5 happy things about 'The Angry Birds Movie'

Carly Mallenbaum

USA TODAY

Why are the titular birds in the crazy-popular Angry Birds mobile game so ticked off at a bunch of green piggies?

The question that has been on millions of gamers' minds will finally be answered in the 3-D animated comedy The Angry Birds Movie, out May 20. It features the voices of Jason Sudeikis, Bill Hader, Josh Gad and Danny McBride.

We don't want to spoil exactly what's so anger-inducing for a bunch of round, flightless birds, but here are five things we learned at an Angry Birds Movie "Sneak Beak" event at Sony Pictures with producers, directors and voice actors:

1. THE BIRDS WEREN'T **ALWAYS SO ANGRY.**

According to producer John Cohen, who worked closely with Angry Birds game creator Mikael Hed, the story begins with a bunch of happy, flightless birds hanging out on an island. There are only a few birds - namely Red (Sudeikis), Chuck (Gad) and Bomb (McBride) - who are deal-



Chuck (Josh Gad) and Red (Jason Sudeikis) deal with pigs and peeves in The Angry Birds Movie.

ing with a few things in an angermanagement class.

2. THE BIRDS IN THE MOVIE DO NOT PLAY THE 'ANGRY BIRDS' GAME.

The birds' island is "naturalistic,"

Cohen says. There are no cellphones, which means no mobile apps and games. There are, however, places where birds can get feather extensions and participate in "Mommy & Me" classes with their eggs.

3. THE PIGS LIVE IN A **WORLD WITH 'HAM-ILTON.'**

There are advertisements on the pigs' island for the spoof Broadway smash Ham-ilton, starring Kevin Bacon. You can expect plenty more pop-cultural jokes

like that: The movie was written by Jon Vitti of *The Simpsons*.

4. SUDEIKIS, GAD AND MCBRIDE CAN RELATE TO THEIR CHARACTERS

Like his character who's "angry from the jump," Sudeikis, too, has a temper. "I get ticked off (by) the person I get to sleep next to, my supportive family ... (when) my bingo card is full," he jokes.

Gad says he also would be able to relate to the birds' anger, if, hypothetically, a "reality TV star could be the next president of the United States."

McBride channels his inner anger when GPS tells him to "make a left over four lanes of traffic."

5. HADER'S PIG VOICE SOUNDS LIKE ... 'MY DAD'

Hader, who voices the pig Leonard, tried out a few different sounds for his character. At first, he went with a Robert Preston/ Music Man-sounding voice, but in a second session, filmmakers asked him, "Do you have something else?'

"So we found this Hee Haw/ Music Man (sound) ... very jolly and excited. It's basically ... my

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- friends Shipwrecked
- Synagogue
- Tramp's spaghetti-dinner sharer
- 13 Bad _. _ (German resort)
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- 23 Look at with intentions 24 Off one's
- (crazy)
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native

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starter?

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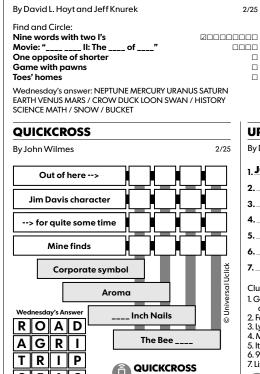
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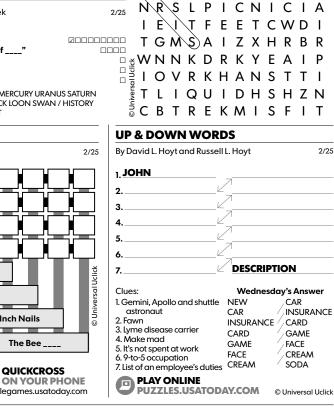
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