

## Three more hanging out with 'Harold'



By Gregg Goldstein

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NEW YORK -- Ally Sheedy, Colin Quinn and, in her first role since the hit film musical "Hairspray," Nikki Blonsky are joining the cast of T. Sean Shannon's comedy "Harold."

Blonsky plays Rhonda, the nerdy best friend of balding teen Harold (Spencer Breslin). "The Breakfast Club" star Sheedy returns to the high school comedy genre as Maureen, a mother who helps her prematurely aging son cope with incessant teasing.

Quinn plays Reedy, a drunken barfly who's a regular at a strip club Harold frequents. Cuba Gooding Jr., one of the film's producers, plays a school janitor who befriends the troubled title character.

Filming on "Harold" has just begun in Blonsky's hometown of Great Neck, N.Y. The 18-year-old actress had no idea the movie would be shot there when she auditioned. "The set is my middle school," she said. "It's kinda creepy. I didn't have the best time there, so going back is definitely cooler."

Her brother attends the school and, in another coincidence, is in some of the same classes as the daughter of producer Morris S. Levy, who happened to attend high school alongside Blonsky's mother. "My brother went to his daughter's bat mitzvah," she said.

"I read a bunch of scripts after 'Hairspray,' but this was really funny and had so much life in it. I'm playing an outcast again, but not necessarily because of the whole 'plus-size' thing," Blonsky added, referring to the weight that helped her land the role of Tracy Turnblad. "It's because my character marches to the beat of her own drummer."

Sheedy won an Independent Spirit Award for her lead performance in 1998's "High Art." She also has appeared in "Only the Lonely," "Sugar Town" and the upcoming indie drama "Day Zero." Quinn starred on "The Colin Quinn Show" and "Tough Crowd With Colin Quinn."

Shannon co-wrote the script with Greg Fields. Danny Fisher's City Lights Pictures and MEGA Films' Levy are producing and financing "Harold." Sam Zietz and City Lights CEO Fisher are executive producing. Jason Shuman and William Sherak will produce for Blue Star. Michael Califra will co-executive produce for City Lights. Jeff Mazzola serves as co-producer.

Sheedy is repped by Don Buchwald & Associates and manager Felicia Sager of Sager Management. Blonsky is repped by WMA. Quinn is repped by APA. Shannon is repped by ICM.