

SHOW & TELL

Shane Jacobson is back on the big screen, this time as an animated Santa

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PLAYING SANTA?

It was fantastic. I could say it is a dream come true but when you're a kid you never actually have a dream to be the voice of Santa. Originally I was going to put a lot of effort into fine-tuning the voice of

Santa but I realised the secret is just letting yourself go.

DID YOU WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CAST?

We mostly recorded on our own. I have a room where I'm allowed to be as vocal and as animated as I like. You can be as big as you want to be which I find quite freeing to be honest.

ARE YOU A FUNNY SANTA?

It's mostly heart-warming. There are some funny moments — it's definitely a film that belongs to Christmas.

YOU'VE RECENTLY LOST 20KG; WHAT WAS YOUR MOTIVATION?

I haven't lost it, I know where it is. I could walk down any street in any city in Australia and I could show you exactly where my 20kg is. It's in takeaway stores and kebab stands. My weight loss was spurred on by something very real. My doctor told me I had to drop a bit of weight or go on cholesterol medication for the rest of my life.

HOW HARD WAS IT?

There is a big effort involved. If it was easy I would have done it before. But there was incentive in hearing I would have health problems. The pay-off is worth it.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?

It's just family everywhere with lots of food and laughter and noise. Jacobson noise, it's like a soundtrack of madness. There's lots of hugging, lots of laughter — it's the same every year.

AS TOLD TO JENNY RINGLAND

● Santa's Apprentice is in cinemas now; santasapprentice.com.au



Film star: Shane Jacobson is the voice of Santa Main picture: John Fotiadis

