

HORACE & TINA

A Jonathan M. Shiff Production

MEDIA KIT

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JONATHAN M. SHIFF
P R O D U C T I O N S

HORACE & TINA

SYNOPSIS

Thirteen-year-old Lauren (Jasmine Ellis) is just preparing herself for a really miserable Christmas. Her mother's dragged her halfway around the world to live with a new stepfather and an annoying little stepbrother. Could things get any worse? Sure they could. On Christmas Eve two Nelfs (Santa's helpers) jump off the big man's sleigh, through Lauren's roof and into her life.

Three-foot tall, grumpy and 243 years old, Horace is the world's greatest mischief-maker. He's selfish, unsociable and his favourite meal is dog food. An incurable romantic, his elder sister, 271 year old Tina, loves to meddle and give advice - and the two of them haven't shared a civil word for at least 97 years!

Santa's finished his rounds for another year, so Horace and Tina are now stuck without a ride home. They break the bad news to Lauren. They're not moving from her bedroom until Santa comes back next year.

Now what is Lauren supposed to do? She finds herself the involuntary minder and peacemaker for these two aged and bickering siblings.

It's not an easy job. They interfere in every aspect of her life. Tina has advice about everything. Horace is only concerned about himself - his stomach in particular. They follow her to school. They meddle in her social life. And wherever Horace goes, something is bound to go wrong. Even worse, as Lauren is the only one who knows of their existence and can see them, her family thinks she's going crazy!



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HORACE & TINA

CAST

LAUREN PARKER

JASMINE ELLIS

THE VOICE OF HORACE

FRANK GALLACHER

THE VOICE OF TINA

JACKIE KELLEHER

KIMBERLEY TATE

CAROLYN BOCK

STEVE TATE

MATTHEW PARKINSON

MAX TATE

JORDAN WHITE

TJ KNOX

CARL LENNIE

LACHLAN WATSON

DAVID SACHER

ANNABEL DELANEY

HANNAH GREENWOOD

ERN WATSON

TERRY NORRIS

SHERLOCK - THE TATE'S FAMILY DOG

OSCAR



JONATHAN M. SHIFF

P R O D U C T I O N S

HORACE & TINA

CAST

ALICIA

MISS BLOOD

WARWICK BELL

MR REED

MARGARET

D.I. CLIFFORD KNOX

SLAMDUNK

HARMONY

JOSH

SPIKE

BONNIE PIESSE

LEVERNE McDONNELL

MATTHEW DYKTINSKI

SEAN SCULLY

ISABELLA DUNWILL

JEREMY STANFORD

BEN STIVALA

REBECCA MOUTIEN

ALJIN ABELLA

JULIAN JONES



JONATHAN M. SHIFF
P R O D U C T I O N S

HORACE & TINA

PRINCIPAL CAST

HORACE

as himself

a 243 year old Nelf

Horace is probably best known for his 'Snow Dome' design fifty years ago, when he used to lead the Nelfs as Santa's Chief Toy Designer. His career has since taken a turn for the worst, as he has fallen to the position of Assistant Present Packer.

To try and regain his position as No. 1 toymaker, Horace jumped from Santa's sleigh to see how the children of today play with their toys. His career aims are to create the best and most popular toy of all time. Horace wasn't really expecting his sister Tina to follow him, or that they would end up in Lauren's room and her life. The whole situation doesn't help his already short temper, not to mention the fact that Sherlock, the family dog, can also see Nelfs. This could cause all sorts of problems, especially as Horace's favourite meal is Sherlock's dog food - beef and kidney chunks in gravy!

TINA

as herself

a 271 year old Nelf

Tina holds the very important position of being Santa's right-hand Nelf. Her knowledge of people means that both presents and children are equally matched up. Deciphering whether a child has been naughty or nice makes Tina a great judge of character. But since she impulsively followed Horace from the sleigh, Tina has started to turn her attentions towards Lauren's life. With so many years of experience behind her Tina has a lot of advice for Lauren, and if she doesn't put it into practise then Tina will just have to do it for her! This is fun for Tina, especially since it's her first holiday in about 150 years, but with Horace around she has her work cut out for her.

PRINCIPAL CAST continued

JASMINE ELLIS

plays Lauren Parker

the only person who can see Horace & Tina

Despite her young age, 13 year old Jasmine has had extensive experience in film and television. From Ontario, Canada, Jasmine has played the lead roles in both **LIDDY IN THE CLOSET** and **ANGELA ANACONDA**. She has also had theatre experience, including three years with the Theatre Orangeville Younger Company and their Singers Choir. Jasmine, with her mother and younger sister, has moved to Melbourne Australia in order to star in the series.

JORDAN WHITE

plays Max Tate

Lauren's stepbrother

Jordan's talents in theatre range from playing young Peter in **THE BOY FROM OZ** at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne to five Annual Performing Arts Concerts with Centrestage at the National Theatre in Darebin. Jordan's television credits include **1999 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**, and **INTRODUCING GARY PETTY**.

CAROLYN BOCK

plays Kimberly Tate

Lauren's mother

Carolyn graduated from the Victorian College of Arts, School of Dance, and has since built an impressive list of film, television and theatre credits. These include the films **DIAMONDBACK** (1999), **TALK ABOUT LOVE** (1997) and **ZONE 39** (1996). In television Carolyn has been a regular in **BLUE HEELERS** and **NEIGHBOURS**, as well as **STINGERS** (1999), **HALIFAX** (1997) and **OCEAN GIRL** (1995/6). Carolyn's theatre credits include **TWELFTH NIGHT** (1998), **UNDER THE DOCK & OVER THE HILL** (1997), **ARE YOU EVIL TONIGHT** (1997) and **VEGETABLE MAGNETISM** at the Comedy Festival in 1997. In the same year Carolyn received a Green Room Award Nomination.

PRINCIPAL CAST continued

MATTHEW PARKINSON

plays Steve Tate

Max's father, Lauren's stepfather

Matthew has an extensive list of television, film and theatre credits. His professional career began in Perth at the Hole in the Wall Theatre Company where he appeared in **HAMLET**, **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**, and the title role in Ben Johnson's **THE ALCHEMIST**. More recently his theatre credits include **THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI** and **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** with the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Matthew's first film role was as Lurch in **WINDRIDER** (1985) for Barron Films, and later he starred opposite Joan Sydney and Martin Vaughn in the teledrama **SISTERLY LOVE** for ABC television. Later in Melbourne, he formed the other half of the comedy duo **EMPTY POCKETS** (1987). In 1988 they won the inaugural Moosehead Award for new talent, and found themselves appearing on nationwide television in **THE BIG GIG**. Matthew is also instantly recognisable for the award-winning television commercial for Toyota. His more recent films credits include **BABE II** (1998) and **A CHRISTMAS STORY**.

On top of his several years of professional performing and writing experience, Matthew has starred in many television shows including, **LIFT OFF** (ABC TV), **THE CRASH ZONE** (Australian Children's Television Foundation), **A COUNTRY PRACTISE** (JNP Films) and **THE ADVENTURES OF CHUCK FINN** (Barron Television Ltd).

TERRY NORRIS

plays **Ern Watson**
Lachlan's grandfather

Terry Norris is one of Australia's most prominent television actors, having enjoyed a career spanning over four decades. Originally wanting to be a boilermaker, Terry fell into acting, and began his career as a back stage worker in the Tivoli Theatre in Victoria. Since 1962 he has had the longest run of continuous work in Australian television, starring in the high rating television series *Cop Shop* and *Bellbird*.

In the early 1980s, Terry opted for a change of career and was elected into State Government. From 1982 to 1992, he was the member for Dandenong, Victoria. Whilst a Member of Parliament, he also became Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

Since returning to his acting career in 1992, Terry has starred in **LUCKY BREAK** (1994 - also known as **PAPERBACK ROMANCE** for its US release in 1997), **ROAD TO NHILL** (1997) and **BOWL ME OVER** (2000). Terry's talents have won him both Logie and Penguin awards. He is soon to be seen starring in the forthcoming film by Paul Cox, **INNOCENCE** (2000).

HANNAH GREENWOOD

plays **Annabel Delaney**
Lauren's best friend

Hannah has been involved with modelling, singing and numerous voice-overs. She attended drama classes at the Australian College of Dramatic Arts and the Victorian Youth Theatre. Her television work includes **HIGH FLYERS** (1999), **STINGERS** (1998) and **STATE CORONER** (1998).



JONATHAN M. SHIFF

Executive Producer

Jonathan M. Schiff is the "hands on" Creative Producer and originator of all programming for the company.

Formerly a practicing Attorney, Schiff left his legal practice to undertake the Director's Course at Australia's prestigious Swinburne Film and Television School in Melbourne.

Following film school Schiff became a legal consultant to the industry as well as a freelance AD. He has acted as a stringer for Paramount's Entertainment Tonight producing and directing Australian based stories, before Australian television producer Crawford Productions employed Schiff as a trainee producer.

Since founding his own company in 1988, Schiff has established an innovative independent boutique production house staffed by some of Australia's most experienced production personnel.

Schiff has a reputation for taking on projects with "challenging" logistics. His 12 x half hour children's series **SECRET ANIMALS** was recently screened on The Discovery Channel and chronicles hundreds of the world's most endangered and rare animals in superb close up photography.

This fascination of what Schiff regards as the "animal-human" frontier was followed by 26 x half hours of **KELLY**, the story of a retired German Shepherd police dog and a young girl growing up in an Australian seaside community. An adventure action series, **KELLY** combines elaborate stunt and action sequences, with warm stories displaying positive family values - a formula that has a proven appeal to audiences worldwide.

OCEAN GIRL continues a tradition of storytelling featuring young girls in pro-active positive roles, and their relationship with the natural world and animals in particular.

Shiff has approached children's television drama with a distinct philosophy - shooting and designing with high production values normally reserved for adult audiences, and encouraging direction through big screen cinematic language. His boutique and collaborative approach has paid off.

"We tackle projects that are often logistically too scary for larger players, yet too ambitious for smaller production houses. As an example" says Shiff," our underwater second unit on **OCEAN GIRL** spent several weeks living at sea over Australia's Great Barrier Reef. We had up to 20 people in the water at any one time for safety and stunt co-ordination, underwater film camera operators, assistants, buddy divers and stills." Shiff directed these second unit sequences from a flotilla of zodiacs, topside, using portable video split and underwater communications to the divers and actors below.

Shiff has recently completed production of his new 52 x half hour children's drama series **THUNDERSTONE**, about a boy and his quest to save the world's animals. The production is ambitious using both wild and tamed in various locations as well as interacting with the characters. "I feel that each project should be bigger and better than the last," says Shiff. "With **THUNDERSTONE** I feel I have reached the zenith of the animal-human frontier, a continuing theme throughout my children's television productions."

Shiff's approach to high production standards was endorsed when he received the British Academy of Film & TV (BAFTA) Award for both **OCEAN GIRL** (1998) and **THUNDERSTONE** (1999).

In 2000 Shiff will continue to build on his global reputation with his comedy series **HORACE & TINA** and a new action adventure series for children entitled **CYBERGIRL**.

