

HOLLYWOOD BARKS!

The Tails Behind Famous Dogs, Their Co-Stars, and Their Human Companions



By Kathryn Segura

A significant portion of proceeds from this book is donated to dog rescue organizations.

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Photo Credits



*Mouse, aka "Puffy," and Lin Shaye, aka "Magda", on location for "Behind the Zipper"
(an extra feature on the Director's cut DVD of "There's Something About Mary")*

Foreword



It was an exciting day on the set of *There's Something About Mary*. I was in Florida a day or two before the real shoot was to happen because the special effects guys were still experimenting with my character Magda's beef jerky-looking make-up. As a dog lover with two wonderful Border Collies of my own, I was especially energized about meeting Magda's dog, which was to be a cute, little furball named "Puffy" (or furballs, I should say, as there were to be several dogs playing Puffy).

As I walked onto the set, I noticed a woman with a head of beautiful, long, dark hair who had her back to me. It was Kathryn, and I knew my introduction to the pups would be coming soon. With a name like "Puffy," I just assumed Kathryn had some fluffy little poodles for us. But then I saw them, peeking over her shoulder – two erect, funny-looking, shaggy ears. "Hmm," I thought, "Maybe *not* poodles!"

Kathryn didn't make me wonder for long. She turned around, and with her big, warm smile and sparkling eyes (which I couldn't help notice had a hint of mischief in them), she said, "Hi, *Magda!* Meet your new dog, *Puffy*, aka Slammer. Puffy is going to be a Border Terrier. Say hi, Slammer!"

Well she certainly wasn't a poodle! As if on cue, Slammer gave me a bark, and I swear, I think she winked. I sat down on the floor as Puffy, aka Slammer, climbed in my lap, sniffed me all over, and then gave me one of her

trademark kisses. Kathryn seemed pleased, I was in love, and Slammer appeared to be in all her glory. From that moment on, Kathryn, “Puffy,” and I were bound to be friends for life.

Kathryn had definitely picked a winner with Slammer, which I came to find out is the norm for her. She has an uncanny talent for not only finding animals with the necessary physical cuteness and unique abilities for each job, but always nails the right mindset and willingness to perform. Kathryn does not go for the obvious – she goes for the best. The careful thought she puts into each animal selection is what makes her a true professional and a cut-above the rest of her field.



Lin Shaye

Sure, Puffy could have been a poodle, but the performance would never have turned out as good as it did, and our kissing/make-out scene would probably have not gained a permanent spot in film history. (Border Terriers are extraordinary kissers!) Like the animal actors she has a special “eye and nose for,” Kathryn is the “unusual best,” which makes her a joy to work with. -*Lin Shaye, Actress*

Sure, I Do Stunt Work...



Obviously the dog world is full of strong bonds between humans and animals, but what about the bonds between humans with common dog interests? For me, many great friendships have been established as a result of my participation in dog shows, dog training, and other dog-related events. This is one of the things that make my job so fulfilling.

One such friendship was formed through a dog obedience club in the 1980's (I know, I'm dating myself). That's where I met Stephanie and Jim Gibbons, who bred the most beautiful Golden Retrievers on the West Coast. I was "Aunt Kathryn" to their amazing dogs Rhett and Paddington, who were *everyone's* favorite Golden's - not only were they impeccably trained, they were also absolutely stunning. These top K9 models were so good that photographers requested them by name. Rhett and Paddington frequently appeared onscreen with big-name stars like Tony Curtis (in a movie where they played search-and-rescue dogs) and Michael J. Fox (in a Japanese commercial). They were a dream to work with, although one shoot we did together almost turned into a nightmare.

Ironically, the job that almost killed me was a *Rescue 911* reenactment of a drowning boy who was saved by the family dog (a Golden Retriever). This shoot was on location at the Colorado River in Barstow, California,

where the event actually occurred. The temperatures of the air and water couldn't have contrasted more: it was over 105 degree on land, but the water felt like it was freezing.

During the first day of shooting, we learned about the event first-hand from the family the story was about. They said their son, even after being told multiple times not to, was playing too close to the edge of the deck. As you have already guessed, he fell into the river, and their dog went in to rescue him. The boy had three child actors repeating his mistake for the cameras, and Rhett and Paddington were cast as the heroic family dog. That day, the "boy" and his "dog" were filmed only on the deck – nobody actually went into the water (although there were several lifeguards supervising in case anyone fell in the river *again* unexpectedly).

The second day was the river shoot, and like the rough, roaring water, things got wild. Shooting the scene was especially challenging because of the fast current and burning sun, both of which made our work exhausting and precarious. The sequence of events was supposed to proceed as follows: boy falls in river; dog jump in after him; dog returns to me on land when I call him. That is, until the director called me over and said, "I really like how Rhett is jumping in, but he is looking in the wrong direction when he returns to you. Could you swim over to that boat and call him from there?"

I followed the director’s gaze to an empty boat anchored across the river, and against my better judgment, I nodded. He then added the kicker, “By the way, we are out of lifejackets, but you’ll be able to hang onto the boat.”

What? Who am I, Michael Phelps? My answer, of course, was, “Great!”

Swimming out to the boat was harder than I thought it would be, but I made it. I’m not kidding when I say the water was rough – hanging onto the side of the boat made me feel like driftwood whacking against a rock. While I floated, Stephanie placed Rhett and Paddington on a dock where the dogs would have a chance to rest between takes. I then called whichever dog whose turn it was, and it worked out exactly the way the director wanted it to.



Rhett and Paddington

By the time I heard, “LUNCH!” I had been in the water for more than 45 minutes, and hypothermia was setting in. Everyone bee-lined off the dock and headed for shore, forgetting I was in the water. My legs were feeling numb and I had to get out of the water, but pulling myself into the boat wasn’t an option. I tried to swim for it, and as soon as I let go of the boat, I regretted my decision. The current seemed stronger than before, and I was out of energy. The next thing I knew, I was swept downriver!

Stephanie saw what was happening and started screaming, “Someone, please, help Kathryn! She’s going to drown!”

No one heard her, and for a second, I was a goner. Then, suddenly, Rhett and Paddington jumped in and swam towards me – it must have been déjà vu for the rescued boy’s family. Each dog got under an arm and took me to shore. I couldn’t believe it – Rhett and Paddington had just given a new meaning to the term “hero dog.”

By the time we emerged from the water, the lifeguard was there waiting (sorry, bud, you missed your chance for heroics - I’m going home with the dogs!). My legs were jelly and I couldn’t stand, but other than that I was fine, thanks to two wonderful Golden Retrievers.

Luckily the rest of the shoot was uneventful, but the connection that grew between us as friends is noteworthy. Rhett, Paddington, and I had a bond before they saved my life, but afterward we were like glue. As for Stephanie and I, we were both so happy to have each other on that shoot, and our friendship will last a lifetime.



Behaviors with Bailey – “On Your Feet”

Ever want to teach your dog to dance? Here’s a good place to begin. Most studio trainers refer to “on your feet” as a dog standing on all fours, but that’s something obedience trainers call a “stand.” Because I have a background in obedience training, I prefer to use “on your feet” when asking my dogs to stand on their hind legs. Honestly, it doesn’t really matter. You can say “pickle” for all the dog cares – the important thing is that you remain consistent with whatever word or phrase you use.

Goal: To teach your dog to stand on his back legs.



Lesson:

- 🐾 Have your dog sit in front of you and hold some bait in front of his nose.
- 🐾 Move your hand up in front of him while saying, “On your feet.”
- 🐾 Once on his hind legs, praise your dog and pay him.

Intermediate Challenge:

- 🐾 Once your dog knows “on your feet” like the back of his paw, try moving your hand in a circle as you raise it while saying, “Dance.” Did he twirl around in a circle?

Tips:

- 🐾 It tends to be easier to teach Toy and small breed dogs this trick because standing on their back legs is not particularly difficult for them.
- 🐾 Always consider your dog’s size and weight for behaviors like “on your feet.” If your dog is overweight or very large, this behavior may be unsafe for him.
- 🐾 If your dog is very toy-motivated, you may be able to teach this behavior using a toy instead of treats or food.
- 🐾 Do not teach this behavior to your dog if he has any medical problems that cause him leg or back pain.

***No humans were harmed in the writing of this book
(but we did kill one computer)***

About Kathryn Segura



After a childhood full of dog shows and a stint in the high fashion make-up industry, Kathryn Segura found her niche in Hollywood as a studio wrangler/animal trainer. Through her company *PHD Animals*, she has helped cast and train every creature imaginable: from cats to dogs, horses to zebras, and even “lions, tigers, and bears” (Oh, my!). With a resume chock full of experience in print work, TV shows and series, commercials, and major motion pictures (such as the blockbuster hits discussed in this book, *Tin Cup*, and *The Addams Family*), Kathryn continues to be called upon to bring life and depth to “anything Hollywood.” Recently, Kathryn has melded her passion for animals with her experience in fashion and make-up to create *Take 1 Products*, which makes specialized animal skin and fur care products.

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