

WALT DISNEY
PICTURES PRESENTS

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

(chee' WOW wā)

FURRY FACTS FUN

Director Raja Gosnell had some experience working with animals, but says Beverly Hills Chihuahua is different. "Their journey is a very human one and their characters have very human needs, wants and failures. For a talking dog movie, it's a very humanistic story. They have human feelings and human emotions and human souls, but we've been very conscious not to push the envelope and make them Super Dog. These are real dogs that do things that real dogs can do."

TALL ORDER – Head trainer/animal coordinator Mike Alexander admits he was scared when he first read the script for Beverly Hills Chihuahua. "It's incredibly bold. Every time I would turn the page, I would think, 'this has gotta be the hardest gag in this movie.' And then the next page, 'oh well, this is the hardest gag in this movie.' And on and on, all the way to the end."

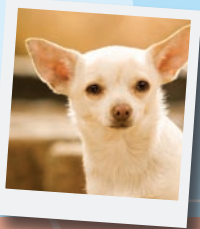


CROWDED (DOG) HOUSE – Alexander led a multi-national team that, at times, swelled to more than 60 trainers to prepare and care for the 200+ animals that appear in the film. There were 11 "character teams," consisting of one to six look-alike animals and usually two trainers, to portray the various main characters in the film.

EYE-CONTACT – When it comes to making animals talk onscreen, the tough part isn't the mouth – it's all in the eyes. Filmmakers used state-of-the-art "muzzle replacement" visual effects to make the mouths of the canine characters move, but eye contact, says Alexander, is another story.



YOU'RE THE INSPIRATION – Screenwriter Jeff Bushell was inspired to write the story by his "half Chihuahua, half mini-pinscher and maybe a quarter something else" five-year-old rescue dog Maggie.



GOOD DOG, BAD DOG – The villainous El Diablo wasn't so evil after all. The snarling Doberman was portrayed by a kind-hearted dog named Arad, who was originally a protection dog.



BE AFRAID – The most difficult sequence to film was where El Diablo torments Chloe. "One of the biggest challenges was to try to make her look afraid when she wasn't. We taught the Doberman to put his foot out and we taught her to run in different directions."



IS THAT A SPEEDO YOU'RE WEARING?

– For the pool scenes, costume designer Fernández custom made a 1920s-inspired bathing suit for the toy poodle, a little bikini for the Yorkie and a Speedo-like swimsuit for the pug.



CAN'T SHAKE IT – One doggie thespian didn't like the first version of a rubber stunt snake because the rubber was too hard and he couldn't shake it. Once the size and material was finalized, the prop master had to paint the rubber snake to match the real snake.

