

# Alison Rutland, Chia pet owner and artist

ANN KORNUA

The animation short *Finding Chia* created by local Milton artist Alison Rutland will be featured this fall on CBC's show *The Nerve*. *Finding Chia* has already made the spotlight by appearing in The Endless Films Student Film Festival in 2004, the Sprockets International Film Festival for Children in 2004, the Calgary International Film Festival in 2003 and the Toronto Female Eye Festival held in 2003. Alison is not only known as a prominent animator, but as an accomplished fine artist who tests the boundaries of her own imagination on canvas as well.

This promising animator got her early start in the world of creation after attending Sheridan College. Since then, Allison has worked on projects for Teletoon and for ad companies such as Guru, applying her skills as an artist. Allison has worked alongside Pixar's Peter Lepeniotis and has been character animator and storyboard artist for Warner Brothers' Kids Promos.

Alison got her calling as a serious fine artist early in life. She spent her time painting huge acrylic canvases in bold eccen-

tric colours, along with murals around Halton. Her paintings wouldn't suggest to the untrained eye that this is a woman involved in animation. "At Sheridan I found out I really enjoyed animation," Alison says. "My goals for the next couple of years will be in animation but I still want to continue my own short stories and paintings."

*Finding Chia* is a short featuring a troubled Chia pet with a slight blooming issue. "When I was making my film I spent so long modeling this little Chia pet and when I finally animated him it he came to life and it was so exciting... He's alive!" Alison says laughing. Her finished project will be showcased on CBC's edgy youth forum *The Nerve* this winter but is also available on her online website [www.allisonrutland.com](http://www.allisonrutland.com). *Finding Chia* is just one of the many short animation clips you can find on Alison's web site along with a sample gallery of Alison's fine art.



A Clip of Alison's featured animation short *Finding Chia* that will appear this winter on CBC's *The Nerve*.

## film review

BY LAURA COOK

### Surviving Christmas

Being an eccentric millionaire isn't exactly all it's cracked up to be when Drew Latham (Affleck) realizes he has to spend another Christmas alone.

When Drew decides that this will be the holiday season to get over his grievances toward his upbringing, he returns to the home of his childhood to bid it goodbye. Unexpectedly meeting the residents of his old house, Drew innocently asks for a tour of the place and ends up falling in love with the idea of an old fashioned family Christmas. When the Valcos family don't warm up to the idea of adopting Drew for the holidays, he offers to pay them a hefty sum and a family is born!



Just when you thought you were safe from holiday movies, out comes Dreamworks Distribution Ltd. with another attempt at making a Christmas comedy. While anyone can see why Hollywood would try to create such a movie, after the successes of other Christmas comedies such as Tim Allen in *The Santa Claus* or Chevy Chase in *Christmas Vacation*, the newest Christmas film *Surviving Christmas* leaves a lot to be desired. If you're looking for Christmas cheer a little early this year, *Surviving Christmas* is not for you! The family in the film leaves audiences cringing as the father yells at everybody and never smiles, the mother is a disheveled house-wife with no ambition left, the daughter complains about everything under the sun and the son spends his life looking up pornography on the internet in his bedroom. It is not your typical feel-good holiday story.

While Ben Affleck may initially attract the younger audiences because of his successes with characters in previous films, the rest of the cast ends up supporting the comedy of the film through their characters family dynamic and excellent acting. Although the plot takes a while to engage the audience, the humour in the Valcos' hate for Drew becomes the primary element that sustains the film. When the Valcos family begins to question the worth of being dragged through a sappy traditional holiday season, the eldest daughter Alicia (Applegate's character) arrives home for the holidays and the story line eventually begins to develop.

With stars such as Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini, Christina Applegate and Catherine O'Hara, the charismatic interaction among the cast is hard to ignore. Although director Mike Mitchell keeps the interactions between the Valcos' family members minimal, it is enough to unleash the chemistry between the actors and provide the audience with a little relief from the lackluster plot.

The film has a total running time of 92 minutes and is rated PG-13 for sexual content, language and a brief drug reference.

### New Releases

#### Shrek 2

Happily ever after never seemed so far far away when a trip to meet the in-laws turns into another hilariously twisted adventure for Shrek and Fiona. With the help of his faithful steed Donkey, Shrek takes on a potion-brewing Fairy Godmother, the pompous Prince Charming, and the famed ogre-killer, Puss in Boots, a ferocious feline foe who's really just a pussycat at heart! *Rated G - Some crude humour, and soem suggestive content.*

#### Around the World in 80 Days.

An eccentric London inventor, Phileas Fogg, has come up with the secrets to flight, electricity, and even rollerblades, but the world has dismissed him as a crackpot. Desperate to be taken seriously, Fogg makes an outlandish bet with Lord Kelvin, the head of the Royal Academy of Science: to circumnavigate the globe in no more than 80 days! With his two sidekicks - Passepartout and femme fatale Monique - Fogg is headed on a frantic, heart-pounding round-the-world race that takes our heroes to the world's most exotic places by land, sea, and air. *Rated PG - Action violence, soem crude humour and mild language.*

### Top 10 Rentals

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES AT HOME

This week's Top Ten Movie Rentals brought to you by

**ROGERS VIDEO**

1. Shrek 2 (Friday Release)
2. The Day After Tomorrow
3. Dawn of the Dead
4. White Chicks
5. Around The World in 80 Days
6. Van Helsing
7. Fahrenheit 9/11
8. Garfield: The Movie
9. Raising Helen
10. Man On Fire

### HOST FAMILIES URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE PEACE COUNTRY!



Carola

Carola is a 15-year-old student from Chile and is coming to Canada for six months. She likes camping, hiking and would like to practise many sports while she is in Canada. She wants to become an engineer! She describes herself as independent, intellectual and nature loving.



Pia

Pia is from Germany, she is 16 years old. She loves dance, swimming and singing. Pia is a very organized and ambitious student. She would like to be a photographer someday. She is studious and her favourite subjects at school are Music and English. She can't wait to discover Canada!



Vivien

Vivien is 18 and comes from Austria. She has a very intense social life back home. She is involved in many sports associations, like rowing, sailing and volley ball. Vivien is really motivated and enthusiastic about her Exchange Year in Canada.

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