," "A Guy Thing," "Knockaround Guys," "The Affair of the Necklace" and "Broken Vessels." Moritz is currently working on the "Untitled Nancy Meyers Project" for Universal.

**RUTH E. CARTER (Costume Designer)**, a two-time Academy Award® nominee for her work on Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," most recently designed the costumes for "Spread," "Black Dynamite" and "Meet Dave," as well as the upcoming Halle Berry project "Frankie and Alice."

She is a long-time designer for Spike Lee, having worked on nine of his films. Carter's numerous film credits include collaborations with directors John Singleton and Joss Whedon.

Carter holds bachelors and masters degrees in Theater Arts from Hampton University. She has enjoyed over 20 years as a professional film costume designer.

**MARK MANCINA (Music)** has written film scores in every genre: drama, action, comedy, epic and suspense. His honors include three Grammy Awards, an American Music Award, Britain's Ivor Novello Award and a Tony Award nomination.

Born in Santa Monica, Mancina began his musical training at an early age, focusing on classical guitar, classical piano and composition. His scores frequently feature his own performances on piano, guitar, bass, percussion and drums, highlighting unique sounds harvested from a personal collection of traditional, exotic and custom instruments from around the world.

His recent career highlights include composing the score for "August Rush," a touching drama starring Freddie Highmore; "Hurricane Season," a drama set in New Orleans starring Forest Whitaker; and the Antoine Fuqua film "Shooter." He also co-scored the CBS primetime drama "Criminal Minds" and co-composed the new Walt Disney Pictures opening title treatment.

Previously, Mancina worked on the urban drama "Training Day," providing an evocative score that is still widely used as a temp track; and "Speed," which influenced the sound of subsequent action movies. He was also the composer on "Twister," "Bad Boys," "Tarzan" and "Moll Flanders."

Mancina added Broadway to his list of accomplishments when he co-wrote songs and produced the score for the musical production of "The Lion King," collaborating with Lebo M. and director Julie Taymor to create the distinctive musical atmosphere of the Tony Award-winning show.

Attracted to a life of music by his classical background, Mancina continues to expand his repertoire and draw inspiration from fellow musicians.