

Your new film, 50/50, draws from your good friend and screenwriter Will Reiser's real-life fight with a rare spinal cancer. As both producer and co-star, you call it a "passion project." What sets this film apart from your previous work? [Will and I] took the attitude that we had to make something

positive out of this, something we were proud of. It's not the type of movie, when you hear it described, that sounds like the best idea ever!

The film has many, many laugh-out-loud moments. How do you make fighting cancer funny without crossing the line?

We never wanted to be funny for the sake of being funny. It had to be consistent with the story and the characters. When your perspective is that of a comedy writer, you naturally see funny things in any situation, and it was about showing those funny things even though it was such a terrible time.

This movie also earns itself a five-hankie rating. Are you a closet fan of "weepies"?

I like a movie that's both very funny and has a lot of emotional resonance to it. There aren't a lot of movies that make you laugh really hard and make you cry.

## ACTOR/PRODUCER

WebMD has a cameo in the film! Did Will Reiser really check out his symptoms—and odds for survival, from which the film gets its name—on WebMD.com?

Will is definitely the type to search online, looking up all sorts of potential problems.

Is there a history of cancer in your own family? And do you take any specific health precautions?

Not a huge history. Some. I try to eat healthy. And I ingest as few horrible chemicals as possible. And I wear sunscreen!

Your fiancée, Lauren Miller, makes a brief appearance in 50/50, and you were interviewed together on Larry King's special, Unthinkable: The Alzheimer's Epidemic. [Miller's mother currently has the disease.] What do we need to know about this degenerative condition?

I think a lot of young people don't realize Alzheimer's is something that affects not just our grandparents' generation [but also] our parents' generation, and eventually our generation. Now that I've seen [Alzheimer's] firsthand, I think it's something that can use support.

Do you have a hero from the worlds of acting, comedy, or otherwise?

I wouldn't be able to narrow it down to one person. Too hard-I have many heroes. But who's inspired me? Trey Parker and Matt Stone consistently do incredibly funny stuff. If there's anyone I get jealous of, it's them.

When you were shooting The Green Hornet, you reportedly dropped 30 pounds for the role. Was it difficult to do, and have you maintained the weight loss?

Let's say I've found a happy middle ground. OK, I'm not eating as well as I used to. Now you're making me feel bad. I feel like I'm talking to my grandmother!

What's your relationship with exercise now?

I use an elliptical machine because I hate running. I hate exercising. So I have to do it in ways that I'm tricking myself that I'm not doing it. Anything I can do in front of a television or while playing a video game automatically works better for me.

If you were stuck in a hospital bed for six months and you could choose anyone from the past or present for a roommate, who would it be, and why?

Anyone? Groucho Marx. He'd be funny and interesting to talk to, a forefather of modern comedy.—Lauren Paige Kennedy