

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jonathan Baker is back with *Us*!

From interviewing an original “Angel” to acting in a major motion picture, to being a contestant on “The Amazing Race 6,” go-getter Jonathan Baker has always made big dreams come true—and he’s been sharing his entertainment successes with *Us Weekly* magazine since he was just 15.

Los Angeles, CA – November 2, 2004-- At 42, Jonathan Baker looks 24 with a handsomely boyish face and dark mop of curls. He attributes the boyish good looks to a healthy lifestyle, and to owning Skin Spa, the number one rated day spa in the country. But more likely it’s due to an unconventional career of dreaming big, being persistent and never taking his eyes off the goal of accomplishing something meaningful with his life.

Baker has been a go-getter from the start. In 1977 at the tender age of 15, he was already dreaming big. He wanted to be productive, make his voice heard, and make a difference in the world. He was certain that the entertainment business was a great place to do it all.

Baker began by joining *Children’s Express Magazine*, a publication which encouraged young journalists and printed their work. He figured that being a reporter just might be his ticket inside the entertainment industry. In order to buy the basic tools of any good reporter, a tape recorder and camera, he worked as a pizza delivery boy and scooped ice cream at his local Baskin Robbins. His first news scoop would reach far beyond the children’s magazine.

A huge fan of the TV hit “*Charlie’s Angels*,” Baker heard that ‘angel’ Kate Jackson would be visiting his hometown of New York City. With incredible ingenuity, he tracked her down to a Park Avenue hotel and stationed himself in the lobby. He was promptly thrown out, but like a good journalist he persisted. Using the service entrance he got into the hotel kitchen and used a service phone to dial her room. When he admitted he was only 15, Jackson was gracious, and granted him the interview.

Not only did Baker finagle the interview, but dreaming big, he began contacting the publishers of large, national magazines. ***Us Weekly Magazine*** loved his interview, and ran it under the headline “*A fledgling reporter has his own date with an Angel.*” A two-page spread showed Baker sitting in his bedroom with a typewriter on his lap, grinning for the camera.

Us Weekly also put Kate Jackson on its cover of the June 28, 1977 issue. Baker was on his way, having sold his interview to *Us Weekly* for \$2,000. “That was a whole lot of money for a 15 year-old kid,” remembers Baker.

15-year-old Baker took the \$2,000 from *Us Weekly* and hopped a plane to Hollywood. He loved films and realized that through them millions could potentially hear his voice. Baker saw the film capitol of the world as the place to pursue his dreams, and more importantly, make his voice heard.

Living in a little hotel on Santa Monica Boulevard, Baker had no phone and was too young to drive. Accomplishing his lofty goals with these handicaps would be a challenge, but this teenager was uber-creative.

Baker would drape a bed sheet over a phone booth, put up an “out of order” sign and use it as his private office. All day long, he’d work to cut deals. His persistence and creativity eventually paid off. He began interviewing high-profile celebrities like Stevie Nicks, Lana Stewart (wife of original Rolling Stones piano player Ian Stewart), and NAME, sister of Manson murder victim Sharon Tate.

At night Baker worked in a non-alcoholic bar (he lied about his age) to make ends meet. After an adventurous summer, Baker returned to New York where he finished high school. Pursuing his love of film he started at New York University’s film school. But Los Angeles beckoned, and he returned to the West Coast where he entered the film school at the University of Southern California.

In 1985, a buddy of Baker’s asked if he’d be interested in working as an extra for a few months on a little film he was involved with. The film turned out to be the 80s sensation “*Pretty in Pink*,” starring Molly Ringwald.

Baker tackled the project with unbridled enthusiasm. When writer/director John Hughes saw Baker’s raw talent, what began as a principal extra role soon turned into a minor part with a few lines. Although Baker’s lines ended up on the cutting room floor, he was prominently featured in the film, as well as all the press and promotional posters.

When **Us Weekly magazine** ran a story featuring director John Hughes on August 12, 1985. A picture of the *Pretty in Pink* cast, including Baker, surrounding John Hughes, accompanied it.

Two years later, Baker wrote his own film script with Sylvester Stallone in mind. He managed to get the script to Stallone during an appearance by the star on the Oprah Winfrey show. The stunt resulted in unwanted attention from Sly’s bodyguards and Baker’s first script rejection.

But the rejection didn’t deter Baker and shortly thereafter he wrote, produced and directed “*Through Scavullo’s Eyes*,” a documentary for Warner Home Video about

fashion designer Francesco Scavullo. Baker went on to direct "Dirty Tennis" as well as other home video and cable projects.

These days, Baker still works in the entertainment industry (he has a first-look deal for film projects with Paramount Pictures). He also oversees his wife Victoria's singing and art career, and owns Skin Spa (www.skinspa.com), a luxurious European day spa in Encino, California. In spite of all his projects, Baker doesn't consider himself a workaholic. He'll just tell you he's being productive.

Baker contends that running Skin Spa is consistent with his life-long goals. "I want to do something that stops time and makes a difference," says Baker. "In that sense, there's absolutely no difference between going to a luxurious spa like Skin Spa, and going to a great movie. You come in tired and frazzled and you leave blissful. Who couldn't use more of that?"

Always watchful for the next 'big thing,' the Reality TV phenomenon captured Baker's attention. Baker and his wife of three years, Victoria Fuller, tried out and made the team for "The Amazing Race 6." The show is set to premier with a two-hour episode on November 16 at 9 P.M. on CBS.

Jonathan says, "To be on The Amazing Race you have to have heart, passion and vision. I put every ounce of myself into winning this game-- I will be the poster child from hell because I have a Type A personality and did whatever it took, almost losing my mind in the process. Trust me, there will be lots of drama and controversy. I set out to steal the show, and I did."

And steal the show, he did. Interviews on the Early Show and E.T. have commenced, and the CBS commercials launching The Amazing Race 6 have prominently featured Jonathan. Bertram van Munster, Executive Producer of "The Amazing Race 6" said of Jonathan that he was the "one of the most enthusiastic, focused and energetic players The Amazing Race had ever seen."

Baker's productive and colorful life has once again captured the attention of Us Weekly magazine. Us will be taking a look at Baker's life journey since his Kate Jackson interview appeared in the magazine 27 years ago.