



PRESENTS



“HAROLD”

SPENCER BRESLIN, ALLY SHEEDY

WITH

NIKKI BLONSKY,

AND

CUBA GOODING JR. AS “CROMER”

With

Chris Parnell, Rachel Dratch, Colin Quinn, Fred Willard

A film by T. Sean Shannon

Produced by Morris S. Levy, Jason Shuman, William Sherak and Cuba Gooding Jr.

Running Time: 105 Minutes 35mm / Color / Dolby Digital / 1:1.85 Rated PG-13

PRODUCTION NOTES

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“HAROLD”

Synopsis

As a young teenager suffering from *really early* male-pattern baldness, Harold has never had it easy. Despite the efforts of his scattered mother --- and aggravated by his beauty-queen-mean sister --- life is a trial for Harold.

And now his teen angst is topping out: He’s facing his first day at a new high school in a new town. He’s not only going to be the “new kid,” but the “new weird *bald* kid.”

Day one turns out to be even worse than he expected. Right off he comes face-to-face with the school bully, and learns very quickly that the new school’s teachers are barely more sympathetic or supportive than his bullying nemesis.

Harold’s saving grace arrives in the person of Cromer, the subversive school janitor, who knows and cares far more about the students than any teacher or administrator.

With a cleverness hidden behind his unassuming janitor’s uniform, broom and bucket, Cromer comes to Harold’s aid, teaching him how to out maneuver his adversaries, and, ultimately, how to survive that most difficult and dreaded American institution ---High School.

The Cast

CROMER	CUBA GOODING JR.
HAROLD CLEMENS	SPENCER BRESLIN
MAUREEN CLEMENS	ALLY SHEEDY
RHONDA BAXTER	NIKKI BLONSKY
COACH VANDERPOOL	CHRIS PARNELL
SHELLY CLEMENS	STELLA MAEVE
MAUDE SELLERS	SUZANNE SHEPHERD
MS. NORRIS	RACHEL DRATCH
DR. PRATT	FRED WILLARD
REEDY	COLIN QUINN
PATRICK	ROBERT GORRIE
BRAD	"DAN ""DIETZ"" FARCHER"
EVELYN TAYLOR	ELIZABETH GILLIES
DUSTY	KATE HODGE
CHANG	ANGEL SING
TRACI	CHRISTINA JACKSON
VINCE	WILLIAM WIGGINS
BYRON	JAKE SOKOLOFF
MALCOLM	ALAN AISENBERG
KATY	SAMANTHA FUTERMAN
DEREK	EDWARD GELBINOVICH
MASON	DEREK NELSON
JUGDISH	NOHMAN SAKHI
DENNIS	EVAN DAVES

PRINCIPAL NELSON

LOU WAGNER

MR. PINCHOT

JIM DOWNY

BECKY

NICOLA PELTZ

KID

JULIAN MAZZOLA

MICHELLE

MICHELLE FIELDS

TEACHER

LORRAINE MAZZOLA

NURSE

JUDY NAZEMETZ

WAITRESS

JILL WEIGAND

BELINDA

MEREDITH ANN BULL

COP#1

NICKY KATT

COP#2

KID MILLION (LathanMcKay)

RHONDA'S DAD

PAT SHANNON

ALIBI CLUB DJ

SARGE PICKMAN

PRISONER

WASS STEVENS

BARKER

DAVE ATTELL

LUNCH LADY

JUDITH KNIGHT YOUNG

MALCOLM

JOEY BLONSKY

THE FILMMAKERS

Co-Executive Producers	Donald Brodsky Gregory Segal Michael Califra
Executive Producers	Danny Fisher Jack Fisher Max Sinovoi
Executive Producer	Sam Zietz
Co-Producer	Jeff Mazzola
Produced by	William Sherak Jason Shuman and Cuba Gooding, Jr.
Produced by	Morris S. Levy
Written by	T. Sean Shannon and Greg Fields
Directed by	T. Sean Shannon
Composer	Brady Harris
Costume Designer	Mary Margaret O'Neill
Production Designer	Jory Adam
Editor	Colleen Sharp, Harp Pekin
Director of Photography	Christopher Lavasseur
Line Producer/UPM	Joel Blanco
Unit Production Manager	Jeff Mazzola
Co-Executive Producer	David Daks

About the Production

The inspiration for HAROLD came to Emmy Award-winning comedy writer, and writer-director of HAROLD, from a prank played at a Shannon family reunion.

“Many men in my family suffer from male pattern baldness, so at the reunion we decided to shave two of my nephews’ heads. We presented my nephews to our family, saying that male pattern baldness had claimed two more this year. The place went nuts.”

However, it wasn’t until Shannon showed the hilarious photos of his shaved nephews to his friend, Greg Fields (writer of “Back to School”), that the script got rolling. “Greg looked at me, and said ‘We should make this into a movie.’ So we sat down and wrote the script in one summer.”

Once the script was finished, but before production began on the full length feature, Shannon showed the script to Saturday Night Live’s Lorne Michaels; Michaels’ enthusiasm for the concept resulted in Shannon writing a HAROLD skit that aired on *SNL*.

Shannon relates his interpretation of HAROLD to Buddhism’s first noble truth. “Life is difficult, but when you accept it, it is no longer difficult. Everyone has problems, but it’s how you accept them and deal with them that make you who you are.”

SNL proved to be a particularly fortunate talent pool for the development of HAROLD. “I met Cuba Gooding, Jr., who plays the role of Cromer, when he hosted *SNL*. A year later his manager gave him the ‘Harold’ script, and we got the ball rolling.” *SNL*’s Colin Quinn, Chris Parnell and Rachel Dratch were cast at Shannon’s specific request. “Basically I called them up and asked, ‘Hey do you want to be in my movie?’”

Over 150 kids auditioned for each of the character roles, “But some people,” says Shannon, “just fit so perfectly, it made the job easier than it could have been. Spencer Breslin came in the first week of casting. We spoke for about ten minutes; I went home that night knowing I had found Harold.”

HAROLD was shot in Great Neck, Long Island. The decision to shoot there was producer Morris Levy’s. “Because both Nikki and Morris are from Great Neck,” says director Shannon, “we had access to gorgeous surroundings and wonderful locales that we might not have had otherwise. Plus, everyone felt very much like family while shooting. We had continuous laughter on set, as it should be for a comedy like this.”

Breslin was attracted to the role of Harold for two reasons. “The comedy in this script was not forced. It’s just a very funny character. I enjoy taking on all types of roles, but I really do like to make people laugh,” he explains. Secondly, he related to the character because, at time, his friends make fun of him for being like an old man and because unlike the nerd role in most teen comedies, Harold doesn’t care about being popular; he knows he’s smart and that someday

everything will work out. As for the baldness aspect, Breslin says, "After landing the role T. Sean Shannon said, 'There's just one condition. You have to shave your head.' At first I was freaked out. I thought I was going to look ridiculous and stupid, and I did, but it was all worth it in the end. How many 15 year olds can say they look like George Costanza? Why not embrace the old man? It's an interesting way to look at it, but it works."

As for the on-set atmosphere, Breslin says that "HAROLD is in the top 2 or 3 most fun films I've worked on. You can tell when people have fun doing what they're doing. Everyone was cracking up non-stop on the set. There were a lot of laughs." He attributes that to the director Shannon and his co-stars. "'T. Sean is hysterical. He's like a funny uncle and one of the nicest people in the business, very genuine and kind. Working with Cuba was great. His character, Cromer, is an odd-duck as well, and our two characters end up working together as a team."

A family comedy, the spirit HAROLD communicates extended to off-set relationships. "Morris [Levy, producer] is the first person I met related to the film, says Breslin. "He is such a nice guy with a great heart. He really gives off that friend vibe and makes things so comfortable on set. That's something every actor wants. Over the years our families have grown very close."

"And my on-screen sister, Shelly, played by Stella Maeve, is a really cool girl. Our characters interacted as typical siblings; Shelly is very popular and Harold is not, and they disagree on everything. But eventually they become allies. Luckily, I have a great real-life relationship with my sister Abigail."

Nikki Blonsky was cast as Rhonda in HAROLD prior to her Golden Globe nomination for a career-launching performance as Tracy Turnblad, John Travolta's/Edna Turnblad's daughter, in the film "Hairspray," the role for which she had also received her Tony nomination. "Even though this was only her second film," says Shannon, "She was great. She nailed the audition and had a lovability that was key to her character. It was a no-brainer to cast her."

The Rhonda character engaged Blonsky's interest "...because she is a fun, sweet girl who prevails against all odds."

The chance to work with Breslin and Cuba Gooding, Jr., were added incentives for Blonsky: "'I've seen all of Spencer's SANTA CLAUSE movies. He is talented and dedicated, perfect for the role of Harold. I couldn't have imagined anyone better. And as for Cuba, I loved working with him. I was so excited to work with my secret celebrity crush. He is so wonderful and talented."

Blonsky's most memorable moment on set was driving the go-cart. She'd never been in one before, and didn't realize that it goes faster than a car. "I drove one right into the hay, and the crew was running in all directions. It was hilarious!"

About the Cast

Spencer Breslin (Harold)

Breslin was born in New York City, the son of Kim, a personal manager, and Michael Breslin, a telecommunications expert. Spencer is the older brother of actress, Abigail Breslin (LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE). His blockbusters include Disney's THE KID and THE SANTA CLAUSE movies, as well as THE CAT IN THE HAT and ZOOM. In 2004 he and sister Abigail played on-screen siblings in RAISING HELEN. Last summer he helped form an alternative rock group, The Dregs, and presented at the American leg of Live Earth.

Breslin is a sophomore in high school, takes his classes online, and is having fun with everything he is doing.

Cuba Gooding, Jr., (Cromer)

Cuba Gooding Jr. was born on January 2, 1968, in The Bronx, New York. Class president of his high school, he studied Japanese martial arts for three years before turning his focus to acting. He had guest roles on television's "Hill Street Blues" and "MacGyver." His first major role was in the 1991 box office hit surprise BOYZ 'N THE HOOD, followed by success in supporting roles in such major films as A FEW GOOD MEN (1992), LIGHTNING JACK (1994) and OUTBREAK (1995.)

In 1996, Gooding was cast as an arrogant but loyal football player in the Tom Cruise-Cameron Crowe film JERRY MAGUIRE, a role that earned him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. His "show me the money" line in the movie became a nationwide catchphrase. In 2002 he was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His other film credits include RADIO (2003), DADDY DAY CAMP (2007) and AMERICAN GANGSTER (2007). Upcoming projects include UNTITLED GEHENNA PROJECT, LINEWATCH and THE WAY OF WAR.

Cuba Gooding, Jr., and his wife Sara Kapfer currently live in Studio City with their two sons.

Nikki Blonsky (Rhonda)

Nikki Blonsky was born on November 9, 1988, and is a native of Great Neck, New York. She began singing at a very young age, and performed in productions at Great Neck North High School.

After six months of nationwide auditions for HAIRSPRAY, she landed the role of Tracy. To make the announcement, television crews came to watch her as she was scooping ice cream at Long Island's Cold Stone Creamery. "Adam Shankman, the director, popped up on the screen and told me to make myself an ice cream cone because I got the part and I fell off my chair screaming," Blonsky told Access Hollywood

Since then she has been awarded the Critic's Choice Award for Best Young Actress (for HAIRSPRAY), The Hollywood Film Festival Award, and the Young Hollywood Award. She also received a Golden Globe Nomination for Best

Performance by an Actress, and the Screen Actors Guild Nomination for Outstanding Performance. The HAIRSPRAY album went platinum.

Upcoming projects for Blonksy include working on her own solo album, and new film roles.

Stella Maeve (Shelly)

Stella Maeve is a talented young actress on the rise. In the business since age 7, her credits include REMEMBER THE DAZE directed by up-and-coming director Jess Manafort, TRANSAMERICA, starring Felicity Huffman and directed by Duncan Tucker, and EUTHANASIA directed by Adrian Grenier

Ally Sheedy (Maureen, Harold's Mother)

Ally Sheedy was born June 13, 1962. She attended Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in New York City, graduating in 1980. She started dancing with the American Ballet Theatre at the age of six and at age 12 wrote the children's book *She Was Nice to Meet*.

After co-starring with Matthew Broderick in 1983's hit WAR GAMES, Sheedy became quintessential to the "Brat Pack" era of films in which she starred --- THE BREAKFAST CLUB and ST. ELMO'S FIRE. She later received accolades and awards for her performance in 1998's HIGH ART, winning the Best Actress awards from the National Society of Film Critics and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead, and a nomination for Best Actress from Chicago Film Critics Association.

She is known to television viewers from recent appearances on "Kyle XY," as well as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and many others.

HAROLD'S Saturday Night Live Cast Members:

Chris Parnell (Coach Vanderpool) was born on February 5, 1967. He is an American actor and comedian who was a *Saturday Night Live* cast member from 1998-2001. And now plays Dr. Leo Spaceman on the NBC Television hit "30 Rock."

Rachel Dratch (Ms. Norris) was born on February 22, 1966 in Lexington, Massachusetts. In the fall of 1999, Rachel joined the cast of *Saturday Night Live*, where she performed for 7 years. Her latest feature film with Adam Sandler was I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY.

Colin Quinn (Reedy) was born June 6, 1959 in Brooklyn, New York. He is an American comedian, best known for his five years in the cast of *Saturday Night Live*.

About the Filmmakers

T. SEAN SHANNON, Writer-Director

T. Sean Shannon is a comedy writer originally from Houston, Texas. As a writer for *Saturday Night Live* he won an Emmy Award in 2002 (nominated in 2001 and 2003) and a WGA Award in 2001 (nominated in 2001, 2002 and 2003). His great friendships with *SNL* stars Colin Quinn, Chris Parnell and Rachel Dratch brought these hilarious cast members to the HAROLD production.

Shannon has also written for *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and Comedy Central.

MORRIS S. LEVY, Producer

Morris S. Levy, producer of HAROLD, is the president and founder of M.E.G.A. Films in New York, a full-service production company that handles film, theatrical and television projects.

Levy's previous film hits include DESCENT, starring Rosario Dawson, and THE TEN, Jessica Alba, Winona Rider, Paul Rudd.

Upcoming projects include the life story of the famous boxer Rocky Marciano, entitled THE ROCKY MARCIANO STORY; THE PRINCE TEST with Noah Wyle of television's *ER*; and SUMMERHILL with fellow producer Julia Verdin.