

## Disney film star Chris Showerman talks about life beyond 'George 2'

By Susan Parcheta

Chelsea, Michigan may have Jeff Daniels for its hometown movie star, but the neighborhood to the north - encompassing Webberville, Stockbridge, Gregory, and Fowlerville - can lay claim to native son Christopher Showerman...whose star is rising on the Hollywood horizon.

The actor's film break came last October with the direct to video/DVD release of Disney's *George of the Jungle 2*.

Cast as *George*, he follows the vine-swinging role of celebrity Brendan Fraser in the 1997 remake of Jay Ward's 1960s animated classic.

Showerman, son of Jeanne Showerman of Webberville and Jim Showerman of Gregory, is a 1989 graduate of Stockbridge High School and 1992 Michigan State University alum.

He earned a degree in music theory and composition while at MSU. After wandering the Lansing theater circuit for awhile, Chris set out in 1997 on the *yellow brick road* to Hollywood. He's never looked back.

Now that 'George 2' has been showing on home entertainment systems for these past several months, we wondered what the actor has been up to since its release. How's his career shaping up?

From all indications...quite well. The movie is playing on the Disney Channel and Chris is finding himself being recognized as *George*...almost, that is.

He tells of a recent encounter at an outdoor café in Long Beach. "A guy in his 50s stopped and asked me if I was Tarzan. I got a pretty big kick out of that, even though he got the character wrong, because without the long hair and the loincloth, I'm rarely recognized from that movie. More people recognize me from Fear Factor [he was on in 2001] still."

"Apparently," quips Showerman, "his grandkids play the movie all the time, so I'm sure he was sick of seeing me by then."

Home recently for his cousin's wedding, he tells of a similar event while getting popcorn at a Lansing cinema. "People asked if I was Tarzan," says Chris. Then an employee, who'd seen the movie, recognized him for real...and asked for his autograph.

Another time he says he popped into a video store on Catalina Island. "I asked if they carried *George of the Jungle 2*. The owner of the store told me that they did not in fact carry it, because it was a cheesy direct-to-video release that didn't have the original guy in it. It was all I could do not to bust out laughing. Oh, if he only knew!"

**A *George 2* reviewer from England wrote:** "You know, for a silly movie designed for kids, I had a blast! I'm a big fan of Brendan Fraser, but I have to admit, I like the new guy, Chris Showerman, better as *George*. There was something different, more of a loveable, boy scout, klutz, nice guy."

We can only imagine the scores of young children viewing *George 2* at zillions of birthday gatherings, with *George's* character forever etched in their movie memories.

Mom, Jeanne, found it fascinating at the dentist's office when Chris went for his annual check-up, watching the little kids gazing up - way, way up - at her son walking across the room.

She recalls when the movie came out last fall, Webberville elementary students in Mrs. Snow's class, when asked to list some famous "Georges",

first cried out "George of the Jungle"! George Washington was last.

As Chris commented to Moviehole's Clint Morris last October regarding the direct-to-video release, "The way I see it, folks all over the world will be taking me home with them. That sorta makes us family, right?"

Family is all-important to him, as he notes, "I love to see my family - usually about once a year, twice if it's a good year. Now that I have a nephew and nieces, it makes the visit even more special."

With a smile that could melt the polar icecaps, a captivating, fun-loving personality and body-builder physique, it's no wonder the six-foot-two Showerman inspires young moviegoers. Co-star Julie Benz told one reviewer, he's "more like *George*, than *George*."

A "Fanboy Planet" profile of the movie begins simply: "Christopher Showerman." It ends simply, too: "Remember Christopher Showerman."

**While lots of little boys dream of being stunt men**, and spend countless hours playing the role, young Showerman turned that dream into a career goal... to be a movie action hero.

A thrill-seeker by nature, his performance as *George of the Jungle* was foreshadowed by vine-swinging fun at age 6 in his back yard. "I actually broke my arm," says Showerman, "trying to swing from one branch to another."

Some favorite thrills include piloting, skydiving, bungee jumping, billboard climbing ("don't do this, it's illegal," says Showerman) and, of course, he adds, "helicopter tackling (thanks to Fear Factor). Cliff diving is still on the to do list." **[See more of Chris' action adventure list in the extended interview that follows].**

The physical power in Christopher Showerman comes from his regimented fitness regime. As he describes it, "My routine is like brushing my teeth - regularity is the key. I don't think there is any magic quick fix for health; it's simply doing something every day to keep you mentally, physically and spiritually alive. The first step is knowing that you're worth the effort!"

Last November, Chris wrote in *Muscle and Fitness* magazine, "I spend two hours in the gym five days a week, plus an hour of cardio." At that time he was eating six high-protein/low carb meals and drinking at least a gallon of water per day.

He flexed his movie muscles for a profile article, "Swinging into Action" (and cover photo) in the January 2004 issue of *Max Sports and Fitness* magazine.

He currently is getting in shape for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Nautica Malibu Triathlon for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, slated for Sept. 19. Chris will be doing the running portion of a relay team for the event. **[See more about the triathlon benefit and how you can help sponsor Chris' team in a separate article that follows].**

"My diet is slightly different now," he points out, "as I am eating less to slim down [from 200 lbs to 190-195] for the triathlon competition. Easier to run when I'm not carrying so much weight around!"

"I'm still regulating my carbs, but not completely cutting them out. I think the body fatigues over any diet after a while and change slows or stops as a result."

Says Showerman, "I change my routines to keep my body responding and keep myself entertained. I am not doing a third hour of cardio at the moment

082304chrisshowermanfeaturepart2forsept6 2  
but I am still doing the 2 hours in the gym from  
5-7 a.m."

11/11/13 12:50 PM

**When it comes to real life action heroes,** Showerman has his own. Jackie Chan for one. "I love that he plays the nice guy that has the hidden ability to kick butt. He's also completely charming."

Another Christopher is high on his hero list...Christopher Reeve, actor and everyone's Superman. "He devotes his life," says Chris, "to making a change in the world and lives his life as an inspiration to others."

But the hero Showerman declares has most inspired him is his own brother, Sam, who, explains Chris, suffered severed nerves in an accident, but now is healed.

"He has overcome some amazing odds and hasn't let that change his personality, dull his charm, or lessen his drive in life."

Chris spends much of his time volunteering for charity events...including the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, the organization dearest to his heart.

"I was inspired by the folks I met through that organization and my brother to write a song called Heroes. It's about doing whatever it takes to achieve your dreams - even if the rest of the world tells you that your dream is impossible."

**Besides writing music, Chris continues to play piano, guitar and bass.** "Back in high school I played bassoon and saxophone, as well. I'm pretty rusty on all of it at the moment," he says, "and then, with a sprightly touch of Showerman humor, adds, "I mostly play the radio now."

Classically trained in voice, he had aspirations at one time to sing Opera. He intended to be a rock star after college, he says. "They didn't offer a degree in Rock Stardom so I settled for composition instead. I played with various bands for a few years, but realized if I wanted to be a rock star, I'd have to depend on other musicians creatively to be as driven as I am."

"I went back into my first love, acting, because when you go into an audition, it's just you. You succeed or fail based on yourself - there is no one else to shoulder the responsibility."

"I did a number of musicals in Lansing," Showerman says, "and reprised my role of Rocky [Riverwalk Theater 1997] in LA with David Arquett in the stage version of Rocky Horror. I also sang in a new musical in New York last June entitled Rush Limbaugh in Hell, by Tom Klunzinger. Of local interest, the premise is that Rush Limbaugh gets held hostage in Hell, Michigan."

"I think I was the only one in the cast," he laughs, "that had not only been to Hell, but had enjoyed a delicious meal at the Dam Site Inn."

**Showerman manages to squeak moments into his schedule for another passion...scriptwriting.** "I think the script is the most important part of the movie," he says. "That's why I love to write. You can compensate for a poor director or even mediocre performances if there is an amazing script, but if your script is bad, no one can save it."

"I am writing a western movie script right now," he adds, "called Last Cowboy. I always fall in love with my characters, and this is no exception."

Movies are his life...When asked if he ever feels like he's living a movie, Showerman responds, "Yeah, it really does feel like living a movie...sometimes a comedy, sometimes a tragedy!"

**Welcome to reality. TV, that is.** An early summer issue of TV Guide mentioned "Hollywood's talent pool overflowing with reality-TV castoffs who wonder what happened to their 15 minutes."

Chris Showerman knows. He's been there...done that. He left Webberville for Hollywood the year George I opened with Brendan Fraser. Six years later, he was the "new George." In between, he did the reality TV scene...and kept on plugging.

Looking back over those years, he recollects: "It struck me as a very non-linear progression. One day I was struggling to get my shot, then the next day, I was in front of major studio producers handing me a chance at the lead in a movie. It doesn't sound like the way things really happen, but that's really how it happened."

Acclimated now to the Hollywood scene, he'll admit to being in awe of certain personalities. "I did meet astronaut Buzz Aldrin this year. That was pretty inspiring. The guy must be in his 70s and still has a handshake so strong, it could turn coal into diamonds."

As for the celebrity scene in general, though, Chris has learned to navigate those waters with ease. "I'm still fascinated by celebrities because they do what I do, and usually more successfully at this point," he says. "I like to study success and what elements seem to be consistent in the champion of any field." As time goes by, though, he notes, "I believe less and less in that mysterious 'star quality.'"

During his early years in LA, he worked in various jobs. "I used to be a massage therapist to several stars. When I first met Heather Locklear, I was pretty nervous because I had a calendar of her hanging in my bedroom when I was 12. But unlike most people who met her that day, I was massaging her feet and legs and had to assume a professional 'in control' demeanor. I haven't been star struck since."

Having been described in one review as an "amiable newcomer," Showerman has a star quality, though, that casting agents are beginning to discover. Said "Zap2It" reviewer Dale Reynolds of the multi-faceted actor, "Chris is "bursting with talent."

**Since George 2 small miracles have transpired;** and his list of acting credits continues to grow. "Things are actually moving this summer," he says. "More people in Hollywood know who I am and there are some opportunities showing themselves."

Last November, he served as grand marshal for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Rosebud Parade for kids in Pasadena. "I was still completely unknown," he laughs. "Everyone cheered and waved and shouted, 'Who are you?!'"

He starred as Andy Hobart in Neil Simon's The Star Spangled Girl at North Hollywood's Secret Rose Theater. That, he says, was harrowing. He had to memorize 70 pages of dialogue in three weeks, perform it live, while during the same time period he was filming Sea of Fear.

This independent thriller, slated for release this fall, is directed by Andrew Schuth. "It is a psychological thriller," explains Chris, "where four rich kids charter a sail boat and the captain (played by Edward Albert - that's Eddie Albert's son of Green Acres fame) takes on a fifth unwelcome guest, played by myself. As luck would have it, the rich kids start disappearing off this boat that has been stranded at sea and no one can figure out who is responsible."

Showerman will also be seen on SOAPnet in September, in a series of one-minute episodes, beginning Sept. 13 for six weeks. "One Minute

Soap" is a takeoff on the old Taster's Choice serial coffee commercial.

Says Chris, "My character, Michael, meets Rebecca online and they schedule a date. However, Rebecca's loser ex-husband shows up at just the wrong time, threatening to spoil her chances of ever moving on in her romantic life (or at least going out with me!")

But the hottest role he played this year was a guest appearance on Fox's O.C. episode, *The Strip*. Chris was the lead "impossibly hot fireman" stripper at the Cohen house bachelorette party before Julie's wedding.

When asked about the O.C., he says it was a one-time appearance. "Besides, he says, "I don't know if I want to be type cast as a stripper." His famous line from that show came when Julie threw open the door and Fireman Jeff greeted her with, "Is it hot in here? Or is it just me?"

On that note, the question on the O.C. message board the next day was, "Anyone know who he is and where he came from? We'd love to see more (and more and more) of him."

Showerman will be seen more and more as he continues on that yellow brick road to stardom. Most recently, he was privileged to be among those heeding a casting call to audition for the role of Superman in the new movie. That, alone, is a dream come true.

While home, he says, "Mom helped me learn my lines. She makes a great Lois Lane."

Showerman fans may have seen his web interview last fall on Superman-v.com, in which Chris explores the archetype of Superman: "I think we all have a Clark Kent in us that is secretly dying to be the Man of Steel."

"The Superman story," he continues, "is perfect for meeting us on a very human level (Clark Kent) and taking us to that superhuman heroic feeling that we get by the end of the film. We walk out of the theater believing that more things are possible in our own lives. That is movie magic for me."

*for Chris with kids photo to go with the first half*

Christopher Showerman with his nieces, Tyler (2) Allison (5) and nephew Luke (8). Their parents are Sam and Cheryl Showerman of Gregory.

# Disney star Chris Showerman talks about life after *George 2*

## Part 2 of the 'Chris Chronicles'

By Susan Parcheta

This is a continuation of last week's feature article about Webberville native Christopher Showerman, star of the Disney movie, *George of the Jungle 2*. The actor lives in Los Angeles. In Part 1, Chris discussed his career ventures since the movie's release last October, his body building fitness regime, music, scriptwriting, and his volunteer work.

Like Tour de France cyclist Lance Armstrong, Christopher Showerman is driven by what's inside. "I've always been pretty driven," he says. "Perhaps it was the values that Mom and Dad raised us with. They always told us (and continue to tell us) that nothing is impossible. I truly believe that. If I didn't, I would never have been able to come this far."

His purpose in pursuing an acting career, he'll say simply, is: "I enjoy what I do."

"Being an actor gives you compassion for everyone you meet, because when you act a character, you can no longer judge him, you have to get inside of him and discover what makes him tick."

"You do that enough," he says, "and you begin to realize that we all want the same things - to be happy, to feel important, to be loved, to be safe, to feel alive. Different characters just go about achieving it differently."

"My main purpose," he adds, "is to enjoy my life and to live to the fullest, and from that I'll hopefully inspire others to enjoy theirs and to become more of what they were meant to be as well."

As for inspiration along the way each day, Chris lists "kids, underdog stories, the promise of a new goal."

Reflectively, he talks about the journey thus far. "It never moves fast enough when you are going forward, but it seems like it all happened in the blink of an eye when you are looking back at it."

Looking back ten years from now, A Disney trivia question might be: "What famous actor played the starring role in the 2003 movie *Walt Disney's George of the Jungle 2*, and went on to sustain a rewarding career in film - both as an actor and a screenwriter?"

Meanwhile, "grab a vine" *George* fans and swing on down to your local movie rental shop or peruse the Disney Channel listings for showings of *George of the Jungle 2*. The movie is PG. For a nutshell review, go to [www.tvguide.com/movies](http://www.tvguide.com/movies) or [www.Georgeofthejungle2.com](http://www.Georgeofthejungle2.com).

Add it to your home collection of Disney films, VHS or DVD, by purchasing wherever movies are sold. It's available online at amazon.com (with reviews)

You can also check up on Chris' activities on his website: [www.christophershowerman.com](http://www.christophershowerman.com) or his fan site: [www.officialchristophershowerman.com](http://www.officialchristophershowerman.com)

As he would probably put it, "See you at the movies!"

## Interview sequel: The world according to actor Christopher Showerman

By Susan Parcheta

Following is an extended interview with Chris Showerman, star of Disney's *George of the Jungle 2*.

Whatever happens in his acting career, all things will be "excellent and possible" in Christopher Showerman's world. It's how he looks at life...when everyday is like Christmas.

**How did you come to have such a positive outlook on life?** My mom always looked at the solutions and the possibilities growing up. I think we were trained to not see problems, but opportunities.

**We know you are greatly involved in volunteer work. How has that aspect of your life developed?** I recently saw *Spider Man 2* and was reminded of a great thought in that script. "With great power comes great responsibility." This is such a great way to really relish the gratitude for all that we have that makes us unique, whether it's money, or intelligence, or strength or a talent, etc.

The converse is true and even more empowering: "With great responsibility comes great power." When you proactively put your energy and life force into making the world a better place and continually hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than others expect, you 'mysteriously' begin to acquire more of the gifts that make it possible for you to contribute and make a positive difference in the world.

**How do you know which causes you want to espouse?** There are so many worthwhile causes out there I could never get to them all. The bottom line is people putting an effort into enriching someone else's life. It may be a charity or benefit, or it may be teaching your kid how to tie his shoe, mowing your neighbor's lawn when he's sick, or calling someone you haven't talked to in a year to let them know someone's thinking about them.

Chris will be singing Nov. 6 in the annual S.T.A.G.E. Concert in Los Angeles. *The Best is Yet to Come: The Music of Cy Coleman* will salute the artist's work and benefit the Actors' Fund of America.

**You helped raise \$700,000 when you were celebrity host of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk Orange County in June. What would you like to share about your work on behalf of AIDS patients?** I have several pals living with AIDS. The first time I encountered someone with AIDS, I had the usual reaction of fear and judgment. However, once I became educated about the disease, it's not just a gay issue or a black issue; it is an epidemic that is currently rising fastest with heterosexual women. My involvement with the AIDS effort is to bridge the gap of awareness, understanding and education for folks, who, like me, didn't fully understand the disease.

**Tell about the Jeran Hollywood Graffiti gown benefit this spring, and your part in that.** The Hollywood Graffiti Gown is a black dress that is covered with platinum beaded signatures of hundreds of female Hollywood legends. Currently, Jerry Skeels and Randy McLaughlin are working on the train, which will have the male Hollywood celebrities on it. (They asked for my signature, so we'll just wait and see if it makes the train.) It will be auctioned off and the proceeds will be donated to AIDS research. Opening bid: \$1,000,000.00

**Your feeling about heroes...whether in the movies or in real life.** A hero is anyone who makes a sacrifice for someone else. Parents, teachers, crossing guards - they're everywhere, and

probably most of them don't even know they're heroes. If you think about your favorite stories or movies, I bet you love the hero in that story because he did something selfless for someone else.

**Playing action hero roles requires enormous energy. How do you maintain such a high-energy lifestyle?** I am pretty high energy most of the time. I think it takes an awesome amount of energy to compete at the top of any field. However, I believe that passion for what you do enables you to tap into energy reserves you never knew you had. Remember the first time you fell in love and felt like you only needed three hours of sleep for the whole first week?

**You did most of your own stunts for George 2. How have you prepared for such action roles?** Every role requires different skills from the actor, so I stay in pretty good shape all the time, so I'm ready to expand into whatever the role asks of me (i.e. fencing, horseback riding, etc.).

**What kinds of thrilling things would you like to pursue? Motorcycling?** Not after my crash in '98 on Sunset Blvd. I broke my leg in three places and was full of pins for a year. I love riding, but will wait till I move out of the city to get another bike.

**Skydiving?** I kinda promised mom I wouldn't do that anymore. **Mountain climbing?** Yup. [Chris on Aug. 28 hiked to the top of Mt. Whitney. The California mountain is the highest peak in the contiguous United States at 14, 491 ft]

**Swimming/diving?** Definitely. **Martial arts?** Absolutely. **Surfing?** I've gone a couple of times, but I'm not very good at it. I make good shark bait. **Horses?** Love them! **Car racing?** Yes, someday. But this takes some capital!! **Biking?** What, and try to compete with Lance? Not a chance. **Any other sports?** Archery.

**How do you think being an Eagle Scout contributed to your career?** The whole underlying purpose behind the Eagle Scout challenge is to develop leadership skills. This has been a priceless experience that I still use every day with everyone I meet. I can't recommend scouting enough for both boys and girls.

**What about George 3? What if there is a sequel?** If there is a sequel, I'd be happy to do it. I haven't heard any murmurs of a sequel.

**Variety said when George came out: "Expect a record-setting franchise-encouraging rental and sell-through biz." Do you know how it's been doing?** I know we surpassed the sales figures they had projected, but I haven't heard that we broke any records.

**By the time a movie comes out, you're at a different place in your life. How do you feel about that?** I remember the first time I saw a completed version of George. I thought, "Wow, who is that guy...oh yeah, that was me."

**Hopefully George 2 will have a long shelf life...much like another George in It's a Wonderful Life! Or at least as long as a Twinkie.**

**After playing the hunky role of George, and after the O.C. appearance as the hot fireman, think you'll make next year's hottest Hollywood bachelors' list?** Well, I am a bachelor, and I am in Hollywood, and it is pretty hot today. **On the dating scene?** I just got a call from The Secret Rose Theatre Company wanting me to donate a massage or a date to their auction to raise money for the theater. I could donate a date - that's like dropping a quarter into the great date gumball machine.

**What if you suddenly found yourself a teenage heartthrob?** Well, the teenage heartthrob route

hasn't hurt Orlando Bloom's career! I was written up in Scholastic last year. I don't think that qualifies me as a teenage heartthrob yet though.

**A quirky question: what magnets do you have on your refrigerator?** What a fun question! Hmmm, let me see... One says: *A journey of 3,000 miles begins with a single step.* - A George of the Jungle 2 magnet - A picture frame magnet with a picture of Mom - One says: *We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to leave the shore.*

**What books might we find in your library?** Mostly unread ones. Once I read them, I give them away. Favorites: *Giant Steps* by Tony Robbins, *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale, *The Search for Superstrings*, *Symmetry*, and *the Theory of Everything* by John Gribbin, *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle. **Movies?** *Life is Beautiful*, *The Iron Giant*, *The Sixth Sense*, *The Notebook*, *Rocky*, *Terminator 2*, *Lonesome Dove* (miniseries), *The Matrix*, *ET*, *Forrest Gump*. **Music?** Everything, really. I listen to classical, jazz, rap, country, pop, metal. Not a big blues fan - I know, I know, but everything else when it's good. I also like silence a lot.

**How is the Christopher Showerman Fan Club shaping up?** The fan club is meager in numbers, but mighty in spirit. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in emails via the websites out there.

**You've said you answer all your email?** It's true, I do TRY to answer all the mail personally. I figure if someone takes the time to write me, and they are the people that really decide if my career moves forward or not, that should be a priority. Even if I have to stay inside typing, while all the other children get to go have recess.

**Who is the president of your fan club?** I think my mom is the president of my fan club. At least I get the most email from her, so I'll give her the honorary position.

**Do you know how many members you have?** I think I have four fans now. **And are you getting more global fan mail?** Brazil, Denmark, Stockbridge, Webberville, Fowlerville, Australia and Canada.

**What has been a typical fan mail?** It's been such a wide range of responses! I get letters from young men that want to know what my workout routine is, letters from moms to say their kids loved the picture, letters from kids asking my advice on totally unrelated matters, letters from moms on totally unrelated matters...I think people feel a certain sense of security divulging their personal life to me because I played such a likable character...and there is a sense of safety there, too, because I am still a complete stranger.

**You recently responded to a teen's letter to the editor about her perception of Disney movies having a racist and sexist slant. You said, "We the audience are actually the ones in control of what ends up on the television and movie screen." Do you get up on the soapbox often?** I have opinions on most things. However, I think when you are in the public eye, you need to discriminate pick your battles, otherwise your personal politics can alienate your audience.

**Please tell about your personal signature: All things excellent, all things possible.**

All Things Excellent: *Life is perfect as it is in the now. Just be and accept and appreciate the present moment because it is perfect, excellent. And you are enough as you are right now.*

All Things Possible: *The future is yet unwritten - with effort and dedication you can*

082304chrisshowermanfeaturepart2forsept6 6  
*shape any future you choose for yourself. If you do not choose one, one will be chosen for you.*

11/11/13 12:50 PM

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation as a tribute to Elizabeth's legacy and inspiration in working to find the answers that will eradicate pediatric HIV/AIDS.

**Here's a monumental question: You were co-valedictorian of your senior class at SHS. What did you tell your classmates in your valedictory address?**

Whew! That was a while ago!! I remember that I had written it on a brown bag and it was about living fully now because now is the only time you have...I think that's what it was.

**What would you tell them now?** I think I'd shut up and listen - they have 15 years of different experiences I need to catch up on with them.

*Cutlines to go with the O.C. AIDS Benefit Walk on June 6*

Celebrity host Chris Showerman and friend, Keri (!) announce the winners at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk Orange County on Sunday, June 6, 2004.

Actor Christopher Showerman demonstrates his muscle power, climbing the rock wall at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk in Irvine, CA in June.

Cutline to go with the Malibu AIDS benefit run

*George of the Jungle 2* star, actor Christopher Showerman, finishing the running portion of the 2003 Nautica Malibu Triathlon for the Elizabeth Glaser AIDS Foundation.

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation creates a future of hope for children and families worldwide by eradicating pediatric AIDS, providing care and treatment to people with HIV/AIDS, and accelerating the discovery of new treatments for other serious and life-threatening pediatric illnesses.

A non-profit organization, the Foundation receives an 'A' rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy.

"If folks want to support that cause," says Showerman, "they could sponsor me. They would just have to include my name on any donations to sponsor my team."

Showerman is doing the running portion of the running, biking, swimming relay event. "This year I am on Team Disney," he said, "which has many participants who work for that company in some capacity. I am on the team because George 2 was a Disney release."

Showerman's Disney team came in second as a celebrity team in the event (competing only against other celebrity teams). Disney won the overall in contributions last year, he said.

For more information about the event, or to help sponsor Chris, visit the websites: ([www.pedaids-nauticamalibutriathlon.org](http://www.pedaids-nauticamalibutriathlon.org)) or ([www.pedaids.org](http://www.pedaids.org)) or visit <https://secure2.i-3.com/pedaids/triathlonpledge.jsp> to make an on-line donation or mail donation to:

The Elisabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
2950 31st Street, #125, Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Phone: 310-314-1459 FAX: 310-314-1469

## Help sponsor Chris Showerman's team in children's AIDS triathlon

Actor Christopher Showerman, formerly of Webberville and star of Disney's *George of the Jungle 2*, welcomes local support of his team at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Nautica Malibu Triathlon for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation on Sept. 19.

Showerman spends much of his time donating his efforts to the Elizabeth Glaser organization, appearing at celebrity AIDS benefits during the year.

As he explains, "In 1988, the Pediatric AIDS Foundation was founded by three friends who were compelled to take action after Elizabeth Glaser and her husband, Paul, discovered that she, their daughter Ariel and son Jake were all HIV-infected."

What began at a kitchen table more than 12 years ago is now the leading national non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, funding and conducting critical pediatric AIDS research.

Today, there is an entire community of pediatric AIDS researchers that didn't exist before. Fewer children are being born with HIV, and children with HIV infection are living longer and healthier lives.

Elizabeth Glaser died in 1994 but her vision, passion and mission live on in the Foundation and its work. On December 1, 1997 the Foundation officially enhanced its name to become the