

iCarly's Jerry Trainor Stars in Brand New Nick at Nite Family Comedy Series Wendell & Vinnie Premiering Sunday, Feb. 17, at 8p.m. (ET/PT)

Original Multi-Camera Scripted Series from Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer Jay Kogen and Aaron Kaplan; Also Stars Buddy Handleson as Trainor's 12-Year-Old Nephew along with Nicole Sullivan

SANTA MONICA Calif., Jan. 17, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- After five successful seasons on the groundbreaking series *iCarly*, Jerry Trainor steps into his first starring and producing role on [Nick at Nite's](#) brand-new live-action family comedy, [Wendell & Vinnie](#), premiering [Sunday, Feb. 17, at 8p.m. \(ET/PT\)](#). A multi-camera scripted half-hour, the series follows 30-year-old Vinnie Bassett (Trainor) living the life of a carefree bachelor, when he suddenly becomes the legal guardian of his precocious, wise-beyond-his-years nephew, Wendell (Buddy Handleson, *Shake It Up*) forming a hysterical odd-couple family dynamic. Nicole Sullivan (*Rita Rocks*, *MadTV*) also stars as Vinnie's older unlucky-in-love sister, Wilma, with Haley Strode (*Gangster Squad*) as Vinnie's newly divorced neighbor and love interest, Taryn. The series will air regularly on Sundays at 8p.m. (ET/PT) followed by the Scott Baio original comedy, [See Dad Run](#) at 8:30p.m.

(Photo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20130117/NY44098>)

"Jerry's infectious style of wacky comedy made him a favorite with kids and families over the past five years on *iCarly*, and this new family series from the Emmy award-winning sitcom veteran Jay Kogen will showcase his incredible comedic talents to an even broader audience," said Russell Hicks, Nickelodeon's President of Content Development and Production. "We look forward to the smart humor that develops from this collaboration."

Wendell & Vinnie follows Vinnie Bassett, proprietor of a pop culture memorabilia store who only takes breaks to read comic books and play video games. His bachelor life comes to a halt when he assumes guardianship of his incredibly intelligent and mature nephew, Wendell. They soon find that 12-year-old Wendell may be just the parent Vinnie needs. This season will find lighthearted Vinnie helping socially awkward Wendell — and vice versa — including Vinnie navigating through PTA politics to help Wendell build a school garden, a sleepover that goes awry when Vinnie becomes the center of attention and Wendell sent to detention after he helps Vinnie get closer to his vice principal. *Wendell & Vinnie* will also feature special guest appearances by Dan Castellaneta (*The Simpsons*), Robin Givens (*House of Payne*) and Willie Garson (*Sex and the City*).

In support of the Feb. 17 premiere, [NickatNite.com](#) has launched its [Wendell & Vinnie](#) show site, which includes trailers, character information, sneak peek photo galleries and message boards as well as a ["Are You A Wendell or a Vinnie?"](#) quiz. Full episodes will also be made available after each premiere. Beginning Feb. 18, *Wendell & Vinnie* episodes will be available for purchase on iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Xbox Video, Vudu, PlayStation Store and Samsung Media Hub. Viewers can keep up with the show on Twitter by following the Nick@Nite handle at [@nickatnitetv](#) and by liking the [Wendell & Vinnie](#) Facebook pages.

Star and producer Jerry Trainor is best known for his role as Spencer, the off-centered aspiring artist and brother/guardian of his teenage sister Carly on Nickelodeon's mega-hit television series *iCarly*. Trainor also currently stars in the hit Nickelodeon animated comedy series *T.U.F.F. Puppy* as the voice of Dudley Puppy. Additionally, he starred alongside his *iCarly* co-star Jennette McCurdy in the 2010 Nickelodeon original television movie *Best Player*. After moving to Los Angeles, Trainor landed a three-episode arc on MTV's *Undressed* and has also appeared in the feature film *Donnie Darko* starring Jake Gyllenhaal before going on to guest-star in episodes of *Malcolm in the Middle*, *ER* and *Angel*. He also played a recurring character as an audio-visual geek in *Crossing Jordan* before winning the career catalyst role of erratic usher Crazy Steve in *Drake & Josh*.

The series is executive produced by Emmy Award-winning Jay Kogen and Aaron Kaplan. A seasoned TV comedy writer/producer, Kogen, along with friend Wallace Wolodarsky, started writing as a team on the critically acclaimed *The Tracey Ullman Show* where, in four seasons, they rose to producers, received three Emmy nominations and garnered an Emmy Award. Soon after, the two helped launch *The Simpsons*, where they became supervising producers and worked on the show for the first five seasons, helping to create and develop many of the regular characters including Mr. Burns, Smithers, Otto, Mrs. Krabappel and Krusty. Kogen also wrote and co-executive produced *Frasier*, winning two more Emmy Awards and a Humanitas Award. Since then, he has spent the last few decades writing, producing and directing shows such as *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *The George Lopez Show*, *Wanda at Large*, *The Class* and Nickelodeon's *The Troop*. Most recently, Kogen was co-executive producer of *Happily Divorced* for TV Land.

Aaron Kaplan is the Founder and CEO of Kapital Entertainment, a self-funded, truly independent production company. Since its formation in 2009, Kapital Entertainment has become a prominent leader in the media industry, known for its vast array of television, digital and film content. In just three years, Kapital Entertainment has had six television projects ordered to series including *The Neighbors* on ABC and *The Inbetweeners* on MTV. He also executive produced FOX's *Terra Nova* with Steven Spielberg and Peter Chernin.

Nick at Nite is Nickelodeon's nighttime programming block that features popular hit family comedies including the Emmy Award-

winning series [Friends](#), [My Wife & Kids](#), [George Lopez](#), [The Nanny](#), [Yes, Dear](#) and most recently, *See Dad Run* starring Scott Baio.

About Nickelodeon

Nickelodeon, now in its 33rd year, is the number-one entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The company includes television programming and production in the United States and around the world, plus consumer products, online, recreation, books, and feature films. Nickelodeon's U.S. television network is seen in almost 100 million households and has been the number-one-rated basic cable network for 18 consecutive years. For more information or artwork, visit www.nickpress.com. Nickelodeon and all related titles, characters and logos are trademarks of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIA, VIAB).

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