

'Diary' actors speak to young journalists

By young journalists in the PressFriends program

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[Daily Breeze] Editor's note: This interview with actors Devon Bostick and Zachary Gordon, stars of the PG-rated comedy "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules," was conducted by young journalists participating in the PressFriends program. PressFriends is a community service group of local middle and high school students who work with elementary schools to help them start and run school newspapers. They also conduct writing workshops at local libraries.

Anyone who has a sibling probably will enjoy "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules," coming to theaters on Friday. If you're an older brother or sister, Rodrick Heffley - the older sibling of the film's protagonist, Greg Heffley, will make you look good. No older sibling is quite as creatively mean as Rodrick.

But, according to actor Devon Bostick, who plays Rodrick, "Rodrick does it out of love."

And even Zachary Gordon, who stars as Greg Heffley, said that if there was another role that he could play, it would be Rodrick, because he's a lot of fun.

"Fun" is the word that best describes the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series of films and books.

Reporters from eight of the elementary student newspapers in PressFriends interviewed Bostick and Gordon.

PressFriends: Are you like your characters in real life?

Bostick: I'm like Rodrick in that I like sleeping in a lot. I love sleeping in until noon or 2 p.m. or however long Rodrick does. I'm not as lazy or as mean as Rodrick, so that part's acting, but Rodrick and I both have a quirky sense of humor. Rodrick is really mean to his little brother, but me and my younger brother get along very well, so I'm not really like him.

Gordon: Greg is manipulative and he takes things way too far. He takes advantage of people. He does things without thinking them through. I have a lot of friends and I'm nice and that's a big difference between Greg and me.

PressFriends: Was it more fun shooting the first or second movie?

Gordon: Both were extremely fun, but I love the first of everything. "Wimpy 2" is better than the first movie, because it's really funny. But the first one was really fun to film because I didn't know anyone, and it was challenging to get to know everybody as well as trying to portray this stick figure with three hairs.

Bostick: It was definitely more fun shooting the second movie. I was only in the shooting for the first movie for two or three weeks, and you only get a glimpse of Rodrick and who he really is. We only got to see him be mean or play tricks on Greg. It was very fun to do the second movie, because in the second movie, you get to see his playfulness, his happy side and his vulnerable side, and also his dark side. So I had a lot more fun shooting the second movie, because I was there every single day on the set working with the kids and the crew and there was a lot more opportunity to show who Rodrick is.

PressFriends: What was your favorite scene in the movie?

Bostick: My favorite scene is probably the talent show, which you see at the end of the movie, because I get to rock-and-roll. I



Zachary Gordon, left, and Devon Bostick star in "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"

play my drums for an audience and be goofy - that's definitely my favorite.

Gordon: One in particular is a scene where I'm in my underwear. It was really fun because I would never get to do that in real life. I mean, I was embarrassed when it first started but after awhile I kinda got used to it.

PressFriends: What has been your favorite acting role?

Bostick: My first favorite acting role was playing this troubled kid in a movie called "Adoration," which was an Atom Egoyan movie I did, and it's a journey of this kid trying to figure out why his parents died and that was my favorite role until Rodrick came into my life. Now Rodrick is by far the most exciting, exhilarating, funny character that I've ever played. I love Rodrick with all my heart.

PressFriends: Do you plan to stay in acting as a career?

Bostick: I do plan on staying in acting as a career. Hopefully, people will still hire me. I'm hoping that I'll be able to do this for a long time and expand into writing and directing, I love all parts of this industry and making movies.

Gordon: I'd really like to be a director. I'd like to continue with acting as well. I really like writing; I have a passion for writing. I'd like to write films and maybe star in them and direct them.

PressFriends: Do the kids in your school treat you differently since you are a movie star?

Gordon: Some do. Some just want to be my friend because I'm in the movie. I wouldn't say I'm a movie star and my friends who were with me before the movie came out and before I even got the movie have been really supportive. It was nice to know that my real friends are my true friends but there are some people who still want to be my friend just because I'm a nice person.

Contributors to this article were reporters from the Roosevelt Times (Roosevelt Elementary School, Lawndale), Tiger Times (Taper Avenue Elementary, San Pedro), LA's Best Times (135th Street Elementary, Gardena), Everything Twain (Twain Elementary, Lawndale), The Roar (Lincoln Elementary, Burlingame), 7th Street Elementary School in San Pedro, Vista Grande Elementary School in Rancho Palos Verdes, and PV Kids News (PressFriends and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library District).