



# JAKE and JASPER

A F E R R E T T A L E

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Color  
Genre: Family, Short  
Language: English  
Country: Canada  
Sound: 2.0 Stereo Sound  
Runtime: 25 Mins 14 Secs  
Aspect Ratio: 2:35:1 Widescreen  
WGC Script Registration Number: S12-00019

[www.theferretmovie.com](http://www.theferretmovie.com)  
[@jake\\_and\\_jasper](https://www.facebook.com/TheFerretMovie)

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY Alison Parker

## CAST

Connor Stanhope ..... JAKE TYLER  
Andrew Jackson ..... JAMES TYLER  
Nina Hagerty ..... JESSE TYLER  
Blu Mankuma ..... PRINCIPAL WHITNEY

AND INTRODUCING

Falcor the Ferret as JASPER

## CREW

SCREENPLAY BY ..... David B. Beleznay  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS..... Martin & Joyce Morley  
..... Andrea Goldthorpe  
PRODUCERS ..... Gord Peters  
..... Lorie Kapila  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY .....Brendan Uegama  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER..... Oshy Parasol  
COSTUME DESIGN ..... Emily Hill  
EDITOR..... Michael Peters  
COMPOSER..... Henrik Åström  
STILLS..... Eva Siu  
GRAPHIC DESIGN..... Nick McLean  
FEATURING "SONGBIRD" BY..... Crash Test Dummies



## OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS

Struggling to cope with the recent death of his mother, young Jake Tyler retreats from his family and the world at large.

After being involved in a violent fight with some older boys at school, he winds up in the principal's office with his father who is told that Jake might benefit from professional help.

Unfortunately, Jake's father has been unable to help himself through the loss of his wife. When not neglecting his son and daughter as a result, he's furious with them.

Jesse (Jake's sister) is so fed up with her selfish father that she moves out of the house but not without leaving a pet ferret, Jasper, to keep her brother company.

Jake & Jasper become fast friends as the two develop a strong bond. Yet just as this companionship seems on the verge of prying Jake from his shell, his father threatens to take Jasper away.

With the thought of losing his best pal, Jake decides to run away from home and the two get lost in a nearby forest. Then when darkness falls Jake & Jasper not only lose each other in the woods, they nearly lose their lives.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

One fateful day in May, I decided it would be a great idea to make a movie about a boy and a ferret. As a ferret owner myself, I wanted to share with the world the great joy and love a ferret can bring to your life.

Sadly, many people have a misconceived perception of what ferrets are. They are often portrayed very negatively and inaccurately in the media.

It is our intent that *JAKE AND JASPER: A FERRET TALE* will help to change this stereotype. Time will tell whether or not we succeed!

Thank you to the 251 people around the world that donated money so this film could be made!

*Alison Parker*





## PRODUCER'S COMMENT

Every once in a while a story crosses your desk that touches your heart and makes you fall in love with the characters. *JAKE AND JASPER: A FERRET TALE* is one of those projects.

The pain of a boy losing his mother and isolating himself from the world to mask his grief is something most of us can relate to.

We've all either felt that heartache ourselves or have known someone who has. The world around you collapses and it feels like you're truly all alone. Finding a friend during that time can be next to impossible.

*Unless that friend finds you.* The idea of a pet helping someone through their grief is a special one. Even when we can't articulate it, animals can sense our pain, and instinctively know how to help bring us through it.

After I met Alison and read this touching story by David B. Belezny, I knew I had to be involved with the making of this special film.

And when Alison told me that another reason she wanted to make this film was to help people see what wonderful animals ferrets are and help dispel the negative stereotypes people have of ferrets – which often leads to their abandonment and mistreatment – I became convinced that I had to help.

*JAKE AND JASPER: A FERRET TALE* is a heartwarming film, touching on the universal emotions of loss, loneliness, friendship, love, and showing us the incredible healing powers of animals and families.

It's true. Sometimes all you need is a little friendship.

*Gord Peters*

# JAKE and JASPER

A FERRET TALE

*“This movie will be revolutionary. For once, ferrets will be portrayed in a realistic (and all the more lovable) manner.”*

*- Jezzy Wolfe, FuzzyFriskyFierce*





## Alison Parker's Filmmaking Dream Becomes a Reality

*The former audio engineer's successful endeavor will be an inspiration to those who possess more creativity than capital.*

By Mindy Peterman, Columnist (The Morton Report)



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In the entertainment business, perhaps more than any other, seeing an independent project through to fruition is a daunting task. Vision becomes secondary to production costs and rarely does one person with a dream get the job done. Alison Parker is the rare exception to this rule.

Parker produced and directed the film *Jake and Jasper: A Ferret Tale* from a script written by David B. Belezny. It is the story of how a ferret helps a young boy through a tragic time in his life. For *Jake and Jasper*, Parker enlisted the aid of two other producers, 30 actors, and 31 crew members, all of whom volunteered their time.

The filming equipment was donated for free or at deep discounts. To complete her quest to begin filming, Parker launched a successful world-wide funding campaign.

The principal actors were impressed with Parker's drive, enthusiasm, and energy. Connor Stanhope, who plays Jake and will be familiar to audiences as young Lex Luthor on Smallville, enthuses, "I think that Alison did an amazing job of getting the film off the ground. She worked really hard for weeks to get everything that she wanted in the film by fund raising to pay for the animals and animal wrangler. Having them on set made a huge difference to the story and it is really going to look amazing!"

Stanhope describes Jake as "a lonely boy who has lost his Mom. He has withdrawn into a world of his own and because of that he gets bullied at school. When his older sister Jesse moves out of the house she gives him a ferret. Having the ferret helps Jake to come out of his shell and deal with his grief."

The young actor was particularly thrilled to play opposite Falcor the ferret. "Working with a ferret was really a dream role for me. I love animals and getting to spend a lot of time in front of a camera with my little buddy Falcor was amazing. He is such a fun little guy and always doing things to make everyone laugh. He and I are like best friends now. I can't wait for everybody to see what a lot of fun ferrets are."

Blu Mankuma (Forever Knight, Supernatural), who plays Mr. Whitney, the principal of Jake's school, had only praise for Parker.

*"That was one determined lady! Like Jake, she was fighting for her ferret so it was a noble cause and definitely a labor of love."*

*- Blu Mankuma, Actor*

"She did it brilliantly. Got a stellar crew that knew exactly what they were doing, and a wonderful cast. Connor is just excellent as Jake. Andrew [Jackson] was simply amazing and a joy to work with. All of the kids at the school were right into it and they did an awesome job, and Falcor, ham that he is, stole the whole show. Alison managed all of these elements with grace, pace, and fun. That's skill at its finest. I was quite impressed with her and I hope her film inspires more local filmmakers to go for it."

Jake's father is played by veteran actor Andrew Jackson (Seawolf, The Collector), another cast member impressed by Parker's determination. "It's one thing to be creative and commit to someone else's project.

It's quite another to bring that personal vision to fruition. I am extremely impressed with Alison's drive and unbridled determination to bring her project to life."

In the end it all comes down to Parker, her dream, and how she worked hard to make it come true. She was more than happy to discuss how she managed to beat the odds and get her film made.

**What sort of work did you do prior to becoming a filmmaker?**

Besides many day jobs to pay the bills, I was an audio engineer and worked at an audio post-production studio.

**Where are you from? How old are you? Do you come from a family of filmmakers, actors, or writers?**

I grew up in Victoria, BC, Canada. I am 30 years old. My family is not in this industry at all although my father has written several books about helicopters and fire fighters. They enjoy watching movies though, and get very excited to hear about my life in film and the people I get to meet. They enjoy showing my DVDs to their friends and 'bragging'.

**What inspired you to make Jake and Jasper: A Ferret Tale? Can you discuss the premise and the message you hope the film conveys?**

*"I was inspired to make this movie because ferrets have always been portrayed in a negative way in the media."*

*- Alison Parker, Director*

They have been shown as being vicious, used as weapons to kill people, referred to as rodents, etc. This could not be further from the truth. They are cute, funny, smart and loving creatures. I know because I own two ferrets myself. It really is like having a puppy or a kitten that never grows up! So I decided to make this movie to show that.

The premise is that a young boy named Jake (Connor Stanhope) has recently lost his mother, his father (Andrew Jackson) can't help him emotionally, he has trouble in school, and his sister moves out. He's completely alone and has become withdrawn, but his sister Jesse (Nina Hagerty) gives him a pet ferret to keep him company. The film



shows what a positive effect the ferret, whom he names Jasper, has on Jake's life, and the adventures they get themselves into.

**Why did you take it upon yourself to do this project independently rather than by more traditional means?**

I decided to use crowd funding through IndieGoGo because I had a feeling this was the movie ferret owners had been waiting for, and they'd want to help.

**How long did it take you to round up partners and get the funding you needed?**

I came up with the idea to make a movie about a boy and a ferret in May 2011. We started fund raising on IndieGoGo in June, and in 50 days we raised \$13,055. I also put in a lot of my own money, and we had many corporate sponsorships, such as Nintendo, Converse, Marshall Pet Products, Blue Sky Soda, Tweak Footwear and much more. We shot the movie in August and September.

**You used your own pet ferret for the film. How did you train him to be "on" and to do what you needed him to do?**



I had the help of professional animal trainers and taught him how to do many tricks, such as standing up, going to a mark, rolling over, staying, digging, etc. I used treats, clickers, two-way radios, and more treats. Falcor is incredibly smart and usually picks up on what I want him to do within minutes. Training your animal to do tricks is also a really great way to bond with your pet. The other day I was watching TV and Falcor walked up to me and then rolled over! I had to run to get him

a treat. Sometimes I think he is the one training me!

**Your cast and crew were all volunteers. How did you inspire these people to get on board with your project?**

It's really tough and I always feel bad for not paying people but the truth is, if I did, we would have had no equipment. All the money went into the camera and grip/lighting equipment, locations

and food. That being said, everyone was really excited about this project!

We shot it on the RED Epic, we had a 30-foot Supertechno crane, a ton of animals, great actors, a talented DOP.

I think people were really happy to be a part of this, for the experience, and to see how far this film could go.

**What advice would you offer others who would like to follow your example?**

My advice is to make what you know. Make it something you can be passionate about. If you love it, chances are there are other people that will love it too. Be original. Use social media daily to promote and grow your fan base. If you're crowd funding, make a clever, great quality promo video showing WHY you need the money, and ask for something in specific.

We asked for \$10,000 to pay for the animals in the film. We made a promo video showing what Jake and Jasper would look like if we didn't raise the money to get real animals, and had to use papier mache animals instead. It was cute, funny, and thankfully, it worked.



*“Working with a ferret was really a dream role for me. I love animals and getting to spend a lot of time in front of a camera with my little buddy Falcor was amazing.”*

*- Connor Stanhope, Actor*

## **CONNOR STANHOPE**

Born in Ottawa in 1998, Connor Stanhope has already accumulated credits in an impressive list of productions. His biggest role so far was in The CW's Smallville, in which he played the young Lex Luthor. By portraying Superman's nemesis, he belongs to a select group of actors that includes Michael Rosenbaum (who portrayed the adult Lex on Smallville), Gene Hackman and Kevin Spacey.

Connor stepped into a more heroic figure's early shoes when he played the young Arthur in the star-studded mini-series Merlin's Apprentice, featuring Sam Neill and Miranda Richardson.

The up-and-coming actor's other credits include parts in The CW's Supernatural and the horror movie The Shrine, starring Smallville alumnus Aaron Ashmore. In 2012 Connor is due to appear in the high-profile action film Recoil alongside Danny Trejo (Machete), wrestler Steve Austin and Patrick Gilmore (Stargate Universe, Riese: Kingdom Falling).



## ANDREW JACKSON

Though Andrew Jackson shares the name of a famous American historical figure, he has his own inspiring history. Early in Andrew's career he played a series lead on the TV soap opera, All My Children.

The tall and striking actor made multiple appearances in a number of films and series including Wind at My Back, Terminal City, Earth: Final Conflict, Life As We Know It, The Collector and Kyle XY to name a few.

Selected feature film credits include, Seed, All I Want & Shadowbuilder. Andrew won the Best Actor Award at the Cabbagetown Film & Video Festival for his performance as 'The Father' in the film short, My Father Is An Actor.

In recent years Andrew provided character voices for a number of animated series including Razzberry Jazzberry Jam, Bakugan Battle Brawlers, Skatoony, The Amazing Spiez, and Beyblade Metal Fusion.

Andrew has done extensive work in the commercial voice world including a number of feature film movie trailers for such films as Sucker Punch and Arthur.

Andrew plays the piano and trumpet and has a passion for charity work. He has helped to raise funds for Make-A-Wish Foundation, cystic fibrosis, AIDs research and helped raise funds for families of American policemen and firemen who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Moreover, he has volunteered to help numerous worthy causes, including the homeless, terminally ill children and the Special Olympics.



## BLU MANKUMA

Blu Mankuma is a veteran character actor whose long list of credits testifies to the high regard he is held in. Back in the early 1980s he appeared as a regular in the television series *Huckleberry Finn* and his *Friends*.

Since then he has been featured in many acclaimed shows, including *Wiseguy*, *21 Jump Street* (with Johnny Depp), *MacGyver*, *Street Justice*, *Robocop*, *Madison*, *M.A.N.T.I.S.*, *The League of Super Evil*, *The Outer Limits*, *The X-Files*, *Smallville*, *Supernatural*, *Dead Like Me*, *Stargate SG-1* and *Da Vinci's Inquest*.

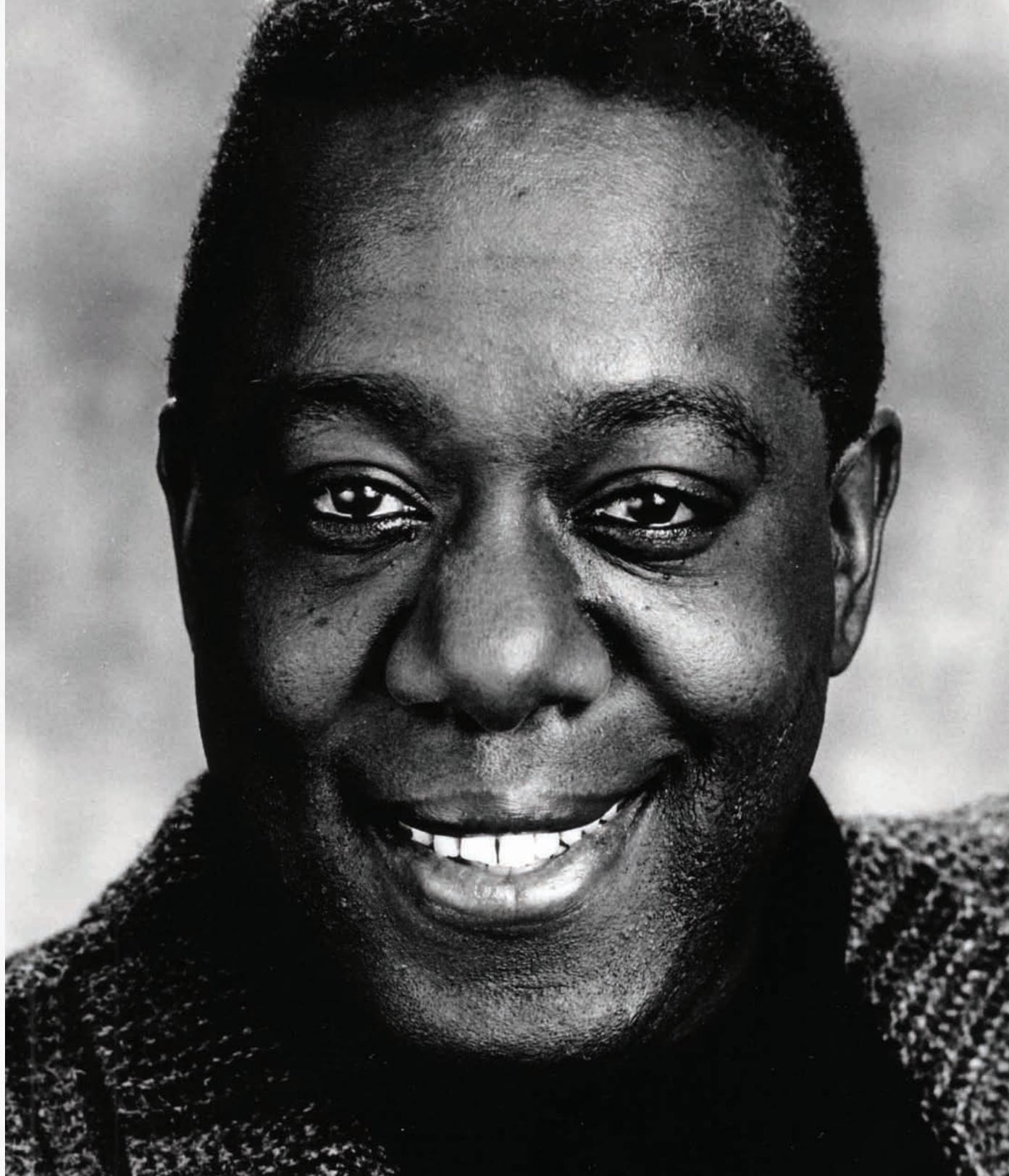
His film credits include *Look Who's Talking*, *The Russia House*, *Another Stakeout*, *Santa Clause 2*, *Tin Man* and *2012*. Blu's extensive resume recently earned him the Union of British Columbia Performers' John Juliani Award of Excellence, which was presented for achievement as a Performing Artist and for distinguished contribution to the Film and Television Industry.

The multi-talented Blu is also a singer, songwriter, producer, director and voice over artist.

He was the voice of Tigatron in *Beast Wars: Transformers* (a.k.a. *Beasties*) and has also voiced characters in shows that include *Stargate: Infinity*, *G.I. Joe* and *Sabrina: The Animated Series*, as well as the video game *Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit 2*.

Mankuma was born in Seattle but lives in Vancouver.

Biographies written by Michael Simpson

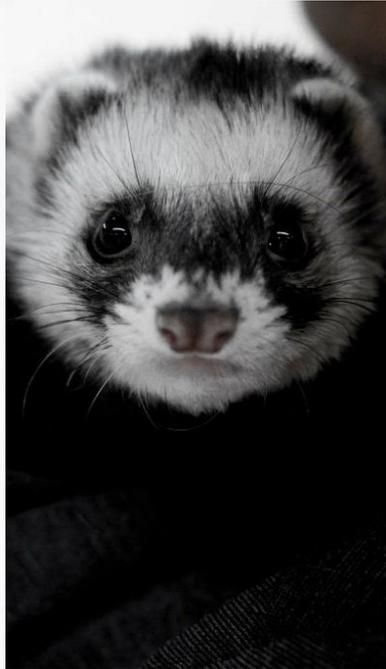


## FALCOR THE FERRET

Falcor the Ferret is no stranger to the bright lights of a film set. He charmed television viewers with his performances in Marshall's Bandits Ferret Treats and Goodbye Odor.

It was these productions – both commercials, of course – that got him the role of Jasper, together with his previous contributions to the cause of ferrets: A Ferret Facts Public Service Announcement and a commercial for the organization Legalize Ferrets.org in which he co-starred with Sierra Pitkin (Juno).

Falcor also made a cameo appearance in the comedy web-series Vita Bella: The Dogumentary. Jake and Jasper: A Ferret Tale is his first film.



## NINA HAGERTY

Nina Hagerty is an exciting up-and-coming young actress who is making an impression in Canada on film and on stage.

As a member of the Encore Dance Academy in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, she entertained live audiences with her contributions to the theatrical productions Extravaganza 2007, Dance Power and the Peak Invitational. Her dancing talent encompasses jazz, hip-hop and ballet styles and she has been trained in musical theatre.

Nina has also made her mark on the small screen. She had a role in the television pilot Left Coast, which was helmed by multiple-award-winning director Michael McGowan (Saint Ralph, One Week).





## ALISON PARKER

### Director, Producer

Alison Parker is a Director, Producer, and Editor living in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

She was raised in Victoria and moved to Vancouver in 2000 to pursue her filmmaking career. She attended Columbia Academy, where she graduated with honors in 2002 as the Audio Student of the Year.

After a brief stint as a sound engineer, Alison turned her focus to editing, producing, and directing her own films. Her first short, *Night of the Unwed* (2010), won 2nd place at the Dead on Film Zombie Short Film Festival.

In 2011, Alison directed and produced several short films, a comedy web series about talking dogs, and co-produced a feature. Alison's most ambitious project to date is the short film *Jake & Jasper: A Ferret Tale*, which was funded by hundreds of ferret lovers around the world and features her own pet ferret Falcor as "Jasper".

Alison lives with her two ferrets, Falcor and Frisco. Both her ferrets have their own IMDB pages.



## GORD PETERS

### Producer

Gord has spent the past two decades developing and sharing his skills in film, video, and television production, both in the field, and in the classroom.

His lifelong passion for film and television has led him to the roles of Producer, Director, Director of Photography, and Editor on a wide variety of projects.

He was nominated in 2009 for a Leo Award for his cinematography on a unique musical eulogy project for prolific Canadian violinist, Oliver Schroer.

Many of his students have gone on to outstanding careers of their own. While very rewarding, have given Gord the itch again to get back on the horse and start making his own films. During the last three years, Gord has produced four short films, directing three of them.

Gord's creative desire is to write, produce, and direct his own feature films and television series, showing the world the great talent and scenic locations Canada has to offer.

*“Ferrets are pretty much the most misunderstood pets around today. It’s projects like this that reminds us that independent filmmaking is still alive and fighting back.”*

*– Chris Suffield, Vulture Hound Magazine & Jellyfielders Podcast*



## TRIVIA / TID BITS

- There was supposed to be an ambulance and a fire truck in the final scene of the film, but the fire truck sank into the soft ground in the forest before making it into position and never made it into the scene. It had to be towed out at 2 in the morning.
- Features the song “Songbird” by Grammy nominated and Juno award winning group Crash Test Dummies, from their 2010 album Oooh La La!
- The film’s soundtrack also features “Love Grows One by One” by Carol Johnson and “Lost” by Reid Jamieson.
- Using crowdfunding site IndieGoGo, Jake & Jasper raised nearly \$20,000 for production costs. It was funded almost entirely by ferret lovers around the world.
- Besides Falcor the Ferret, the film also features a skunk, raccoon, wolf, horse, rabbits and a Great Horned Owl.
- The entire cast and crew of Jake & Jasper volunteered their time and services.
- Andrew Jackson flew from Toronto to Vancouver to take part in this film and portray Jake’s father.
- Nina Hagerty was discovered by the director on her acting school’s website. Alison tracked down her agent and requested she send a video audition for the role of Jesse.
- Jake & Jasper was filmed in Vancouver, Langley, and New Westminster, BC. It was shot in 6 days. It was filmed on the Red Epic camera, with a 40 person crew. A 30 ft super techno crane was donated to the production.
- Jake & Jasper: A Ferret Tale is registered with the American Humane Association.

## FILM STILLS





# THE TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OF ALISON PARKER DURING THE MAKING OF JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE

## 1. WHY A FERRET? WHAT IS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THIS FILM?

Ferrets are very misunderstood creatures and I wanted to shed some light on what they are. They are not rodents, they are not vicious, they are not stinky! Ferrets are very lovable and playful pets. Smart too. I decided to make this movie to help dispel some of the negative stereotypes that are out there in the media. I also wanted to do something that hasn't been done before! My biggest inspiration was my two ferrets, Frisco and Falcor.

## 2. WHAT WAS YOUR BUDGET AND HOW DID YOU FUND THE FILM?

Our budget was approximately \$20,000. I raised all the money through crowd-funding website IndieGoGo. Over 250 people (mostly ferret lovers) around the world donated to see this film get made. I also received sponsorships from many companies, such as Nintendo Inc., Marshall Pet Products, Ferret Depot, Converse, Blue Sky Soda, Tweak Footwear, and many more.

## 3. JAKE & JASPER FEATURES MANY ANIMALS SUCH AS A HORSE, WOLF, SKUNK, RACCOON, ETC. WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH SO MANY ANIMALS?

I love animals so it was really a dream for me to have so many different kinds of animals in this movie. When I was a kid I dreamed of being a vet or a zookeeper. It does require a lot of patience, however. You are basically working on the animal's

time table once you get to their scenes. It's worth it though. They add so much production value and heart to a movie. I see a cute animal in a film and I instantly smile. We had professional animal wranglers who really taught me a lot, also.

## 4. WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE WHEN MAKING THIS FILM?

The biggest challenge for me was definitely working with a low budget. There's just never enough money to do what you really want to do when you're independent. Shots got cut. Coverage was limited at times. We were always rushed. This movie has tons of kids and animals so that didn't really help either! So the biggest challenge was doing justice to the vision I had with the funds that were available.

## 5. BEFORE YOU BEGAN PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY, JAKE & JASPER HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED AN IMPRESSIVE FAN BASE ONLINE. HOW DID YOU ACCOMPLISH THIS?

This is the movie that ferret lovers have been waiting for. Imagine if there was no movies about dogs, or cats. But millions of people in the world have dogs and cats as pets. Then one day, you hear about a movie that's coming out, about a boy and his dog (or cat, whatever). Wouldn't you be excited about that? So I used social media like Facebook, Twitter, Message Boards and more to get the word out to the ferret loving people of the world. Myself and my producers emailed movie review sites, ferret sites, pet product sites, and asked them to write articles about the film. Word spread fast.

## 6. WILL THERE BE A FEATURE FILM VERSION OF JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE?

Absolutely! We are working on the script for the feature version now. While Jake & Jasper is doing the festival circuit in 2012, I will be busy working on getting together the funds for the feature version. The demand is there, like you wouldn't believe.

## 7. WHAT HAS THE REACTION TO THIS FILM BEEN LIKE?

It's been unbelievably and overwhelmingly positive! People are crazy to see this movie! It has thousands of fans around the world. People are requesting that I release it with subtitles in Swedish, Japanese, French, German, Spanish, etc. I have even seen people requesting my film be ripped and uploaded to a torrent site so people can download it for free. The pirates are ready and waiting. All this, for an independent short film? Crazy.

## 8. HOW DID YOU TRAIN FALCOR THE FERRET?

I worked with Falcor for many weeks leading up to the filming of this movie on a variety of tricks and behaviors. He's been in some commercials before, so he was already quite well trained. I told the writer what kind of behaviors he was capable of, and he incorporated that into the script. I used treats, clickers, two way radios, and more. I taught him to go to a mark, to stay, to stand, to carry an item in his mouth, to dig in a certain spot, all on command. I also received a lot of help and advice from our animal wranglers from Animal Insight for Film.

## 9. WHAT SORT OF AUDIENCE WOULD ENJOY JAKE & JASPER: A FERRET TALE?

Jake & Jasper is a family movie. Families and animal lovers alike will love this film. It's an incredibly heartwarming story about love, loss, friendship, and the special bond between humans and animals. This is something everyone can appreciate.

## 10. HOW DID YOU GET VETERAN ACTORS LIKE ANDREW JACKSON AND BLU MANKUMA, AND GRAMMY NOMINATED GROUP THE CRASH TEST DUMMIES TO TAKE PART IN THIS MOVIE?

I just asked them. With Andrew Jackson, I knew he'd be the perfect fit for the role, so I found his website and sent an email to his agent. Blu Mankuma lives in Vancouver and although we had never met, we already had a lot of mutual friends, so I just sent him a message on Facebook. I'll never forget when he responded with "I'm down to ride." As for The Crash Test Dummies, one day I was thinking about how the tone of Brad Roberts voice would just sound perfect in this movie. So I wrote on their Facebook group page and told them about the movie and basically said "Hey, this is my movie, if you want to be involved, here's my email". Hours later, I received an email from their manager. The rest is history!