

Nickelodeon duo Kenan and Kel have hit kid's movie



SPECIAL TO THE POST

Folk's looking for a hot movie for kids this summer are in luck.

Nickelodeon stars Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell will appear in Good Burger, a modern day David and Goliath story.

Kenan and Kel star on two Nickelodeon programs, the all-kids sketch comedy "All That" and their self-titled "Kenan & Kel" show. The "Kenan & Kel" show is the second highest rated show on cable television.

Good Burger is a Paramount Pictures/Nickelodeon Movies production.

Based on a sketch from the All That series, is set in the burger-world. Kenan and Kel play Dexter and Ed, respectively, a pair of high school kids who take summer jobs at the fast food joint, Good Burger. While toiling away at the french fry bin and the grill, Ed creates a "special sauce" that immediately becomes all the rave and propels Good Burger to enormous levels of success.

However, this success comes with a price tag attached. The manager of Mondo Burger (Good Burger's prime competition) begins a nefarious plot to get his hands on the recipe for the secret sauce. It becomes a battle of good burger versus evil burger, big guy versus small fry, as Ed and Dexter fight to preserve Good Burger and prevent it from being crushed by Mondo Burger.

Where as Good Burger represents "old-school" traditions and down home friendliness, Mondo Burger is the epitome of futuristic, assembly line coldness. Essentially, Ed and Dexter are fighting to uphold the values and morals which they hold near and dear to their hearts. Initially, Ed and Dexter are uneasy allies in their mission to save Good Burger. However, the heat of the battle draws Ed and Dexter closer and they subsequently forge a genuine bond and lasting friendship.

Kenan and Kel maintain an off-screen friendship as well (no petty jealousies or rivalry here) and are very supportive of each other. Their appeal can largely be attributed to the fact that, much like their characters in the film, they too are representative of "old school" family values and tradition.

Idolized by young children nationwide, Kenan and Kel do not take their role model status lightly. Kenan asserts, "It makes me feel so good to see kids laugh and smile at us. But what makes it really great is kids of different ages, backgrounds and cultures like what we do. That's when you know you're doing good work."

Kenan concurs: "We reach all types of kids with what we do."

Education is another issue very important to Kenan and Kel. They both are enrolled in college and very intent on obtaining their degrees. They encourage children to make the most of their education and have appeared on Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Teen Summit to discuss educational matters.

A Chicago native, Kel also has his sights set on a music career. He formed the rap group, Minds After Future

Thought (MAFT), and recorded the hit song "Watch Me Do My Thing" with teen-idols Immature, which was featured on the soundtrack to All That.

Kel recalls that one of the highlights of filming Good Burger was meeting George Clinton.

"I grew up with my dad listening to Parliament Funkadelic, Bootsie Collins and the P Funk All Stars," he said. "I love George Clinton and he came up to me and said 'my grand kids watch your show all the time.' That's amazing to me because I'm such a big fan of his."

An eclectic mix of music superstars contribute to the soundtrack for Good Burger. Standout cuts on the album include a collaboration between Hootie and the Blowfish and Warren G., as well as Mint Condition, Spearhead, 1,000 Clowns, De La Soul and The Pharcyde.

While Good Burger marks Kel's first foray onto the big screen. Kenan, who hails from Atlanta, has appeared in "D2: The Mighty Ducks" and "Heavyweights."

LIBRARY NOTES

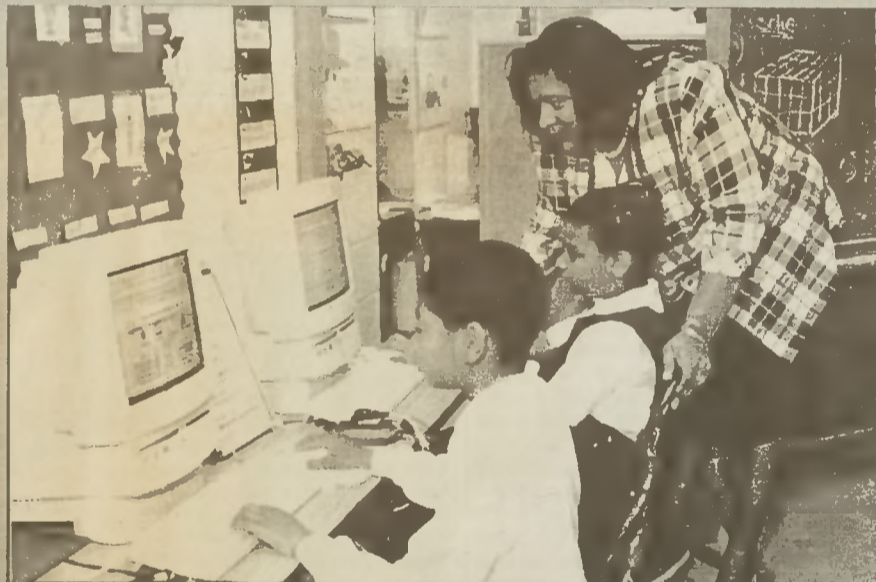
- "Juba Saturday," a variety of activities for school age children, will be held each Saturday beginning July 5 at the Beatties Ford Road Branch Library, 2412 Beatties Ford Road.

- "Summer Wiz Kids Computer Class: Microsoft "Dangerous Creatures" and "Oceans," for ages 8 and up, will be taught by Microsoft Corp. volunteers at the West Boulevard Branch Library, 2157 West Blvd., Wednesday, July 9, from 3-4 p.m. Classes are first come, first served.

- "Introduction to the Internet," for teens and adults, will be taught at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10, and 9 a.m. Saturday, July 12 at the West Boulevard Branch Library, 2157 West Blvd. Registration required. Call 336-6802.

- Bubble Magic and Popsicle Fun. Saturday, July 19, 2-4 p.m. at Beatties Ford Road Branch Library. Rock'N Reader will be on hand and kids get popsicle treat.

- Ruby Houston, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools parent/child resource coordinator will give advice on child care and where and when to get help Wednesday, July 23 at 10 a.m. at Beatties Ford Road Branch Library.



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Ayana Hollins, 8, and Eli Pigford, 9, get help on the computer from Bernadette Richards, program coordinator at the Make-A-Difference Center opened June 21 in the Oak Park at Nations Ford Apartments in southwest Charlotte. The center is the 8th established by NationsBank in a commitment to build 25 to provide educational programs and resources for youth. The bank hopes the centers will serve 250,000 youth by the year 2000.

Fireworks can ruin holiday, officials warn

The July 4th Holiday, with swimming at the beach or in town and cookouts galore, can be loads of fun.

But the celebration of the nation's independence can also be downright dangerous for kids.

In addition to following safe swimming tips, young people and their parents must also be aware of fireworks hazards and laws regarding their use.

Several fireworks are illegal to sell or possess in North Carolina. These include firecrackers, rockets, Roman candles and aerial fireworks. Violators of the law face misdemeanor charges punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 and/or imprisonment not to exceed six months.

And, since Dec. 1, 1995, it is

against the law for children younger than 16 to buy fireworks in North Carolina.

Legal fireworks include: snake and glow worms, smoke devices, such as smoke bombs; trick noisemakers, including party poppers, string poppers and snappers; and wire sparklers.

Charlotte Fire Marshall David Carelock says playing with fireworks invites disaster and cautions parents not to allow children to use the fireworks unattended.

Sparklers, for example, are the most frequent cause of firework injuries to children nationwide. A lit sparkler can reach temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees which can cause third degree burns

when a child grabs the wire.

The Charlotte Fire Department offers the following safety tips:

- Buy from reliable fireworks vendors
- Have water available
- Light one firework at a time
- Ignite your fireworks outdoors
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never shoot fireworks from a metal or glass container
- Always have an adult present
- If a firework does not light the first time, do not attempt to light it again
- Never try to make your own fireworks

CMS pre-school screening date set

Pre-kindergarten screening continues for the new Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' four-year-old program. The next screening is 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. July 10 at Marie G. Davis Middle School, 3343 W. Griffith St., near South Tryon Street.

On-going screening occurs daily at the sites where the school system's four-year-old classes will be located. The pre-school classes will be at Barringer, Briarwood, Derita, First Ward, Long Creek, Sharon, Steele Creek, Sterling, Thomasboro, Tryon Hills, University Park and Windsor Park elementary schools, and at the Double Oaks Community Center and the Plaza Road Pre-School.

The pre-kindergarten program will serve 2000 4-year-olds beginning in August.

So far, more than 1,300 students have qualified for the program.

Parents bringing a child for screening should have the child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residence.

For more information, call 343-5422, anytime.