



Tale Feather

BY
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**NCE UPON A TIME,
THERE WAS A...**

...Problem.



Bluebirds



A LITTLE BLUEBIRD TOLD ME...



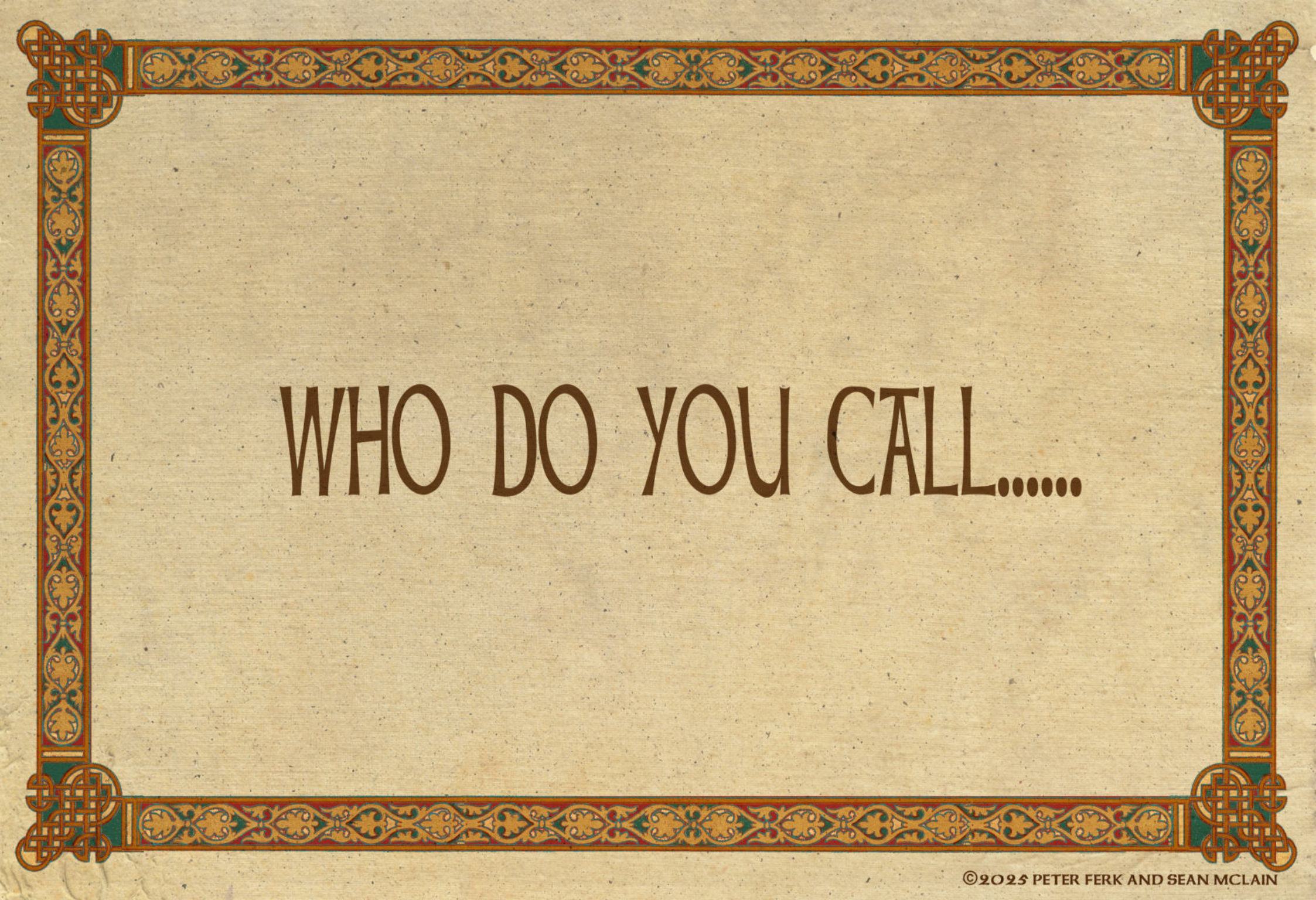
IT SEEMS THE BLUEBIRDS ARE
ALWAYS THE FIRST TO KNOW
WHEN A BELOVED FAIRY TALE
GOES ASTRAY.....



IF THERE WAS A PLACE WHERE ALL MYTHS AND
LEGENDS LIVE, THIS WOULD BE IT. SOME HAVE
CALLED IT THE ENCHANTED FOREST; SOME
HAVE CALLED IT NEVERLAND. THOSE WHO
WORK THERE JUST CALL IT...
TANGLEWOOD.

FROM AESOP TO WU CHENG'EN, FROM THE
BROTHERS GRIMM TO HANS CHRISTIAN
ANDERSON, FROM RAGNAR TO OSIRIS, ALL THE
STORIES OF YORE ARE ENACTED, DAY-IN AND
DAY-OUT BY A CAST OF HIGH MAINTENANCE,
INSECURE AND OVERWROUGHT THESPIANS.

WHEN A STORY GOES AWRY, WHICH HAPPENS
FREQUENTLY,



WHO DO YOU CALL.....



...no, not

...those guys & girls...





THE TEAM: TOPPER, TWIST, LOLLI AND THEIR BAND
OF ADVENTUROUS "FIXERS" SWOOP INTO ACTION.

THEIR JOB: WRANGLE THE STORY BACK INTO SHAPE.

THEIR NEMESIS: TALON, A FRUSTRATED AUTHOR TRYING
DESPERATELY TO STOP THE ENACTMENTS, THEREFORE
ERASING THE STORIES FROM THE COLLECTIVE



MIDGE

OCCUPATION :
HEAD OF THE PALLADIUM

QUALITIES :
INTELLIGENT, WISE AND STEADFAST.

PERSONAL MOTTO :
"DO GOOD, BE BETTER!"

SKILLS :
EVERYTHING !

INTERESTS :
EVERYTHING !

PERSONAL HEROS :
SOCRATES, PLATO AND ARISTOTLE

TOPPER

(American Great Horned Owl)



OCCUPATION : LEADER OF THE TEAM TF 1

QUALITIES : NOBLE. FEARLESS. BRAVE...AND HAS TWO LEFT FEET. HE'S AN OWL OF BELOW- AVERAGE HEIGHT BUT HIS HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

PERSONAL MOTTO : "TOPPER IS ALWAYS RIGHT."

SKILLS : KARATE, JUJITSU, KUNG-FU (ALL OF THE VIDEO GAME VARIETY, NOT THE REAL THING).

INTERESTS : IF DANGER COMES KNOCKING, HE'LL FLING THE DOOR OPEN AND SIGN FOR THE PACKAGE. HE'S A TWO-FOOT TROUBLE MAGNET INSTANTLY ATTRACTING ALL MANNER OF MISHAP.

PERSONAL HERO : SIR LANCELOT (TOPPER'S ON A FIRST NAME BASIS WITH THE FAMOUS KNIGHT).



"SPEAK QUIETLY!!
THIS PLACE IS
OBVIOUSLY BUGGED!"



WELL TOPPER,
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE
GOTTEN YOURSELF
INTO ANOTHER FINE
MESS.

SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM FROM THOSE
HE RESPECTS



NOTHING GETS BY THIS GUY.



NOT TO TOUGH TO BE VULNERABLE



TOPPER

LOVES CAMP AND
CORNBALL.



QUESTION: "SO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF
BOMB IT WAS?"

TOPPER: "YES, THE EXPLODING KIND!"



TWIST

(AMERICAN GRAY OWL)



OCCUPATION : MORAL COMPASS OF THE TF 1

QUALITIES : TWIST IS HOPELESSLY ADDICTED TO DANCE! BALLROOM, JAZZ, TAP, HIP-HOP YOU NAME IT, HE CAN TRIP THE RUG FANTASTIC, DELIVERING A STUNNING PERFORMANCE...AT THE WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

PERSONAL MOTTO : "PEACE, LOVE AND...HEY, IS THAT A LIMBO STICK?"

SKILLS : ABSORBS EVERYTHING AROUND HIM SUBCONSCIOUSLY AND RECALLS IMPORTANT DATA JUST BEFORE IT BECOMES PAINFULLY OBVIOUS.

INTERESTS : ZEN IN THE ART OF SALSA!

PERSONAL HERO : CARMEN AMAYA & BARYSHINAKOV



"WHOOOOOOO-YAHHHHHH !"



"IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES,
RETREAT IS A PERFECTLY
ACCEPTABLE OPTION."



"WHO YOU CALLIN' A HORNY
OWL?"



WIST



"A LITTLE TO THE LEFT, THEN A
LITTLE TO THE RIGHT. THAT'S
HOW WE DO THE TIME WARP !"

LOLLI

OCCUPATION : OPERATIONS (AND REAL LEADER OF TF1)

QUALITIES : QUICK WITTED, CALCULATING AND CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S BEEN ASSIGNED TO THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF BOYS. LOLLI USUALLY COMES UP WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION, BUT IN ORDER TO SEE IT THROUGH, MUST CONVINCE TOPPER IT WAS HIS IDEA ALL ALONG.

PERSONAL MOTTO : "IT'S NEVER EASY, IS IT?"

SKILLS : SHE'S HAS A PHOTO-REALISTIC MEMORY AND CAN REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF A MOMENT, BUT ONLY IF SHE PAINTS IT FROM MEMORY. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE IS NOT A GIFTED ARTIST, WHICH RESULTS IN VERY CONFUSED WORKS OF ART.

INTERESTS : READING STORIES. TELLING STORIES AND LIKES TO JOIN TWIST FOR AN OCCASIONAL POLKA.

PERSONAL HERO : MR. SPOCK





"BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES FELLAS CUZ
HURRIACANE LOLI IS ABOUT TO BLOW !"



" I STEPPED IN WHAT ?"



"I'M A CHICK WITH A STICK, WITH THE
BARK TO USE IT"



LOLI



"ISN'T HE ROMANTIC!"

Puff

OCCUPATION : THE TEAMS SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY EXPERT AND
ACCOUNTANT

QUALITIES : COMPULSIVE. OBSESSIVE. GENIUS.
IF THERE'S A COMPLICATED WAY OF
PERFORMING THE SIMPLEST TASK, Q
WILL FIND IT AND COMPLICATE IT
FURTHER. EASILY PRONE TO PANIC!

PERSONAL MOTTO : "I'M USUALLY RIGHT !"

SKILLS : ALL THINGS IN THE INTELLECTUAL
DOMAIN, I.E. THAT WHICH DOES
NOT REQUIRE PHYSICAL ABILITY.

INTERESTS : NUMBERS, MANIPULATING NUMBERS,
MATRICES OF NUMBERS, AND
OCCASIONALLY LETTERS WHEN USED
WITH NUMBERS IN EQUATIONS. OH AND
STATISTICS.

PERSONAL HERO : RUBE GOLDBERG



"I SAID PULL THE PIN
BEFORE YOU THROW THE
STINKBOMB !"

"HMM.... LETS SEE, WAS THAT
TURN RIGHT 3 TURNS, THEN
LEFT 5 OR WAS IT THE
OTHER WAY AROUND ?"

" WHEN YOU WANT
SOMETHING DOWN
RIGHT...."

"DRAGONS DON'T
SCARE ME THE IRS,
NOW THEY SCARE ME !"

"WELL THAT WAS
UNEXPECTED "

"IT WORKED ???"



Puff

TIC & TOC



OCCUPATION : PALLADIUM RECON.

QUALITIES : IDENTICAL. INSEPARABLE,
INCOMPATIBLE.

ZIG AND ZAG HAVE ELEVATED
ARGUING INTO AN ART FORM. ZIG
HATCHED FIRST AND CONSTANTLY
REMINDS ZAG OF THAT FACT.

SKILLS : MASTERS OF DISGUISE....
WELL SORT OF..

PERSONAL MOTTO : "BOYS ARE STUPID"



BEHIND EVERY TEAM OF HEROES IS A
COMPETENT TEAM OF SUPPORT AND
LOGISTIC PERSONNEL WHO SEE TO IT
THAT EVERY MISSION IS A
SUCCESS-ORIENTED...

FIASCO



Mildred

(ORDINARY BAT)

OCCUPATION : COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

QUALITIES : HEARING IMPAIRED. NEEDS CORRECTIVE LENSES.
SWEETEST DISPOSITION IN THE LAND.

Bill

(BULLFROG)

OCCUPATION : PRINCE CHARMING

QUALITIES : GALLANT. REGAL. CAN'T SWIM. BILL IS FOREVER
TRYING TO PERSUADE A PRINCESS TO KISS HIM AND
BREAK THE PROVERBIAL SPELL. HE FIGURES HIS
BEST CHANCE IS BY HANGING OUT WITH THE TEAM.





NUTS

□EURASIAN RED SQUIRREL□

OCCUPATION : MESSENGER SQUIRREL

QUALITIES : KARL IS QUITE LITERALLY NUTS, EXCEPT HE'S ALLERGIC TO THEM.

SKILLS : KARL CAN NAVIGATE AT UNIMAGINABLE SPEEDS. HIS SAVANT-LIKE NATURE ALSO SOMEHOW ALLOWS HIM TO TRANSLATE OBSCURE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.



Hermann

(SMOKEY MOUNTAIN VOLE)

OCCUPATION : UNDERGROUND SPECIALIST

QUALITIES : TOO COOL FOR THE ROOM. ALWAYS MISTAKEN FOR A MOLE, HERMANN IS ACTUALLY A VOLE (CLOSELY RELATED TO MOLES, BUT INFINITELY DIFFERENT).

SKILLS : HE COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF FAMOUS TUNNELING VOLES RENOWNED FOR FAMOUS EXCAVATIONS SUCH AS THE CHUNNEL AND SEVERAL OTHER LIBERATIONS FROM INCARCERATION.



HEN A BELOVED TALE
SLIPS AWRY...



HERE'S A SINISTER
REASON WHY...



ON

(GREAT HORNED OWL)

OCCUPATION : HEAD OF N.E.M.I.S.IS

QUALITIES : BIG, BAD AND EVIL.
WITH A SPRINKLING
OF INSINCERITIES!

PERSONAL
MOTTO : "I JUST DON'T CARE!"

SKILLS : MASTER MANIPULATOR.

INTERESTS : MESSING WITH THE
PALLADIUM, AND MIDGE!

PERSONAL
HERO : *LOKI*



ALON

(GREAT HORNED OWL)

OCCUPATION : SCRIVENER

QUALITIES : BIG, BAD AND EVIL. HE ALSO HAS A FONDNESS FOR ROMANCE NOVELS AND CANDY CORN.

PERSONAL MOTTO : "IF IT AIN'T BROKE, LETS FIX IT!"

SKILLS : ARCHITECT OF NEFARIOUS & CONVOLUTED PLOTS!

INTERESTS : WANTS TO PUT GRIM(M) BACK INTO FAIRY TALES!

PERSONAL HERO : HIMSELF



RANDOLPH

(ROCK)

OCCUPATION : TALON'S SIDEKICK

QUALITIES : GOOD LISTENER.

RANDOLPH APPEARS TO
BE SIMPLY AN INANIMATE
OBJECT, BUT TALON
INEXPLICABLY TREATS HIM
AS HIS TRUSTY SIDEKICK.
IS TALON'S SLIGHTLY DAFT
OR IS RANDOLPH MORE



EDGAR ALLEN FAUX

FREUD



THE MYTHOLOGY OF TANGLEWOOD

THROUGHOUT THE LAND, SUCH FAMOUS STORYTELLERS SUCH AS THE BROTHERS GRIMM, AESOP, ANDERSON, ETC. LEAD TROUPES OF PLAYERS ENACTING THEIR TIME-HONORED TALES. SO LONG AS THE STORIES ARE PERFORMED, THEY REMAIN SAFELY ENSCONCED IN THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND IN EACH AUTHOR'S SACRED TEXTS. SHOULD ANY STORY BE ALTERED IN ANY WAY, THE TEXT BEGINS TO DISAPPEAR!





BLUEBIRD LOCAL 839



THE OPENING

Once Upon A Time...

Two eggs in a nest. They begin to wobble, the hatchlings trying to work their way out. One is patient and methodical, the other impulsive and hopping, pecking and jumping until...it knocks the patient egg out of the nest...

...It falls from the nest, hits the ground with a crack and rolls into a deep shadow! The egg in the shadows hatches into a dark and brooding menace, TALON. The egg in the nest hatches revealing a short, blustery TOPPER. In the midst of what looks like an enchanted glen, a pedestal showcases an ancient leather-bound book resplendent with gold leaf and etchings. Blue birds twitter about, when suddenly they stop in mid-flight above the book. The birds are animatronic, their eyes turn red, and they screech out the ALARM.

PULL BACK to reveal the glen is actually a small courtyard under an arched sign 'HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON STORY FACTORY'.

"Hans" rushes in all disheveled, in pajama bottoms and toothbrush. He rips open the tome, rifling through the pages screaming, "Vich vone?! Vich Vone?!" He stops in horror. "Not dat Vone!" On a page, words and illustrations are quickly fading from it!

"Bluebirds!! Bluebirds!! Quick. Vee have a situation! Get ze team!"

The birds quickly assemble into a squadron formation and zoom off toward

THE PALLADIUM

They exit, flying past an arched sign over the entrance to the Hans Christian Anderson Story Factory.

Soaring by the BROTHERS GRIMM STORY STUDIO, AESOP'S FABLES, HOMER'S EPICS finally arriving
AT HEADQUARTERS...

THE PILOT

EPISODE: BLUEBIRD LOCAL 839

THE BLUEBIRDS GO ON STRIKE. SNAIL MAIL IS THE NEXT BEST OPTION. THE LAST TIME THE BLUEBIRDS WENT ON STRIKE, THE LIBRARY AT ALEXANDRIA BURNT. WE'RE NOT SAYING IT WAS THE BLUEBIRDS, BUT...THERE ARE RUMORS STILL ABOUNDING. THE ONLY BLUEBIRD THAT TALKS IS THE UNION BOSS.

INSIDE THE PALLADIUM, THE SQUADRON ZIPS PAST TOPPER WHO IS IN MID BATTLE WITH A STATIONARY COMBAT TRAINING DUMMY. THE DUMMY SMIRKS AS TOPPER BASICALLY DEFEATS HIMSELF. IN THE RAFTERS, PUFF STIFLES A GIGGLE AS HE SECRETLY OPERATES THE DUMMY VIA REMOTE. IN ANOTHER ROOM, TWIST FOLLOWS PAINTED OWL FOOTPRINTS ON THE FLOOR, LEARNING A NEW DANCE, WHILE LOLLI WATCHES A WHO-TUBE VIDEO, ON METHOD ACTING AS SHE PRETENDS TO BE A TIGER.

THE BLUEBIRDS LAND ON AND AROUND LOLLI'S COMPUTER SQUAWKING AND CHIRPING. ONE OPENS ITS MOUTH REVEALING A USB CONNECTION. LOLLI PLUGS THE BIRD INTO THE COMPUTER AND A PANICKED HANS APPEARS ON THE SCREEN TELLING HER THAT HANSEL AND GRETEL IS COMPROMISED AND DISAPPEARING FROM THE BOOK. SHE FLIPS OPEN A COMPARTMENT ON HER DESK AND HITS A SHINY RED BUTTON. ALARMS BLARE, THE TEAM SPRINGS INTO ACTION.

IN A SMALL GLADE SITS THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE. IT'S A FACADE, PART OF A STAGE DEPICTING THE TALE. ITS ALSO A "WORK STOPPAGE" AS EVERYONE SITS AROUND DOING NOTHING WHILE THE DIRECTOR PULLS WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS HAIR OUT IN FRUSTRATION.

TEAM TF1 ARRIVES IN THE WONDER WAGON.

HANS EXPLAINS THEY PUT THE WITCH IN THE OVEN LIKE THEY DO EVERYDAY. AND WHEN THEY WENT TO OPEN THE OVEN, SHE WAS GONE; A SINGLE FEATHER IN HER PLACE. TOPPER GRABS THE FEATHER, TOSSING IT ASIDE. LOLLI CATCHES IT IN MID-AIR, HANDING IT TO PUFF WHO FEEDS IT INTO HIS PORTA-SCANNER. A HOLOGRAPHIC 3D IMAGE OF D.W. FLOATS ABOVE THE SMALL DEVICE.

THE TEAM SETS OFF TO RESCUE THE WITCH AND APPREHEND TALON. PUFF SETS HIS TIMER. ITS ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS BEFORE THE STORY FADES INTO OBLIVION. FOLLOWING WHAT HE THINKS ARE CLUES, TOPPER LEADS THE TEAM NOWHERE. ALONG THE WAY TWIST AND LOLLI. DISCOVER THE REAL CLUES, BREADCRUMBS LEADING THEM TO...

AN UNDERGROUND CAVERN AND TALON, THE OWL OF EVIL: IT SEEMS HE HAS TIED THE WITCH TO A STAKE AT THE CENTER OF A MOAT SURROUNDED BY CROCKS, SHARKS AND PIRANHAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A BOOBY TRAPPED MAZE OF MAYHEM. THERE IS NO WAY POSSIBLE THAT THE TEAM CAN RESCUE HER IN TIME TO SAVE THE STORY. TALON EXPLAINS THAT THE SECRETS OF THE MAZE WOULD TAKE MONTHS TO FIGURE OUT.

A MELODIC HUMMING: TWIST IS ALREADY NAVIGATING THE MAZE, HAVING RECOGNIZED THE PATTERN ON THE FLOOR. I KNOW THIS DANCE! TOPPER, PUFF AND LOLLI FOLLOW TWIST THROUGH THE MAZE AND DEFEAT ALL THE BOOBY TRAPS UNTIL THEY REACH THE MOAT. TOPPER DISCOVERS A SERIES OF ROCKS THEY COULD HOP ACROSS. ONLY TO FIND, THE ROCKS ARE CROCKS. LOLLI RESCUES TOPPER AS SHE AND THE REST OF THE TEAM WADE ACROSS THE MOAT ON STILTS, HOLDING THEM ABOVE THE WATER. THE CROCKS AND SHARKS TAKE BITES OUT OF THE STILTS BRINGING OUR HEROS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE WATER. BIRDS, DID YOU SAY BIRDS? PUFF SUGGEST THEY FLY. GREAT IDEA.

THEY ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER SHEEPISHLY AND TAKE FLIGHT. UNTYING THE WITCH AND WITH LITTLE TIME TO SPARE THE TEAM IS AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO GET THE WITCH BACK ON STAGE. TOPPER PACES AS HE SPEWS RIDICULOUS IDEAS UNTIL HE ABSENTLY TRIPS OVER A STONE ACCIDENTALLY DRAINING THE MOAT WITH A HUGE TOILET FLUSH. TALON IS FURIOUS AT HIS BROTHER! BROTHER? YES TOPPER AND TALON ARE FRATERNAL TWINS. THEY START A CONFUSING SIBLING ARGUMENT IN WHICH TALON INADVERTENTLY SPILLS ON HIS DIABOLICAL PLAN TO HELP HIS "FRIEND" EDGAR ALLEN FAUX" REPLACE THE VENERATED STORIES WITH HIS OWN. JUST BEFORE PUFF CAN DROP THE NET ON TALON, HE SPREADS HIS MASSIVE WINGS AND SOARS OFF, LAUGHING. AS THE SECONDS TICKS OFF, THE TEAM USES THE NET TO LOAD UP THE WITCH AND FLY HER BACK TO THE STAGE. AT THE LAST SECOND, THE NET RIPS AND THE WITCH DROPS RIGHT ONTO HER MARK. GRETEL COMES ALIVE AND SHOVES HER INTO THE OVEN AND THE STORY COMES BACK TO LIFE. CURTAIN CALL WITH THE CAST AND OUR HEROS TF 1.

DiDee's Dilemma



EPISODE: DIDEE'S DILEMMA

THE BLUEBIRD SQUADRON LEADS TEAM TF 1 DOWN TOWARD AN OMINOUS, FEATHER-RAISING GROTTO. OUTSIDE JACOBUS, THE HEAD OF PROPHETS AND SAINTS PRODUCTIONS (PSP FOR THE "IN" CROWD) PACES, FOLLOWED BY A LINE OF GOPHERS/YES MEN. THE AGED TALE OF ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON HAS COME TO A SCREECHING HALT. JACOBUS IS FRANTICALLY PACING A TRENCH INTO THE GROUND AS HE TRIES TO COAX DIDEE THE DRAGON OUT OF HER CAVE. "C'MON DIDEE DARLING YOUR ADORING FANS NEED YOU. "WE NEED YOU! EVERYONE NEEDS YOU! THERE ARE KNOCK OFF STORYTELLERS OUT THERE JUST DYING TO REPLACE YOUR ORIGINAL AUTHENTIC LEGEND!"

NO FEAR TF 1 IS ON THE CASE. TOPPER'S IDEA: BLOW THE CAVE: PROBLEM SOLVED. FORTUNATELY FOR DIDEE; TWIST, LOLLI AND PUFF HAVE OTHER IDEAS. PUFF REFERS TO THE STORY CLOCK, WHICH SAYS THEY HAVE 48 HRS. BEFORE THE STORY DISAPPEARS.

TOPPER ELECTS HIMSELF TO UTILIZE HIS OBVIOUS MASCULINE CHARMS AND GO INTO THE GROTTO TO EXPLAIN TO DIDEE THAT SHE IS A BIG BEAUTIFUL CREATURE. FLASH! TOPPER EMERGES A CHARRED AND FEATHERED MESS. CONFUSED THAT ANY FEMALE WOULD REBUKE HIS WORLD-RENOWNED CHARISMA, TOPPER PUTS OUT THE GLOWING EMBERS ON HIS COSTUME. TIC AND TOC REPORT TO LOLLI THAT DIDEE IS SNEAKING OUT THE BACK WAY.

A GRAND OLD OAK TREE: AS WE APPROACH, A GIANT DRAGON'S TALE FLOPS OUT OF A WINDOW. TOPPER, TWIST, LOLLI AND PUFF TRADE SUSPICIOUS LOOKS. INSIDE THE TREE-OFFICE, A SHADOWY VISAGE OF THE FAMOUS PYSCHO-ANALYST DR. SIGMUND FREUD SITS LISTENING TO AN OVERWROUGHT DIDEЕ. USED KLEENEX COVERS THE FLOOR, FURNITURE, ETC. A TANGLEWOOD REPORTER LIES ON THE COFFEE TABLE WITH A VERY UNFLATTERING PHOTO OF "TWERKING DIDEЕ." SHE LAMENTS THE BODY-SHAMING PRESS SAYING SHE'S NOT PRETTY ENOUGH; HER WINGS ARE TOO SMALL; TAIL TOO BIG; THE LIST GOES ON. AS DR. FREUD ADJUSTS HIS SPECTACLES HIS MUSTACHE SHIFTS AND WE SEE THE VENERABLE SHRINK IS NONE OTHER THAN A THINLY DISGUISED TALON, EMPHASIS ON "THINLY." HE "PERFORMS" AN ATROCIOUS IMITATION OF THE OLD GERMAN DOCTOR, EXPLAINING THAT HER ISSUES ARE JUST THE PRODUCT OF HER CURRENT OCCUPATION. HIS PRESCRIPTION: GET OUT OF THE BUSINESS.

IN THE MEANTIME, TWIST, FILLING IN FOR DIDEЕ'S ROLE, IS NOT HELPING THE PRODUCTION. HIS COSTUME IS MORE AKIN TO A SCHOOL PLAY THEN A WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTION, HIS PERFORMANCE; WELL...HE'S NO DEPARDIEU. ROTTEN TOMATOES FLY LIKE A HURRICANE AND THE STORY CONTINUES TO FADE FROM A FRETTING JACOBUS' BOOK.

ABOVE, THE RAVEN'S RACE BACK TO TALON REVEALING THAT THE TEAM IS UNDOING HIS PLAN. HE GRABS HIS FREUD DISGUISE AND EXITS...STAGE LEFT.

AS THE TEAM MINUS TWIST, WAITS FOR DIDEE TO COME HOME, A FRUSTRATED TOPPER PLACES EXPLOSIVES AROUND THE CAVE, WHILE LOLLI PICKS THEM UP BEHIND HIM. SUDDENLY TIC AND TOC LEAD A CHANTING HORDE OF ZEALOT FANS, "WE LOVE DIDEE! WE LOVE DIDEE!" JUST THEN THE SURPRISED DRAGON ARRIVES, CONFUSED BUT DELIGHTED. BASHFUL AND BLUSHING, DIDEE'S CONFIDENCE BEGINS TO RETURN...WHEN ZOOM! THE RAVEN FORMATION POWERS INTO A LANDING WITH TALON/FREUD IN TOW. "VAT IS GOING ON HERE!" HE AUTHORITATIVELY TELLS DIDEE SHE IS FALLING VICTIM TO FLEETING, FLY-BY-NIGHT, FICKLE FANS WHO WILL BECOME HATERS AND CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO HER PSYCHE.

LOLLI LEADS THE INSULTED FAN HORDE TO "DEFROCK" TALON RIPPING OFF THE GLASSES AND GOATEE. EVEN ST. GEORGE SPRINGS INTO ACTION DRAWING HIS SWORD. THE SUPPORT OF HER ADORING FANS, BOLSTERS DIDEE'S ONCE FLAGGING CONFIDENCE BACK TO FULL DRAGON MODE. BUT TALON IS BEATING A HASTY RETREAT. NOT SO FAST, DIDEE LETS LOOSE WITH A GODZILLA FLAME, JUST SINGEING TALON'S TAIL FEATHERS. LATER, AT THE RE-LAUNCH OF THE PRODUCTION, JACOBUS TRIES TO FIND A WAY TO REPAY TF 1 - WHO REFUSE AS HEROES DO. THE WONDER WAGON CRESTS THE HILL TOWARD THE SUNSET, KABANG! AN EXPLOSION RIPS THE SIDE OFF.

TOPPER!!!



EPISODE: REINDEER GAMES

SNOW FALLS OUTSIDE A BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH MANSION. WE TRUCK IN TO THE WARM GLOW OF A WINDOW, AND THROUGH IT, TO FIND JOHN HOUSEMAN, IN A HUGE WINGBACK CHAIR, IN FRONT OF A CRACKLING FIREPLACE. HE NARRATES THE CLASSIC CHRISTMAS POEM T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS READING FROM A BEAUTIFULLY BOUND LEATHER BOOK.

"...THE CHILDREN WERE NESTLED ALL SUNG IN THEIR BEDS,"

FOUR LITTLE BEDS ALL LINED IN A ROW, WITH SLEEPING LITTLE ANGELS UNDER THEIR COMFY QUILTS.

"WHILE VISIONS OF SUGAR-PLUMS DANCED IN THEIR HEADS,"

SUGAR-PLUMS DANGLE AND DANCE FROM NEARLY INVISIBLE WIRES OVER THE SLEEPING CHILDREN.

"AND MAMMA IN HER KERCHIEF, AND I IN MY CAP,"

MAMMA AND PAPPA LOOK ADORING AT THE CHILDREN AS THEY CLOSE THE DOOR AND CLIMB INTO THEIR COVERED FOUR-POSTER BED.

"HAD JUST SETTLED DOWN FOR A LONG WINTER'S NAP,
WHEN OUT ON THE LAWN THERE AROSE SUCH A CLATTER,"

PAPPA'S EYES SNAP OPEN.

"I SPRANG FROM MY BED TO SEE WHAT WAS THE MATTER."

PAPPA JUMPS OUT OF BED RUSHING TO THE MOONLIT WINDOW.

"AWAY TO THE WINDOW I FLEW LIKE A FLASH,
TORE OPENS THE SHUTTERS AND THREW UP THE SASH.
THE MOON ON THE BREAST OF THE NEW-FALLEN SNOW,
GAVE THE LUSTER OF MID-DAY TO OBJECTS BELOW."

PAPPA SEES A TRANQUIL WINTER SETTING.

"WHEN WHAT TO MY WONDERING EYES SHOULD APPEAR,
BUT A MINIATURE SLEIGH...SLEIGH (LOUDER), SLEIGH, WHERE'S THE SLEIGH!?"

"CUT!"

THE DIRECTOR, A SMALL PENGUIN IN JODHPURS, BERET AND AN ASCOT, STORMS ONTO THE SET. THE PRODUCTION COMES TO A SCREECHING HALT AS THE DIRECTOR AND PAPPA LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AT EIGHT TINY DRONES DECKED OUT IN GARLAND AND SLEIGH BELLS EACH CRUDELY STENCILED WITH NAMES: DASHER, DANCER, PRANCER...ETC.

"DRONES? SANTA!!!!"

WHIP-PAN TO ST. NICHOLAS SITTING COMFORTABLY IN A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR CHECKING HIS SOCIAL MEDIA ON A SMART PHONE. NEXT TO HIM SITS A BALD TALON IN A DISGUISE AMAZINGLY SIMILAR TO JEFF BEZOS (FOUNDER OF AMAZON).

IT SEEMS TALON HAS CONVINCED SANTA TO FIRE THE REINDEER, SELL THE SLEIGH AND MODERNIZE. FROM NOW ON, A FLEET OF DRONES WILL DELIVER ALL THE PRESENTS. THE DIRECTOR PULLS A GIANT LEVER ON THE STAGE AND THE ALARM SOUNDS. ABOVE, BLUEBIRDS STREAK OFF TO PALLADIUM HQ.

SMASH CUT: TO PALLADIUM HQ: LOLLI, PUFF, TIC AND TOC WRAP CHRISTMAS PRESENTS WHEN THE BLUEBIRDS RAISE THE ALARM: EMERGENCY AT UNIVERSAL HOLIDAYS.

ARRIVING ON STAGE: TOPPER, A CHRISTMAS-FAN BOY AT HEART, IS BESIDE HIMSELF WITH NERDY ADORATION AS THE REAL SANTA IS PLAYING HIMSELF IN THIS PRODUCTION. LOLLI AND TWIST EXPLAIN TO TALON/BEZOS AND SANTA THAT THE DRONES ARE NOT RELIABLE OR MAGICAL ENOUGH.

TALON THROWS OUT CATCH PHRASES TO DEFLECT THE ARGUMENT, "WAVE OF THE FUTURE, MODERNIZE, BETTER, FASTER, CHEAPER..." PUFF AND TWIST REDIRECT A BLOWING SNOW MACHINE TOWARD THE DRONES BLOWING THEM INTO A TANGLED HEAP THAT FALLS TO THE GROUND. "WAVE OF THE FUTURE, MY EYE!" LOLLI POINTS OUT THAT TALON'S MODERNIZING STRATEGY DOESN'T EVEN NEED A SANTA! ST. NICK SUDDENLY REALIZES HE'S BEEN DUPED. THEY NEED TO GET THE REINDEER BACK AND FAST. THE TEXT IS STARTING TO FADE ON THE DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT.

CUT TO: A SEEDY PETTING ZOO: THE ANIMALS ARE HUDDLED AND FRIGHTENED OF THE THRONGS OF OVERZEALOUS "PETTERS." THE REINDEER ARE THE NEW POPULAR ATTRACTION AND ARE SURROUNDED BY A HORDE OF PRECOCIOUS PRESCHOOLERS. DASHER HAS A BALD SPOT FROM BEING OVER-PETTED.

WHEN SANTA AND THE TEAM ARRIVE, THE REINDEER ALL TURN THEIR BACKS. DASHER, SPEAKING FOR THE GROUP, ACCUSES SANTA OF SELLING THEM DOWN THE RIVER. DASHER EXPLAINS, "BESIDES, WE GOT IT GOOD HERE! THREE SQUARES A DAY AND TONS OF ADORING FANS! WHAT MORE COULD A GUY WANT?"

ONE OF THE 'ADORING FANS' ACCIDENTALLY STICKS A GIANT, WET LOLLIPOP ON DASHER'S FUR AND RIPS IT OFF!!! YEOUCH!!!!!!

CUT TO: OWLLYWOOD AAA USED CAR SALES: PUFF FINDS THE MAGICAL RED SLEIGH, IN A USED CAR SALES LOT. IT'S BEEN PIMPED OUT AND IS NOW IS A LOW-RIDER WITH GIANT MUSIC SPEAKERS PUMPING OUT A LOUD BEAT. THE RUNNERS BOUNCE THE SLEIGH UP AND DOWN WITH HYDRAULICS. PUFF NEGOTIATES WITH THE HEAD SALES WEASEL, FORKING OVER FAR MORE MONEY THAN THE SLEIGH IS WORTH.

BACK AT THE PETTING ZOO, D.W. IS TRYING TO BELITTLE THE USE OF THE REINDEER IN FAVOR OF THE DRONES. SANTA'S BIGGEST FAN, CRACKER GIVES AN OUT-OF-CHARACTER, IMPASSIONED, MONOLOGUE ON THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SPIRIT OF GIVING. THE SPEECH LEAVES THE REINDEER AND EVERYONE ELSE TEARING UP AND SNIFFLING. THE PETTING ZOO OWNER, BROTHER OF THE USED CAR SALE WEASEL, BLOWS HIS NOSE AND AGREES TO RELEASE THE REINDEER BACK TO SANTA. CRACKER SEES THAT EVEN HIS BROTHER D.W.'S EYES ARE WELLING UP. MAYBE HE HAS A HEART AFTER ALL.





QUIRKY TAKE ON CLASSIC TALES



BY PETER FERK AND SEAN MCLAIN

THERE BE DRAGONS...



...BEARS WITH 'TUDE...

...and pigs
that rule



...THEN
THERE'S



ROBIN

AND



RED...



CHARACTER STUDIES





CHARACTER STUDIES 2





TUTEN-TOPPER





SEAN MCLAIN

SEAN MCLAIN'S TENURE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY BEGAN IN 1988 AS A MEMBER OF THE ART DEPARTMENT ON THE TOUCHSTONE PICTURES FEATURE DISORGANIZED CRIME. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS AS A TOP ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE FOR ART AND GRAPHICS PRODUCTION, IN 1991 MR. MCLAIN UNDERTOOK ADVERTISING, RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN INDEPENDENT FEATURE ENTITLED FINAL APPROACH, THE WORLD'S FIRST ALL DIGITAL SOUND MOTION PICTURE. THIS PIONEERING EFFORT LEAD MR. MCLAIN AND DIRECTOR/PARTNER ERIC STEVEN STAHL TO A FEATURE DEVELOPMENT DEAL WITH THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY WHERE THEY WERE CONTRACTED TO WRITE TWO STUDIO SCREENPLAYS, SEMI-PRO AND CARDIAC X-PRESS.

ON THE HEELS OF THE DISNEY DEVELOPMENT DEAL, MCLAIN AND STAHL SET OUT TO WRITE AND PRODUCE THE INDEPENDENT FEATURE ENTITLED SAFE HOUSE STARRING PATRICK STEWART, KIMBERLY WILLIAMS AND HECTOR ELIZONDO. THE FILM WAS PICKED UP BY VIACOM DURING PRODUCTION AND BECAME ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SHOWTIME ORIGINAL PICTURES RELEASES AND BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO PERFORMERS OF 2000 RESULTING IN A WRITING CONTRACT FOR A SECOND SHOWTIME FEATURE PROJECT.

PRIOR, MR. MCLAIN WAS IN CHARGE OF CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WHERE'S WALDO COMPANY WHERE HE DIRECTED FEATURE FILM AND TELEVISION DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION STRIKING DEALS WITH TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX, DIC ENTERTAINMENT, JIM HENSON PRODUCTIONS, MGM ANIMATION, PBS, AND CBS CHILDREN'S TELEVISION. ADDITIONALLY, MR. MCLAIN PARTICIPATED AS A KEY MEMBER OF THE TEAM CREATING THE EVER-POPULAR WHERE'S WALDO BOOK SERIES WITH LITTLE BROWN, CANDLEWICK AND GOLDEN BOOKS.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENTERTAINMENT EXECUTIVE/PRODUCER AND SPOUSE LISA MCLAIN, SEAN STARTED THE ENTERTAINMENT-BASED ART CONSERVATORY AND PUBLISHING COMPANY ACME ARCHIVES. SINCE 1997 THE COMPANY HAS GROWN INTO THE WORLD'S LEADING ENTERTAINMENT ART PUBLISHING COMPANY WITH OPERATIONS IN LOS ANGELES, AND SHANGHAI. SEVERAL ANCILLARY PROJECTS HAVE EVOLVED OUT OF THE ACME ARCHIVES VENTURE WITH THE EXECUTION OF ART AND CREATIVE CONTENT FOR CLIENTS SUCH AS NASA, THE TEXAS RANGERS/DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, WALT DISNEY PARKS AND RESORTS, AND UNIVERSAL THEME PARKS.

UNDER MR. MCLAIN'S GUIDANCE, ACME HAS ACQUIRED LICENSES FOR AND/OR PROVIDES SERVICES TO SEVERAL TOP-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONGLOMERATES INCLUDING THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY, TIME WARNER, MICROSOFT, UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, LUCASFILM, REVOLUTION STUDIOS, TOKYOPOP, DC COMICS, AND TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX.

THIS LIST OF CLIENTELE INCLUDES ACME'S WORK IN ASSOCIATION WITH VARIOUS WELL KNOWN PROPERTIES SUCH AS "THE SIMPSONS," "WALL-E," "CARS," "THE INCREDIBLES," "STAR WARS," "INDIANA JONES," "FAMILY GUY," "PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN," "RATATOUILLE," "HALO," "SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS," "HELLBOY," "ICE AGE," "ALIEN(S)," "MOULIN ROUGE," "ALADDIN," "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST," "THE LION KING," AND "MIGHTY MOUSE" AMONG OTHERS.

KEEPING A FOOT FIRMLY PLANTED IN THE FILMED ENTERTAINMENT WORLD, MR. MCLAIN CO- WROTE THE 2008 WARNER HOME VIDEO RELEASE OF I-SEE-YOU. THE FILM STARRED BEAU BRIDGES, ROSANNA ARQUETTE, DORIS ROBERTS, AND HECTOR ELIZONDO. MR. MCLAIN HAS ALSO PRODUCED AND DIRECTED THE FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES: "INSPIRE ME, WEIGHTLESS FLIGHTS OF DISCOVERY," NASA'S "SPACE RESEARCH & YOU" (A SMITHSONIAN COMPUTERWORLD HONORS RECIPIENT) AND "EVEREST ER."

MR. MCLAIN HOLDS A BS IN MEDIA ARTS FROM MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA.



PETER FERK

PETER FERK BEGAN HIS CAREER IN ANIMATION AS A SENIOR LAY-OUT ARTIST ON TEDDY RUXPIN FOR DIC ENTERTAINMENT. THE 1986 PRODUCTION WAS BASED IN OTTOWA AT ATKINSON FILM ARTS WHERE PETER ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO SHOWS SUCH AS NIGHTINGALE AND MEERKATS. WITH A KEEN EYE FOR LAYOUT, BACKGROUND DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, PETER'S WORK SOON LANDED HIM NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN CHARACTER AND BACKGROUND DESIGN ON MY PET MONSTER AND CARE BEARS AS WELL AS THE DISTINCTION OF CREATING THE SHOW-STYLE FOR NELVANA'S ULTRACROSS.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PETER'S UNIQUE ABILITY TO MULTI-TASK THE MANY DESIGN AREAS OF ANIMATION PRODUCTION, NELVANA ADVANCED HIM TO LEAD DESIGNER FOR THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED BABAR. RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY DESIGN-RELATED ASPECT OF THE SHOW, PETER SUPERVISED EVERYTHING FROM LAYOUTS TO THE UNIQUE CHARACTER DESIGN FOR WHICH THE SHOW AND SUBSEQUENT FEATURE HAS BECOME RENOWNED. RETURNING TO OTTOWA, PETER WAS TAPPED BY LACEWOOD PRODUCTIONS FOR THE FEATURE-FILM THE NUTCRACKER PRINCE, HANDLING BOTH LAYOUTS AND BACKGROUND DESIGN.

HIS WORK ON NUTCRACKER OPENED THE DOOR TO THE SIRIOL FILM'S EUROPEAN FEATURE THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLINS PRODUCED IN CARDIFF, WALES. WHILE OVERSEAS, PETER MOVED INTO THE POSITION OF OVERSEAS

TITLES SUCH AS CHIPMONKS AND WHERE'S WALDO. NELVANA THEN ENGAGED PETER'S EXPERTISE IN OVERSEAS SUPERVISING FOR THEIR BEETLEJUICE PRODUCTION AT WANG FILM IN TAIPEI. DURING HIS TENURE IN TAIWAN, PETER ALSO TAUGHT DRAWING AND LAYOUT CLASSES, TRAINING MANY UP AND COMING NEW ARTISTS.

WHILE WORKING AT WANG FILM, WARNER BROS. HIRED PETER ON THE AWARD-WINNING ANIMANIACS AS OVERSEAS SUPERVISOR. AFTER RECOGNITION FOR PRODUCING EXEMPLARY QUALITY AND MEETING DEADLINES, WARNERS SOON ASKED PETER TO ASSUME OVERSEAS SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES ON THEIR NEW ANIMATED BATMAN SERIES.

LANDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE 1996 OLYMPICS IZZY ANIMATION, FILM ROMAN AND FUNBAG BROUGHT PETER BACK TO CANADA FOR WORK ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. FUNBAG MOVED PETER ONTO MORE AND MORE SHOWS INCLUDING AND FREE WILLY, URMEL. MOVING TO NEW YORK, PETER TOOK ON SUPERVISING DESIGN WORK AT JUMBO PICTURES' SPORTSBENDER. THIS LAYOUT WORK LANDED HIM BACK AT WARNER BROS., THIS TIME IN LOS ANGELES WORKING BOTH LAYOUT AND THEN STORYBOARDS ON FREAKAZOID. AFTER TAKING ON A BRIEF ASSIGNMENT DESIGNING THE KRYPTON SEQUENCE FOR THE NEW SUPERMAN SERIES, WARNER BROS BEGAN TO GIVE PETER MORE AND MORE STORYBOARD RESPONSIBILITIES BOTH ON SUPERMAN AND PINKY AND THE BRAIN WHERE HE WAS NOMINATED FOR THREE EMMY AWARDS.

AFTER THE WARNER BROS. SUCCESSES, PETER MOVED BACK TO NEW YORK ASSUMING DIRECTING RESPONSIBILITIES ON DISNEY TV ANIMATION'S 101 DALMATIANS. FOLLOWING DALMATIANS, PETER CONTINUED ON AS SUPERVISING DIRECTOR ON DISNEY'S SABRINA THE TEENAGE WITCH.

ALSO DIRECTING ON THE EUROPEAN HIT PIGS NEXT DOOR, PETER BEGAN TO PICK UP MORE AND MORE STORYBOARD WORK ON SHOWS SUCH AS HOZE HOUNDZ (LACEWOOD), STANLEY (DISNEY), JACKIE CHAN (SONY), TUTENSTIEN (ABC DISCOVERY), AND SCOOPY DOO (WB). PETER PRODUCED THE ANIMATED TITLE SEQUENCE FOR NEW LINE CINEMA'S SMASH CHRISTMAS HIT, ELF. PETER HAS JUST RECEIVED HIS FOURTH EMMY NOMINATION FOR HIS WORK ON TUTENSTEIN WON HIS FIRST EMMY WITH ABC DISCOVERY NETWORKS "GROWING UP CREEPY."

MOST RECENTLY PETER DIRECTED EPISODES FROM A SOON-TO-BE RELEASED SERIES FOR THE WWE.

PETER IS A MEMBER OF THE TELEVISION ACADEMY AND ONE OF THE INDUSTRY'S FOREMOST EXPERTS IN DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS ANIMATION PRODUCTION.





