

THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## SHINING STAR



Benjamin Foster of Bear, De. says he is not interested in just writing the movie and then selling it, he wants to cover every facet of the film industry. REARRANGED PHOTO

# Wonder kid

## Precocious 10-year-old has head start on successful Hollywood filmmaking career

By Michelle J. Chilton  
Tribune Correspondent

Spike Lee, Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard better watch out. There's a new film director/actor on the scene, and he's barely out of diapers. While most young boys are busy playing video games or watching movies, 10-year-old Benjamin Lee Foster of Bear, Del. is either acting the role or casting for one.

Credited with accomplishments equal to veterans in the field, Foster actually began his artistic career at the age of eight months with a New York print ad.

Guided by loving and supportive parents, Foster has written, produced and directed two short films. His father, Andre Butler Sr. appears in all of his son's films.

Foster's first film, "Tough Life" has

been featured at the Wilmington Film Festival and the Philadelphia Film Festival (Philly Fest) this year. The idea for the movie originated from one of Foster's school projects.

Foster's mother, Nicole Butler, owns and operates A&B Productions, a positive-themed talent agency that not only supports Foster in his endeavors but also promotes other artistically talented young people.

The young filmmaker is currently finishing his second movie, "The Comedy Kid," featuring actress Ella Mitchell is scheduled for completion by the end of this month. Mitchell is best known for her role in the Martin Lawrence movie, "Big Momma's House." Foster has also had a minor role in the new CBS drama, "Hack."

All of Butler's five children are gifted in the arts. Tera, 21, Butler's oldest, not only acts and writes her own plays, but has been recognized for her poetry

as early as age six; Andre Jr., 16 writes and sings his own original music as well as plays the keyboard; Alan, 15, plays the drums and Sondra, 13 acts and recites poetry. Butler knows her youngest son is multitalented — however, "I think he wants acting and film making, but [in] filmmaking he's got more exposure because he's so young and he came up with the idea," Butler added.

When it comes to Foster's acting career, Butler is careful not to run from one audition to another trying to push her son too far or too fast onto the Hollywood scene. Also when it comes to scriptwriting, little time is left for Foster to give audience to his other pastime activities of golf, basketball and playing the guitar. Foster said he is not interested in just writing the movie and then selling.

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