

HIGHFLIGHT

PRESS KIT



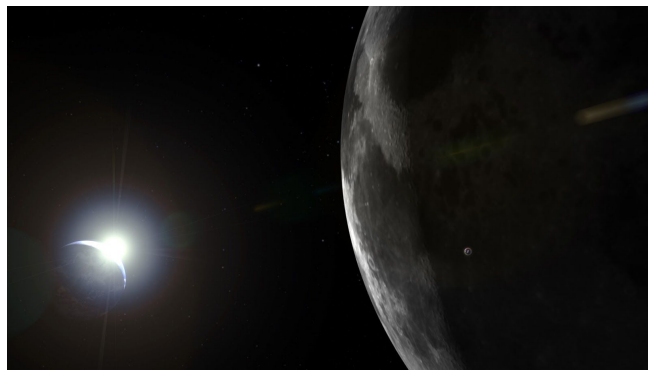
This epk available online at goo.gl/BQNuZC

HIGHFLIGHT

The journey of a thousand lifetimes begins with a single dream.

SYNOPSIS

Dylan Becker is a precocious eight-year old whose dreams of flying into space and exploring the planets of the solar system turns out to be more than just flights of fancy..



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MISSION STATEMENT

The production and story behind 'Highflight' is designed to achieve the following:

- to be a guide and inspiration for artists young and old, to push beyond their own boundaries in order to discover what they are truly capable of
- to serve as a gentle reminder to always set aside some time to think and dream
- to always see the long road ahead, and to remember to hold on to and work towards your most cherished goals
- to forward the cause and belief of space exploration, and to take every small step towards becoming a space-faring civilization



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Highlight is a new short film from A Bunch of Short Guys (ABOSG), the Dallas-based animation guild responsible for organizing the Industry Giants conference every year in Dallas. The idea was to produce and create a short film that showcased local talent, premiere it at the conference, and to use it as platform to kickstart a planned series of short films for future conferences. The tricky bit was that it was now March, and the conference was a mere six months away, in September..

Armed with good intentions and a shortage of time, ABOSG President Will Nicholson approached visual effects industry vet Alan Chan about the possibility of collaborating on a short film. Alan, whose award-winning directorial portfolio includes shorts and indie features and who professes to make shorts 'because it's therapeutic', was receptive to the idea and before long story ideas were being tossed back and forth via email. Eventually the duo settled on taking one of Alan's previously unproduced stories and simplify it into something more doable within the six month timeframe. The story of a little boy who visits the planets of the solar system in his dreams also tied in well thematically with this year's conference theme of 'Redefining Reality'.

After knocking out the rough draft of the script within a week and a half, producers Amy Cass and Jake Buchanan started breaking down the script in preparation for production. Casting auditions in April brought the production a perfect child actor Daegan Elkins to play the lead role, around which we surrounded with a complementary and well-rounded cast - Aaron Maynard as the Explorer Guide, Danielle Wheeler and Hunter Jackson as Mom and Dad, and Crew Wyard as an older version of Daegan.

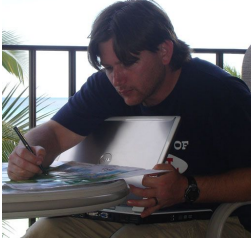
Based on the script, the production was broken into two separate shoot days - the first would be a location shoot in Aubrey, TX that would encompass all the 'real world' scenes with Mom & Dad, and the second would be a stage shoot at MPS Studios in Dallas where we would shoot all of the 'out of this world' sequences as greenscreen plates. Principal photography was done in June, under the direction of Alan Chan and the able eyes of Director of Photography Lyn Caudle.

Once the footage was in the can (or, more appropriately, "in the hard drive"), editor Jessica Smith was brought onboard to cut the footage together as the small visual effects crew led by Alan began preparing the look of the bubble ship as well as planet elements for the space sequences. Music was sourced from Atomica Music, a Dallas-based production music library, courtesy of Rick Villa & Brian Beshears, as well as from composer John Hunter.

The completed project was premiered at the 2016 Industry Giants conference and is a showcase of Texas talent, featuring the work of local artists and professionals currently working in the entertainment and animation field.

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PRINCIPALS



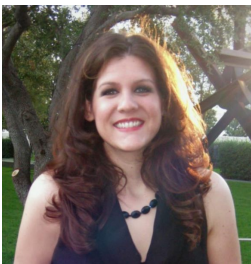
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - WILL NICHOLSON

Will Nicholson was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas and has performed VFX work for over thirty feature films as both artist and supervisor at world-renowned visual effects facilities. He's co-founder and current President of A BUNCH OF SHORT GUYS, a prestigious non-profit Visual Artists Guild based in Dallas, Texas. Outside of visual effects, he's a writer and filmmaker with several screenplays and short films under his belt, and as well as a self-published book called *CONTRASTING BRIGHTLY: Getting In, Surviving, and Thriving in Hollywood Visual Effects*.



DIRECTOR - Alan Chan

Alan is a 20-year veteran of the visual effects industry with feature film credits that include Academy Award winning projects. In addition to working on large scale features, he admits to have a terrible disease where he must occasionally write and direct short films and indie features "just for the fun of it".



PRODUCER - Amy Cass

Amy is an animation and visual effects producer, with a strong background in the fine arts. She served as President of A Bunch of Short Guys, a Dallas-based non-profit animation guild established to foster a community of world-class artist and storytellers, and is a former Board member of Women in Film Dallas.



PRODUCER - Jake Buchanan

Jake Buchanan is a producer, writer, director, and actor who specializes in film development and production. He founded Collaborative Impulse which was created to inspire more film work in DFW. Jake has worked on many films and videos which can be found at CollaborativeImpulse.com.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Lyn Caudle

Lyn Caudle is a Lighting / Compositing Artist, and VFX Supervisor at ReelFX Creative Studios. Lyn started his career on the effects crew of live action productions. Some of his most recognizable projects are: "Lonesome Dove" trilogy, "Problem Child", "Ace Ventura II – When Nature Calls", "Dallas" television series and the "Walker – Texas Ranger" series. Some notable accomplishments include an Emmy nomination for his first large scale project which was "Lonesome Dove"; he was the only crew member to work on the entire "Lonesome Dove" trilogy."

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CAST



DYLAN BECKER - Daegan Elkins

Daegan Elkins is a 10 year old boy living in Crossroads, Texas with his parents and older sister. He enjoys playing soccer and acting. Daegan is currently playing soccer for a Select Team with FC Dallas that keeps him quite busy outside of acting and school. Daegan has appeared in several regional commercials including HEB and Children's Health. Daegan also recently starting acting in short films and has really enjoyed it. He is hoping it will help him to someday work on a feature film.



MAGNUS - Aaron Maynard

Aaron Travis Maynard was raised in Coppell, TX by his mother, JoAnn (Maynard) and stepfather, Michael Talkington. He was a Duke Tipster, NASA High School Aerospace Scholar and graduated from the Coppell High School STEM Academy. Aaron reached the esteemed Eagle Rank and all three Eagle Palm awards. He performs magic as medicine for Cook Children's Hospital and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Aaron enjoys playing his guitar and Master acting classes. He is currently pursuing his acting career and a computer science degree at the University of TX Dallas.



DAD BECKER - Hunter Jackson

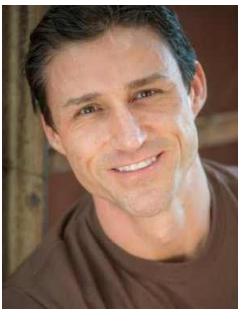
Hunter McGraw Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas to Robert and Marilyn Jackson. He began acting as lead in musicals at First Baptist Academy in downtown Dallas in musicals such as Singing In The Rain and Fiddler On The Roof under director Mary Wilcox. Hunter worked in the film industry with Director of Photography Roland Cañamar for 4 years in Orange County California as Grip/Electric and part time writer. He has an album released in 2012 called Cities and Spaces. He also has a photography and videography business <http://www.hunterjackson.com/> since beginning of 2014.



MOM BECKER - Danielle Wheeler

Danielle Wheeler was born and raised in Dallas Texas. At the age of three she was already creating and performing shows for her family. At age 13 her parents gave her a camcorder and she began making her own movies. Danielle moved from stage acting to film acting in college and is currently working as a full time actress represented by Linda McAlster Talent. Acting is Danielle's biggest passion but since 2014 she has also gained recognition as a producer, director, and writer. Currently her short film One for the Road is making quite a splash in film festivals, she is in post production for the feature film Aria Appleton, and she is pre production for another project. To keep up with all she is working on visit her facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/danielle.wheeler2011>



COMMANDER BECKER - Crew Wyard

Crew grew up in Chicago, Illinois and attained his degree in theatre from Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania. He spent the past 14 years as a training horses and stunt combatants for the Jousting show at Medieval Times. Crew is currently hosting The Ugly Tour - Saltwater Sessions travel show while also shooting various other films and commercials. He lives in Texas with his best friend and pup, Atlas.

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