

Jim Belushi

Tim Curry



Once Upon a Christmas Village



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DREAM BALLOON ENTERTAINMENT

Starring

JIM BELUSHI AND TIM CURRY

Run Time 14 Minutes 40 seconds

Press Contact

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About the Film

In this animated musical romantic comedy, Santa Claus is having his worst night ever! During a near miss with Air Force One, he loses his pocket watch, a timepiece possessing magical powers to stop time and bring inanimate objects to life. The watch falls to earth, down a chimney and lands in a Christmas tree. Under the tree is a beautiful stained glass village populated with toy villagers. The magic of the watch brings these plastic villagers to life as we meet the lovers, Troy and Noelle.

An unexpected toy arrives (Dragasaurus) and wreaks havoc in the village. Troy bravely faces the dragon and the ensuing action results in Troy's transport by a toy train to the dark side of the tree where no one decorates. There lies a hidden gift, Sir Evil Medieval and his castle. Troy learns that Sir Evil and his henchmen plan to melt down the village people in the Suzy bake set, another gift under the tree, and mold them into an army. Troy warns the villagers, only to be caught by Sir Evil. Troy eventually defeats the evil villain and is rewarded with a kiss by Noelle. The spirit of Christmas is saved with love's first kiss, and Santa finds his enchanted watch.



About the Production

Filming began August 24th, 2006, on the first-ever short film to use the technology of motion capture computer generated animation with live action backgrounds. The process called for a Boris scope lens made by Panavision and was shot with an HD camera.

The crew shot several angles and panned in and out of focus to give each shot a depth of field. This process allowed placement of the CGI characters in the foreground while making them appear as though they were on set. The combination of the live tree and CGI animation elements provided a pleasing aesthetic from every angle.

The Christmas village was made out of stained glass and lit using several LCD lights that provided a warm light source. Back lighting was included to give the village a more magical feel. The castle interior and exterior was designed by Kit Stolen and constructed by Emmy Award Special Effects winner Ron Thornton. Ron modeled, constructed and painted all the miniature sets. The live action set was constructed by Emmy Award winner Lee Stringer.

The music was conducted by Dani Donadi, who also wrote the score. Dani and Michael Attardi wrote all the songs and recorded Tim Curry in London, England and Jim Belushi in Hollywood. The film was completed on December 22, 2006.

About the Filmmakers

MICHAEL ATTARDI

- *Writer*
- *Director*
- *Producer*
- *Co-Music Producer*
- *Screenwriter and Lyricist*

Michael Attardi has long been fascinated with the animated works of Walt Disney. Since 1997, he has worked with former Disney animators while taking courses at the Disney Institute in Orlando, Florida. Michael wrote his first musical animation in 1999. This inspiration guided him to write several musical screenplays and soundtracks.

Michael majored in English and Musical Theatre at Kutztown University. He has won three Perri Awards, The Anncey Film Festival and the Slamdance Film Festival for Best Original Soundtrack in 2005. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America, East and the Society of composers and lyricist. Michael has 198 musical U.S. copyrights.

Michael lives in Port Monmouth, New Jersey with his wife Colleen and two beautiful sons, Michael and Nathaniel.

JOSEPH A. ANSELMO

- *Executive Producer*

Joseph A. Anselmo has 26 years of entrepreneurial experience in business, finance and technology in the transportation, telecommunications and e-commerce industries. Joseph started Music Quest Management in 1989, managed several singer songwriters. Clients included Regis Branson, songwriter for Alex Bugnon, Will Downing, and Najee. Joseph also manages/executive produces the music career of his wife, Mariel, who has just completed her first album with producer/Engineer Elliot Scheiner. It's release is scheduled for late 2007. Since June 2006, Joseph has been involved with the day to day management of Dream Balloon Productions.

Joseph graduated from Farleigh Dickson University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He lives in Morganville, New Jersey.

JEFF SCHEETZ

- *Animation Producer*

Jeff Scheetz has over 15 years experience in media production and the film industry. Mr. Scheetz has a thorough knowledge of visual storytelling through film, video and animation. He is a member of The Visual Effects Society and The Television Academy. Prior to opening The DAVE Studio, Jeff worked for Foundation Imaging, NewTek Inc., Nickelodeon Studios, Universal Studios Florida, Walt Disney Imagineering and The Disney MGM Studios.



Noelle
Voice by Amanda Davis

DANI DONADI

- *Original Score*
- *Musical Producer*
- *Arranger*

Dani was born in Venice, Italy. After studying composition, orchestration and sound design/engineering in Italy and France, he moved to the United States in 1988. He has worked for the Walt Disney Company as a musical artist in Epcot and other venues at Disney. Dani has produced the internationally acclaimed CD collection *Relaxing With Nature*, as well as artists like Glenn Knight, Nova Era, Ronni Christopher, and Taimane, to name a few. In addition to *Once Upon A Christmas Village*, Dani has composed, arranged and orchestrated the score for several films, including *Twin Treasures*, *Zandora*, *Defending Camelot*, *Cereal*, and *The Sailors Swing* for Dream Balloon Productions, Inc. Currently, Dani is a featured Italian singer at the Portifino Hotel Resort at Universal Studios. Dani also operates his own recording studio in the heart of central Florida, Wolfgang Productions.

PAUL "KIT" STOLEN

• Art Director

Based in New York City, Paul K. Stolen is a graduate of Mason Gross School of Art in conjunction with the London Academy, where he earned a BFA in Theatrical Design. Paul has worn many hats in the entertainment business. Some include:

scenic and costume design, prop construction, creature design, tailoring, and studio works. Selected credits include design for original musical production *Time Traveler Zero Zero*, costumes and scenic design for the original production *Hard Times Blues*, scenic designs for the Sci-Fi films *Megolodon*, *Five* and *The Mystery of Irma Vep*.

MICHAEL DAVIS

• Associate Music Producer

Michael Davis recently retired as the Band and Orchestra director for the Walt Disney World Resort. During his tenure with Walt Disney World, he conducted the Walt Disney World Band and Orchestra and appeared on national TV specials as "Major Mike". Michael also served as manager of Atmosphere Talent and Education Programs at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Within the educational programs, he was responsible for the development of educational workshops offered by Disney Magic Music Days and was also responsible for the show concept, audition process and the operational procedures for Disney's Collegiate All-Star Band and Orchestra ensembles. Although he has retired from Walt Disney World, he remains active, serving as a contract conductor, music director, and consultant.

Mike was awarded a Doctor of Music Honaris Causa from VanderCook College of Music in 1994. Additionally, in 1981 he was awarded the "Orpheus Award" by Phi Mu Alpha for significant contribution to the cause of music in America. Mike received the Distinguished Service Award from VanderCook College of Music in 1991.

ANDY VAN ROON

• Co-Executive Producer

Andy VanRoon has several years experience producing live theater and film, including *The Y2K Project* with Leonard Nimoy in 1999. He is a leading member of the vibrant Nashville film industry, serving as Founding President of Film Nashville, an

organization serving over 1800 individuals and businesses in film and television; produced the *48 Hour Film Project Nashville* [overseeing 124 short films 2003-2006]; launched *Arts Health America* Film/TV Health Coverage program and creator/chairman of The Nashy Award. He represented Nashville at the American Film Market Los Angeles, secured office for organization in Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau, and is currently working with the Tennessee Film Commission and city film offices across the state on legislation to fund increased film/TV activity.

MARK SIMON

• Story Board Illustrator

Mark Simon is an award-winning author, illustrator, film and TV designer, special effects designer, business owner, animator, storyboard artist, lecturer, producer and director. One of his companies, Animatics & Storyboards, Inc., is the largest storyboard house in the Southern United States, and his other company A&S Animation, Inc. has won over 40 international awards. He has written, directed and produced award-winning animations such as *Timmy's Lessons In Nature*, *Suburban Cinderella*, and *A Message From God*. His design and illustration work have been seen in Showtime's *Dexter*, Disney's *The Waterboy*, Steven Spielberg/NBC's *seaQuest DSV*, many Nickelodeon series, and numerous comedy and science fiction series and feature films for companies such as HBO, NBC, Fox, ABC, Universal, Disney, and Comedy Central.

Mr. Simon has over 20 years of entertainment industry experience and has worked on over 2,500 productions. In 1999 he was voted one of the top 40 business people under 40 in Central Florida.



Troy
Voice by Michael Attardi

About the Talent

JIM BELUSHI

Santa

The first thing you need to know about Jim Belushi is that he is a performer. Not an actor, not a comedian, not a singer, but a performer. Which is pretty much all of those things put together and multiplied by two or five or something.

The second thing you need to know— and this is in some ways more important than the first thing— is that he has absolutely no shame. None. Zip. Zero.

Add those two things together and you have a pretty good working definition of that most indescribable of qualities known as presence. And, as anyone who's spent two minutes with the guy knows, Jim's got it big time.

So here's this guy, this presence, disregarding any and all warning signs and diving into life headfirst. From the live stages of *Second City* and *Saturday Night Live* to the soundstages of *About Last Night*, *K-9*, *Curly Sue*, *Mr. Destiny* and most recently *Return To Me*, he has taken everything life's thrown at him and hit it out of the park. And by the way, he's been having a blast.



TIM CURRY

Sir Evil

Acclaimed British actor and two-time Tony Award nominee Tim Curry first came to the attention of American audiences in the cult phenomenon *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* which was his motion picture debut. He has gone on to a diverse career with film credits that include *Kinsey*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Scary Movie 2*, *The Scoundrel's Wife*, *Addams Family Reunion*, *McHale's Navy*, *The Muppets Treasure Island*, *Congo*, *The Shadow*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Loaded Weapon 1*, *Home Alone 2*, *Passed Away*, *Oscar*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Pass the Ammo*, *Clue*, *Legend*, *The Ploughman's Lunch*, *Annie*, *Times Square* and *The Shout*.

On television, Curry has been seen in numerous mini-series and telefilms including starring as Will Shakespeare in *Life of Shakespeare* and in *Attila* for USA Network. Other television credits include *Jackie's Back!* for Lifetime, *Titanic* for CBS, *It* for ABC, *The Worst Witch* for HBO and *Oliver Twist*, for CBS. He also starred in several films for the BBC: *Three Men in a Boat* directed by Stephen Frears, *Napoleon and Love* and *Schmoedipus*. Curry was part of the initial cast of *Family Affair* and *Over the Top*, a series regular on *Wiseguy*, and has had recurring roles in Showtime's *Rude Awakening* and *Earth 2*. He has also been a guest host of *Saturday Night Live*.

In theater, Curry earned Tony Award nominations for his Broadway roles in *Amadeus*, for which he played Mozart, and *My Favorite Year*. He also starred in Broadway's *Travesties*. On the London stage, Curry has starred in the Royal National Theater productions *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Rivals*, *Love for Love* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Curry also starred in both the London and Broadway productions of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.



Credits

Written, Directed & Produced by
Executive Producer/Producer
Animation Producer
Art Director
Original Music and Lyrics

Original Score
Music Produced by

Associate Producer
Associate Producers

Michael Attardi
Joseph Anselmo
Jeff Scheetz
Paul "Kit" Stolen
Michael Attardi
Dani Donadi
Dani Donadi
Dani Donadi
Michael Attardi
Andy Van Roon
Matthew Phillips
Peter Gerhard
Adam Cohen
Tim Hurst
Frank Clark
Christopher Johnson
Harry Bade
Jason Cohen
Joyce & Larry Phillips
Todd Newman
Edward & Marilyn Grad
Howard Enders
Gary L. Mason
Thomas O'Keefe
Richard Cole-Hatchard
Dave Ciambone
Charles Schafer
Jeanne Rosko
Douglas Dunn
Michael Ianelli
Michael Ross
Frances Attardi
Paul Stout
Jim Belushi
Tim Curry
Michael Attardi
Amanda Davis
Edward Grenga
Bert Pence
Mickey Barnes
Julie Douglas
Jeff Scheetz
Joseph Anselmo

Santa
Sir Evil
Troy
Noelle
Butcher
Mayor
Dragasaurus
School Teacher
Elf 1
Town Crier

Casting

Storyboards
Special Effects

3D Animation
Character Supervisors

Marcia Hurwitz
Innovative Artists
Natanya Rose
Kimberly Sklanowsky
ICM

Mark Simon
Ron Thorton-Supervisor
Michael Attardi
Jeff Cavallaro

Chris Nelson
William Vaughan

3D Artists

Jeff Apczynski
Chris Apczynski
Alexandre Assumpcao
Alex Bibby
Bryan Burrigh
Andy Evans
Tom Farrar
William Hammer
Javier Hernandez
Anthony Jacob
Sean Joseph
Jeremy Joyner
Chris Menard
Ben Mitchell
Steve O'Donnell
Allejando Perilla
Patrick Peterson
Manny Rosario
Guil Strabelli
Lee Stringer
Alex Velazquez-Cruz
Gardner Watts
Aaron Witlin

Motion Capture

Director of Photography
Camera Operator
Set Assistants

Additional Art Direction
Set Construction

Editors

Sound Design

Recordist & Foley Editor
Supervising Sound Editor
Re-recording Mixer
3D Sound Design
Studio Administration

Dave West-Supervisor
Richard Dixon
Tom Henry
Richard "Chip" Monk
John O'Mahony III
William Hammer
Gentry Akens
Lee Stringer
Karen Davis
Gentry Akens
Tom Henry
Jeff Scheetz
Guil Strabelli
Tom Farrar
Ivan Young
SoundTrack Studios
John Keihl & Chris Rich
Beaux Neylon
Robert Van Kolken
Colin Weeks
Audio X AG3D
Anne Scheetz
Brad Murphy
Karla Van Horn

*In Memory of
the director's father,
Michael J. Attardi
1934-2004*

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