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Spike Jonze, the director of the new movie *Being John Malkovich*, shares his behind-the-scenes photos and diary.

John Malkovich

John plays himself, or at least some version of it. The first time I met him was when I flew to Paris to talk to him about the movie. He had read the script, and we heard that he thought it was hilarious but wasn't sure if he would do it. The image I had of John was this very serious thespian, intense and aloof. Also, in movies, he always seems so knowing and intimidating. I was supposed to meet him at the Hôtel Raphael at 11 a.m. I got there about 15 minutes early and went to wait in the "tea room." I was sitting there, going over what I was going to say to him, when I heard this soft, familiar voice. I looked over, and John Malkovich was at the next table having a meeting with his business partner, Russ Smith, and a writer. I didn't know what to do. Should I just sit there and wait till they were done? But then when I introduced myself, they would think that I had been eavesdropping. The waiter came up and told me in French how much my Coke cost. I didn't understand, but I was trying to be discreet as I fumbled with my francs. I glanced over to them and they glanced over at me, and I pretended to be surprised and introduced myself. During our meeting, I started to realize that John Malkovich wasn't who I thought he was. He wasn't very serious at all. Instead of quoting Shakespeare, he rapped entire verses of Snoop Dogg. He was very funny. And he had a keen sense ➤



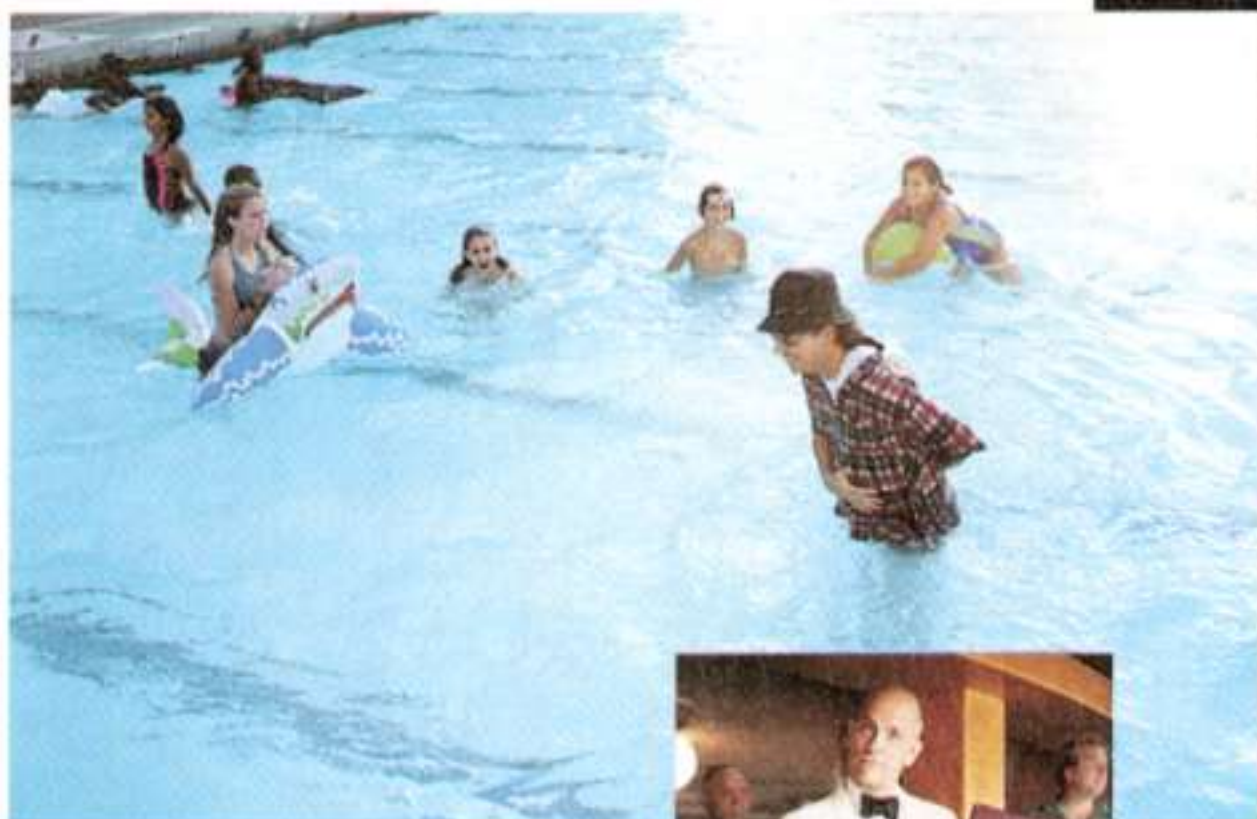
Above: Lance rides on a custom-made office-chair camera dolly. Right: John Cusack, after traveling through a tunnel to get "inside Malkovich"—which is the premise of the movie.



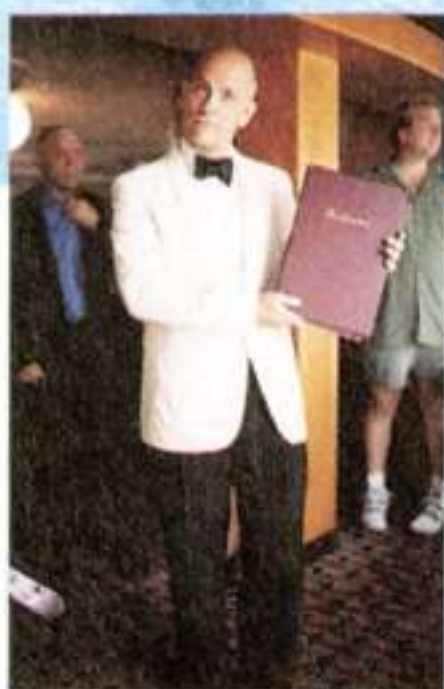
Left: Casey and production designer K.K. Barrett, on the last day. We were very tired.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SPIKE JONZE

Right: John and Casey.
Below: Assistant director Thomas Smith was shoved into the pool by Cameron Diaz and Catherine.



Right: John as Maître d' Malkovich. Below: That's Cameron and Cusack, resting. Below, right: Many Malkoviches.



Spike says that making this, his first feature, was the hardest thing he's ever done.

of humor about himself, too. He plays himself in the movie, and there are some pretty humiliating things that happen to him. And he loved it: "The more mean stuff, the better."

Lance Acord

I have worked with Lance, the cinematographer, on many shoots. I love him. For *Being John Malkovich*, we strapped him to the side of a school bus with Catherine Keener and Cameron Diaz hanging out. He does whatever it takes. We did a video in Tokyo, and the idea was there was a ghost flying around the city. We had no budget for a street full of extras, so we found an intersection full of commuters, and Lance ran through the crowd, yelling, "EEOOWW! I'M A GHOST!" We got excellent reaction shots.

During production, Lance and his wife, Rima, were expecting their first baby. I asked her if she could try to have it on a weekend. She did. She gave birth on a Saturday. He was back on Tuesday. Thank you, Baby Pearl.

Casey Storm

When I met Casey, the costume designer, he was going to college and trying to figure out what to do when he got out. We hung out a lot and made music on his four-track and got drunk.

One night, he took me to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and showed me how to climb down into this private Japanese garden. When I was getting ready to do the video for "Sabotage," with

the Beastie Boys, we needed a wardrobe person for cheap. Casey asked exactly what a wardrobe person did. I explained how you ask what the director wants, and then go and find clothes at thrift shops and wardrobe-rental places. And not go over budget. So he agreed to do it, and got amazing clothes, and we've been working together ever since.

This is a partial selection of my beloved cast and crew. An unabridged family photo album can be found at www.beingjohnmalkovich.com. ■

