

press release

PLANET H2O

Biographies

SARA PAXTON is host of episode one, ***PLANET H₂O: The Secret Life of Water.***

Sara Paxton will soon be seen in the Fox comedy *Aquamarine* where she plays the title character, a mermaid who is looking for love - on land, where she is aided by two young girls. Filming took place in Australia, where Sara was able to improve her swimming skills, along with being fitted with a mermaid's tail! The movie is scheduled to open next April. Also in the near future is the debut of Sara's album, *The Ups & Downs* from Epic. Sara can currently be seen in the title role of Darcy Fields in *Darcy's Wild Life* on Discovery Kids and NBC Saturday Mornings. She plays the jet-setting daughter of a superstar actress, whose life is abruptly changed when mom moves the family from Malibu to a beautiful, but distinctly rural ranch. Sara is currently filming the second season of this fun and educational series from producer Stan Rogow (*Lizzie McGuire*). Sara's video for "Take a Walk" from *Darcy's Wild Life* soundtrack can be seen on Discovery Kids.

AMERICA FERRERA is host of episode two, ***PLANET H₂O: Water World.***

America Ferrera first came to national attention with her starring role in *Real Women Have Curves*, which earned her a Sundance Jury Award for "Best Actress" and an Independent Spirit Award nomination for "Best Debut Performance," as well as a Young Artist Award nomination for "Best Performance for a Leading Young Actress." Ferrera most recently starred in the hit film *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, based on the bestselling novel by Ann Brashares. She is currently appearing off-Broadway in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, directed by Trip Cullman. America will next be seen on screen in *Steel City* which will premiere at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. Other films include Catherine Hardwicke's *Lords of Dogtown*, and 2005 Sundance entry *How the Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer*. America also recently received a 2005 Movieline "Breakthrough" Award.

MAURA KELLY is executive producer of ***PLANET H₂O.***

Maura Kelly is involved in project development and the production of children's and educational programs at Thirteen. Her award-winning work has included the PBS hit series, *ZOOM*, *In the Mix: The New Normal* and the Emmy winning *What's Up in the Environment?* She developed *Planet H₂O* and *Ethical Choices* for teens, *Nate the Great* (based on the popular book series) for kids and *The Internet in Action* series for educators. She is well versed in using media to promote social change, and has developed numerous "live" programs with Bill Moyers on important social issues. Prior to working in public television, she was Director of Marketing for *Wall Street Journal Report*.

NAOMI EDELSON is senior producer of **PLANET H₂O**.

Naomi Edelson has specialized in creating science programs for public television for 14 years. Her work as a segment producer for the Emmy Award-winning program *What's Up in the Environment?* earned a prestigious honor from the EPA. She has also produced programs for a wide range of multimedia teacher professional development video series. For four seasons, she was a researcher on the long-running PBS science and technology series *Innovation*. Prior to working in public television, Edelson was a local news reporter and producer.

IAN SAUNDERS is lead science consultant of **PLANET H₂O**.

Ian G. Saunders served as Head Science Writer for *Bill Nye The Science Guy* for all 100 episodes of the series, where he won three daytime Emmy's for his writing on the show. He has served as a writer or science content director for many other shows including *SciSquad*, *Arthur*, *Grossology*, and the current NBC Saturday morning show, *Strange Days at Black Hole High*. His work also includes the creation and writing of many Boys & Girls Clubs of America after-school programs, including Fitness Authority, Cavity-Free Zone, Digital Arts Suite and Skill Tech: Basic Training. Saunders studied Neuroscience at Amherst College and Science Communications at the University of California Santa Cruz.

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