

Transition Times

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WINTER 2011

Dear Transition Times Families,

Most of you have been with us for 10 years now! It seems hard to believe that I met all of you when you were about 12 years old. Once again, thank you for your dedication to the study. We have very positive signs that the National Institutes of Health is going to let us continue this study once again. We will be inviting you to participate in this new study (no name yet) in the Spring. No more on-line questionnaire. We will be trying to visit each of you at a time and place that is convenient to you (or you can certainly visit us and we will reimburse you for mileage). More information will follow. If you have a chance, please drop us a line to update us with your contact information – phone number, address, and who can find you if the number changes.

In this newsletter, we provide you with some information about movies that have been filmed in the greater Pittsburgh area. In the time that I have been at Carnegie Mellon, several movies have been filmed. It seems as if we are always hearing about road closures due to movies. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and that you have a very nice holiday.

Take care,

Vicki Helgeson
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“The Dark Knight” Comes to Pittsburgh

During the summer, Pittsburgh got a burst of attention due to the 3rd part of Christopher Nolan’s Batman series being filmed in the city.

Nolan said he chose southwestern Pennsylvania for its great architecture and diversity of locations.

“Pittsburgh is a beautiful city,” Nolan said in a press statement. “We have been able to find everything we are looking for here, and I am excited to spend the summer in Pittsburgh with our final installment of Batman.”

The Warner Bros. film will star Christian Bale and Anne Hathaway and also include Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Gary Oldman and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, according to Internet Movie Data Base.

Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said in a press release, “We are thrilled to be welcoming the Batman film to Pittsburgh, and eager for the economic impact that our city will experience. This is another example of the growing film industry in our community and we will be rolling out the red carpet for them.”

The movie, titled, “The Dark Knight Rises”, is scheduled for release on July 20, 2012.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Dark Knight Comes to Pittsburgh	1
Another Pittsburgh Batman Connection	2
Actors from Pittsburgh	2
Behind the Scenes	3
Other Pittsburgh Films	4



Another Pittsburgh Batman Connection



Michael Keaton was born Michael John Douglas on September 5th, 1951 in Corapolis, Pennsylvania

and studied speech for two years at Kent State, before dropping out and moving to Pittsburgh. An unsuccessful attempt at stand-up comedy led Keaton to work as a TV cameraman in a cable station. He came to realize he wanted to work in front of the cameras.

Before Christopher Nolan's successful take on the Batman franchise, Keaton starred as Batman in Tim Burton's "Batman" and "Batman Returns." His acting career has been diverse. His other films include: "Mr. Mom," "Beetlejuice," "Jackie Brown," "Johnny Dangerously," and "Much Ado About Nothing" (just to list a few). He also provided the voice of Ken in "Toy Story 3" and made a

guest appearance on "30 Rock."

Even though he lives in California, Keaton remains an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He also made headlines in 2006 when he criticized the owners of the Pittsburgh Pirates before he threw the first pitch at the season's home opener.



Actors from Pittsburgh



"Independence Day", "Jurassic Park" (and the sequel), and "The Fly" are just a few films on **Jeff Goldblum's** resume. He was born and raised in West Homestead. He is also an accomplished jazz pianist and declared that if he did not act, he would have become a professional musician. He made his film debut as a thug in the 1974 Charles Bronson film "Death Wish." In 2006, he returned to the Steel City to star and produce the fake documentary, "Pittsburgh."

Sharon Stone was born and raised in Meadville. At the age of 15, she attended Saegertown High School, PA and also attended Edinboro State University of Pennsylvania. She graduated with a degree in creative writing and fine arts. Her first big break was in the role of Lori in "Total Recall." She is most well known for her role in "Basic Instinct" as Catherine Tramell.

Zachary Quinto was born in Pittsburgh. He graduated from Central Catholic High School and attended Carnegie Mellon University. In high school he won the Gene Kelly Award for his part as General in the "Pirates of Penzance". He is most known for his role as the cold-hearted villain Sylar in the t.v. show "Heroes" and as the logical Mr. Spock in the J.J. Abrams "Star Trek" reboot.

Joe Manganiello was born in Mt. Lebanon. He graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School and from

Carnegie Mellon University. His most well known role is as Southern gentleman, Alcide Herveaux, on HBO's "True Blood." He worked with a trainer for five months to get in shape for the role. Even though the training was grueling, he said the worst part was trying to get Alcide's Southern accent right. On December 19, 2010, he led a 62,000+ crowd at Heinz Field in the ceremonial Terrible Towel Wave before the Steelers played the New York Jets.

Julie Benz was born in Pittsburgh, but she and her family settled in Murrysville. Before acting, she competed in the 1988 U.S. Championships in junior ice dancing. She and her partner placed 13th. Due to a bad stress factor, she stopped skating. Her first role was as the vampire, Darla, in "Angel" but she is most known for her portrayal of Rita, the lover of a serial killer, in Showtime's hit series "Dexter."

Behind the Scenes— Producer, Director, Special Effects

David O. Selznick was the producer for such classic movies, like “Gone With the Wind”, “Rebecca”, and “King Kong.” He was born in Pittsburgh to a silent film maker. He started his career as a script editor before launching his own company in 1935. He won two academy awards with “Gone With the Wind” and “Rebecca.”

“Gone with the Wind’s” success overshadowed the rest of Selznick’s career. The closest he came to matching it was with “Duel in the Sun” (1946) featuring future wife Jennifer Jones in the role of the primary character Pearl. With a huge budget, the film is known for causing moral upheaval because of the then risqué script written by Selznick. And though it was a troublesome shoot with a number of directors, the film would turn out to be a major success. The film was the second highest grossing film of 1947 and turned out to be the first movie that Martin Scorsese would see, inspiring Scorsese’s career as a director.



George Romero was born in New York City. He attended Carnegie Mellon University. The majority of his films have been shot in or around Pittsburgh.

One of his early commercial films, was a segment for “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” In the film Mr. Rogers underwent a tonsillectomy. This inspired Romero to go into the horror film business. He, along with nine friends, formed Image Ten Productions in the late 1960s, and produced “Night of the Living Dead” (1968). The movie, directed by Romero and co-written with John A. Russo, became a cult classic and a defining moment for modern horror cinema.

His three films that followed “Night of the Living Dead” were not as successful. In 1978, Romero returned to the zombie genre with “Dawn of the Dead” (1978). Shot on a budget of just \$500,000, the film earned over \$55 million worldwide and was named one of the top cult films by Entertainment Weekly in 2003. Romero made a third entry in his “Dead Series” with “Day of the Dead” (1985). Some critics have seen social commentary in much of Romero’s work. They view “Night of the Living Dead” as a film made in reaction to the turbulent 1960s, “Dawn of the Dead” as a satire on consumerism, “Day of the Dead” as a study of the conflict between science and the military. He has earned the nickname Godfather of all Zombies.

Pittsburgh-born actor/SFX wizard/stuntman/director **Tom Savini** did a tour of duty as a combat cameraman in Vietnam, and has since acquired a remarkable cult following among film fans, primarily due to his ground-breaking special effects (SFX) in the “splatter movie” explosion of the early 1980s. Along with fellow special make-up legends Dick Smith and Rob Bottin, Savini was one of the key SFX people behind the startling make-up & SFX seen in the fantasy/horror genre films of the 1980s-’90s. Savini was heavily influenced by the remarkable silent-era actor Lon Chaney, and he sought to emulate the amazing theatrical make-up effects that were a hallmark of Chaney’s career. In addition to his special effects work, he has appeared in front of the camera, typically typecasted as a leather clad biker. Savini runs the Special Effects Make-Up and Digital Film Programs at the Douglas Education Center in Monessen, Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books on special effects including “Grande Illusions I and II” (1983, 1994) which detail the production and mechanical workings of many of his famous film effects. He is also associated with other books in the horror genre including “Book of the Dead and Horror 101” for which he wrote the foreword.



Movies Filmed in Pittsburgh Between 2000-2011

Reign of the Dead, 2000
Civility, 2000
Achilles' Love, 2000
Ketchup King, 2000
Screwed, 2000
View from the Vault, 2000
Rock Star, 2000
Brother 2, 2000
Wonder Boys, 2000
The Resurrection Game, 2001
Shake 'Em Up, 2001
High Point, 2001
The Bread, My Sweet, 2001
A Wedding for Bella, 2001
The Mothman Prophecies, 2001
Memories of a Forgotten War, 2002
The Murder, 2002
The Clearing, 2002
Project: Valkyrie, 2002
Icarus of Pittsburgh, 2002
Daddy Cool, 2002
August Underground's Mordum, 2003
Vicious, 2003
Klownz, 2003
Mr. Smith goes to Pittsburgh, 2003
Shooting Home, 2003
The Battles for Fort Duquesne, 2003
Beautiful Girl, 2003
When Tyrants Kiss, 2004
10th & Wolf, 2004
The Stranger, 2004
Grim, 2004
Speilburgh, 2004
Fragile, 2004
Deadline, 2004
The War that Made America, 2004
Lift, 2004
Atlanta, 2004
Day of the Scorpion, 2004
Dvorak and America, 2004
Missing Jane, 2004
The Smallest Things, 2005
A Thousand Windows, 2005
Me and the Mosque, 2005
Devil and Daniel Johnston, 2005
Squonkumentary, 2005
Dumpster, 2005
Land of the Dead, 2005
On Every Corner, 2005
Pittsburgh, 2006
Abattoir, 2006
30, 2006
Karloff and Me, 2006
a/k/a Tommy Chong, 2006
Project: Adam, 2006
Sofia for Now, 2006
Grace, 2006
American Scary, 2006
Chasing 3000, 2006
Bewilderness, 2006
Doing Therapy, 2006
Prison Girl, 2006
God Grew Tired of Us, 2006
Smart People, 2007
The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, 2007
Golden Days, 2007
Strange Girls, 2007
Germanity, 2007
Gender Redesigner, 2007
Dr. Ravie and Mr. Hyde, 2007
The Haunting Hour Volume One: Don't Think About It, 2007
Pain Within, 2007
Happy Walter, 2007
Gravida, 2007
Silent Knights, 2007
The Screening, 2007
The Lottery, 2007
All Saints Eve, 2008
Graduation, 2008
The Mausoleum, 2008
My Bloody Valentine 3D, 2008
Shelter, 2008
Deadtime Stories, 2008
Homecoming, 2008
I Am a Schizophrenic and So Am I, 2008
On Sabbath Hill, 2008
The Bridge to Nowhere, 2008
Zack and Miri Make a Porno, 2008
Sorority Row, 2009
End Game, 2009
The Road, 2009
She's Out of My League, 2010
Unstoppable, 2010
Love and Other Drugs, 2010
I Am Number Four, 2011
Abduction, 2011
The Perks of Being a Wallflower, 2012
The Avengers, 2012
One Shot, 2013

