THE OFFICIAL POSTER MAGAZINE

GHOSTBUSTERS

FANTASTIC COMPETITION INSIDE...
Albums and singles to be won!

The BEHIND-THE-SCENES story
GIANT POSTER INSIDE
PHOTO-PACKED!

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New York City has a problem: paranormal occurrences are plaguing the city in increasing numbers. The only ones who know this are three, extraordinarily bright, slightly off-beat university parapsychologists who have been deprived of their research grant and forced out into the hard, commercial world, where they start their own business – the aptly-named GHOSTBUSTERS.

Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, Harold Ramis and Rick Moranis star in Columbia Pictures' new comedy, "Ghostbusters". produced and directed by Ivan Reitman, co-written by Aykroyd and Ramis.

"Ghostbusters" is the brainchild of Dan Aykroyd. After writing a first draft of the script on his own, Aykroyd brought in Ramis, Reitman and Moranis. Himself a member of the American Society for Psychical Research, Aykroyd believes that ghosts and humour have been linked for scores of years in film history by popular stars such as Laurel and Hardy, Abbot and Costello, The Bowery Boys, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis and Bob Hope.

"Nearly every major comedy performer has dealt with ghosts in some of his work," Aykroyd comments. "We've simply done a modern version of popular, old-time ghost movies – a mixture of laughter and spookiness. The only difference is that we include a little bit more theory, perhaps a spot more science and for sure a lot more technology than our predecessors."

Ivan Reitman began assembling his production team in June, 1983. Production designer John De Cuir and visual effects supervisor Richard Edlund were brought in not only for their impeccable credentials but also because of their special experience with large-scale productions. De Cuir has won Academy Awards for "The King And I", "Cleopatra" and "Hello Dolly!"); Edlund's Oscars came for his work on "Star Wars", "The Empire Strikes Back", "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Return of the Jedi". The much-respected cinematographer Laszlo Kovacs joined the group, so did the talented and prolific costume designer Theoni V. Aldredge. Michael Gross and Joe Medjuck followed, as associate producers.

"Ghostbusters" presented the technical crew with unusual design problems – from a temple on top of a skyscraper to the array of exotically complicated paraphernalia any self-respecting ghostbuster would carry. But, as Ivan Reitman points out, "Part of the package that Dan Aykroyd delivered to me with that first, draft script was a series of illustrations showing some of the equipment he felt the ghostbusters should tote around to apprehend various ghostly beings, what some of the spooks would look like and how they would travel. Although these elements have evolved a great deal since then, the original ideas came from Dan. And there is certainly none of that 'Star Trek' gloss to the equipment."

Harold Ramis elaborates. "Dan persuaded a friend to make our proton packs (the back packs). The first one was made of polystyrene and old radio parts. Dan bought a jumpsuit, put all the stuff on in his house and then videotaped himself catching a ghost. When we turned the whole package over to the special effects department, I think everyone was surprised. The designs really are amazing. We wear highly sophisticated backpacks and we carry neutrona wands that emit particle streams. We also drive the first functional Ectomobile in the world!"

It's a very elegant, 1959 Cadillac ambulance outfitted with a variety of electronic devices which allow the ghostbusters to locate any major psychokinetic disturbance, retrieve the ectoplasmic material and then stor it before returning to the octobase. I might add that Dan really loved driving it around New York with the sirens going!"

Production of the film began in October, 1983, in New York City. For its month-long stay there, "Ghostbusters" used locations that included the New York Public Library, City Hall, Columbia University, the Tavern on the Green, Central Park West, Columbus Circle and the former New York Police Department lock-up.

Shooting in Central Park West, the location for Dana and Louis's ghost-infested apartment
building, was not just complicated for the film’s makers but even more so for New York’s civic authorities. "Sometimes we had as many as four hundred or five hundred extras working," says associate producer Joe Medjuck. "And we didn't just block the busy traffic along Central Park West, we found we had blocked the cross-town traffic as well - everything going through Central Park."

During this time, Richard Edlund and his staff at Entertainment Effects Group (in conjunction with Boss Film Corporation) had been creating the 200 or so special effects shots needed for "Ghostbusters". They created creatures and ghosts with stop-motion, rotoscoping and cell animation. Using miniatures, they re-created the Central Park West apartment building and brought to life the various fates which befall it. By injecting dyes and pigments into the water of a cloud tank, they generated rolling skies and other atmospheric conditions. "Terror dogs" (stone manifestations of ancient apparitions) were created in various sizes and with various capabilities.

"Technically, it takes as many as 10 people to operate a single 'terror dog'" explains Michael Gross. "There's a tremendous amount of mechanics involved - hydraulics, electronics, wires, as well as very skilled puppeteers sitting inside and operating. This whole animal has to be literally made from scratch, has to be designed, sculpted out of clay and cast in various types of foam, plastic and other materials that are flexible and workable, so the people can actually get inside."
Music for "Ghostbusters" was supplied by some of the hottest acts in music in America, today. In addition to the score by Elmer Bernstein and the title song by Ray Parker Jr., ther is original music from Laura Branigan, The Thompson Twins, Air Supply, The Alessi Brothers, The Bus Boys and Mick Smiley. There is also a music video, directed by Ivan Reitman and featuring Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd, with Ray Parker Jr. performing the "Ghostbusters" title song. The soundtrack album is available in Britain on Arista Records and tapes.

Bill Murray stars as Venkman in "Ghostbusters", his third picture with director Ivan Reitman (the other two were "Meatballs" and "Stripes").

Dan Aykroyd is one of the original stars of
"NBC’s Saturday Night Live”, who continues his string of movie comedy roles as Stantz in “Ghostbusters”. Recently, Aykroyd starred with yet another “SNL” player, Eddie Murphy, in “Trading Places” and appeared in “Twilight Zone – The Movie”.

SIGOURNEY WEAVER is Dana in “Ghostbusters”. Ms. Weaver first broke into films with Ridley Scott’s “Alien”.

HAROLD RAMIS is re-united with old friends and colleagues in “Ghostbusters”. Starring as Spengler, the film teams him once again with Bill Murray and Ivan Reitman, with whom he worked on the movie “Meatballs” and “Stripes”.

RICK MORANIS is Louis in “Ghostbusters”. In the past he directed and starred in the film “Strange Brew”.

FANTASTIC COMPETITION

Hidden in the word ‘GHOSTBUSTERS’ is a lot of other words. See how many words you can make using the individual letters.

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