

H2O Motion Pictures presents in association with MMC Independent an Andras Hamori production a film by Alex Winter THE GATE based on visual effects designed by Randall William Cook special creature design by HR Giger casting director Nina Gold executive producers Lacia Kornylo Mark Horowitz co producers Ralf Schmitz Bastie Griese based on the original screenplay by Michael Nankin written by Kerric Macdonald produced by Andras Hamori and Charlotte Huggins directed by Alex Winter





THE GATE - Twenty years later in 3D

The classic 1987 children's fantasy, THE GATE, reopens after twenty years - this time in 3D!

On its opening weekend, in August 1987, THE GATE outperformed ISHTAR (starring box-office giants Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty), earning North American revenues of approximately ten times its production budget, and was awarded the Golden Reel for the highest grossing movie of the year at the 1988 Canadian Academy Awards.

Achieving extensive worldwide distribution through foreign sales distributor New Century / Vista Enterprises (the independent outlet founded by former Twentieth Century Fox topper, Norman Levy), THE GATE was not only a cult hit that audiences (and buyers) remember two decades later, but it also generated healthy international revenues.

In keeping with the original, THE GATE 3D will be a PG-13 children's fantasy that will provide the emotional rollercoaster ride of a horror film, without the blood and guts, and without resorting to the tool shed. No sledgehammers or chainsaws will be used in this movie!

Based on Michael Nankin's original script, THE GATE 3D is written by Kerric Macdonald. While remaining faithful to the original story and characters that proved so successful in the US and worldwide, we have updated both the script and visual effects, bringing them into line with twenty-first century sensibilities. The creatures were designed by three-time Academy Award winning FX guru Randall William Cook (THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY, KING KONG).

Alex Winter will direct. Winter directed the psychological thriller FEVER, which the *New York Times*' A.O. Scott praised as "pure Hitchcockian panic" and FREAKED, one of *Entertainment Weekly's* "top ten greatest comedies of the nineties." Winter executive produced and directed Cartoon Network's live-action movie, BEN 10: ALIEN SWARM, which premiered in the UK and US in November 2009. This live-action / CGI adaptation of the wildly popular young-teen series premiered to the second highest rating ever for a Cartoon Network original movie premiere. Winter also directed the previous BEN 10 movie, BEN 10: RACE AGAINST TIME, (which Variety described as the "ultimate child's fantasy") which had its premiere in November 2007, and garnered the highest ratings ever in Cartoon Network history.

Charlotte Huggins, the most prolific producer of 3D motion pictures in the world, will act as Executive Producer. Charlotte's movie, JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, has earned over \$240 million in gross box office.

THE GATE 3D is aimed at kids raised on THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy; it is a children's fantasy with soul, humor, and excitement, with the underlying tension of great danger, like THE GOONIES and GREMLINS, where the kids *almost* get bitten, *almost* get swallowed by the Gate, and *almost* get killed by the Demon Lord, but ultimately escape with the help of ingenuity, imagination, innocence, and teamwork.

THE GATE 3D is a fun and exciting film for kids (and their families) about kids...and some cheeky and dangerous monsters.



THE GATE 3D - Synopsis

When best friends Miles and Terry discover a mysterious crystalline rock in Miles's back yard, they quickly dig up the lawn in search of more.

Instead, they unearth the Gate—the opening to an underground chamber containing terrifying evil.

The teenagers soon realize the horror they have unleashed, as one dire event follows another. With supernatural fiends invading suburbia, it's up to the kids to find the secret that will lock the Gate forever...if it's not too late.

Miles sits in his tree house - his fortress - surrounded by ammunition... well, fireworks, cherry bombs, bang snaps. It's a veritable arsenal, and he's tying the last fuse on his best rocket yet. His best friend Terry waits outside on the street, and soon everything is set: the bazooka is loaded, the camera rolling, and the Barbie doll perched on top of Terry's head, about to be pulverized. The fuse lights first time and out shoots the rocket – WHOOOOOSH - STRAIGHT AT TERRY'S HEAD! Just in time, he ducks. But as they witness the disastrous trajectory of the rocket the boys are thinking that maybe Terry should have just taken the hit. The missile is taking down the neighborhood. It smashes into a car windshield, then bounces from wall to roof and back again, until suddenly it's heading straight back at the boys! Angus, Miles's dog, bounds into the house in utter terror. The boys dive out the way and turn in time to see it smash into a transformer - sparks fly and then the inevitable: the pole comes crashing down onto the tree house and ... BOOM! The sky explodes as Miles's arsenal detonates in the greatest, yet most under-appreciated fireworks display this suburban neighborhood has ever seen.

The back door creaks open and there stands Al, Miles's emo-clad elder sister. She summarizes the situation with typical bite: "You guys are so busted." Yes, this is a bad one! Miles is going to be grounded for eternity.

Actually, this might not be too far from the truth.

Miles's Dad isn't exactly pleased, but fortunately for Miles, he is going away for the weekend, and reluctantly leaves Al in charge. She's a bit of a drag, but Miles can deal with her — he just needs to stay out of the way of her and her "cool" friends.

Miles explores the devastation. Beneath the uprooted stump of his old tree house, a hole shimmers with crystals. Later that night, Angus deposits one of these things on Miles's bed. At his house, Terry immediately recognizes the glittering rock as a *geode*. Crystal, geode...whatever—there's money to be made here!

The digging begins. It's tough work for Miles and Terry — literally blood and sweat — but dreams of eBay beckon. There, on the grass, six geodes glitter in the sunlight. Still, there's something fishy about this hole, and it's not just the stench. There is some kind of movement beneath their feet... a buzzing... MOTHS! Thousands of them swarm out of the hole, battering the boys with their tiny wings. Perhaps Terry's story of the workman who was buried under the tree is more than just an urban legend!



It's evening, and there's a party going on. Lori and Linda, Al's sidekicks, are running the show, and this is heaven: free house and cute guys, especially Eric, who seems to like Al as much as she likes him; maybe they will finally get together. It's not long before the Ouija board comes out — just to spice things up a little. The plinth spells out some gibberish, and then suddenly, out go the lights. Did they just make contact with the spirit world? No — it's Miles and Terry goofing around. Out they jump, wearing demon masks, and the older kids are totally freaked out — burned! An old trick, but these guys are easy prey.

But unbeknownst to Miles and Terry, outside, in the darkness, the situation is very far from cool. The hole is oozing, undulating...breathing. There is some kind of presence, and it's moving towards the house...

Later that night, try as they might, the boys just can't get to sleep. The day's events prey on their minds, and pretty soon Terry is cowering under his covers trying to ignore the strange beastly creatures that seem to be dancing on the ceiling and attacking the sheets. Meanwhile, Miles, half asleep, staggers out of the bathroom and there before him stands...his long dead mother. He falls into her arms, overcome with emotion, but when he looks up, to his horror, it is no longer his mother he holds in his arms, but his dog Angus... and Angus is *seriously* dead.

The next day the boys have no time to dwell on what happened that night as there is literally a storm brewing in Miles's backyard. The hole is expanding and moaning. It throbs with some kind of malevolent life force. The boys consult the Internet to figure out what the hell is going on. All the evidence points to one thing, and it's not good: They've got demons!

This is definitely something they need to take care of before the weekend is out. The boys head down to the local library to do more research. They find exactly what they want... a book on demonology. They manage to sneak out some of the pages, and it soon becomes clear that their problems are far worse than they could possibly have imagined...

They have opened a gate STRAIGHT TO HELL! Moths are the least of their worries — they've got MINIONS, who herald the arrival of the DEMON LORD himself, and these guys like to party!

That night the basement is swarming with the little frog-like beasts. They are kind of cute — in an ugly way — but mix these creatures with beer and it's a dangerous combination. Pretty soon they are attacking with razor-sharp teeth and claws.

Miles arms himself with a paintball gun and takes on the minions, Rambo-style. They scurry, howling, in and out of dark corners. He is able to hold them off long enough to get out of the basement more-or-less intact. They claw and scratch at the basement door as the kids force it shut.

Outside, a black tornado twists and moans over the Gate, ripping leaves from surrounding trees. Terry begins to recite the incantation that will close the Gate, as the others hold their breath, but the vortex tears the spell from his hand. The paper slaps into the grinning face of one of the garden gnomes that dot the lawn. Flames erupt from the ever-widening hole, but the boys manage to leap the crevasse. Finally the spell is in Terry's hand, just as minions swarm from the hole, and the gnome, possessed by evil, begins clawing at his leg!



The kids retreat to the house — the spell has not been enough. The ground heaves and stretches before exploding with thousands of minions that rain down onto the earth. They are not alone: a rotting skeletal monstrosity bursts through the wall. It's the Dead Workman! But this is just a taste of the pure evil that is to come...

The earth cleaves in two as the Demon Lord rises to the surface: a fossilized nightmare come to life. Its tentacles slither across the ground as all manner of evil beasts are disgorged from the hole and run howling into the night.

This is no video-game Miles and Terry can pause at will. This is Hell on Earth and they need to defeat it to save themselves, Al, her friends, and the world... and all before Dad gets home!



THE GATE 3D - Director / Alex Winter

Alex Winter executive produced and directed Cartoon Network's live-action movie, BEN 10: ALIEN SWARM, which premiered in the UK and US in November 2009. This live-action / CGI adaptation of the wildly popular young teen series premiered to the second highest rating ever for a Cartoon Network original movie premiere.

Winter also directed the previous BEN 10 movie, BEN 10: RACE AGAINST TIME, (which Variety described as the "ultimate child's fantasy") which had its premiere in November 2007, and garnered the highest ratings ever in Cartoon Network history.

As a child actor, Winter spent several years on Broadway. After completing NYU film school, he went on to have starring roles in several feature films, including Orion's hit, BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE, and its sequel, BILL AND TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY, the Warner Brothers smash THE LOST BOYS, and Percy Adlon's ROSALIE GOES SHOPPING.

With directing partner Tom Stern, Winter co-created many influential comedy projects which he wrote, directed and starred in. Among them are the hit MTV series, THE IDIOT BOX, and the Twentieth Century Fox release, FREAKED, which has been acclaimed by many critics including those of *The New York Times* and *Entertainment Weekly*, which put FREAKED on its list of "Top Ten greatest comedies of the Nineties." The film also stars Randy Quaid, Keanu Reeves, Brooke Shields, Bobcat Goldthwait and Mr. T.

Winter has spent the last several years working between his American home base and London, where he has been very successful directing music videos and commercials. Highlights of his work include campaigns for Peugeot, Ford, and award-winning spots for Supercuts and Google in the US. Music videos include Red Hot Chili Peppers, Helmet, Bootsy Collins, and Ice Cube.

In 2000, Winter wrote and directed FEVER, a psychological thriller starring Henry Thomas, Teri Hatcher, Bill Duke and THE DEPARTED'S David O' Hara. Released by Lionsgate Films, the film has been invited to film festivals worldwide, including Official Selection in the Director's Fortnight at Cannes. In The *New York Times*, A.O. Scott praised the film as "Pure Hitchcockian panic."

Winter penned the screenplay for THE NAPSTER MOVIE for MTV Films/Paramount; as well as scripting the biopic of tennis phenoms, the Williams sisters, for Showtime Networks.

Winter is also writing the remake of ROCK AND ROLL HIGH SCHOOL for Howard Stern Productions.



THE GATE 3D - Executive Producer / Charlotte Huggins

Veteran writer-producer, Charlotte Huggins has the distinction of being the most prolific producer of 3-D motion pictures in the world. The multi-faceted creator of new media entertainment has spent more than 20 years in television, commercials, special venue productions and feature film. She was included in Daily Variety's prestigious "2008 Women's Impact List" and she was saluted in The Hollywood Reporter's "Digital 50," a group comprised of producers and innovators who distinguished themselves in the realm of new media storytelling in 2007. Other honorees included Steve Jobs and John Lasseter.

Prior to her feature film work, Huggins served two years as story editor and writer for television legend Roy Huggins on the hit NBC TV series Hunter produced by Stephen J. Cannell Productions.

Huggins was soon offered a position at Boss Film Studios producing national Clio Award-winning commercials (Magnavox, United Airlines). Here she discovered her passion for special format production as a producer of the 1993 World Expo attraction Journey To Technopia. She went on to work on a number of highly successful large format films including Disney's 3-D theme park attraction Honey I Shrunk The Audience and Sony Pictures Classics' 3-D film Wings Of Courage. As one of the founders of nWave Pictures, a Brussels-based digital studio, Huggins held the position of President and Head of Production for over 10 years, serving as producer of all of nWave's special venue and giant screen productions.

Huggins has held positions on the Boards of Directors of nWave Pictures, the Visual Effects Society and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Producers Guild of America, where she serves on the New Media Council Board, and an emeritus member of the Writer's Guild of America West. She has produced over a dozen Imax, special venue and feature films in 3-D including *Journey to the Center of the Earth* from Warner Bros./New Line and Walden Media.

She is currently in development on several 3-D films, including *Journey to Mysterious Island* for WB/New Line, the *Blue Man Group Mind Blast* 3-D Imax feature and the Korean war epic, *17 Days of Winter*. Huggins is also co-authoring a book with Variety's David Cohen about the art, science and business of 3-D.



THE GATE 3D - Producer / Andras Hamori

Films produced or executive-produced by Andras Hamori have been distributed in the United States by most major studios, as well as leading independent distributors around the world. His films have been nominated for two Academy Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, and have won several major awards at the Cannes International Film Festival as well as the Berlin, Venice, and Toronto Film Festivals. His films have also won European Film Awards and Canadian Academy awards, including Best Picture for SUNSHINE.

Most recently Hamori produced BIBLIOTHEQUE PASCAL, written and directed by Szabolcs Hajdu (*White Palms*) which premiered in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival and won the Grand Prix and Foreign Critics' Prize for Best Picture at the 2010 Hungarian Film Week.

Hamori's production of Stephen Frears' CHERI, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Kathy Bates, and written by Academy Award winner Christopher Hampton, premiered in competition at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival. CHERI is distributed by Miramax Films in the US and by Pathé in the UK and France.

Hamori's previous films include THE 51ST STATE, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Carlyle, Istvan Szabo's SUNSHINE, starring Ralph Fiennes, and David Cronenberg's eXistenZ, starring Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh. As executive producer, his credits include Lynne Ramsay's MORVERN CALLAR, starring Samantha Morton, Atom Egoyan's THE SWEET HEREAFTER, and David Cronenberg's CRASH. He was executive producer of FUGITIVE PIECES, the opening film of the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival.

In 2004 Hamori produced FATELESS, the directorial debut of Academy Award nominated cinematographer Lajos Koltai, based on Nobel-Prize-winner Imre Kertesz's novel. FATELESS premiered as an Official Selection at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival and was subsequently acquired for US distribution by THINKFilm.

Hamori's earlier producing credits include MAX, starring John Cusack, and OWNING MAHOWNY, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Minnie Driver, and John Hurt. MAX premiered as a Special Presentation at the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival, had its US premiere at the 2002 AFI Festival, and was distributed in the US by Lionsgate. OWNING MAHOWNY premiered at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and was selected for the Panorama Section of the Berlin International Film Festival. Sony Classics distributed it in the US.

Hamori also produced BIG NOTHING, a fast-paced caper-comedy starring David Schwimmer and Simon Pegg, and OPIUM – DIARY OF A MADWOMAN directed by Janos Szasz and starring Ulrich Thomsen.



THE GATE 3D - Director's Vision

Our remake of the classic movie The Gate is an updated and totally modern action-adventure.

The aim of this new movie is to create a new classic, utilizing the latest innovations in computeranimation and 3D technologies to tell a heartfelt and exciting story. While the core audience is the youth market, pre-teen through high school, the script and tone of the movie is being carefully designed to have a level of depth and sophistication so as to appeal to a wider audience beyond the core.

THE GATE 3D will take the audience on a ride that also impacts them emotionally. Beyond the thrilling effects and the action, our story is a coming of age journey, following a child on the cusp of becoming a teenager; it's a close examination of a family in crisis, who will come together through their ordeal; and it's a witty and nostalgic tale of childhood 'acting-out' gone wrong.

The tone of the film is naturalistic, within the realm of the fantastic events that occur. What this means specifically is that we are playing the events straight, rather than in a hyper-stylized or comedic manner. The acting style of the kids will be more naturalistic than 'Disney-cute', and the computer animation will be photo-real and serious as opposed to cartoony. As a model we're following more in the realistic and refined tradition of the latter Harry Potter movies than say, Gremlins or Aliens in the Attic, which are more silly and stylized.

The 3D is a character unto itself. We will create a totally immersive experience for the audience, combining both subtly 'environmental' and more aggressive 'intrusive' 3D effects. This movie is perfectly suited to both aspects of 3D, wherein we use the technology to place the audience into the environment of our story and also thrust objects out into the audience at appropriate times. To achieve a level of perfection in 3D, we have assembled a team of some of the industry's greatest experts in this technology.

Overall, THE GATE 3D will be a truly exciting and original adventure with a genuine emotional investment for the audience. A new classic to take its place beside the original.