

# The Magic Ferret

DIRECTED BY ALISON PARKER

WRITTEN BY SCOTT & PAULA MERROW



SUBTITLES AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN, GERMAN, JAPANESE, SWEDISH,  
PORTUGUESE - BRAZIL, CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED & TRADITIONAL)

11:39 MINS | ENGLISH | SOUND 5.1 | CINEMASCOPE | CANADA 2013

OFFICIAL SELECTION AT →  **tiff.** toronto  
international  
film festival  
tiff.kids



**HIJINX ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**

7 - 2047 W 16<sup>TH</sup> AVE, VANCOUVER BC V6J 2M6 CANADA

CONTACT: ALISON PARKER 604.345.3263 [DIRECTORALISONPARKER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DIRECTORALISONPARKER@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.THEMAGICFERRET.COM](http://WWW.THEMAGICFERRET.COM) | [FACEBOOK.COM/THEMAGICFERRET](https://FACEBOOK.COM/THEMAGICFERRET) | [@SAMANDBOOGER](https://@SAMANDBOOGER)

# TECH SPECS

**DURATION:** 11:39

**ASPECT RATIO:** 2.35:1 CINEMASCOPE

**AUDIO:** STEREO & 5.1 SURROUND

**SHOOTING FORMAT:** RED EPIC

**SCREENING FORMATS:** DVD, BLURAY, APPLE PRORES, H.264, HDCAM

**SUBTITLES:** SUBTITLES AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN, GERMAN, JAPANESE, SWEDISH, PORTUGUESE - BRAZIL, CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED & TRADITIONAL)

**PRODUCTION COUNTRY:** CANADA

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES:** HIJINX ENTERTAINMENT, PACIFIC BACKLOT SERVICES

**YEAR OF COMPLETION:** NOVEMBER 2013

**PREVIEWS:** AVAILABLE ON DVD NTSC OR PRIVATE LINK. PLEASE EMAIL

[DIRECTORALISONPARKER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DIRECTORALISONPARKER@GMAIL.COM) FOR PASSWORD.

**TRAILER:** [HTTP://YOUTU.BE/L77BIVAA8GS](http://youtu.be/L77BIVAA8GS)

# SYNOPSIS

## TAG LINE

He'll make your troubles disappear!

## LOG LINE

A young orphan named Sam yearns to find a forever home, so he and his pet ferret Booger conjure up a little magic.

## SYNOPSIS

Sam is a six-year-old orphan with a pet ferret named Booger. Sam is as cute as a button, but he just can't seem to find a family who wants him. When the newest prospective parents come to visit, Sam decides to impress them with a few magic tricks. He becomes "The Great Sambini" with Booger as his assistant. When his most amazing trick flops, Sam is deflated but not defeated, and with Booger's help he conjures up a different kind of magic.

# 2014 FILM FESTIVALS

CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL (SEATTLE, WA) – Jan 26 & 31

**\*WORLD PREMIERE**

VANCOUVER ISLAND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL (NANAIMO, BC) – Feb 7 & 8

**\*Nominated for Best Film**

POST ALLEY FILM FESTIVAL (SEATTLE, WA) by WOMEN IN FILM SEATTLE – Feb 8

LOVE YOUR SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (SANFORD, FL) – Feb 15

**\*2<sup>nd</sup> Place Audience Favorite**

WINNIPEG REAL 2 REEL FILM FESTIVAL (WINNIPEG, MB) – Feb 22 & 23

FREEZE FRAME INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES (WINNIPEG, MB) –  
Mar 9

TAOZ SHORTZ FILM FESTIVAL (TAOZ, NM) – Mar 22

CANADA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (VANCOUVER, BC) – Mar 29

**\*WINNER Best Short Film**

REEL 2 REAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH (VANCOUVER, BC) – Apr 5

TIFF KIDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (TORONTO, ON) – Apr 9 & 16

A CORTO DI DONNE (NAPLES, ITALY) – Apr 11

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL (CALGARY, AB) – May 21 - 24

More to come!!



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I really enjoy making movies featuring ferrets because they are often misrepresented in the media and they deserve to be shown in positive ways. I own two ferrets and it is my pet ferret Falcor who plays Booger in the film. He is very smart, loving and playful and I just want to share that with the world. I love working with kids and animals and making films that the entire family can enjoy! The Magic Ferret is a cute and charming short film about a young boy named Sam and his ferret Booger. They live in an orphanage and are looking for a forever home, so together they conjure up a little magic to make it happen! The cast was incredible and made my job very easy. The script is short, sweet and endearing. I hope this will be a film that people of all ages can enjoy and treasure for years to come.

- ALISON PARKER (DIRECTOR / PRODUCER)

## PREVIOUS AWARDS – JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE

Gold Remi Award (Houston Worldfest), Best Short Film Award (Nevada Film Festival), Rising Star Award (Canada International Film Festival), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Best Foreign Film (Lake Charles Film Festival).

## PREVIOUS FILM FESTIVALS – JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE

Hollywood Short Film Festival, International Family Film Festival, Riverside International Film Festival, Myrtle Beach International Film Festival, Seattle True Independent Film Festival, SoCal Independent Film Festival, Lake Charles Film Festival, Hamilton Film Festival, Nevada Film Festival, Canada International Film Festival.



# FEATURED MUSIC



## "Magic"

Written By David Paton and William Lyall

Performed by **Selena Gomez**

Publisher EMI Blackwood Music Inc. BMI

Courtesy of Universal Music Canada



## "This House"

Written & Performed by **Cat Thomson**

Courtesy of 604 Records and Light Organ Records

# Q&A WITH DIRECTOR ALISON PARKER

**WHO IS YOUR INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR THE MAGIC FERRET?**

**AP:** I think The Magic Ferret will be a hit with kids and parents, but I hope it's something people of all ages can enjoy and appreciate. It's a cute, charming and feel good little movie.

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE FILMING WITH KIDS AND ANIMALS?**

**AP:** I love working with kids and animals because they are always a big hit with any audience. It did add more time to the filming, but the ferret was well trained and Jacob Tremblay is a true professional. The cute factor makes up for the challenge!

**WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE DURING FILMING?**

**AP:** We shot The Magic Ferret in 2 days and it really should have been 3 or 4. We had to cut a few shots that would have been really spectacular, but I'm still really happy with what we got.



### HOW DID YOU GET THE RIGHTS TO THE SELENA GOMEZ SONG 'MAGIC'?

AP: I spent a lot of time Googling songs about Magic and when I came across Selena's cover version of Pilot's hit song "Magic", I knew I had to have it. One of my producers, Synnöve Godeseth, went through the proper procedures for clearing music rights and negotiated the fees with the publishers. We were able to agree on a price that worked within our budget and one of our Executive Producers stepped up and helped cover the cost so we could have it. The day I found out we got the rights to Selena's song was definitely one of my favorite moments of this whole production! Synnöve's email subject read "YOU WILL GO BANANAS WHEN YOU READ THIS!". She was right!

### HOW WAS THIS FILM FUNDED AND WHAT WAS THE BUDGET?

AP: This film was funded entirely by a crowd-funding campaign on IndieGoGo. Our goal was \$10K and we exceeded it and raised over \$15K. We pulled many favors and are blessed with many sponsors as well that helped make this possible. Our funders are mostly ferret enthusiasts who follow my ferret movies and are always clamoring for the next one!

### YOUR PREVIOUS SHORT FILM WAS ALSO A FERRET MOVIE CALLED JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE. ARE YOU ONLY INTERESTED IN DIRECTING FERRET MOVIES?

AP: I plan to continue making ferret movies as long as there is an audience for them, but I am interested in making anything that has a good story and a lot of heart. I love working with children and animals and I hope to make many more family films in the future. I would love to make some films featuring different animals, such as sloths, otters, dolphins, you name it!

### WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR THE MAGIC FERRET?

AP: I would like to see The Magic Ferret have a good run on the film festival circuit and perhaps win a few awards. Mostly I just want people to enjoy it and have the DVD as a treasured part of their collection.



#### **HOW DID THE SCRIPT COME ABOUT?**

**AP:** I was looking for a short script for my next ferret movie and posted an ad on a writer's forum online. Within 24 hours I was contacted by Scott & Paula Merrow, a married couple from Albuquerque, NM. They had a script called "The Great Sambini" which had won some awards, and featured a rabbit named Conrad. They said I could change the rabbit to a ferret quite easily and they were right. We added in a few ferret behaviors and I really think the story is even more endearing now!

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE MOVIE?**

**AP:** Actually, I think my favorite part of the whole film is the end credits! There is a very cute animation and an interactive game for children where they have to count the number of times Booger the ferret pops up. It's super cute and fun. That was my producer Hugh Brompton's idea, and Kimberley Palmer created the adorable animation. Plus that's when the Selena song plays which just leaves you with that incredibly happy feeling. The music that you end on is very important so I think that makes a big difference.



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## JACOB TREMBLAY *(SAM aka THE GREAT SAMBINI)*

At just 6 years old, Jacob already has an impressive resume. When Jacob was 3 years old, he began his career acting in commercials for companies such as Fisher Price, Applebees and Gerber. At 5 years old, Jacob got his big break, landing the role of "Blue" in Sony Pictures' *The Smurfs 2*, playing the son of Neil Patrick Harris and Jayma Mays. When he's not walking the red (or blue) carpet, Jacob is just like any other boy - he likes school, friends, dinosaurs, wild animals and Star Wars. Jacob just wrapped a role in the TV Movie "*My Mother's Future Husband*" and currently filming a lead role in the feature film "*Somnia*" alongside Kate Bosworth and Thomas Jane.



## **FALCOR THE FERRET** *(BOOGER)*

Falcor is the most successful ferret actor in the film industry, with a large and enthusiastic fan base around the world. After a successful career in commercials, Falcor landed the leading role of Jasper in the award-winning short film *Jake & Jasper: A Ferret Tale* in 2011. The film went on to win Best Short Film at the Nevada Film Festival, and Falcor received the honor of being named "Happiest Pet" by the Seattle True Independent Film Festival. Falcor has been professionally trained by animal wranglers since he was 6 months old, and lives with his human, director Alison Parker, and his brother, Frisco the Ferret (retired actor) in Vancouver, British Columbia.



## BEVERLEY ELLIOTT *(MRS. RASSENTI)*

Originally from Listowel, Ontario, Beverley has made Vancouver her home for the past 30 years. She has a busy career in film, TV, theatre and is a successful singer songwriter as well. She currently plays the part of 'Granny' on ABC's *ONCE UPON A TIME*. Other film and TV credits include Clint Eastwood's academy award winning *UNFORGIVEN* and *SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS*. Beverley has over 100 film and TV credits and has appeared as a series regular in the Stephen King mini-series, *KINGDOM HOSPITAL*, as well as *HARPER'S ISLAND*, *HOPE ISLAND*, and *BORDERTOWN*. She has won awards for her songwriting, and has released four CD's.



## **FRED EWANUICK** (*MR. PARKER*)

**Fred Ewanuick starred as Dan in the Gemini Award nominated, CTV original series, DAN FOR MAYOR. Prior to DAN FOR MAYOR, Ewanuick was known to television audiences as Hank Yarbo, for a six-season run, on the CTV hit series CORNER GAS. Corner Gas was nominated for an International Emmy Award for Best Comedy Show and won a Gemini Award for Best Ensemble Cast in 2007. Ewanuick's other series credits include CTV comedy/drama series ROBSON ARMS for three seasons, and guest starring roles in DA VINCI'S INQUEST and DARK ANGEL.**





## **LISA DURUPT** (*MRS. PARKER*)

Originally from Winnipeg MB, Lisa Durupt started as a latecomer into musical theatre at 21, quickly transitioning to stunts and eventually film and TV. She is best known for her role in HBO Canada's **LESS THAN KIND** (Shandra), for which she received a Gemini Nomination in 2010. Next up you can catch her in the biopic 'The Color Of Rain' alongside Lacey Chabert.

Forever a stage brat at heart, she spends a lot of her spare time singing & writing music. (Inside info: Fred Ewanuick was her first official Ukulele Teacher on Set!) Friends & family know Lisa as having the most contagious laugh around.

# PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

## **ALISON PARKER** (*DIRECTOR / PRODUCER*)

Alison Parker is a Canadian film director and producer living in Vancouver, British Columbia. Alison began her career as a sound engineer and editor. She then went on to build and run her own film studio. In 2010, Alison turned her focus to directing her own films. Undeterred by the old adage, "Never work with children or animals," Alison created a franchise of movies featuring children and animals, specifically ferrets. Her films have garnered a following of enthusiastic fans from all over the world. Alison's credits include "Jake & Jasper: A Ferret Tale" which won Best Short Film at the Nevada Film Festival and the Gold Remi Award at Houston International Film Festival and the upcoming short film, "The Magic Ferret," which includes music by pop star, Selena Gomez. Parker's pet, Falcor the Ferret, stars in the majority of her films, is professionally trained as an animal actor and has his own IMDb page.

## **SCOTT & PAULA MERROW** (*WRITERS*)

Scott and Paula Merrow have written over 40 short screenplays. Their very first script, "A Piece of Pie", won the 2006 New Mexico Governor's Cup Competition. The film was produced and has won several awards. Altogether, seven of their short scripts have been produced with two more (including "The Magic Ferret") currently in production.

## **HUGH BROMPTON** (*PRODUCER*)

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Hugh Brompton now resides in Vancouver, Canada where his extensive television background has aided a successful transition to film. His work in drama development and script editing has provided Hugh the comprehensive experience, working in the early stages of development, right through to a finished product. His passion for screenwriting coincides with his talent and aptitude in producing, working as a writer/producer on the upcoming 'The Magic Ferret' feature, following his successful producing debut, 'The Magic Ferret' short.

## **SYNNÖVE GODESETH** (*PRODUCER*)

Originally from the UK, Synnöve moved to Vancouver, BC over 5 years ago where she assists in setting up documentaries, photo shoots and travel shows to Vancouver and BC. Her company Location Fixer Productions also provides location management to some of North America's busiest film locations. Although she has assisted many producers and directors on big budget features, *The Magic Ferret* is the first dramatic short film that she has produced herself.

## **SHAWN SEIFERT** (*DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY*)

Shawn's love of film began at an early age. He loved the grand stories, spectacle, and temporary escape from reality that Hollywood films offered. Shawn began working in the film industry shortly after graduation from UBC in Vancouver, BC. Even as he studied history, geography and philosophy at University, Shawn's true passion for cameras and the craft of composition, lights and shadows kept him busy learning as much about cinematography as he could in his free time. Upon graduation, he threw himself headfirst into a career in the industry chasing his dreams of working as a cinematographer. Taking every project he could, and every opportunity to learn, Shawn quickly became a well-regarded young director of photography in Vancouver.

## **HENRIK ÅSTRÖM** (*COMPOSER*)

Henrik Åström (born 11 January 1980) is a Swedish composer and music producer. He owned the recording studio A-Stream Studio in Stockholm between 2002 and 2012 where he worked with artists such as Miss Li, Oh Laura, Erik Grönwall, Titiyo and Zooparty that was co-produced by the former Sex Pistols member Glen Matlock. Åström has written and performed music for the Swedish dancer and choreographer Frauke and composed music for the dance festival Dance Bistro that was performed in Long Beach, California, in 2013. Åström also has written music for several feature films, most recently the drama *Cowboys and Indians* by the award-winning director Ian McCrudden.

# CRITIC & FAN REVIEWS

*"Imaginative and amiable, Parker delivers an infectious narrative that gives hope, faith and adventure to children in search for emotional fulfillment. 'The Magic Ferret' should be a delightfully bouncy fable for the crafty tykes out there filling their quiet despair with creativity."*

- FRANK OCHIENG

*"The movie's jumpy and reflective soundtrack featuring Cat Thomson's 'This House' and Selena Gomez's inventive version of the tune 'Magic' fuels the poignant energy in 'The Magic Ferret' giving this shortened exposition its appealing personality."*

- FOCUS OF NEW YORK MAGAZINE

*"The Magic Ferret is Magically Delicious!"*

- SUSAN JONES

*"I really liked The Magic Ferret. It had all of the components to make a great short film; It was funny, it had some lovable characters and most of all, a great story line."*

- FIONA MARCHETTO (10-YRS-OLD FILM CRITIC), CANADIAN FILM REVIEW

*"Expertly crafted and accompanied by a superb soundtrack, The Magic Ferret has something for everyone, reaffirming hope in the heart of the viewer."*

- CHARLIE ELGAR, FREELANCE FILM CRITIC

*"The Magic Ferret is a delight. Highly recommend this film!"*

- DAWN MARIE KLÜG

*"Special thanks to Alison Parker for making this a reality for the ferret community and showing that ferrets truly are smart, loving, wonderful pets and great companions for the right person or family once you've done your research about them."*

- PATTI RIGGERT



*"This movie is sure to put a smile on your face and will probably just melt your heart a little bit too!"*

- ANN STAUB, PAWSITIVELY PETS

*"The Magic Ferret is a heart-warming film that will delight the whole family and leave you feeling as warm and fuzzy as Booger the ferret himself."*

- STEPHANIE ESLAKE

*"Regardless of your age, this is an uplifting and joyful film that packs an emotional punch and will leave audiences feeling infectiously happy. Not bad for 11 minutes and 39 seconds."*

- WELOVEMOVIES [MORETHANYOU]

*"The Magic Ferret is a super sweet film that is sure to warm your heart!"*

- THE PET BLOG LADY

*"The ferret really is enchanting!"*

- CINEMABLOGRAPHER

*"The score, which features the songs Magic by Selena Gomez and This House by Cat Thomson, effectively reinforces the feel good atmosphere of the film."*

- THESKYKID.COM