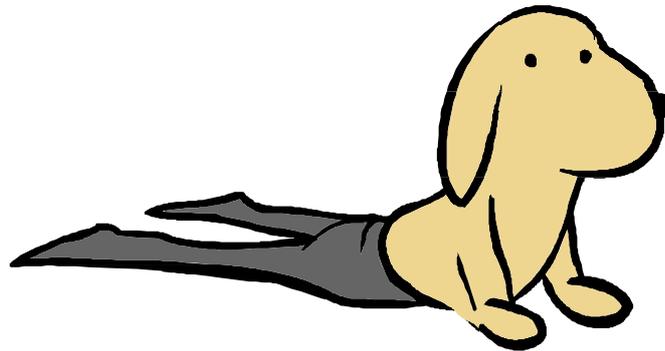


These are the press notes for the short animated film called

# Herman, The Legal Labrador



Cute doggie. Loyal pet. World class defence lawyer.

NAKEDFELLA PRODUCTIONS, with assistance from NEXT WAVE, presents  
"HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR"

written, directed & animated by DAVID BLUMENSTEIN

starring SHAUN MICALLEF ADAM WAJNBERG  
KATRINA MATHERS LOC HUU NGHE BRIAN MILLERSHIP  
SANTO CILAURO ADRIAN CALEAR DUFF THOMAS PULLAR  
and JIM KALOGIRATOS as "SCHIFF, THE LEGAL BULLDOG"

music by DAN SULLIVAN DAVID BLUMENSTEIN NICK IVES  
JESSE SAMULENOK BEN SULLIVAN LENNY VOLKOV

producer JEREMY PARKER production manager JACOB ZHIVOV  
creative consultant ADAM WAJNBERG unit publicist TIM WILSON  
post-production supervisor CHRIS DEA executive producer JEREMY PARKER

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## Director's Statement

I have formulated an idea for a film which would stun the world, and which I will one day direct:

### POLICE ACADEMY VIII: COP KILLA

Carey Mahoney (Steve Guttenberg)'s life is in a slump. His career in the Metropolitan Police Force has stalled, and in his mid-forties he remains a sergeant without hope of advancement. His cocksure strut and wacky antics have grown tired, his romantic dalliances are becoming less frequent... and he has been saddled with the unenviable task of playing nursemaid to the wholly senile Commandant Lassard (George Gaynes), retired, who lives with Mahoney in his small apartment, and whose every trip to the toilet becomes an adventure in mopping.

It's just one more blow when Mahoney receives word that his former brother-in-arms, Tackleberry, has been killed in the line of duty. Unable to make it to the funeral, Mahoney commemorates it in his own way, at home, sobbing into a bottle of Jack.

Things, however, turn sinister when another old compatriot, Captain Douglas Fackler (Bruce Mahler) dies suddenly, the victim of brain haemorrhage following a fall from a balcony, landing in the back of a monster truck which careened into a fireworks factory, being blown through the suggestive part of an "Angelyne" billboard, landing on his feet only to step on the end of a rake, and finally coming to rest with his head lodged up a horse's ass. Nobody finds this especially strange, but within days another member of the classic Academy corps dies... and another... and another.

Mahoney realises that he is now inescapably locked into a life-and-death race against time. He straps Lassard into the long-term diapers and the pair set off on a cross-continental tour in search of all the surviving members of the Academy gang. The mission: save everybody's lives, catch the killer (is it Harris? Proctor? That smug prick nephew of Lassard's who replaced Mahoney and stole his facial expressions?), and perhaps redeem Mahoney's wasted life.

This film will require a two hundred million dollar budget and supporting actors William H Macy and Steve Buscemi. Naturally, it will be a colossal flop, despite stirring dramatic turns by Guttenberg, Marion Ramsey (as cop-turned-stripper-with-a-heart-of-gold Laverne Hooks) and Bubba Smith as the gentle giant Senator Moses Hightower.

Dyed-in-the-wool "Police Academy" fans will be turned off by the sensitive, unflinching dissections of senile dementia, prostitution and alcoholism, and the black comedic tone, almost wholly devoid of Michael Winslow's mouth noises. Fans of serious drama and black comedy will be turned off by the fact that it's a "Police Academy" movie.

Nevertheless, it will represent a great artistic triumph for all involved, will find a new life twenty years later after it is rediscovered by French critics, and will serve admirably as the true closer of a cinematic series which lives in the hearts of millions around the world, and does not deserve to be brought to an end by "Police Academy VII: Mission To Moscow".

In the meantime, I've made "Herman, The Legal Labrador".

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## Synopsis

Cute doggie. Faithful pet. World-class defence lawyer.

HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR is an animated film about a cute little doggie called Herman, who, in addition to being a cute little doggie, is also a criminal defence attorney.

Herman lives with his owner, Chuck, an unemployed writer who is having trouble getting over his last relationship as he attempts to write his debut novella, "Death Cake Goes Back In Time".

Herman attempts to console him, but his time is increasingly monopolised by the case he is working on. Herman is defending Danny, a young man on trial for murder. The evidence (and Danny's violent past) is stacked against him, and the public prosecutor, Leonard Palumbo, would like nothing better than to lock Danny up for good.

However, Herman smells a smokescreen. His informant, Sal, The Hot Dog Vendor, sets him on the trail of a secret, worldwide brotherhood of evil, comprised of, among others, the Mafia, the Yakuza, the Ku Klux Klan, the Scientonomists, the Shriners, the Market Researchers Of America and the entire nation of Ireland.

But can a group of the vilest people in the world really be behind this frame-up... or is the truth far stupider?

HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR is written, directed and animated by David Blumenstein, produced by Jeremy Parker and features the voices of Shaun Micallef (Palumbo), Adam Wajnberg (Chuck), Katrina Mathers (Assistant Prosecutor Sabrina Lloyd), Loc Huu Nghe (Danny), Santo Cilauro (Sal) and Brian Millership (Judge Harmonium).

## Short Synopsis

A man is dead, and the police have picked up Danny Hoang. The evidence is compelling, but is Danny innocent? Herman, The Legal Labrador thinks so! Herman has legal knowledge, cunning and a shiny, healthy coat, and a little sniffing leads him to a secret, powerful brotherhood of crime, comprised of, among others, the Mafia, the Yakuza, the Ku Klux Klan, the Scientonomists, the Shriners, the Market Researchers of America and the entire nation of Ireland. But can a group of the vilest people in the world really be behind this frame-up... or is the truth far stupider? Directed by David Blumenstein. Stars Shaun Micallef, Adam Wajnberg, Katrina Mathers, Loc Huu Nghe, Brian Millership and Santo Cilauro.

## Really Short Synopsis

HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR is an animated cross between *Law & Order* and *Police Academy 6*... if either of those starred a pants-wearing dog.

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## How “Herman” Was Conceived

The long road leading to HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR began on Lygon St, Melbourne. It was there that, in 1878, Julius Q. Blumenstein first conceived of his most brilliant scheme: to train dogs as inexpensive lawyers. The state was losing valuable pounds and pence by appointing lawyers (or as they were then known, “solicitres”) to poor defendants who could not afford to pay for legal services. Dogs, Blumenstein felt, would be ideal as short-term court-appointed attorneys, thanks to their intelligence, sensitivity and economical habit of eating their own vomit.

Thankfully, nobody listened to Blumenstein, who died as annoyingly as he lived, dragged to his death by a prototype one-cylinder gasoline-powered motorcar over a period of three weeks in 1913.

Almost a century later, David Blumenstein (no relation) thought it would be funny if a dog was a lawyer. Unlike his predecessor, he elected to tell a fictional story about this rather than to try and make it a frightening reality.

“I thought it might be cool to do the film in live-action, but that didn’t work,” says writer/director Blumenstein. “They say labradors have nice dispositions, but shit... try putting a pair of slacks on one.”

Once Blumenstein decided that animation would be much more effective, he set about designing the character of Herman, which took about half an hour. It would’ve been twenty minutes, but the eyes needed more space between them. Two and a half years later, the film was complete.

## How My Road Trip To Sydney Helped And Didn’t Help Production Of “Herman”

I drove Melbourne - Sydney (it’s about 11 hours) with my mate Ben and others in January 2003. There was no reason to go, but I while we were there we visited Australia’s favourite government-funded TV network, ABC-TV, and spoke with a nice man at their digital channel, FLY. I hoped FLY might help with some of the technical aspects of HERMAN (“Can we use the ABC’s recording studios to do some of the music?”)

As it happened, FLY was shut down soon after when their government funding was withdrawn. This didn’t help.

One night in Manly we met Chris. Chris took us to his Toyota Land-Cruiser and clued us on to Australia’s greatest heavy metal band, PEGAZUS.

Thanks to this fortuitous meeting, I resolved to have the film end with a chunk of merciless power metal: DOGS OF LAW, performed by supergroup METZINGERSTEIN. This helped!

Since the people we’d driven up with sucked, we talked Chris and our other new friends into driving the Land-Cruiser (and us) back to Melbourne for hometown party time. 70kms out of Sydney, a wheel tore off the car, hubcap, nuts and all. Luckily, even though we were driving down the highway at 110kph at the time, we didn’t die! This helped!

The day I got back to Melbourne, I went to see a comedy show featuring Duff, who ended up playing the role of The Freakler! This helped!

So I’m glad I went to Sydney, and gladder I came back.

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## About The Director

**David Blumenstein** is a 24 year old cartoonist living in Melbourne, Australia. He refuses to watch a cop movie without a “gun and badge” scene.

After completing a bachelor degree in Fine Art for some reason, David got the chance to study at RMIT University’s Centre for Animation & Interactive Media. The student short he directed was *Shit Party*, an autobiographical cartoon about a guy who attempts to take a dump on New Year’s Eve. It screened at a number of film festivals in 2002, both overseas (Tenerife International Animation Festival, Baltimore’s MicroCineFest) and local (Melbourne International Film Festival, Brisbane International Animation Festival).

Once *Shit Party* was completed, David vowed never to animate again. Shortly after this, he began work on *Herman, The Legal Labrador*, a short epic which would end up taking over two years from script to screen, leaving David with a great deal of pride and an unfortunate twitch in his left eye.

When not recording dog puke noises into a microphone, David writes and draws a comic book called *Nakedfella Comics*, manages an online cultural journal/scam, *McGinlay’s Internet Possibility*, and does freelance design and animation, his recent favourites being a CD cover for Cumbersome Records and a titles sequence for TV’s *The Panel*.

## Filmography

2000	GOT A PHILLIPS HEAD? (short, animated) director, screenwriter
2000	POD EXPLAINS SHIT (short, animated) director, screenwriter
2001	CULTURE JAMMING (short) director
2001	SHIT PARTY (short, animated) director, screenwriter
2004	HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR (short, animated) director, screenwriter

## About The Producer

**Jeremy Parker**  
Producer

An enigma wrapped in a riddle, sitting at a Macintosh. Jeremy won an AFI award for his 1989 animation *PICTURE START*, which he won’t show to anybody. He has since worked on stuff for the Australian Children’s Television Foundation series, *Lift Off*, and produced shitloads of student work in his capacity as lecturer and senior supervisor at RMIT’s Centre for Animation & Interactive Media. When David, his ex-student, asked him to produce *Herman*, Jeremy asked, “What will I have to do?” David explained that a producer’s job is to be “a mover and shaker”. Despite Jeremy’s refusal to move or shake, he has proven invaluable as a guide to the art of animation and the psychology of filmmaking. Translated, this means he points out where David fucked up and tells him to get back to work.

Jeremy did so well at this, David made him Executive Producer as well because why the hell not.

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## About (Some Of) The Actors

**Shaun Micallef**  
Leonard Palumbo

Shaun Micallef is one of Australia's modern comedy geniuses, his style varied, his wit sharp, his characters memorable. He would probably be uncomfortable were I to compare him to the likes of Groucho Marx or the Monty Python troupe, but as the guy writing these press notes, I get to do that sort of thing.

Shaun came to national attention for his writing and performing on the sketch comedy program *Full Frontal*, in which his characters Milo Kerrigan and David McGahan, among others, were featured. Since then, he has produced three series of his own sketch show, *The Micallef Program*, and one of his legal sitcom *Welcher & Welcher* for the ABC, had a recurring role in the comedy/drama *Seachange*, appeared in such films as *Bad Eggs* and *The Honourable Wally Norman*, and <EDITORIAL BEGINS> joined the long list of comedians Channel Nine canned because the network is run by monkeys. <EDITORIAL ENDS>

**Adam Wajnberg**  
Chuck Reiter, New Jersey Crime Boss, Geppo, Irishman, The Pelican, Moth Queen

Adam Wajnberg is a rather versatile actor/writer known for his distinctly haphazard style in both disciplines. For acting, he just asks himself "What would Charlie Sheen do?" and then he does that. For his writing, Adam uses a crayon to write every word in the English language on pieces of parchment, and then puts that parchment on a firing range and takes aim with a rifle. The remainder is bundled up, and decoded by a crack team of monkeys at typewriters to determine whether it's a script, prose or an essay. Adam likes monkeys, and is currently studying screenwriting at RMIT in an attempt to better understand why 'Blue Heelers' is so goddamned fantastic.

**Katrina Mathers**  
Sabrina Lloyd

I stole Katrina's bio off the website of her production company, Long Shot (<http://www.longshot.tv/>). It says, in part:

Aside from her work as a writer or director, Katrina's credits also include working as a television producer (*Standing Up* for ABC TV), first assistant director (*Totally Full Frontal*, Network 10), producer's assistant (*The Late Show*, ABC TV), short film selection panel member (Melbourne International Film Festival), project manager (St Kilda Film Festival), and comedy writer (Granada Productions) and she's been an invited guest speaker at a number of film forums & conferences.

Katrina continues to also work as a professional actor, having starred in *Economy Class*, an Australian telemovie with Charles 'Bud' Tingwell and Marg Downey, as well as the ABC TV comedy series *Flipside*, plus her short feature *Crazy Richard*, the multi-award winning CD Rom about heroin addiction *Shot*, and many guest roles on shows such as *Blue Heelers*. Recently she performed alongside Fiona Harris in their Melbourne International Comedy Festival show *Footy Chicks* which was supported by the Moosehead Awards.

As I write this, she is in Aspen, Colorado, attending the Aspen Shortsfest, where her latest directorial effort, *The Referees*, is screening in competition.

**Brian Millership**  
Judge Harmonium

Brian Millership is a graduate of Melbourne University. He has spent most of his working life as an industrial/commercial management consultant operating in Australia, United Kingdom, the U.S.A., New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and south-east Asia.

Recent years have occupied him in media work encompassing radio, television and film. He is a community radio presenter and has featured in TV commercials and in the major role of Judge Barry in the ABC docudrama *The Real Ned Kelly*. He has also acted as an extra in a number of feature film, Australian and U.S., and an Australian series.

**Loc Huu Nghe**  
Danny Hoang

Loc is in Vietnam at the time of writing and has advised me to come up with a bio for him. He said, "If you leave it up to me, it will sound like this:

"My name is Loc. I am 24 years of age, I enjoy cooking and walks along the beach..."

I would only add that Loc studied at AIM with me. He created the award-winning short *Locomorphosis*, but hasn't finished any new animation since then. Wait, neither have I. Loc also enjoys golf.

**Santo Cilauro**  
Sal, The Hot Dog Vendor

Santo is one of Australia's best-known comedians/writers/directors, thanks firstly to his time with comedy group the D-Generation, with whom he performed in revues, on radio (*The D-Generation Breakfast Show*) and on TV (*The D-Generation*, *The Late Show*). Having formed the production company Working Dog with D-Generation members Rob Sitch, Jane Kennedy and Tom Gleisner, he is also responsible for, among other things, the critically acclaimed ABC TV series *Frontline*, the feature films *The Castle* and *The Dish* and Channel Ten chat show *The Panel*. He also is one of the nicest people you will meet, and had the foresight to call and make sure the recording session was still on that morning I got a flat tyre.

Furthermore, he is the man responsible for myself and my friends' frequent use of the phrases, "Fifty bucks! Fifty bucks!" and "I'm holding a mirror up to multicultural society".

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## About (Some Of) The Crew

### **Jacob Zhivov**

Production Manager, Sound Recordist

Jake recently completed the Honours year of Bachelor of Information Management and Systems at Monash University. He is also currently employed at Monash as an assistant lecturer. He served as production manager on numerous theatrical productions during his time at Melbourne High School. Jake once had his photo taken with World Wrestling Entertainment head man Vince McMahon and "wrestler" Stacy Keibler.

### **Jim Kalogiratos**

FX Co-ordinator

Once a lowly podiatrist, Jim tired of checking people's feet for bunions and decided to turn his skills to a much more challenging and lucrative pursuit: 3D animation. Jim now works as a lowly production manager in a lowly 3D animation studio. Jim constantly worries about selling out to "the man", but he upholds his sacred black heritage by keeping an active interest in "culture jamming". He starred in David's "documentary" of the same name.

### **Chris Dea**

Post-Production Supervisor

Chris likes clouds, lazing and a few other things. Chris doesn't like cooked apricots of any description but enjoys them raw. Chris presses buttons lots and sits in darkened rooms looking at monitors - he enjoys this. When Chris exits after eight hours of that he is usually blinded by the light outside for about one minute, two minutes if it's a really bright day.

### **Tim Wilson**

Unit Publicist

Tim has no awards for publicity excellence, but boasts a significant role in a number of front page exposés on resource wastage by the Bracks Labor government, thanks to his work for Victorian state opposition MP David Davis. Tim is currently working as an independent consultant on international trade matters.

# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## Full Credits

Nakedfella Productions  
with assistance from Next Wave  
presents

HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR

STARRING THE VOICES OF  
Shaun Micallef and  
Adam Wajnberg

ALSO STARRING THE VOICES OF  
Katrina Mathers  
Brian Millership and  
Loc Huu Nghe

WITH PERFORMANCES BY  
Santo Cilauro  
Adrian Calear  
Duff and  
Thomas Pullar

ADDITIONAL VOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM  
Ben Hutchings  
Kate Matthews  
Pauline Myles and  
James Simpson

and Jim Kalogiratos  
AS SCHIFF, THE LEGAL BULLDOG

PRODUCER  
Jeremy Parker

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
Jeremy Parker

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
Jacob Zhivov

CREATIVE CONSULTANT  
Adam Wajnberg

VFX CO-ORDINATOR  
Jim Kalogiratos

SOUND RECORDIST  
Jacob Zhivov

FOLEY  
Martin Parbo

POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR  
Chris Dea

UNIT PUBLICIST  
Tim Wilson

CHIEF MODEL MAKER  
Scott Pollard

ORIGINAL SCORE BY  
Dan Sullivan  
David Blumenstein  
Nick Ives  
Jesse Samulenok  
Ben Sullivan and  
Lenny Volkov

ORCHESTRATION BY  
Dan Sullivan

"USE YOUR FINGER (THEME FROM WHEN  
CHUCK IS SAD)"  
written and performed by Jesse Samulenok

"FUNKY PUNK"  
(Samulenok/McGill/Sullivan/Ponnusamy)  
performed by Ryokan

RYOKAN WERE  
Ollie McGill  
Ramesh Ponnusamy  
Shane Reilly  
Ben Sullivan

"DOGS OF LAW"  
performed by Metzengerstein and James  
Simpson  
lyrics by David Blumenstein  
music by Metzengerstein  
performed by Metzengerstein  
produced by David Blumenstein & Dan  
Sullivan

LEAD VOCALS  
James Simpson

METZENGERSTEIN ARE  
Ben Sullivan  
Jesse Samulenok  
Nick Ives  
David Blumenstein

CAST (in order of appearance)  
Danny Hoang - Loc Huu Nghe  
Chuck Reiter - Adam Wajnberg  
Herman, The Legal Labrador - David Blumenstein  
Lt. Angryman - Adrian Calear  
Det. Logan - James Simpson  
Judge Harmonium - Brian Millership  
Leonard Palumbo - Shaun Micallef  
Sabrina Lloyd - Katrina Mathers  
Sal, The Hot Dog Vendor - Santo Cilaur  
"Yes, Thanks" Girl - Kate Matthews  
Pelican - Adam Wajnberg  
Geppo - Adam Wajnberg  
The Band - Ryokan  
New Jersey Crime Boss - Adam Wajnberg  
Russian Crime Boss - Jacob Zhivov  
Yakuza Boss - David Blumenstein  
Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan - Thomas Pullar  
Chino The Pimp - Ben Hutchings  
Moth Queen - Adam Wajnberg  
Irishman - Adam Wajnberg  
Ms Wazetski - Pauline Myles  
Dr Solaris - Thomas Pullar  
The Freakler - Duff  
Boss Hogg - Adam Wajnberg  
Schiff, The Legal Bulldog - Jim Kalogiratos  
Announcer - Pauline Myles

#### DISCLAIMER

If you get the feeling that any characters portrayed resembled any real people (living or dead) or previously imagined fictional characters, you are wrong. If you think any organizations portrayed bear resemblance to any real organizations, you are wrong. Everything was a coincidence. Nothing is real. The author takes no responsibility for your incorrect assumptions. That said, the character of "Chino The Pimp" was created by Paul Q. Sutton & Lenny Volkov.

OFFICIAL THEME MUSIC OF "HERMAN" PRE-PRODUCTION

"Dead Man's Party", Oingo Boingo

OFFICIAL THEME MUSIC OF "HERMAN"  
PRODUCTION  
"The Wall", Pink Floyd

OFFICIAL THEME MUSIC OF "HERMAN"  
LAST-MINUTE INSANITY  
"Hotter Than July", Stevie Wonder

PRODUCED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM  
Next Wave

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Marcus Westbury

PROJECT MANAGER  
Hannah Mathews

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS (THANKS TO)  
Michael "Whitey" Pemberton  
Mr & Mrs "Michael's Parents" Pemberton  
Glenn "Glenjamin" Smith  
Paul "Where's My Trousers?" Sutton  
"Mista" Chris Stenton  
Roberta "3RPH" Ashby  
Ben "Foreign National" Arber  
Nadia "Musician's Widow" Toukhsati  
The Humping Brain  
Aaron and Peter Cumbersome, and all the little Cumbersomes  
Marta "Animatrix" Tesoro  
Nicola "Queen Of Australian Comics" Hardy  
Penelope "I Still Have Your Demo Disc" Bartlau  
Everyone at Next Wave

Special thanks to Mum, Dad, Nana and Papa

"HERMAN, THE LEGAL LABRADOR"  
WRITTEN, DIRECTED & ANIMATED BY  
David Blumenstein

HERMAN ONLINE  
[www.nakedfella.com](http://www.nakedfella.com)

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# Herman, The Legal Labrador

## Looking For More Herman?

Maybe you're looking for more information, newer information, extra background, cute pictures, video clips or an ongoing production diary. Those things, plus other things, are on the HERMAN website:

<http://www.herman.nakedfella.com/>

## Looking For Love?

I can't guarantee anything. But there's all sorts of fun things on the Nakedfella Productions website, like everything I did before I ~~wasted~~ enriched myself for two years on *Herman*. Comics, mostly, but also my award-winning "documentary" *Culture Jamming*, and the ever-present possibility of purchasing merchandise.

<http://www.nakedfella.com/>

## Contact Us!

Whether you're a media dude, an animation fan, an actor, a third timpani or just somebody who wants to give David illicit comedy tapes, we would like to hear from you! Thrill to our three-pronged "Neapolitan-style" contact system:

VANILLA (snail mail)

**Herman, The Legal Labrador**  
**P.O. Box 2229**  
**Caulfield Junction**  
**Vic. 3161**  
**Australia**

STRAWBERRY (e-mail)

[herman@nakedfella.com](mailto:herman@nakedfella.com)

CHOCOLATE (phone)

For press/publicity enquiries, call Tim Wilson at **0417 356 165** (but if you're outside Australia, perhaps stick with e-mail – we don't want to wake Tim up in the middle of the night, do we?).