

What Do These Performers All Have In Common?

Ann Heche - Grammy award winner/
Another World. Starring with Al Pacino &
Johnny Depp in "Danny Brasco" Starring
with Tommy Lee Jones in "Volcano"

Danielle Smith - Starring in Andrew
Lloyd Weber's "Whistle Down The Wind"

Christine Skleros - "Angel in the
Outfield" Lucky Charm for the New York
Yankees. Singer of the National Anthem for
the World Series

Judy Landon Fitch
- Miss Pennsylvania 1992

Gina Majors
- Miss Pennsylvania 1987

Trisha Bowman
- Miss New Jersey 1985

Blake Bashoff - Starring in "Big
Bully" with Tom Arnold. Starring in the
New "Swiss Family Robinson" with Jane
Seymour and David Carradine
Starring with Daniel Stern in "Bushwhacked"

Michelle Nigalan - Starring as Kim in
"Miss Saigon" on Broadway

Tommy John Skleros - Starring
as Chip in the 1st National Tour of Beauty and
The Beast.

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WINNERS IN ALL AGE GROUPS.**

*These are just a few of the
thousands of Performers, Singers
& Actors that have been Taught,
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Sal Dupree

Dupree Performing Arts Studio

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October 9, 1997

BIG Screen LITTLE Screen

by Lori Hoffman



Local starmaker Sal Dupree



Blake Bashoff with 'mom' Jane Seymour.

During her hiatus from *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, **Jane Seymour** made a movie, *The New Swiss Family Robinson* in Puerto Rico, a modern-day adventure film inspired by the original classic novel.

It just so happens this new film, due out in early 1998, has a major South Jersey connection. Multi-talented performer/director and vocal coach **Sal Dupree** served as a special casting director for the film. One of the film's producers, **Diane Kirman**, a long time friend and colleague of Sal's, is a Philadelphia native who works out of both L.A. and South Jersey. Finally one of the Robinson kids is played by **Blake Bashoff**, who was raised in Northeast Philly with summer home ties to Ventnor. Dupree is also a well known singing and acting coach, and Blake is one of his students.



Sal Dupree

A legendary singer and performer, Sal Dupree is owner of the **Dupree Performing Arts Studio** in Linwood, one of the largest vocal/performing arts schools in South Jersey. Although he grew up in Brooklyn and South Philly, he's lived in South Jersey for over 25 years.

You can see him on-stage weeknights at the *Tiffany Lounge* in the Tropicana. Or, just pick up his latest CD/tape release entitled *My Tribute*, which he dedicated to his family and friends.

Sal is also a voice teacher and performing arts coach. His students have appeared on Broadway, TV and in feature films. In his spare time, he continues to direct and produce musicals, raising money for various charities. He also does feature film casting including *Mannequin* and *Rocky V*.

Sal told old pal Kirman about Blake. "Sal has an incredible eye for talent," explained Kirman. "I've cast a lot of kids in films who have been trained by Sal and have never been disappointed."

Blake is playing Todd Robinson, the middle child in the Robinson family. He's been in the business for approximately 6 years and has appeared on stage, TV, two other feature films (*Bushwhacked*, *Big Bully*) and over 30 commercials. He's traveled for years to take singing and performing arts lessons from Sal.

Why would a kid from Northeast Philly travel to South Jersey for lessons? "Have you ever heard Sal sing — he has an incredible voice. And he's a great entertainer and performing arts coach on top of that," says Blake. "He's helped make my dreams come true."

In addition to Jane Seymour, the film stars Jane's real-life husband, actor/director/producer **James Keach**. Jane and James play Blake's mom and dad in the film. His older brother is portrayed by **John Asher** (TV's *Weird Science*), and **Jamie Renee Smith** (*Dante's Peak*) play's Blake's younger sister. The leader of the bad guys — a band of modern day pirates — is played by **David Carradine**.

And what does Blake tell other kids looking to break into the business: "Believe in yourself, work hard and . . . see Sal Dupree."