

SOUNDS

A sci-fi adventure that pokes fun at... sci-fi adventures

Crew Biography

Ryan Humphries (Writer, Director, Producer): Like many filmmakers, something sparked when I was a kid after picking up a video camera. I had a passion to tell stories through the use of motion imagery. I started turning family vacations into short films and documentaries beginning at about age 7. My family closet is filled with about 50 dust covered vacation adventures as well as Sci-Fi “shorts” I made as a kid. By junior high and highschool I was labeled the local video geek at all the school events. I was commissioned by my highschool to film the senior ball and grad night and turn them into music videos. After graduation I decided to move to LA and participate in internships with a variety of film and production companies. I made many connections with people in the industry and had the opportunity to work as a PA on a major feature film called *The Mesmerist*. My PA experience taught me a great deal about the many levels of filmmaking as well as provided an opportunity to observe directors and producers. During an internship as a dance remix artist for David Longoria at Del Oro Music Studio in LA, I got the chance to score the independent film “*Mercy*” by John Fitzpatrick. It was this experience that drove me to eventually write and direct an independent film of my own. “*Sounds*” started out two years ago as a story about nothing... about people who let their imaginations run wild at the sound of things that go bump in the dark.

Little did I know when I made “*Night Of The Living Sock*” back in junior high, that I would continue my passion for storytelling through film, which would eventually lead to a full length feature independent film called “*Sounds*.” It has been a long journey writing, directing, and editing this film, not to mention arranging funding, as well as completing the greatest feat of all... a mind boggling amount of post work. I am very grateful to my family, and the production staff and cast who kept my sanity intact and helped make this project possible. We didn’t necessarily know where we would end up when we started out, but I’m happy with the results. I hope viewers enjoy what 30 people with a little time on their hands, and a small budget, were able to accomplish.

Gary Tomsic (Director of Cinematography): came to the set of *Sounds* with 30+ years experience as a Cinematographer and extensive hands-on expertise in producing and writing. He has worked on feature films, TV shows and foreign assignments around the world. Gary was hired as a KCRA/NBC Sacramento Chief Commercial Cinematographer before the age of 21, and has maintained a long full-time and part-time work history as an engineer with KCRA. Special assignments include Saudi Arabia for Vinnell Corp and Special Envoy for Persian Television/NIRT. He received an Emmy Award for *Best Show Of The Year/Xmas Special* while at KCRA, and numerous advertising awards. He was the DP for *Spymaster USA*, which aired on TLC in 2004. Additional credits can be found on the IMDb.

Jon Whisman (Digital Visual Effects): He has been involved in digital media for 10 years. After receiving a degree in film from Montana State University in 2001, he moved to Portland, OR, where he owns and operates a visual effects facility called, Pixel Graft. He has worked on many independent film projects, both feature length and shorts. Highlights include *Mercy*, *Dark Horizon*, *Newclear* and *Cabin 6*. Jon met Ryan Humphries in 2002 while they were both working on the film *Mercy*. Two years later Jon joined the *Sounds* Production Team as Digital Visual Effects Artist. The effects he created are stunning and elevate the Sci-Fi eeriness of the plot to mainstream storytelling proportions. Learn more about Jon’s film work and visit his visual effects boutique at: www.pixelgraft.com

Eric Fox (Special Prosthetics Effects): While other kids were hanging out and going to haunted houses or to the movies, I was practically living in the work shop, running the haunted houses and working on movies (not as glamorous as it may sound). I was always into horror films and grew up on zombie movies and "The Twilight Zone."

I first started by just really being into art, and since I was into monsters, that is what I liked to draw and sculpt. As a kid, I would sneak into my mom's makeup and see what I could come up with, same with household items - like almost killing myself by pouring plaster on my face.

I then founded my company, Morb-X, which specializes in everything from bullet hits, masks, full-body creature suits, fully animal-tronic puppets, custom art pieces, set design, custom furniture, makeup for stage shows and CD cover art. I also provide local film makers and musicians with access to high quality visual effects, as well as the opportunity for local artists who are interested in getting into the business.

I've done many movies, ranging from low-budget student films to feature films and DVD releases that can be purchased via the Internet/YouTube. Major films include "Space Truckers," "Progeny" and "Real Killers."

Robert Lenney (Executive Producer): Since 1988, Robert Lenney has been involved with virtually all aspects of television production; first as an actor in a few theatrical stage plays, TV commercials, industrial videos, infomercials and a sitcom. This led to a job as a casting director auditioning talent for commercials, movies and fashion shows in the Northern California area. While working closely with other professionals in the entertainment industry his experience grew. He then went on to produce and direct a video entitled *Breaking Into Show Business – For the Model or Actor*.

He was also responsible for producing and directing NuTek Shopping Network, a TV shop at home show featuring various home products. During this time, he produced and directed several additional TV commercials. Since 2006, Robert wrote, directed, produced and hosted a unique magazine-style television show that has appeal to the public called *The Gutterguard Show*. In 2007, the show won five Telly Awards for outstanding performance in video production. Currently he is the Executive Producer and Marketing Director of the Sci-Fi comedy *Sounds*. As a unique inventor and holder of a US Patent to his name, Robert enjoys partnering with the entertainment industry.

Bill Lasell (Executive Producer): He is a business entrepreneur in the Sacramento area. In 2003, he hired Ryan Humphries as a graphic designer at his firm. Ryan's marketing materials and website designs for Bill's company were impressive enough, but it was his love for filmmaking that caught Bill's eye.

"Ryan spoke with passion about a movie script he was working on and that someday he wanted to make an independent film. I thought to myself, 'this guy is an amazing and gifted talent. What he needs is financial backing.' And that's how I became involved in the project. I knew nothing about filmmaking, but I could provide start up funds.

In late 2005, it became apparent the film was turning out better than expected and additional funds could provide even better results. Robert Lenney came on board and bridged the gap. The quality of the movie has exceeded all our expectations. It's been a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated team."

Cast Biography

Janielle Atherton: Her love for the arts began at an early age. From the moment she saw *Romeo and Juliet* when she was just four years old, she was enchanted. Both on stage and in front of the camera she has lived the lives portrayed in *The Tempest* for "Shakespeare In The Park," *Jekyll and Hyde (Nelly)*, *Man of La Mancha (Fermina and a gypsy dancer)*, the Kabuki-style production of *Love Suicides at Sonazaki (a courtesan)*, as well as roles in the independent films: *People in an Elevator* for "A Place Called Sacramento" film festival and *My Only Regret*. To further understand the great mystery beyond the curtain, she shed mask and costume to take on the role of stage manager for California Stage, and costumes and props with Music Circus. Off stage she pursues her love of writing, sketching, costume design, singing, dancing, playing the cello, archery, fencing and most important, time with her "travel size" agent who comes in the shape of an eight-year old daughter.

Richanne Baldridge: She has a degree in chemical engineering and steps into the role of Agent Styles with ease. With additional degrees in piano performance, voice and violin, she has been employed as musical director for a number of Sacramento area theatre groups, among them: Magic Circle, Capitol Opera Sacramento, Sierra College, Music & More Arts Academy and Motherlode Stage Company. She has graced the stage in *Into The Woods*, *Fiddler on The Roof*, and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Her favorite roles to date are *The Pajama Game (Gladys)* and *Annie (Grace)*. She recently enjoyed a straight-drama role in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* for Chautaugua Playhouse. Richanne has two children, Shay and Morgan. She is an advocate for children with autism as well as for their families and the professionals who support them.

John Large: He was born in Spokane, Washington and has lived all over the United States. His break into musical theatre came when a friend suggested that he participate in a production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at a local performing arts center. His experience launched him into a theatre career that would span four states, several years and include additional rewarding experiences with chorales and light operas. To his credit are Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* while in Washington as well as multiple roles in the Drew Harvey Theatre Company's production of *The King And I*. While in Connecticut he landed roles in *Babes in Arms* and *The Pajama Game* with the Curtain Call Theatre Company. He even tried his hand as a playwright while living in Georgia for a short time. After relocating to Auburn, John participated in Placer High School's theatre productions of *South Pacific (Emile)* and *Twelve Angry Men (Juror #4)*. His favorite role to date is that of the voice of "Audrey II" during the 2004 Summer Theatre Academy's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

J. Peter Parker: He was born on an army base in Texas, and raised in Rhode Island. In his late teens he describes changing residences and careers across the United States at a frequency which would startle a hardened private investigator. A former school teacher of elementary age children, and a current realtor, he and his wife Rosalie recently found themselves "empty-nesters." With a daughter attending college in London and a son newly graduated from college and participating in an internship for the United Nations in New York, Peter says the branches of the tree his fruit fall from do spread widely. He admits to having the good fortune of loving his job, and on occasion enjoys a little acting and storytelling. He appeared in *Oklahoma* and *Clowns* at Music & More Arts Academy and has tried his hand at storytelling events around Sacramento. Other than a few mock "60 Minutes" videos during graduate studies where he portrayed Ted Kopel, this is Peter's first full length film.

Anna Peck: She was born in Ventura, California, "Annie" as her family and friends know her, is the fourth daughter of five girls. In addition she has three neices, and therefore describes herself as "immensely in tune" with her feminine side. Her family relocated to Auburn when she was a year old where she set down roots and has been a part of the school drama and musical scene for many years. To her credit are starring roles in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* and *Copacabana*. She has also appeared in *See How They Run*, *42nd Street*, *Footloose*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Babes in Arms*. Her only previous film experience was an extra in *Phenomenen*. Annie is currently in her first year of college. When asked if there was anything amusing she wanted to share about herself, she said, "For some reason crazy bums on the street love me. Whenever I walk past a homeless man, he starts talking to me about buttons, pretzels, the weather.... I don't understand it, but somehow they think I'm a good listener."

Sandy Stoltz: At age five Sandy would fall off his rocking horse in slow motion just to amuse anyone that was watching. He describes himself as always being an actor. During his childhood he wanted to re-shoot all the Star Wars films and cast his friends in the roles. He was home-schooled from kindergarten through highschool which he gives credit to for fostering his creativity. He began writing, acting and directing his own films at age 14. He has been in numerous theatre productions throughout the region including Oklahoma, Into The Woods, Wizard of Oz, Bullshot Crummond and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged] just to name a few. He has played the lead actor in several movies such as Misfits, Destiny Revised, Stand Off and Vigilante Cops. He played as a featured actor in the movie Revenge. His favorite roll to date is that of lead in the muscial drama Jekyll and Hyde. He describes the experience as "the opportunity to be more receptive to those with multiple personalities," and adds that "both he and himself agree."

Brian Gruber: He is a New York native, receiving his theatrical training at Queens College. He has served as a call in-show host at C-SPAN in Washington, D.C., hosting two live call in shows each week with politically prominent guests such as Cesar Chavez, Nancy Pelosi, John McCain and Bill Bradley. He has hosted over 100 cable television programs for Scripps Howard, News Corp/ FOXTEL, Heritage Communications, Jones Intercable and Disney. Resurrecting his theatrical career ten years ago, after spending two decades as a media executive, he has appeared in a broad range of productions in northern California theaters. Most recently, he played multiple roles in Love & Math, an original production written and performed in Auburn; Astrov in Anton Chekhov's Uncle Vanya, King Henry II in The Lion In Winter, Leonato in Much Ado About Nothing, The Man (Lloyd, John, Conrad) in Veronica's Room in Sacramento; and Grumio and The Merchant in Taming of the Shrew in San Francisco. He has trained locally at the American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) in San Francisco and B Street Theatre Conservatory in Sacramento.

Steve Gold: He is a writer, director and performer who has appeared in over 60 professional theatre productions on both U.S. coasts. His favorite roles include John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, Kenickie in *Grease*, the title character in *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, Claude in *Hair*, Duke Vincentio in *Measure for Measure* and most recently "Himself" in the comedy *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* with Sierra Traveling Actors. He has directed youth and teen musical theatre as well as adult comedy and drama productions. A busy family guy with a wife who's a choreographer and three young children, *Sounds* is Steve's first screen appearance.