



The Lone Rangers, a struggling Los Angeles rock and roll band, just about have it all: the sound, the look, the attitude.

If they can just get their song played, surely everyone will recognize their talents, and record companies will come begging for their services.

But with all they have going for them, The Lone Rangers can't even get arrested...until they inadvertently take a radio station hostage in an attempt to get their demo played...

Twentieth Century Fox Presents An Island World/Robert Simonds Production of A Michael Lehmann Film, "Airheads," starring Brendan Fraser, Steve Buscemi, Adam Sandler, Chris Farley, Michael McKean, Judd Nelson, with Michael Richards and Joe Mantegna. Also starring in the film are Nina Siemaszko, Ernie Hudson and Amy Locane. It is directed by Michael Lehmann and written by Rich Wilkes. Robert Simonds and Mark Burg are producing; Todd Baker is executive producer and Ira Shuman is co-producer.

"This film is not a goofy spoof of rock and roll," says director Michael Lehmann, known for a pointed sense of humor demonstrated in films like "Heathers" and "Meet The Applegates." "The characters take themselves seriously and the situation plays itself out as a pretty straight-forward hostage drama, but from a humorous perspective. The guys in this band aren't really dangerous, they're just rock and rollers who want their music played."

"The three bandmembers represent different types of rock and rollers," according to producer Robert Simonds. "Lead singer Chazz (played by "School Ties" and "Encino Man"

star Brendan Fraser), for instance, is the disenfranchised artist. He believes his music to be art and has a great deal of integrity when it comes to the music. He just wants to be heard.

"Bass player Rex (Steve Buscemi, seen recently in "Rising Sun" and "Reservoir Dogs") embodies the raucous hostility and rebellion of youth. The problem is he's getting old and should have given up on rock a long time ago.

"And drummer Pip ("Saturday Night Live's" Adam Sandler) is along for the ride. He goes with the flow, almost Zen-like."

In addition to our heroes -- known collectively (and imprecisely) as The Lone Rangers -- "Airheads" features a gallery of comic characters portrayed by an impressive ensemble cast. Respected dramatic actor Joe Mantegna, best known for work in films like "The Godfather, Part III" and "Searching For Bobby Fischer," plays Ian, the radio station's aging star deejay. Emmy-winner Michael Richards, who plays the baffling Kramer on the hit television series "Seinfeld," is Doug Beech, a much put-upon station employee who tries to thwart the three musicians' plans. Chris Farley, a standout castmember of "Saturday Night Live," plays a cop caught up in the frenetic hostage negotiations.

Amy Locane, most recently seen opposite Brendan Fraser in "School Ties," plays Chazz' disillusioned girlfriend, Kayla. Ernie Hudson ("Ghostbusters") plays Sgt. O'Malley, the cop in charge of the hostage situation. Michael McKean, also a "Saturday Night Live" castmember -- and who made his own contribution to cinematic rock n' roll comedy as writer and star of "This is Spinal Tap" -- is Milo, the radio station's weasel-like program manager. Judd Nelson ("The Breakfast Club") plays Jimmy Wing, a sleazy record company exec. And Nina Siemaszko ("Lonesome Dove") is Suzzi, a radio station secretary who has designs on Pip.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION...

"Airheads" was filmed on soundstages at Twentieth Century Fox, where the radio station and other key interior locations were constructed. A variety of Hollywood locations, where today's rock and roll lifestyles flourish, added their own measure of reality.

"A continual source of humor in the movie is that rock and roll styles are so radical," says Lehmann. "Fashion, hair, language -- they're so extreme, but the people behind those extreme styles are quite often very sweet and very normal. And that's a big part of how the movie plays -- everybody's so quick to assume that these guys are much more dangerous than they really are."

The "Airheads" script was what attracted Brendan Fraser to the project. "It was so well-written," he remembers. "Rich Wilkes is such a good screenwriter. He really understands dialogue, how people speak."

"The script was pretty well researched," says Wilkes, who makes his major studio debut with "Airheads." "I did spend a lot of time in clubs, dragging my girlfriend to Hot Babe Bikini Nights and all that nonsense."

"I even tried to sneak into Capitol Records before I wrote the scene where Chazz tries to do the same thing. It happened to me exactly the same way it does in the movie, except that Chazz gets through and actually meets a record company executive, while I was tackled and brutalized by the security guard in the lobby."

"So there's a lot of honest research involved in 'Airheads,'" smiles the screenwriter. "And Michael Lehmann is giving the movie a very realistic approach. I respect that."

Brendan Fraser had the same opinion of Lehmann, whose film "Heathers" remains one of the most inventive and daring comedies of the past several years.

"What impressed me most about Michael was his ability to approach the material with an attitude of great seriousness," recalls Fraser. "I think that's the mark of a good comedy director, or anyone who performs comedy. The fact of the matter is that, although the

material is funny, the actors can't let on that it's funny. Otherwise, it doesn't allow the audience to laugh."

Steve Buscemi concurs, "I couldn't play the part if I felt I was making fun of my character. I had to play it straight and believe in what Rex is doing and that he is serious about it."

A project with this much comedic talent made for a predictably humorous shoot. While every actor took a turn at eliciting laughter from the group, it was Adam Sandler who kept everyone in stitches daily with his off-the-wall unscripted remarks.

"Adam was the true spirit of this movie," states an admiring Joe Mantegna. "On a comedy, you need at least one glowing ember to burn through the weeks and months. Every funny anecdote I experienced here involved Adam."

"Airheads" also boasts performances by two authentic heavy metal rock bands: White Zombie, dubbed an "underground scuzz rock sensation" by one Village Voice critic, is seen headlining at the Whiskey, and Houston-based Galactic Cowboys, known for its "Crosby Stills and thrash" style, portray gimmick-based rock band Sons of Thunder at KPPX's record release party where Chazz makes the decision to seek radio airplay. In the movie, they perform a parody song they wrote especially for the film entitled "Don't Blame Me Because I'm Beautiful."

Some other authentic rock and roll personalities -- both musicians and behind-the-scenes talents -- contribute cameo appearances to "Airheads," including Motorhead's Lemmy, MTV's Kurt Loder and Beavis & Butt-Head, China Kantner and radio's "Stuttering John" Melendez from "The Howard Stern Show."

ABOUT THE CAST...

BRENDAN FRASER (Chazz) has quickly become one of the most versatile young actors in Hollywood. He was recently seen in "With Honors" as an ambitious Harvard senior, opposite Joe Pesci. Upcoming, he stars as a baseball phenomenon in Twentieth Century Fox's "The Scout," also toplining Albert Brooks.

Fraser starred in the critically praised drama "School Ties," about a Jewish student facing anti-Semitism in an elite New England prep school, and played a prehistoric caveman in the hit comedy "Encino Man."

Fraser was born in Indianapolis and grew up in Europe and Canada. After attending Upper Canada College in Toronto, he received a B.F.A. in acting from Cornish in Seattle. His theatre credits include plays at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle.

His first starring role was as a wrongly imprisoned blue collar young man in the acclaimed NBC telefilm "Guilty Until Proven Innocent." Fraser was part of an ensemble cast in the films "Twenty Bucks" and "Younger and Younger."

Fraser's most recent motion picture effort is "The Passion of Darkly Noon," directed by Philip Ridley and co-starring Ashley Judd.

STEVE BUSCEMI (Rex) made his motion picture debut with an acclaimed performance as a frenetic, wise-cracking musician faced with AIDS in "Parting Glances," which won the 1986 USA Film Festival Best Film Award.

Buscemi also received considerable attention for his performance as Mr. Pink in Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs." He showed his comedic range as a would-be filmmaker in Alex Rockwell's 1992 award-winning film "In the Soup."

Initially drawn to acting via stand-up comedy, Buscemi collaborated with Mark Boone, Jr., to form a comedy duo and pursue a theatrical career, affiliating with several New

York downtown theatres. He also worked with the experimental Wooster Group and John Jesurun, and studied at the famed Lee Strasberg Institute.

Buscemi's other film credits include Fox's "Rising Sun," "Twenty Bucks," "Mystery Train," "Barton Fink," "Miller's Crossing," "New York Stories" and "Billy Bathgate."

ADAM SANDLER (Pip) joined NBC's "Saturday Night Live" as a writer and performer during the 1990-91 season, and he has since gained fame for his popular SNL characters "Opera Man" and "Cajun Man." His other memorable SNL impersonations include "Canteen Boy," "The Hurlihy Boy," Guns and Roses' lead singer Axl Rose and Eddie Veder of Pearl Jam.

Born in Brooklyn and reared in Manchester, New Hampshire, Sandler performed in a high school rock band and once considered a career in music. He attended New York University, earning a degree in Fine Arts.

Sandler made his motion picture debut in the comedy "Coneheads," and he recently completed production on Nora Ephron's "Lifesavers," co-starring Steve Martin, Rita Wilson, and Juliette Lewis, and which is scheduled to be released in December. Next, Sandler will star in "Billy Madison," a film he co-wrote.

His comedy album, "they're all gonna laugh at you" is quickly climbing the charts. While not working on films or on "Saturday Night Live," he performs at college campuses.

JOE MANTEGNA (Ian), who also stars in Twentieth Century Fox's comedy "Baby's Day Out," made his film debut in Frank Perry's "Compromising Positions." His other film credits include Woody Allen's "Alice," Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather, Part III," Barry Levinson's "Bugsy" and three David Mamet films: "House Of Games," "Homicide" and "Things Change." He recently starred in the critically acclaimed "Searching For Bobby Fischer."

On Broadway, he won a Tony Award for his portrayal of Ricky Roma in Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross." Off Broadway, he conceived and co-authored the play "Bleacher Bums" which earned him an Emmy Award when it was subsequently produced for television.

MICHAEL McKEAN (Milo) attended Carnegie Mellon Institute and New York University. He then formed a comedy group called "The Credibility Gap" with former Carnegie classmates David L. Lander, Harry Shearer and Richard Beebe. Their album, A Great Gift Idea, was released in 1974.

McKean and Lander starred for seven years in the hit comedy series "Laverne and Shirley." McKean had his first motion picture starring role in Garry Marshall's "Young Doctors In Love," which also featured "Airheads" co-star Michael Richards.

In 1984, McKean collaborated with director Rob Reiner and co-stars Harry Shearer and Christopher Guest to create the classic "rockumentary" "This Is Spinal Tap!"

McKean's other feature film credits include "Coneheads," "Memoirs Of An Invisible Man," "Man Trouble," "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" and "True Identity." He co-wrote the screenplay for "The Big Picture," as well as taking a co-starring role. He will also be seen in the upcoming "Radioland Murders" and "Brady Bunch."

McKean will be returning this fall for the twentieth season of "Saturday Night Live."

AMY LOCANE (Kayla) began her film career at age sixteen in director Hugh Hudson's "Lost Angels." She then co-starred opposite Johnny Depp in John Waters' comedy, "Cry Baby."

Locane next appeared in the critically hailed drama, "School Ties," opposite her "Airheads" leading man, Brendan Fraser.

She resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

MICHAEL RICHARDS' (Doug Beech) portrayal of Kramer on the hit NBC series "Seinfeld" has catapulted him to fame and earned him an Emmy Award.

His long list of television credits include a regular role on the series "Marblehead Manor," recurring appearances on "St. Elsewhere," and guest slots on numerous other comedies and dramas.

His feature film credits include "Problem Child," "UHF," "Whoops, Apocalypse," "Transylvania 6-5000," "Young Doctors In Love," and cameo appearances in "So I Married An Axe Murderer" and "Coneheads."

Richards grew up in the Los Angeles suburbs, and earned a degree in Theatre Arts from the California Institute of the Arts. After graduation, he performed in several southern California-area stage productions.

Richards went on to pursue a career in stand-up comedy. He appeared for over two years on the ABC latenight comedy series, "Fridays."

CHRIS FARLEY (Wilson) recently completed his fourth season with "Saturday Night Live." Since joining the late-night series, Farley has displayed an uninhibited and exuberant comedy flair in his regular "Chris Farley Show" and numerous celebrity impersonations.

Farley's film credits include appearances in "Airheads," "Wayne's World," "Wayne's World II" and "Coneheads."

Before joining "SNL," he toured the country with The Second City National Touring Company. He was performing at Chicago's Second City Theatre when he was invited to audition for "SNL"'s executive producer, Lorne Michaels.

Farley was reared in Madison, Wisconsin. He graduated from Marquette University with a B.A. in communications and theatre. In Madison, Farley performed with The Ark Improvisational Theatre and was a founding member of Animal Crackers. He also studied

with "improvisational guru" Del Close in Chicago and at the Second City Training Center. He also appeared in the Second City's "The Gods Must Be Lazy."

JUDD NELSON (Jimmy Wing) made his motion picture debut in "Fandango." His other motion picture credits include John Hughes' "The Breakfast Club," "St. Elmo's Fire," "New Jack City," "Primary Motive," "Conflict of Interest," "Every Breath," "Blindfold," "Making the Grade," "Flinch," "Relentless," "The Dark Backward" and "Entangled."

Nelson's stage credits include "Planet Fires," "Sleeping Dogs," "Love Letters," "Carnal Knowledge" and Chekhov's "The Seagull."

ERNIE HUDSON (O'Malley) has thus far been featured in four film releases in 1994: "The Crow," "The Cowboy Way," "No Escape" and "Sugar Hill." His wide range of roles also includes his rich portrayal of Solomon in "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle," "Ghostbusters I & II" and "Weeds," starring opposite Nick Nolte.

Hudson was born in Benton Harbor, Michigan. He became a resident playwright at Detroit's respected African-American theatre company, Concept East. He then received a scholarship to Yale School of Drama and soon changed his focus from writing plays to acting.

Hudson's television credits include roles in Oliver Stone's mini-series "Wild Palms," an episode of HBO's "Tales from the Crypt" and "Roots II."

MARSHALL BELL (Carl Mace) made his acting debut in the motion picture "Birdie." His other film credits include "Heaven and Earth," "Innocent Blood," "Air America," "Total Recall," "Dick Tracy," "Twins," "Tucker," "No Way Out" and "Stand By Me."

Bell was born in Tulsa, and worked as a business consultant in New York before pursuing an acting career. He is married to Academy Award winning costume designer Milena Canonero ("Barry Lyndon," "Chariots of Fire").

NINA SIEMASZKO (Suzzi) has appeared in the motion pictures "Wild Orchid 2," "The Saint of Fort Washington," "Bed and Breakfast," "License To Drive" and "Tucker."

Her television credits include Showtime's "Red Shoe Diaries"; the role of Mia Farrow in the CBS mini-series "Sinatra"; "Lonesome Dove," and American Playhouse's "An Enemy Of The People."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Director **MICHAEL LEHMANN** made an auspicious feature film directorial debut with the acclaimed black comedy "Heathers." The environmental comedy "Meet The Applegates," which he co-wrote with Redbeard Simmons, was next, followed by "Hudson Hawk."

A San Francisco native, Lehmann studied art at the University of California at Berkeley and received a degree in philosophy from Columbia University.

Lehmann worked with Francis Ford Coppola at Zoetrope Studios, supervising experimental video systems used in the films "One From the Heart," "Rumble Fish" and "The Outsiders." He then studied filmmaking at the University of Southern California, receiving his degree in 1985.

While attending USC, Lehmann directed the short films, "The Beaver Gets A Boner" and, for "Saturday Night Live," "Ed's Secret Life." He received considerable industry attention for both shorts, leading to a deal at New World Pictures, where he developed "Heathers."

Producer **ROBERT SIMONDS** initially studied to become a priest. He later attended Yale University and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in philosophy.

Simonds got his start in motion pictures as a creative executive at MGM. He went on to produce the successful hit comedy "Problem Child" and its' sequel, "Problem Child II." He is currently producing "Billy Madison," a new comedy for Universal starring Adam Sandler.

Producer **MARK BURG** is president at Island World. He was born in Hartsdale, New York, and graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in communications management in 1981.

Burg worked for The Mount Company where he became a vice president in 1986. He received his first feature film credit the following year for "Can't Buy Me Love," which he co-produced. He then produced the critical and audience hit "Bull Durham."

In 1989 Burg joined Island Pictures, which has since become Island World. There, he executive produced the feature films "Toy Soldiers," "Strictly Business" and "The Sandlot."

"Airheads" is screenwriter **RICH WILKES'** first major studio feature film.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Wilkes earned a B.A. in theatre arts at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he wrote his first screenplay for his senior thesis. After teaching English in Taiwan and backpacking in Asia, Wilkes moved to Los Angeles and entered the screenwriting program at the American Film Institute.

Wilkes' entry in a screenwriting competition caught the attention of independent producer Robert Simonds. The result of their collaboration is "Airheads."

Wilkes also wrote the screenplay for the recent comedy "The Stoned Age," as well as the upcoming "Jerky Boys." This summer, Wilkes directs his original screenplay "Cruz."

Executive Producer **TODD BAKER** is currently Island World's Senior Vice President of Production. During his tenure at Island World, Baker acquired and developed "The Sandlot" (released by Twentieth Century Fox) and served as executive producer on the upcoming release "The War," starring Kevin Costner and Elijah Wood.

Baker was previously Vice President of Production for Scott Rudin Productions at Paramount Pictures where he was involved in the development of "The Addams Family," "Sister Act" and "The Firm." Baker was born in Highland Park, Illinois, and is a graduate of Stanford University.

Co-producer/unit production manager **IRA SHUMAN** was unit production manager on Twentieth Century Fox's "The Vanishing" and "Ghost In The Machine." He was associate producer/unit production manager of "Newsies," and assistant director on "Back Roads."

Director of Photography **JOHN SCHWARTZMAN**'s feature film credits include "Benny & Joon," "Rockula," "Red Surf" and "You Can't Hurry Love." On television, Schwartzman was d.p. on the movie-of-the-week "To Save A Child." His work has also been seen in numerous television spots for Diet Coke, Pepsi, American Express, Fuji Film, Miller Lite, and Nike, and in music videos for Madonna ("Oh Father") and Paula Abdul ("It's Just The Way That You Love Me").

Production Designer **DAVID NICHOLS** served in that capacity on the films "Groundhog Day," "Hoosiers," "Great Balls Of Fire" and "Swamp Thing." He was a visual consultant on "Rocky," "Taxi Driver" and "Mean Streets," and was associate producer of "The Idolmaker."

Editor **STEPHEN SEMEL**'s credits include "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka," Fox's "Only The Strong" and "License To Drive," "Fandango," "Kuffs" and "You So Crazy." He was an assistant editor on Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now."

Music Supervisor **LONN FRIEND** is the former editor of the nationally distributed rock consumer magazine "Rip." He hosted the syndicated live weekly radio program "Pirate Radio Saturday Night," created and edited the hard rock sections of the influential industry tip sheets, HITS and Album Network, and spent two years as host of the "Friend at Large"

segment for MTV's "Headbangers Ball." He is currently Vice President, A&R, West Coast for Arista Records.

Costume Designer **BRIDGET KELLY**'s film credits include "Bob Roberts" and "Four Corners" as well as the upcoming "A Pyromaniac's Love Story." She worked as co-designer with Ann Roth on "Dennis The Menace" and "Pacific Heights," and with Ann Roth and Gary Jones on "Mambo Kings."

Kelly also worked closely with Ann Roth on other feature films including "Postcards from the Edge," "Regarding Henry," "Working Girl," "Family Business," "The January Man," "Everybody Wins" and "Her Alibi." She also collaborated with Roth, as co-designer, on such theatre productions as "Empty Hearts," and as assistant costume designer on "Death and the Maiden" and "A Small Family Business." Kelly was also an assistant costume designer, with Richard Shissler, on the motion picture "Blue Steel."