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MINI TROUPER

Actor Verne Troyer yells and curses his way through the upcoming Mike Myers comedy "The Love Guru," as the hard-nosed coach of a Canadian hockey team. When he isn't bawling out his players or hitting on the hot owner (Jessica Alba), he's trading insults with Myers, who tosses little-person insults at the diminutive actor — and has them all tossed right back at him with an added spin and a quick punch to the crotch.

Troyer, best-known for his role as Mini-Me in the "Austin Powers" movies, clearly gives as good as he gets — and Myers loves it.

You clearly have a very similar and silly sense of humor to Myers. Are there any jokes you ever object to?

Not really. The way I look at it is, it's a movie. You've got to be able to have fun with it and laugh at it. If it were outside the movie, yeah, some of that stuff would be insulting.

Do people in your community ever give you grief for appearing in a film where Myers refers to you as a Keebler elf, or pretends you're an Oscar statue?

Like I said, get over it. I'm sorry; it doesn't offend me. Why should it offend you?

My favorite scene in "The Love Guru" is where Myers, Alba and others come to your office for a meeting and it's scaled down to your size, so they're sitting on tiny couches and their heads scrape the ceiling.

We used that set for a lot of interviews I did, with reporters sitting on the small couch while I sat at the desk. When I walk into that room, it's like stepping into a different world.

And you get the last joke in the film: In a blooper during the end credits, an off-camera voice complains that the camera is only showing you and a bunch of

rear ends — which is all you see at your eye level.

And I say, "Now you know what it's like" [laughs]. I just saw a screening two weeks ago. I didn't know they caught that on film.

I'm sure people still bring up the reality show "The Surreal Life," where you were naked and urinating on camera in the corner of a weight room.

Yeah, they do. I am tired of it. That's in the past. I did it and I'm just moving on. I had understanding and learning from that experience. It was not a great time in my life. I'm very happy right now. I've changed

a lot of things. I'm taking care of myself.

You did your first voice work for a video game on Postal III and you've been a pitchman for the online game World of Warcraft. Are you still really into gaming?

It's hard to stop. The new Grand Theft Auto just came out and I was up for two days.

It's been five years since Mike Myers' last live-action film. Do you ever wish he wouldn't take so long?

I do, as long as I'm in 'em. Write something else!

Michael Giltz



John Oliver, Jessica Alba, Mike Myers and Manu Narayan (l.-r.) bend to hear Verne Troyer in "Love Guru."