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Dog Days of "Summer"

Has *Project Greenlight* tainted Pete Jones's film?

Is there such a thing as bad publicity? Pete Jones certainly hopes not. The problems involved in making "Stolen Summer," his writing and directing debut, which recently opened in major cities, were chronicled in minute detail on HBO's *Project Greenlight* earlier this year. "Trust me, it wasn't as dramatic as they make it seem," says Jones.

"People are going to assume it's a horrendous movie," says its star, Aidan Quinn, who thinks that *Greenlight* unfairly focused on a few bad days of the five-week shoot. "The show is completely fabricated," he says, insisting that life on the set with costars Bonnie Hunt and Kevin Pollak as well as child actors Michael Weinberg and Adi Stein was fine—"fun," in fact.



Boys of "Summer": Weinberg and Stein

Eli Holzman, the vice president at Miramax Television who oversaw *Greenlight*, is a big fan of the finished film. "[Trouble-free] sets don't necessarily lead to great movies," he says.

For the director, simply showing "Stolen Summer" to audiences is a relief. In fact, it was screened at January's Sundance Film Festival to unexpected praise. "I [was] getting my butt kicked on HBO every Sunday night," Jones says, "and it was finally about the movie, not about all the mistakes I made while shooting it." —*Ted Loos*

READY? OK

When the World Cheerleading Association Championships air April 1 at 3 P.M./ET on Fox Sports Net, the usual high school squads will, as they

say, bring it on. But there'll also be another group of pom-pom pilots. They're called all-stars, and they'll throw basket tosses and build pop-up pyramids—but not for any team. Huh? Could this be cheering for cheerleading's sake? "Yes," says coach Jamie Parrish, whose Kennesaw, Georgia, all-stars gym has squads in seven of the competition's final divisions. (Each practices at least seven hours a week.) "All-star cheerleading is for kids who want to be an athlete rather than cheer for an athlete," he adds. Go team!



Twisted MSNBC

'80s rocker speaks for the news network

MSNBC wants to rock. The network has brought in Dee Snider, front man for '80s band Twisted Sister, to do voice-overs for its on-air promos—not that it intended to. "The executives loved my voice," Snider says. "And when they found out who it was, they said, 'No, seriously.'"

Now a married father of four, Snider records such lines as "You're watching MSNBC. Right now," from his Long Island home studio, where he also tapes the syndicated radio program *The House of Hair*. Though he's dropped the Twisted look, he'll again don his signature blond mane and makeup for VH1's movie *Warning: Parental Advisory* (April 21, 9 P.M./ET). "I made sure to tell people, 'It's a wig. I've changed.'" MSNBC can vouch for that. —*Jim Colucci*

«Snider's not gonna take it.

mark schwed's SCOOP

(continued)

» The good news: ADAM ARKIN (below) stars in CBS's *Baby Bob*, about a couple with a 6-month-old boy who can talk. The bad news: The work is very painstaking. Lots of babies are being used, and getting them to do what the script requires takes "praying, cajoling and waiting for that miracle," Arkin says. But when the special



Baby's daddy

effects are added and the baby looks as if it's actually talking, Arkin says, "it's one of the more mesmerizing things I've seen."

» One thing that hasn't changed since John Belushi overdosed in 1982: "Cocaine is still killing people," says DAN AYKROYD (right),



Blues Brother

Belushi's friend from *Saturday Night Live*. "Just check emergency-room stats." Aykroyd and Belushi's brother, Jim, are still touring as the Blues Brothers. Which explains why Aykroyd is doing a rare guest spot on Belushi's ABC series, *According to Jim*. The two play old pals who try to recapture their youth by "drinking and harassing women in a politically incorrect way. In the end, we sing a song together." Additional reporting by Ty Holland

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JAMES BRIDGES/MIAMI; TOM/IMAGOBEST; ARIK GILPOL/WIREIMAGE.COM; EUGENE ADEBARU/IF