



"When they called my name, I had this feeling I could hear half of America going, 'On no. Come on... Her, again?' You know. But, whatever."
— Meryl Streep



"Did I really earn this, or did I just wear you all down?"
— Sandra Bullock



"There are so many people trying to take credit for this I wouldn't know where to begin."
— Bill Murray



"God bless that potential that we all have for making anything possible if we think we deserve it. I deserve this."
— Shirley MacLaine



"The Oscar sits on some shelf above my desk. If there was an earthquake, I could actually be killed by my own Academy Award."
— Helen Hunt



"Our next presenters are Hollywood royalty, going back to the 1970s and '80s. They remember when Hollywood was nothing but cocaine trees as far as the eye can see."
— Seth MacFarlane, introducing Jane Fonda & Michael Douglas



"We will remember this year as the year men screwed up so badly, women started dating fish."
— Jimmy Kimmel ("The Shape of Water")



"To be honest I don't have a speech prepared. I never win these things. This isn't an Oscar, but I guess it's a start. Thank You."
— Leonardo DiCaprio (on his Golden Globe win)



"And now, like a supermodels's vagina, let's all give a warm welcome to Leonardo DiCaprio."

Craig T. Nelson Shares Set Secrets from Book Club and Incredibles 2

By Allison Kugel



From his early days on the comedy stage to playing lovable football fanatic, Hayden Fox, on the sitcom *Coach* and *Zeek Braverman* to *Parenthood* and countless movie roles, Craig T. Nelson's career has been as versatile as it is prolific. Audiences love his work: *Stir Crazy*, *Poltergeist*, *All The Right Moves*, *Silkwood*, *The Devil's Advocate*, *The Family Stone*, *The Proposal*, the animated Disney Pixar movie; *The Incredibles*, introduced Nelson to a younger audience as the voice of Mr. Incredible, and as he tells it, the world stops spinning whenever a star-struck child hears him speak; he resumed his role as Mr. Incredible in *Incredibles 2*, and Nelson played Mary Steenburgen's husband in the comedy, *Book Club*.

Allison: Book Club has many actors. What does an ensemble cast offer that carrying a film or TV show on your own doesn't?

Nelson: Working with different characters being played broadens what you can do as an actor. The way people react to people they meet, it's the same dynamic and can be something of an adventure.

Allison: This movie addresses mid-to-later-life slump people slide into without realizing it's happening. In Book Club, your wife, played by Mary Steenburgen feels your marriage has fallen into a slump.

Nelson: Part of the confusion is the result of what society is demanding which is pretty much all youth oriented. Cosmetically and pharmaceutically you're supposed to be able to prolong your life, or the appearance of it. The reality is that you do age. Yes, we are living longer, but there's more pressure associated with it. The interesting part is how each of us deals with it. If you're married to your best friend, as I am; I'm married thirty-four years, you realize you're going to have ups and downs. Physically and emotionally you're going to change. It seems like yesterday I was young and talking to older actors about aging. They weren't working as much. I think they felt neglected. When it started happening to me, it was like, "Whoa! Wait a minute here." But I think I was prepared for it to a certain degree.

Allison: it seems that Hollywood is now gaining a little more respect for stories about mature people.

Nelson: Movies like *Book Club* help. Ageism has been prevalent in this business for a long time. A lot of buying power rests in the hands of people in their forties, fifties and approaching retirement. I enjoy stories like *Book Club*, which I feel are truthful.

Allison: You began your career as a stand-up comedian, correct?

Nelson: Barry Levinson and I did stand-up [comedy] together for four years, and another guy, Rudy DeLuca joined us. We wrote and performed comedy, and then we worked with Tim Conway, John Byner and Alan King. That's how I started. I was never really interested in doing stand-up comedy. Barry Levinson and I were in the Oxford Theatre together and Barry said, "Why don't we do a stand-up act?" I had never even thought of it, but we put an act together, auditioned and started doing clubs. I met so many incredible people during that time. Comedy helped me be better at what I did. There are so many experiences and so many people to draw on, and it's a wonderful place to be.

Allison: It's not your first time playing Mary Steenburgen's husband. Do you have a comfortable rapport?

Nelson: She's so much fun to work with. She's got this wonderful quirkiness to her that is so beautiful. You also need to stay on top of your game with her, as with all the actresses in this film. I've worked with Diane [Keaton], I've worked with Jane [Fonda], I hadn't met Candice [Bergen] until this film, so that was neat.

Allison: Why the fourteen-year gap between the release of *The Incredibles* and *Incredibles 2*?

Nelson: I can tell you that [Incredibles writer and director] Brad Bird was busy with other things. He wanted to do some live action projects and then he made *Ratatouille* right after *The Incredibles*.

Allison: In the first *Incredibles*, your character struggled as a civilian wanting to be a superhero again. Holly Hunter's character wanted a family life. In *Incredibles 2*, she's a superhero and you're a stay at home dad.

Nelson: He feels rejected, like, "Why don't they want me out there?" He takes a back seat and makes the sacrifice, but has resentment going on. Now at home he gets to know his children in a way that he hasn't before.

Allison: How do you get into character when you're voicing Mr. Incredible?

Nelson: You prepare ahead of time especially vocally because there are a lot of different ranges you have to get to. It's a long and involved process that's complexly different from regular acting.

Allison: What do your children and grandchildren think of you playing Mr. Incredible?

Nelson: They still don't believe it [laughs]. I have to do lines from the film, so they can hear me do the voice, and then it's, "Oh yeah, that's him." My older son was visiting, and someone overheard me talking to him, turned and said, "My God! Are you Mr. Incredible?!" People recognize the voice and look at you with disbelief. Since 2004, when the original movie came out, they developed a range of different processes that have gone into this movie, including its color enrichment. For me, an exciting thing about the second movie is the character Jack Jack, the baby comes alive and it's a family deal. Both *Book Club* and *Incredibles 2* are two movies I'm proud to let my family watch. ■
For more on Craig Nelson visit: AllisonKugel.com