



Bat Boy Helps Newsletter

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Lights, Camera Voices

The scene is in Tampa, at the player's parking lot outside of Steinbrenner Field. Two black Cadillac Escalades are waiting for the "actors" to appear. General Partner/ Co- Chairperson Hank Steinbrenner is the first actor to arrive. He is in full gear wearing his navy blue blazer and showing off his so called "method acting" technique. Not that he's going to need it; Steinbrenner will perform the voiceover of his father, George, in Ray Negrón's children's book series, turning into an animation film, based on Negrón's new book "One Last Time: Goodbye To Yankee Stadium."



As the Yankees are preparing for their upcoming 2009 season with a spring training game verses the Philadelphia Phillies, Negrón appears with the rest of the "actors," Yogi Berra, Mariano Rivera, Goose Gossage, Mickey Rivers and Reggie Jackson, all decked out in their Yankee pinstripes and ready to go. They all grab a bottle of Aquafina water and excitedly jump in the Escalades for a one mile drive over to the Ron Rose Studios, where they'll do the voice overs of themselves. When they



arrive at the studio Creative Group CEO Joe Avalon, awaits each of them with a script. They glare at their lines and are ready to go. Bullpen closer Rivera, who is used to coming in at the end, steps into the booth first. He repeats his lines a few times and gets the thumbs up from Producer Barrett Esposito and Editor Joe Castellano, who are all part of Avalon's team. Hall of Famer Berra, who intensely studied his lines gets his at bat and neatly whacks it out of the park. A veteran of the commercial field Berra was ready for more. As each "actor" took their turns, the others waited patiently. River's read the N.Y. Post, Jackson and Gossage looked over their scripts and Steinbrenner coolly socialized with the studio staff.



All eyes were on "Mr. October," as Jackson put on the earphones and clinched his part with lines like "This kid looks pretty good in the clutch." He banged it out of the park with the line, "There's only one way to beat it, always believe in yourself." The lines fit Jackson to a tee, as his aura and mystic filled up the studio with the rest of these Yankee legends.

The "Baby Boss" showed who's in charge as Steinbrenner did some editing of his lines. "He'd say it this way," Steinbrenner stated about his dad in explaining his changes.

"Now go out there and make me proud. Someone famous once said "if it was easy, it wouldn't be worth doing." Steinbrenner roared, as he gave everybody flashbacks

of his legendary father.

Author Negrón even got into the act playing himself, the batboy, as he squeaked through the lines to sound like the younger him. With Hollywood actor Richard Gere already lending his voice as Lou Gehrig, this animation sounds like a legendary hit, just like this Yankees franchise.

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