



WINTER 2009

# Backlight

PS Production Services Ltd.

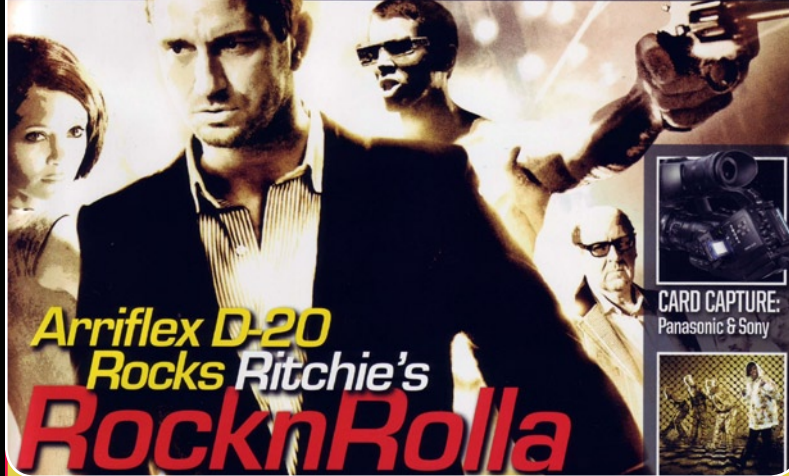
[www.psp.com](http://www.psp.com)



INTERNET FOR INDIES: THE FUTURE OF DISTRIBUTION?

## HD Video Pro

THE NEW VISION ON TECHNOLOGY & INSPIRATION DECEMBER 2008



### PS is RED HOT!



The buzz is blazing and PS is still RED HOT!! Acclaimed Cinematographer, John Leonetti ASC continues to praise PS RED leadership in the current edition of *HD Video Pro Magazine* out of Los Angeles! Be sure to visit our website at [www.psp.com](http://www.psp.com) and click on our 'What's New' section to view the complete article and see for yourself why PS continues to make headlines! You can also download a 3-part John Leonetti audio interview online at [HDFilmtools.com](http://HDFilmtools.com) in which he discusses our involvement with his latest film, "HYBRID" which will hit theatres later this year.

## Romero's Zombies invade PS!



Story on page 6

**The 2008 Gemini Awards!**

Tyman Stewart & Producer Kevin DeWalt accepting the Gemini for *The Englishman's Boy* - Winner of 6 Geminis: Including "Best Dramatic Mini-Series"

More on page 2

Courtesy of ACCT Fuji Film Canada / Jag Gundu Photography




### PS Celebrates the '08 DGC Awards!



Vancouver 604.434.4008 • Prairies 204.632.6813 • [WWW.PSPS.COM](http://WWW.PSPS.COM) • Toronto 416.466.0037 • Atlantic 902.468.4747





# Congratulations

## to all Gemini Award winners and nominees

The 23rd Annual Gemini Awards took place in October in celebration of excellence in Canadian English-language television and PS was there to help celebrate the remarkable achievements of our customers! Congratulations to all Gemini Award winners and nominees!

- \* **The Englishman's Boy** - Mind's Eye Entertainment
- \* **Da Kink in My Hair** - Barna-Alper Productions
- \* **Murdoch Mysteries** - Shaftesbury Films
- \* **Victor: The Victor Davis Story** - Muse Entertainment
- \* **Corner Gas** - Vérité Films/335 Productions
- \* **The Border** - White Pine Pictures/Mackerel Pie Pictures Inc.
- \* **Degrassi: The Next Generation** - Epitome Pictures Inc.
- \* **Ghost Trackers** - GMI Productions Ltd.
- \* **Triple Sensation** - Triple Sensation Productions
- \* **Instant Star** - Epitome Pictures Inc.
- \* **Across The River to Motor City** - Devine Entertainment
- \* **Cock'd Gunns** - Tricon Films & Television

(All PS-Supplied)



Shaftesbury



(L-R) Wendy Moss, Laura Harbin, Christina Jennings, Stan Ford, Bob Wertheimer, Paul Norris and Tony Thatcher at the Geminis



Actor Jonas Chernick, Best Actor, **The Border**



All photos Courtesy of ACCT / Fuji Film Canada / Jag Gundu Photography

The Gemini Award/Prix Gémeaux statuette was created by Scott Thornley

## PS at THE 2008 DGC AWARDS



Derrick Rappaport, Wendy Moss, Ian MacDougall, Ross Leslie, Michael Drabot



PS Marketing Director, Lowell Schrieder with Actor, Colm Feore



DGC's Anne-Marie Sluga, Wendy Moss, Kelly Graham-Scherer, & PS Toronto GM Michael Drabot



Michael Drabot & Liz Young

PS was there to help celebrate the nation's top filmmakers and talents at the 2008 Directors Guild of Canada Awards on Saturday November 8th at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. As a proud Gold Sponsor, PS salutes this incredible event which has grown steadily to become part of the industry landscape, and acts as inspiration to all Canadian filmmakers. PS congratulates the nominees and winners who have risen to the occasion and created some of the most memorable film and television moments of the past year. We are proud to be part of your team!

- Degrassi: The Next Generation
- Instant Star
- Corner Gas
- Little Mosque on the Prairie
- The Stone Angel
- Shake Hands with The Devil
- The Englishman's Boy
- Across The River to Motor City

- Murdoch Mysteries
- Breakfast with Scot
- Guns
- Regenesi
- How She Move
- MVP
- Roxy Hunter
- Booky and The Secret Santa



# PS GREEN INITIATIVE



PS continues to be active in seeking out sustainable green solutions and best practices for development and implementation within our industry and operations across Canada. For example, we are engaging an environmental assessment team on a national level to measure the carbon footprint of each PS location and identify areas for improvement in our daily green practices.

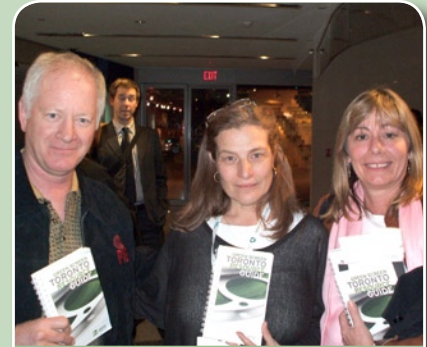
We are also proud to announce our recent sponsorship of the Planet In Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival which took place from October 22-26 at Toronto's Bata Shoe Museum. At the event, PS participated in a 'green' lighting seminar with Cinematographer, Lance Carlson CSC, attended interactive lectures that dealt with the greening of our industry, and

provided sponsorship for the winner of the Green Pitch Program, selected by esteemed industry jurors.

PS VP Operations, Rae Thurston attended the B.C. Film Commission's Reel Green Roundtable in Vancouver which addressed a cross-section of relevant topics ranging from alternative fuel use to reporting and verification of green practices. Production representatives from Los Angeles were also in attendance via videoconference, along with several high-profile network representatives.



Michael Drabot with Toronto Film Commissioner Peter Firestone and Green consultant Melissa Felder



John Talley, Candida Paltiel and Rose Tedesco at Planet in Focus Green Film Festival

Please visit our website at [www.psp.com](http://www.psp.com) for more information!

## PS @ Manitoba TIFF Party Drake Hotel in Toronto



MANITOBA FILM & SOUND exists so that our film and sound industries flourish!



PS President & CEO Doug Barrett with Original Pictures CEO Nicholas Hirst & Megan McElwain



ACCT CEO Sara Morton with PS Founder & Board Chair Doug Dales



Party Girls!



Penny Watier & James Fraser  
VP Operations Red Lab



Michael Drabot with Producer Wanda Chaffey & Lowell Schrieder



PS' Trevor Klippenstein with Buffalo Gals Producer Liz Jarvis



Jack Mosor, Angie Lamarande, Larry Careen & Kyle Kurbegovich



PS Pres. & CEO Doug Barrett with On Screen Manitoba Exec. Director Tara Walker





## CENTIGRADE

**PS Factoid:** *Centigrade* was shot over two weekends in Vancouver at a sound stage 4 hrs. outside of the city in an area called Ashcroft, located in the Cache Creek area of B.C. It was the only location that offered a desert-like setting. They are now working to develop *Centigrade* into a feature! So stay tuned!

*"PS was awesome... We couldn't have done this without you!"* -Madison Graie, Producer-Centigrade.

Producers are Derrick Garland and Madison Graie; DOP is Kevin Hall; Written and Directed by Colin Cunningham.

It's being called the most decorated Canadian film of 2008 and it's about to make motion picture history thanks to the efforts of producers Madison Graie and Colin Cunningham who also wrote, directed and starred in the suspenseful short film **Centigrade**.

The gritty thriller, about an abusive father who becomes trapped in his trailer when it's hijacked, was also selected for screening at Cannes Short Film Corner, the Toronto International Film Festival and the Jackson Hole Film Festival, just to name a few.

**Centigrade**, which won five Leo Awards and qualified for Oscar-nomination eligibility earlier this year, has also become the first live-action Canadian short to be released on Apple iTunes and is now among the top ten downloads in Canada and the UK.

*"We never expected this"*, said producer/actress Madison Graie in an interview with PS Marketing Director, Lowell Schrieder. *"The short film was written almost 20 years ago and immediately came to my mind when I heard of the DGC's Kickstart program that awards \$20,000 to five directors each year. Originally called "Fahrenheit", we dusted off the script, submitted it at the very last minute...and won!"*



Leo Award Winner Derrick Garland with Jeff Ramsay

## Tooth Fairy



David Tattersal, Gaffer Drew Davidson, PS Vancouver GM Jeff Ramsay and Key Grip Kim Olsen

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson plays Derek Thompson, a minor league hockey player whose nickname is the **Tooth Fairy** because of his ability to knock out the teeth of opposing players. But when he discourages a youngster's hope, Derek is ordered to one week's labour as the real tooth fairy, complete with wings, magic wand and frilly tutu. Along the way, he rediscovers his forgotten dreams.

Filming began in October for this feature which also stars Julie Andrews, Billy Crystal and Ashley Judd.

**Did u Know?** The movie marks Billy Crystal's first role in a live-action studio flick since he starred with Robert De Niro in "Analyze That" in 2002.

Executive Producer is Jim Piddock; Producers are Jason Blum, Mark Ciardi, Gordon Gray; PM is Wendy Williams with PC Patricia Foster; Gaffer is Drew Davidson; Best Boy Lighting is Shane Dobie; Key Grip is Kim Olsen; Rigging Grip is Seth Hettrick; Best Boy Grip is Leon Serginson.



PS CSR Mike Gray, PM Wendy Williams, PS Vancouver GM Jeff Ramsay

## SANTA BUDDIES



Key Grip Jeff Plecas, PS CSR Jason Manahan and Gaffer Calen Zantolas

**Santa Buddies** is the 9th sequel in the "Air Buddies" and "Air Bud" franchise from Walt Disney Pictures and Keystone Entertainment. Shooting began in Vancouver in mid-November. The film is produced by Anna McRoberts and directed by Robert Vince.

### Air Bud Franchise History at a Glance!

- Air Bud: Golden Receiver (1998) (American football)
- Air Bud: World Pup (2000) (soccer)
- Air Bud: Seventh Inning Fetch (2002) (baseball)
- Air Bud: Spikes Back (2003) (beach volleyball)
- Air Buddies (2006)
- Snow Buddies (2008) (Sled Dogs)
- Space Buddies (2009)
- Air Bud: Aussie Rules (Australian football)

Producer is Anna McRoberts; PM is Darcy Wilde with PC Jill McQueen; Key Grip is Jeff Plecas; Gaffer is Calen Zantolas.



## CASHING IN

Photo courtesy of Cashing In. Photographer Allen Fraser



Setting Up The 18K on location in Winnipeg

**Cashing In** is a new, half-hour comedy series about a First Nation gambling casino which just finished shooting in November around Winnipeg. The series is set on a fictional reserve casino purchased by a casino kingpin intent on transforming the place into a showpiece establishment. Actors cast in the six-part APTN-bound show include Wesley French (Skinwalkers) and Karen Holness (jPod).

**Cashing In** is produced by Animiki See Digital Productions and Buffalo Gal Pictures for broadcast on APTN and Showcase.

**Did U Know?** **Cashing In** is the latest in an unprecedented run of TV series set in Manitoba and was developed through a joint-training program between the NSI and APTN.

Exec. Producer is Phyllis Laing; Producers are Ron E. Scott and J. Du Toit; Line Producer/PM is Anastasia Geras with PC Colleen Wowchuk; DOP is Michael Marshall; Key Grip is Bill Mills with Best Boy Christophe Nachtigall; Dolly Grip is Steve Madden with grips Sean Gillies, Reil Munro and Matt Schween; Gaffer is Lawrence Mardon with Best Boy Ben Stouffer; Genny Op is Marvin Klein.



Cashing In Gaffer Lawrence Mardon



PS Prairies' Trevor Klippenstein with PM Anastasia Geras

## AEGRISOMNIA

### A SICK MAN'S DREAM

Photo courtesy of Mike Sanders



Producer & DOP Michael Sanders, Producer/Sound Engineer Colin Musulak & Producer/Writer James Rewuck

**Aegri Somnia** is a Latin phrase which means "A sick man's dream" but it's also the title of a new feature film made by a local group of young and ambitious filmmakers in Winnipeg. The film centres on the tormented mental state of Edgar, a loner who is disturbed by the sudden death of his controlling wife. The bulk of the film is spent exploring Edgar's dreams and hallucinations until, like Edgar, the film itself becomes consumed by those dreams. The feature was shot in Winnipeg from Oct. 1, 2007 – March 13th, 2008.

**Did u Know?** The production company, Absurd Machine was started 5 years ago with the intent to create relevant and innovative Canadian content for music, television and film.

"The PS Prairies team really treated us great, they were there for us and bent over backwards to help out!" -James Rewucki, Producer.

Producer/Director/Writer-James Rewucki, Producer/DOP is Mike Sanders, Producer/audio is Colin Musulak.



## WARRIORS: TKO

**Farpoint Films** has just completed production on 11 half-hours plus a one-hour of **Warriors TKO**, a doc-style series developed by subsidiary **Micro Bus Pictures** and owned by APTN.

**Warriors TKO** follows four fighters from two different gyms training to fight each other. Shooting began in August and wrapped with the final fight on Nov. 3.

**PS Factoid:** The series has a tease launch on Boxing Day, with the balance of episodes airing next spring.



TKO crew working hard on location in Winnipeg

Producers are Kyle Bornais and Rebecca Morris; Director is John Barnard; Production Manager is Scott Leary; Gaffer is Joao Luiz Holowka; Key Grip is Reil Munro.





## Island of The Dead



(L-R) Exec. Producer George A. Romero, DOP Adam Swica, PS CSR Rob Varga, PM D.J. Carson, Producer Paula Devonshire & Exec. Producer Peter Grunwald on location just outside of Toronto.

George A. Romero is one of the top names in the modern horror film business! Now in production on the 5th installment of his popular "Dead Series" of zombie features, he still remains true to the genre that helped launch his career!

It all started in the late 1960s, when Romero and a group of close friends chipped in \$10,000 each to produce what has become one of the most celebrated horror films of all time, "Night of the Living Dead". The movie, directed by Romero, became an immediate cult classic and marks a defining moment for modern horror cinema.



PS-Supplied **Land of The Dead**: Also shot in and around Toronto.

After several attempts at other movie genres, Romero returned to zombie filmmaking in 1978 with "Dawn of the Dead" shot in Toronto and later in 1985 made "Day of the Dead". Universal Studios produced and released a remake of "Dawn of the Dead" in 2004 (shot with PS equipment) and Romero, who also lives in Toronto, filmed a fourth movie here called "Land of The Dead", also using PS equipment. In July 2006, shooting began in Toronto for George A. Romero's "Diary of the Dead" while his current PS-supplied project is tentatively titled "Island of the Dead".

**PS Factoid:** Although remaining in the realm of B-movies by choice, Romero has exerted considerable influence on an entire school of big budget horror directors, including John Carpenter, Wes Craven and Brian DePalma.

Director/Exec. Producer is George A. Romero with Exec. Producers Bryan Glisserman, Peter Grunwald, Art Spigel and Ara Katz; Producer is Paula Devonshire with Co-Producers Jeff Glickman & Jesse Ikeman; PM is D.J. Carson with PC Angie Winstl; DP is Adam Swica; A Cam Operator is Roger Finlay with 1st AC Gottfried Pflugbeil & 2nd AC Meridith Starnes; Key Grip is Rod "Buggy" Benjamin; Gaffer is Franco Tata.

## HANDYMAN superstar challenge



Photo courtesy of Chris Rowles

Handyman Superstar Challenge  
Chris Rowles & Mike Holmes

Produced by Firvalley Productions, this television game show airs on HGTV Canada, and is hosted by Karen Bertelsen ("Designer Superstar Challenge"). The series seeks to find the best handyman in Canada, with the winner originally being awarded the opportunity to host a show on HGTV. Candidates are nominated through HGTV's website with ten finalists being evaluated by two handyman judges: Mike Holmes from "Holmes on Homes" and Jim Caruk from "Real Renos".

At the start of each day, each of the remaining contestants is given a challenge, with the contestant believed to have done the worst according to the three judges being eliminated.

This continued until three contestants remain, from which one of the three would be named the Handyman Superstar after a final head-to-head challenge.

Exec. Producers are Joseph Blasioli & Maria Pimentel; Supervising Producer is Corinna Lehr; PM is Bert Bulmer; DOP is Carlos Esteves; Key Grip is Maciej Kulpa with Grips Chris Farr and Phillipe Rodrigues; Gaffer is Alex Knisch; Package Truck Operator is Chris Rowles.



## Connor Undercover

Produced by Heroic Film Co. & Shaftesbury Films, this new action-packed tv series follows 15-year-old Connor Heath, the world's biggest spy buff who saw his life kick into overdrive the day Gisela Calicos, firebrand first daughter of a small island nation, showed up to live with his family. Even though she was sent away to escape dangers back home, intrigue and mystery have followed her. So now, afternoons packed with action, bodyguards, spies, moles, helicopters and chase scenes aren't just part of Connor's favorite movies, they're part of his life.



PS CSR Alan Thatcher with Key Grip Joe Strazzeri, DP Yuri Yakubi & Gaffer Bruce Morton

Exec. Producers are Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, John May & Suzanne Bolch; Producers are Suzanne French, Peter Meyboom, Laura Harbin & Jennifer Morrisette; Line Producer/PM is Stephen Montgomery with PC Debbie Wilkinson; DP is Yuri Yakubi; A Cam. Op. is J.P. Locherer with 1st AC Andrew Macklin; 2nd AC is Krzysztof Mierzwinski; Gaffer is Bruce Morton with Best Boy Lars Niederhauser; Electric is Steve Roberts; Key Grip is Joe Strazzeri with Best Boy John Tennant; Dolly Grip is Rob Lopes.







## TRAILER PARK BOYS: COUNTDOWN TO LIQUOR DAY

Great news for all you Trailer Park Boys fans! The gang recently wrapped shooting in Halifax for a sequel to "Trailer Park Boys: The Movie", an off-shoot of the popular Canadian TV series, and it will be hitting theatres in Canada and the U.S. in October '09.

The film marks another go around with Ricky, Julian, Bubbles, Mr. Lahey, and Randy all involved in another greasy cheeseburger scheme! The plot finds our trio of trailer park misfits being released from jail only to find that their beloved home, the Sunnyvale Trailer Park, has been taken over by a meaner, leaner park supervisor.

**PS Factoid:** "Trailer Park Boys" became the highest-rated Canadian show on specialty TV in 2004, and that same year, also won the Gemini Award for Best Comedy Series.

Producers are Barrie Dunn, Mike Clattenburg and Mike Volpe; Line Prod/PM is Karen Wentzell with PC Georgina Brown; DOP is Ted McInnis; Key Grip is Dave Chisholm, Gaffer is Ian Campbell.



Crew with Director Mike Clattenburg hard at work on location for Trailer Park Boys 2

Photo Courtesy Mike Tompkins

## SOUL

VisionTV and Halifax Film have just finished shooting their first original, six-part, hour-long drama series in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter Keisha Chanté in the starring role, playing Mahalia Brown. The series, which has the working title "Soul" tells the story of a young singer torn between different worlds. Principal photography commenced in Sept. 2008.-(Source-Vision TV)

"Soul" is the first small-screen starring role for Ottawa native Keisha Chanté, who won a Juno Award in 2005 for R&B/Soul Recording Of The Year. As Mahalia Brown, a gifted gospel singer from Toronto, she plays a young woman on the verge of leaving behind the safety of church and family for the fast track to pop stardom.

**PS Factoid:** The series will feature a gospel choir made up of singers recruited from the Halifax area, and led by renowned performer, journalist and musician Shauntay Grant.

Executive Producers are Floyd Kane, Peter Lauterman, Michael Donovan (Bowling for Columbine) and Charles Bishop (The Guard). Creative Producer is Andy Marshall; Line Producer is Margaret Harrison (Shake Hands with the Devil) with PC Cathy Grant; DP's are Ian Bibby, and Christopher Porter; Key Grip is Darryl Duzak; Gaffer is Jordan Schella.



Lights, Camera, Action! On the Halifax set of "SOUL"

Photo Courtesy Chris Reardon

## The Mighty Jungle 3

Deep in the mighty jungle, past the leafy vines and under a green canopy of chattering birds, is a world waiting to be explored...

**The Mighty Jungle** is a live action puppet series for pre-schoolers capturing the spirit of the times; the hopes, fears, frustrations, the joys and sorrows and silliness of children while exploring how they play and overcome obstacles both physical and emotional.

**The Mighty Jungle** is co-produced by **Halifax Film** and **Decode Entertainment**, both DHX Media Companies, in association with CBC Television.

Producers are Katrina Walsh and Andrew McInnes; PM is Anita McGee; DP is David Albiston; Gaffer is Ruth Leggett; Key Grip is Kevin MacNeil; Electric is David Reilly-McGee; Grip is Dave Chisholm.







# CHILL OUT!



PS Toronto Mustache Day



DOP Arthur Cooper with Producer Christine Dore and PM Liz Young at Canadian Film Centre BBQ



PS Toronto GM Michael Drabot with Producer Peter Meyboom @ The Actors' Fund 50th Anniversary



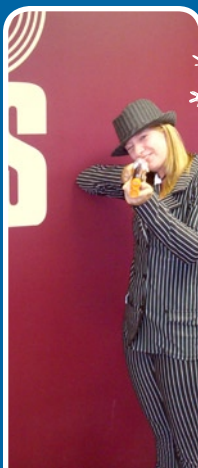
"Think as Thieves": Gregor Hagey CSC, AC Greg Winterton, Producer Darleene Russell & Writer/Dir. Thomas Elliott



PS' Stephan Recksiedler, Justin Collins & Ted Stokes Chillin' Out!



Asst. PM Michael Bawcutt with Bill Harris, Producer/PM David Lowe & Michael Drabot



PS Prairies Kerry Pogson on Halloween



Cooke Lens Chief Les Zellin at PS Toronto with PS Camera GM Penny Watier



PS Toronto's Loi Do & son Jason

**PS Production Services Ltd.**  
80 Commissioners Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada  
M5A 1A8

<b>Canada Post</b>	<b>Postes Canada</b>
Postage paid Publication Mail Agreement Number	Port payé Poste-publications Numero de contract
40041649	

## Wendy Moss Lends Big Hand To Big Swing!



**Actors' Fund Board Chief Barry Flatman with Exec. Director David Hope, Greg Copeland, Wendy Moss & actress Wendy Crewson**

The results are in and the 12th annual Big Swing Golf Tournament was bigger than ever, generating a record-breaking \$87,700 in revenue for the Actors' Fund of Canada's 50th anniversary year. The tournament, held on September 21, was jointly presented by the Actors' Fund of Canada and DCG Ontario, raising more in sponsorships and on-course fundraising than ever before—especially due to the tireless efforts of our own business development rep, Wendy Moss, who helped organize record-breaking sponsorships for the event!

"Wendy Moss was instrumental in making the 2008 Big Swing tournament the most successful one ever. Her great industry connections brought in many new sponsors and her experience helped us put on a better tournament all round for our golfers and sponsors. Wendy was also tremendously helpful in getting the word out that the Actors' Fund is for everyone in the entertainment industry. This was so important for us, as the Actors' Fund needs to communicate the fact that it serves people working in all aspects of the industry – on camera, on stage or behind the scenes in film & television, theatre, music and dance.

Our thanks go to Wendy and to PS for the terrific support they have given the Actors' Fund this year!" -David Hope, Executive Director-The Actors' Fund of Canada.

The Actors' Fund is the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry. Performers and others who work behind the scenes in film and television, theatre, music and dance can apply for emergency financial aid from the Fund, which recently set a new record for the amount of financial aid delivered to industry members in a single year, topping \$500,000 in the 12-month period that ended on March 31, 2008. The Fund has helped over 10,000 entertainment industry workers recover from illness, injury or other circumstances causing severe economic and personal hardship since it was founded in 1958.



**Producer Brian Dennis, Michael Drabot, Alan Thatcher and DP Gavin Smith at Big Swing Golf Tournament**

Printed on recycled paper.