

The Adventures of  
**SPACE BABY** and   
**MENTAL MAN**

P R E S S   K I T   2 0 0 4



*WINNER – BEST FEATURE, RUNNER UP  
BOSTON UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL*

*OFFICIAL SELECTION – FAMILY FILM  
WOODS HOLE FILM FESTIVAL*





## BRIEF SYNOPSIS

*The Adventures of Space Baby and Mental Man*® is a mythical and mystical romp through childhood. Eight-year-old mad scientist Sam, with help from an ancient ballplayer and a feisty little sister, must rebuild the Holy Grail in order to save the world – and his baby brother – from the clutches of evil.

## PRESS INFORMATION

Contact: Kids Rule Films  
 315 Bacon St.  
 Waltham, MA 02451  
 781 647 4500  
 info@heartbeat.com

## FILM SYNOPSIS

Eight year old Sam (“Mental Man”) seems to know everything – except what he should do with his life. Born with an intense desire to explain everything, Sam is a natural teacher. But he needs a student. For as long as he can remember he’s wanted a little brother, someone who would really understand him – not like his five year old sister Sophia (“Nature Girl”). But so far, Sam’s Frankenbaby experiments have failed, and he doesn’t know why. Filled with questions, Sam decides to invent a communicator that will allow him to speak directly to the Universe.

Working maniacally in his secret underground lab, Sam solders and glues and screws gizmos onto a colander. Donning the wacky helmet, Sam is at first startled by a strange but lovely voice in his head (“the Universe”), and then frightened by the appearance of an alien (“Space Baby”) stomping around the forest and throwing acorns at him. But before long, Sam comes to believe that the alien is the little brother he’s always wanted.

Sam’s best friend lives next door at Forgotten Dreams Rest Home. Ageless and magical, Blue was not only the greatest pitcher of all time, he was also mentor and friend to numerous civil rights leaders and presidents, all the way back to Abraham Lincoln. When Blue hears what Sam has found, he reveals an incredible secret: without knowing it, Sam has

created the receiving half of the Holy Grail, a device which allows its Keeper to communicate with “the other dimension.” The baby that Sam sees when he wears his helmet is the long-awaited “new soul for the earth,” and Sam is to be his Caretaker. But as yet, the baby is only a message from the Universe, a sort of Zen riddle that Sam alone must unravel.

How does Blue know? Hundreds of years ago in Africa he was the Keeper of the Holy Grail – until it was destroyed by slave traders. Now Blue needs Sam’s genius as a mad scientist to rebuild the other half of the Grail and make the baby real. By midnight. Or else all will be lost.

Needless to say, Sam and Blue have become a serious threat to the forces of evil. The new rest home administrators, Nurse Nancy and her demonic Crow, have been seeking to destroy the Grail for over 5,000 years. This time they’ll stop at nothing.

Can Sam withstand their dark forces? Will Sophia’s squadron of ladybug fighter pilots stop Nurse Nancy? Does Sam have the courage to catch Blue’s final supersonic pitch? Will our hero figure out the riddle of the Universe in time? ...or was the whole thing just a dream?

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

**Language:** English  
**Film:** Kodak 35mm / Color  
**Aspect ratio:** 1.85 / Arri cameras  
**Length:** 90 minutes  
**Completed:** Spring 2004  
**Filmed in:** Waltham, Mass. USA  
**Available:** On Preview DVD

## PRINCIPAL CREDITS

<b>Executive Producer</b>	Michael Palm
<b>Produced by</b>	Rex Dean Denise Skinner Carol Patton
<b>Cinematographer</b>	John Leuba
<b>Line Producer</b>	Denise Skinner
<b>Production Designer</b>	Rex Dean
<b>Editors</b>	Peter White Rex Dean
<b>Composer</b>	Alan Williams
<b>Songs by</b>	Alison Brown Martin Sexton
<b>Written by</b>	Sam Dean & Rex Dean
<b>Visual Effects by</b>	Jamie Leutz Simon Coombs

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**REX DEAN** (Writer, Producer, Director)

One of nine kids raised on a farm in Colorado, Rex Dean moved to New England to attend Harvard College. After a career in software development and marketing, Dean decided to follow his dream and wrote, produced and directed his first feature film. *Space Baby* was shot at his house in Waltham and stars his three children (who will also be attending the screening). When he's not directing commercials and films for business, he's writing, singing opera, and hanging out with his kids.



**MICHAEL PALM (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)** is a native of Reading, Pennsylvania. He attended both Yale and Harvard, where he met filmmaker Rex Dean. He was co-founder of Zurich Centre Re, and through the Michael Palm Foundation supports numerous artistic and charitable organizations.

**DENISE SKINNER (PRODUCER, LINE PRODUCER)** is a native of California. She has line produced dozens of films and television shows, including *Power Rangers*. Denise is also a revered teacher at San Francisco State, and has fostered many film careers. She currently lives in both San Francisco and Los Angeles.

**CAROL PATTON (PRODUCER)** brought Charlie Brown to the production. She has worked in both television and radio as a producer, and is currently Publisher of IMAGINE, the premiere film magazine in New England,

**SIMON COOMBS (VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR)** grew up in England, and before entering the world of 3D modeling was a "Bobby" (policeman). Among many other accomplishments, Simon modeled the satellite in *Goldeneye* and many of the models used in the opening battle scenes in *Lost in Space*. He also worked for Dreamworks on *Captain America*.

**JAMIE LEUTZ (VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR)** studied graphical design and music at Oberlin College before joining the postproduction team on *Space Baby*. He completed over 200 visual effects shots. Jamie is a native of Lexington, Mass.



**JOHN LEUBA (CINEMATOGRAPHER)** began his film career after graduating from Emerson College in 1992, working as an assistant cameraman in Boston. In 1994 Leuba moved to Los Angeles to attend the American Film Institute for cinematography. After graduating, he began shooting feature films, music videos, and commercials. Among his many feature film credits are the films "*The Hiding Place*," "*Swimming*," and the "*Autumn Heart*," all which have received critical acclaim, and have been shown at important film festivals around the world, including Sundance, Slamdance, Rotterdam Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival, Outfest, and Methodfest. Leuba continues to live in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.



## ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

**CHARLES BROWN (“BLUE”)** was nominated for Broadway’s highest honor, the Tony, as Best Actor for *Home* in 1980 and Best Featured Actor for *King Hedley II* in 2001. He received the Drama Desk Award in 2001.

Mr. Brown created roles in two Pulitzer Prize winning plays, *A Soldier's Play* and *Fences*, and in Neil Simon's *Rumors* on Broadway, as well as Broadway productions of *The Mighty Gents*, *The Poison Tree* and *The First Breeze of Summer*.

Off-Broadway, he appeared as an original cast member in John Guare's *A Few Stout Individuals* and Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's *The Exonerated*.



*Charlie Brown with filmmaker Rex Dean in NYC*

"Charlie" was born in Alabama and raised in Cleveland. He received his theatrical preparation at Howard University, Cleveland's Karamu House and Robert Hooks' Black Repertory Company in Washington, DC.

Following a naval stint during the Vietnam War, Mr. Brown joined the D.C. Black Repertory Company, founded by actor Robert Hooks. Mr. Brown subsequently toured with a national production of "The River Niger," moved to New York City and began his long affiliation with the Negro Ensemble Company.

He was nominated for a Tony in 1980 for his performance as Cephus Miles in "Home." In 2001, he got his second Tony nomination and won a Drama Desk Award for his portrayal of Elmore, a small-time gangster in "King Hedley II." He acted in several Broadway plays, among them August Wilson's "Fences" and "Rumors."

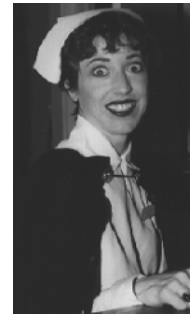
He had roles in several movies, including "Trading Places," "Legal Eagles" and "Drop Squad."

His television credits include *Kojak*, *The Cosby Show*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order SVU*, *The Equalizer*, *Here and Now* and *All My Children*. Charlie portrayed Martin Luther King in the 1983 TV miniseries, *Kennedy*, with Martin Sheen.



**SAM DEAN (“SAM”), SOPHIA DEAN (“SOPHIA”), WILLIAM DEAN (“SPACE BABY”)** had no acting experience prior to the filming of *Space Baby*. All three have subsequently appeared in school plays.

**NANCY TODD (“EVIL NURSE NANCY”)** Grew up in Maine and lives there today, raising two daughters and working as a kindergarten teacher. It’s interesting to note that Margaret Hamilton, Oz’s Wicked Witch of the West, was also a kindergarten teacher! Nancy attended Emerson college in Boston.



**PETER WOLF (“PETER”)** grew up in Brooklyn and studied art before getting into music, eventually as lead singer for J. Geils Band. The highlights of his career are far too many to list here – suffice it to say Peter keeps getting better!



*Peter Wolf with Bruce Springsteen*

## THE MAKING OF

*“Film has the ability to sneak past resistant logical minds into the subconscious, and touch hearts. It can give people new eyes and new perspectives with which to understand their worlds and their lives.”*

– Rex Dean

The transcendental power of film is evident in Rex Dean’s philosophy of art and filmmaking, and is central to the theme of his first 35mm feature, *Space Baby and Mental Man*. Written and directed by Dean, the film features his three children, along with three-time Tony nominee Charles Brown (*Trading Places*) and rocker Peter Wolf (*J. Geils Band*).

To describe *Space Baby* as “a kids film,” though accurate, would be to ignore the deep themes and hopeful message relevant to adults. Sam, the film’s main character, is an eight-year-old genius on a quest to find the meaning of life. His is a world of science and logic. He seeks concrete explanations for everything from human behavior to the processes of life and death. His six-year-old sister, Sophia, seems to have it all figured out. Her world is not the black and white of her brother’s, but is filled with color, the force of nature, and faith. When Sam decides he wants a baby brother, he tries to animate a doll through lab experiments only to be met with disappointment and more questions. Sam turns to his friend and mentor, Blue, a retired baseball player residing in a nursing home next door. Blue is a loving but mysterious sage, demonstrating a knowledge of life and history beyond that of an aging ballplayer. Sam and Sophia come to realize that Blue is more than a man. He is an angel and the guardian of a damaged Holy Grail. His earthly mission, to protect the world from evil (even a little bit), is in jeopardy. Sam and Sophia must rebuild the Holy Grail in order to get a new soul for the earth – but not until Sam can find what he so desperately seeks – the meaning of life. Will he find it in time? What is the answer? Does there exist a key to unlock all the truths in life that will bring us the things we want? The film leads us through his journey with humor, wit, and grace.

The personal journey that Rex embarked on through the making of the film is reflected in the story: questioning values, having faith in one’s instincts, and pursuing a dream. His family was his inspiration, the source of his idea, and even his on-camera talent! Every aspect of the filmmaking process, from script to art direction to editing and music, has been informed and influenced by his children.

*Space Baby and Mental Man* is Rex’s first feature production. Other projects currently in development are in the drama, action/thriller, romantic comedy and family genres. He is currently seeking representation, as well as a producing partner or production company to collaborate with on these projects.

## DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

When I was eleven, I wanted to be a filmmaker. My first 8mm short was *Billy the Kid*, starring my eight brothers and sisters. The next was *The Hanging*, which starred my five year old twin brothers as a businessman who is killed, and a killer who is hanged. We had big fields by my house, and did a lot with stop-motion effects. But then came Rocky Mountain High School, football, and girls, and before I knew it, marriage, mortgage, and three munchkins. Twenty five years later I remembered what I really wanted to be when I grew up – a filmmaker.

My kids and I made this movie ourselves, all in our own house. (You’d be amazed how much our backyard looks like West Africa, and our basement like a secret underground laboratory...!) We wrote, produced, directed, designed, acted, filmed, narrated, rendered, titled, sound-designed, mixed, and made DVDs, all under one roof!

Except for Charlie Brown, a three-time Tony nominee with a number of film credits including *Trading Places* and *Drop Squad*, most of the cast – my kids Sam, Sophia, and Will, friends Peter Wolf (solo artist and former lead singer for *J. Geils Band*) and Nancy Todd (kindergarten teacher) – had never acted before. But you can see from the rich production values of the film that we were in good hands with line producer Denise Skinner, DP John Leuba, and our visual effects supervisors. Simon Coombs, whose resume includes *Goldeneye*, *Lost in Space*, and *Captain America*, came to live with us for a summer and got us started with world-class 3D CGI models. Jamie Leutz, who had never done a visual effects shot before in his life and who *still* lives with us, animated, rendered and composited our two hundred 35mm film-resolution shots.

The kids helped at every step of the way – Sophia with artwork, credits, and some of my favorite visual effects; Sam with writing and recording VO; Will with critical insight and reminders about what really matters (he wrote me notes saying “Stop working now, Dad!”). At last, against all odds, we’re done.

It’s been an enormous privilege working with these actors, these artists, and this material. I’m very proud of what this band of beginners has accomplished together. I hope you will be too.

## REVIEWS & QUOTES

“The film has a wonderful sensibility and freshness about it. Its themes are lovely, originally presented, timely, and very much hit a chord with our family. My two kids, a boy and girl aged nine and ten, each identified with different elements of the film. My wife follows a spiritual path and was especially appreciative of your efforts. Great job!”

- *Andrew Gellis, former VP Production for Imax and producer of over a dozen IMAX films including: T-Rex 3D, Spacestation, Panda Adventure, Galapagos, and The Nutcracker*

“You’ve made a movie about my son!”

“I was Nature Girl when I was little!”

“I always wanted a secret underground lab!”

“I wish I had a friend like Blue.”

- *heard at various screenings*

“A fine comedic performance by Nancy Todd.”

- *Mark O'Donnell (comedy writer, Saturday Night Live, Tony winner for Hairspray)*

“Even my most cynical friends cried at the end.”

- *David Kleiler (director, Boston Underground Film Festival)*

“The characters zoom around as if on roller-skates!”

- *Dennis Hackin (screenwriter, Bronco Billy)*

## FULL DIRECTOR BIO

**REX DEAN** (Writer, Producer, Director) was the kid in the outfield who closed his eyes whenever there was a fly ball, and one day miraculously caught one.

Rex was born in Phoenix, Arizona and raised on a ranch in Colorado by mad scientist parents. In elementary school he started making 8mm films, using his eight brothers and sisters as actors. While growing up Rex was an avid reader of philosophy, sci-fi, and pulp fiction. At Rocky Mountain High School he played football (made all-conference nose guard), played the sax and sang in his own rock band.

Rex went on to attend Harvard, which he'd chosen at age five when he still wanted to be President (because that's where JFK went). While majoring in Government, Rex also managed to produce benefit concerts for Oxfam, teach filmmaking to inner city kids, perform with his rock band *The Standard Deviants*, and sing all over the world with the

*Harvard Krokodiloes* for luminaries such as Princess Grace, Leonard Bernstein, and Ella Fitzgerald.

After a career in software, Dean decided to pursue his lifelong dream of being a filmmaker. With encouragement and a large investment from Wall Street wizard Michael Palm, Rex embarked on the adventure of making *Space Baby*. He has no formal training, and *Space Baby* is his first film over 3 minutes and with lights, sound, and actual edits. Rex's love for family, science, music, history and movies was undoubtedly shaped by his eclectic childhood. In keeping with tradition, he based the film around his own children. The entire film was produced at their house in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Rex is currently working on several feature and documentary projects while directing television commercials and films for business.

## COMPLETE CREDITS

Executive Producer	Michael D. Palm
Screenplay by	Rex Dean Sam Dean
Produced and Directed by	Rex Dean
Produced by	Denise Skinner Carol Patton Karyn Dean Jamie Leutz Lisa Schiller Michele Walsh
Co-Produced by	Alan Williams
Original Score by	Alison Brown
Featuring the music of	Martin Sexton
Cinematography by	John Leuba
Production Design	Rex Dean
Film Editing by	Peter V. White Rex Dean
Visual Effects	Jamie Leutz Simon Coombs
Line Producer	Denise Skinner
Assistant Director	Mark Demarais
Production Coordinator	Tina Montoya
Cast (in order of appearance)	
Sam Dean	Sam
Sophia Dean	Sophia
Myriam Kuusipalo	Voice of Ladybug
Cara Reidy	Voice of Ladybug
Caroline Eisenmann	Voice of Ladybug
Olivia Montgomery	Voice of Ladybug Nancy
Todd	Nurse Nancy
G. Zachariah White	Nerd Boy

Eric Alan West	Nurse Eric
Karyn Dean	Nurse Karyn
Cindy Mizelle	Nurse Cindy
Charles Brown	Blue Genes
Stacy Jethroe	Voice of Crow
Jean St Fleur	Blue as child
Nestadley St Fleur	Blue's Brother
Sophie St Fleur	Blue's Sister
Andrea Lacrosse	Mom
Joan Tolentino- Dunton	Beatrice
Stacy Jethroe	The Universe
William X. Dean	Space Baby
Peter V. White	Voice on Telephone
Lauren Doherty	Nurse Lauren
Peter Wolf	Peter
Sam Dean	Narrator

#### Crew

John Leuba	Cinematographer
Eric Alan West	Gaffer
Joshua Blakeslee	Assistant Camera
Scott Crawford	Assistant Camera
Randall Falcon	Assistant Camera
Jamie Fitzpatrick	Assistant Camera
Doug Kofsky	Assistant Camera
James R Smith	Assistant Camera
Wanna Cam Cam	2nd AC
Richard Rinker	2nd AD
Tim Shea	Best Boy Electric
Michael Rudolph	Electric
Marc Rizza	Electrician
Chris Nickerson	Best Boy Grip
Jason Bowen	Key Grip
Bob Coleman	Key Grip
Sean Kirby	Grip / Gaffer
Pierre O'Halloran	Grip
Scott Shortall	Dolly Grip / Swing
John Cameron	Sound Recordist
Ken Stralka	Boom Operator
Brian R Johnson	Boom Operator
John Levy	Sound Recordist
William Shamlan	Sound Recordist
Andrew Fisch	Boom Operator
Jeremy Breslau	2nd 2nd AD
Lisa M Arnone	Script Supervisor
Kelly A Cronin	Script Supervisor
Meredith C Kovach	Script Supervisor
Lisa Pritsoulis	Childcare
Chloe Gormley	Childcare
Lauren Doherty	Childcare
Jamie Leutz	Asst to Sam
Jamie Leutz	Latin Coach
Jamie Leutz	Asst to Will
Jamie Leutz	Writing Coach
Jamie Leutz	Games Master
Jamie Leutz	Asst to Sophia

#### Art Department

William T Ternay	Art Director
Louise Ternay	Scenic Artist
Tobias H McElheny	Peter's Electronics
Susmita Lavery	Living Room Art Director
Stephen Maing	Sam's Fort Art Director
Juan Sanabria	Underground Lab
Jennifer Martinez	Art Department
Gus Stergis	Sam's Helmet Creator
Stephen Powers	Sam's Bed Creator
Craig Schubert	Props / Set Dresser
John Holland	Prop Master
Sophia Dean	Blue's room artist, Props
Sam Dean	Prop maker
Cary Greenberg	Prop maker
Juan Sanabria	Prop maker
Juan Sanabria	Set Dresser
Chris Bareford	Set Dresser
Jacob Forster	Construction Coordinator
Ken Favazza	Carpenter
Stephen Maing	Carpenter
Elizabeth Campbell	Wardrobe
Leah Sinrich	Wardrobe
Trudy Remissong	Asst Costume Design
Andrew Blackwood	Art Department
Michelle Axstin	Photoshop Artist
Cynthia Murphy	Hair and Makeup
Sharon Phillion	Hair and Makeup
Cynthia Ryan	Hair and Makeup
Trish Sweney	Hair and Makeup
Heike Warnecke	Hair and Makeup
Dawn Silvestro	Hair and Makeup
Deborah Stockton	Masseuse
Blue's Wardrobe	Ebbet's Field Flannels
John Tormey	Legal Services

Filmed on location "The Dean House" (Kids Rule Studios)"The Nursing Home"(next to our house) and "Prospect Hill Forest"(down the street), all in Waltham, Massachusetts.

#### Production Assistants

Mike Arginsky	Isaac Blais
Mariah Chase	Sean Levin
Stephen T Maing	Schif Musarra
Chris Ohlson	Daniel Pellegrini
Dimie Poweigha	Laura Robinson
Robb B Schwartz	Sam Sherman
Jared White	Jim Barnes
Leila Sultana Bham	Jay Heyman
Esra Gaffin	Kimberly Jose
Tobias McElheny	Brian R Johnson
Kerri Bowers	Lada Moyseen
Sasha Patsenka	Robb Shwartz
Eleanora Taylor	Amy Revis
Tom Krajewski	Matthew Gill

## 2nd Unit

Karyn Dean  
Andrew Strand  
Sean Kirby  
Katy Marttila  
Jay Heyman  
Phil Martinez  
Doug Kofsky  
Meredith C Kovach  
Janice Burgess

Producer  
Art Director  
Gaffer/Key Grip  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant  
Cinematographer  
1st Assistant Camera  
Production Coordinator  
2nd Assistant Camera

## 3rd Unit

Stefan Forbes  
Josh Gundling  
Karine Alban o  
William J Shamlian  
Adelle Traub  
Margaret Swallow  
Faye Erion  
Karyn Dean

Cinematographer  
1st AC  
Gaffer  
Sound  
PA  
Housekeeping  
Housekeeping  
Location Manager

## Post Production

Rex Dean  
Jamie Leutz  
Peter V. White  
Rex Dean  
Dave Meichsner  
Jim McKenna  
Jamie Leutz  
Adam Schatten  
Greg Wissler  
Abigail Branch  
Abby Haskell  
Jennifer Parker  
Andrew Strand  
Stacy Jethroe  
Patti Spruill Melendez  
Jessica Young  
Bonnie G. Rowan

Post Supervisor  
Technical Director  
Editor  
Co-Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Assistant Editor  
Post Assistant  
Post Assistant  
Editorial Assistant  
Post Assistant  
Post Assistant  
Post Sr. Assistant  
Post Assistant  
Photo Researcher

## Edited on

Avid Film Composer  
Apple Final Cut Pro.

## Visual Effects

Jamie Leutz  
Simon Coombs

Visual Effects Supervisor  
Visual Effects Supervisor  
Modeller, Baseball and  
Space Ladybug  
FX Coordinator  
FX Designer  
FX Animation  
FX Lighting  
FX Compositing  
Rotoscope Artist  
Designer, Animator,

Rex Dean  
Jamie Leutz  
Jamie Leutz  
Jamie Leutz  
Jamie Leutz  
Jamie Leutz  
Rex Dean

Plate Photographer,  
Photoshop, DV  
Digital Video Camera  
VisFX Artist, Modeller  
FixFX Artist, Modeller  
Space Station, Angel  
Visual Effects Artist  
Visual Effects Storyboards  
Puppet Designer  
Head Puppeteer  
Assistant Puppeteer  
Eye Space Montage  
Bit Herder  
VisFX neg cutting  
VisFX neg cutting

Tom Krajewski  
Glen Whelden  
Ezra Chasen

Daniel Miller  
Paul Wilson  
Hal Miles

Radford Moore  
Sophia Dean  
Mark Pastore  
Northeast Negative  
Mathew Wagenecht

All visual effects created in "The Attic" (Kids Rule Studios). VisFX created with Lightwave, Studio Max, Digital Fusion, Photoshop, and After Effects.

## Post Production Sound

Rex Dean  
Sound Designer, Sound  
Editor, Foley Artist,  
Dialog Editor, Sound  
Effects Editor, ADR  
Editor, Sound Mixer  
Music Editor  
VO Coach / Advisor  
Mac Specialist

Mixed on Apple Mac G4 with Protools LE

Voice Overs, Off-Screen Dialog, and Dialog Replacement recorded at "The Closet" at Kids Rule Studios. Additional OS Recorded at Larson Sound (Burbank, CA), and Charlie's living room (NJ). Recording & Sound mixing facility - "The Spare Bedroom" at Kids Rule Studios.

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## SALES INFORMATION

### Film Sales Agent

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Attached or by request to rex@heartbeat.com.