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Cyberchase is produced
by Thirteen/WNET
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WHO'S JOINING THE CHASE

CYBERCHASE BIOGRAPHIES



pbskids.org

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CHRISTOPHER LLOYD (voice of "The Hacker") has forged a successful screen career as the preeminent delineator of eccentric and, occasionally, dangerous characters. Lloyd made an unnerving screen debut as one of the mental patients in *ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST*. A one-shot appearance on the TV sitcom *TAXI* as a freaked-out druggie led to a regular role, two Emmys, and bona fide stardom as the burned-out Reverend Jim. Bigger movie roles followed, including a Nazi in *TO BE OR NOT TO BE*, an escaped lunatic in *THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI* and a Klingon in *STAR TREK III: THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK*. In 1985, he scored as the zany Doc Brown in *BACK TO THE FUTURE* - a role he repeated in 1989 and 1990 sequels. He has also appeared as the shady Professor Plum in *CLUE*, a toy-train-obsessed doctor in *TRACK 29*, a corrupt gambler in *EIGHT MEN OUT*, the evil Judge Doom in *WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT*, and an escaped mental patient in *THE DREAM TEAM*. In 1991 he played a nice, normal guy in *SUBURBAN COMMANDO*, immediately followed by the compelling characterization of the well-loved Uncle Fester in *THE ADDAMS FAMILY*. In 1992 he won an Emmy for a guest appearance as a drama teacher cum drifter on the TV series *AVONLEA*. More recently, Lloyd starred in the acclaimed Mike Nichol's HBO production of *WIT* with Emma Thompson. He has also gained notoriety among young fans for films like: *MY FAVORITE MARTIAN*, *DENNIS THE MENACE*, *RENT A KID*, *ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES*, *ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD*, *CAMP NOWHERE* AND *BABY GENIUSES*. In 1988 he worked in New York on stage in the well-received production of *WAITING FOR GODOT* at the Classic Stage Company and is performing through October 2001 in the west coast preview of Yasmina Reza's *THE UNEXPECTED MAN* at the Geffan Playhouse. Lloyd could recently be seen in the CBS series *THE CLUBHOUSE*.

GILBERT GOTTFRIED (voice of "Digit") was born in Brooklyn, NY, and quickly gained a reputation as a talented comic. Gilbert toured as a stand-up comic until he gained his first taste of national exposure on the 1980-1981 season of *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*. Moving on, as a member of the cast of Alan Thicke's late-night effort *THICKE OF THE NIGHT* in 1983, Gottfried would soon turn to bit parts in films before helming his own late-night show, *USA UP ALL NIGHT*. Continuing to work in film and television, Gottfried appeared frequently on the small screen in *DUCKMAN* and at the movies in *PROBLEM CHILD* (and its sequels) before kicking off a successful turn in animated character voices with his role as Iago the Parrot in Disney's *ALADDIN*. A frequent guest of *HOLLYWOOD SQUARES* and *THE HOWARD STERN SHOW*, Gottfried's vigorous vocal chords lend themselves to an amusing variety of impressions, as well. Gottfried is well known for his spot-on Dracula impression and many others that he frequently incorporates into his stand-up act.

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BIANCA MARIE DEGROAT ("Bianca," CYBERCHASE "For Real") hails from Lanesboro in the Massachusetts Berkshires. A Halloween baby, she says that her mother was dressed as a pumpkin at a party when she decided to come out and join the fun. She landed her first acting job in a national Burger King commercial three years ago, soon after taking her first acting classes at Hunter College in New York City. A resident of Crown Heights Fort Green, Brooklyn, Bianca has been in various commercials and public service announcements, including work for LG phones, MTV, Hasbro, and the New York Lottery. She is currently studying the Meisner (acting) technique with Maggie Flanigan Flanagan and has studied at the Williamson technique at the Acor's Movement Studio and enjoys studying Shakespeare and dance. Recently, Bianca made an appearance on ALL MY CHILDREN as Debbie, the baby store clerk. She loves to sing, read, rollerblade, make people laugh, and care for her pet dog and cat (Mojo and Mookie).

MATTHEW A. WILSON ("Harry," CYBERCHASE "For Real") was born one the Altus Air Force Base, OK, on June 13, 1977. During high school in Williamsburg, VA, Matthew began performing at Busch Gardens. He later went to Vassar College, hoping to go on to Medical School. Majoring in Biophysics, Matthew started a juggling group, and worked as an EMT. Each spring, he performed in the Vassar Opera Workshop and returned to performing at Busch Gardens in the summers. By graduation, he decided he wanted to be a full time performer. Before CYBERCHASE, Matt was hired to live in a glass-enclosed studio apartment on the back of a truck which traveled the mid-Atlantic states for three months advertising a pharmaceutical. In summer, 2004, Matt appeared off off Broadway in the title role of THE COSMIC CALAMITIES OF HENRY NOODLE, a sci-fi musical comedy. He also works with the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit.

SANDRA SHEPPARD (Executive Producer), is an award-winning producer and media executive with over 15 years of public television management experience. Sheppard is spearheading the station's growth in children's and family media through original programming and co-productions. She has been instrumental in raising significant funding for CYBERCHASE and she won a local Emmy for the pilot episode. Sheppard also oversees an "enhanced television" digital demonstration project was piloted in several markets nationwide, beginning in 2002. Sheppard has developed a variety of significant projects for families, including FREEDOM: A HISTORY OF US, a 16-part PBS series that will excite viewers with the drama of American history in 2003, and IN THE MIX: THE NEW NORMAL, a three-part PBS special that explored the ways teens have reacted to and dealt with the impact of September 11th. She also oversees ZOOM Local/National, an initiative to brand ZOOM locally through customized broadcast, Web content, outreach and promotion. Ms. Sheppard has developed the Emmy Award-winning WHAT'S UP? series and ETHICAL CHOICES, and has played a key role in Thirteen's successful National Teacher Training Institute for Math, Science and Technology (NTTI). Sheppard and her team have created compelling series and specials that focus attention on the important issues of the day including: The Thinking Curriculum and School's in for Summer. Sheppard secured major grants to develop multi-media initiatives that promote reform in math, science, technology, and language arts education including: PBS Teacherline, Beyond the Canon, Standards in Action, Learning Science Through Inquiry, and The Internet in Action. In 1984, Sheppard joined Thirteen/WNET New York and in 1987 became the director of NET TELECON. Later she served as director of production for a PBS special entitled Mandela: Free At Last. For more than five years, she played a key role in the production of the United Negro College College Fund Telethon and received an achievement award in 1990 for her continuing efforts. Prior to joining Thirteen, Sheppard worked in communications consulting and received a B.A. from Duke University.

KRISTIN LASKAS MARTIN (Executive Producer), an award-winning producer/writer, most recently won a local Emmy for the pilot episode of CYBERCHASE. As executive producer for Disney/ABC Cable Networks, she was part of the development team to create interactive programming for enhanced cable viewing via Web TV. Prior to her work at Disney, Martin was executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning PBS animated science series, SCHOLASTIC'S THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS. While at Scholastic, Martin also produced several episodes of THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB. A former vice president of production for Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, she oversaw the production of 10 series including the ACE Award-winning EUREEKA'S CASTLE, SUPER-SLOPPY DOUBLE DARE, the pilot for CLARISSA EXPLAINS IT ALL and the opening launch of the Nickelodeon Studios in Orlando, Florida. As a writer for PBS's Reading Rainbow, her episode "THE LEGEND OF THE INDIAN PAINTBRUSH" was awarded the prestigious Prix Jeunesse. Martin also served as coordinating producer for ABC's Emmy Award-winning ALL MY CHILDREN and was program executive for ABC's daytime programming. She has been a producer/writer for Hearst/ABC Enterprises, Group W Broadcasting, and Fox Broadcasting. A former English teacher, Martin is an English Honors graduate of Rosemont College and received her masters degree in Shakespeare studies from the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham, England. She completed her coursework for her Ph.D. in English, drama and film at the University of Texas at Austin.

ELLEN DOHERTY (Producer) has worked in children's and family programming for more than thirteen years. She has produced and written numerous projects, including an educational video series on media literacy for Harcourt Inc.; a family series for the Metro channel; and several specials for Discovery Kids International. Doherty was also an associate producer on the award-winning PBS series READING RAINBOWS AND PUZZLE PLACE. In addition, Doherty produced and wrote a fundraising special for public television, BENNY GOODMAN'S GREATIST HITS, and worked as one of the producers on PBS specials DANNY KAYE: A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER and AN EVENING WITH PATTI LUPONE. Born and raised in Michigan, Doherty received a B.A. (Communications) from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, MA.

LYNNE WARNER (Producer) has worked in television production for over twenty years. She has worked on numerous series including: BIZARRE and THE SUPER DAVE OSBORNE SHOW, on telethons for Variety Club and The Hospital for Sick Children, on pilots ONE MINUTE TO AIR and THICK AND THIN and a number of specials. Lynne's involvement with children's programming has included working as Associate Producer on Shining Time Station (both the series and four one-hour specials) and 41 Episodes of NODDY. At Nelvana, Lynne produced the first season of REDWALL, the third season of NED'S NEWT, thirteen episodes of COMMITTED and a pilot entitled THE ARK. Born and raised in Toronto, Lynne received a B.A.A. (Applied Arts: Radio and Television) from Ryerson University in Toronto.

GEORGE BLOOM (Head Writer) has worked as a writer in the area of children's television for the past 20 years on numerous shows seen on PBS as well as various commercial networks. He created and developed a variety of television series, including MY LITTLE PONY, THE TRANSFORMERS, SALTY'S LIGHTHOUSE and THE GLOFRIENDS. Most recently, Bloom was the co-head writer on the popular and successful PBS series THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS. His efforts were rewarded with three Emmy nominations. In addition to his work in animation, Bloom has also written for prime-time television and motion pictures and spent a number of years with Universal and MCA. As the head writer for CYBERCHASE, Bloom works with the Math Team to make educational topics compatible with the action-adventure story lines, in keeping with the teaching mission of the CYBERCHASE series.

LARRY JACOBS (Director) began production on CYBERCHASE in September 2000. Over 30 years ago, Jacobs began at Nelvana studios in Toronto as an assistant animator and soon became an animator on many productions including, ROCK AND RULE and THE BABAR MOVIE. By 1989, Jacobs was offered his first director's position on THE BABAR television series, followed by direction of other series such as BEETLEJUICE, FIEVEL'S AMERICAN TAILS, THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS, BLAZING DRAGONS, and BLASTER'S UNIVERSE. In 1995 Jacobs began development on a television series called BIRDZ, which continues to air today in over 40 countries. In late 1999 he helped design and create the television series PELWEIKS, followed by production on three episodes of an animated adult special created by cartoon fame Gahan Wilson and co-creator of TAXI, Stan Daniels. Jacobs graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Waterloo and attended the classical animation program at Sheridan College.

MICHAEL TEMPLETON (Co-Mathematics Content Director) has more than 25 years of experience in informal science education. He has consulted extensively for Scholastic, Inc., the Hughes Aircraft Company, The Smithsonian Institution, and the Bayer Corporation, among many others. For five years he served as science content director for THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS. Templeton was formerly the program director for the Informal Science Education Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). He has served on many boards including the NSF's Director's Advisory Council, many NSF program panels, and the Committee on Public Understanding of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

L. CAREY BOLSTER (Co-Mathematics Content Director) has been a teacher, supervisor and coordinator of mathematics in Baltimore County. He has served as vice-president and president of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM), initiated the "Activities" section of The Mathematics Teacher, co-directed the State Institute for Leaders in Mathematics and Science sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, consulted with the National Academy of Sciences development of its online project, and is an author for Scott Foresman. As director of PBS MATHLINE, he developed over 72 videos and online interaction. As director of the Modeling Middle School Mathematics Project, he has developed video and online activities highlighting exemplary mathematics curricula. Bolster presently serves as senior mathematics consultant for PBS TEACHERLINE, a new online initiative for math teachers.

FRANCES NANKIN (Executive Producer, Editorial Director, Cyberchase) is an award-winning producer and editor with more than 25 years experience developing start-up multimedia educational projects. In addition to production and editorial experience for the CYBERCHASE series, as Editorial Director she recently developed the EARLY MATH section of PBS.ORG/PARENTS Web site. Prior to Cyberchase, she was co-director of content development for THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS television series and related materials. She has written several science books for kids, including a textbook for HARCOURT SCIENCE and an EYES ON NATURE book for Kidsbooks. Additionally, she's been the start-up editor for two Scholastic magazines, SEARCH and SUPERSCIENCE, and was the founding editor of COBBLESTONE Magazine, the history magazine for kids now in its 25th year of publication. Nankin is a former teacher and adjunct faculty member at The College of New Jersey in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education and has been an educational consultant and writer for clients including Nick Jr., Noggin, Scholastic Inc., Jump Start Press, JP Kids, The New York Hall of Science, Highlights, and Consumers Union.

THIRTEEN/WNET NEW YORK is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as NATURE, GREAT PERFORMANCES, AMERICAN

MASTERS, CHARLIE ROSE, RELIGION & ETHIC NEWSWEEKLY, STAGE ON SCREEN, EGG THE ART SHOW, and CYBERCHASESM – as well as the work of Bill Moyers – to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as THE ETHNIC HERITAGE SPECIALS, THE NEW YORK WALKING TOURS, NEW YORK VOICES, REEL NEW YORK, and its MetroArts/Thirteen cable arts programming. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television "out of the box." And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

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PBS KIDS provides a nonviolent, noncommercial daily schedule that extends beyond the TV screen to the Web (pbskids.org), home videos, educational outreach materials and PBS KIDS CHANNEL. The PBS KIDS Ready to Learn Service leverages the television programs with workshops in local communities to help adults boost children's reading and social skills. PBS, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, is a private, nonprofit media enterprise owned and operated by the nation's 347 public television stations. Serving nearly 100 million people each week, PBS enriches the lives of all Americans through quality programs and education services on noncommercial television, the Internet and other media. More information about PBS is available at PBS.org.