March 25, 2015

Ben Stiller
c/o Liz Mahoney, ID-PR
(emaniled)

Dear Mr. Stiller,

We write to you in response to your new show, “Big Time in Hollywood, Fl,” that was filmed using a chimpanzee. When you use a chimpanzee in entertainment, you are giving the world a very skewed and inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals.

The entire lifetime of a primate is negatively affected when they are used in entertainment. As infants, they are removed from their mothers at a very early age—years before they would naturally separate. They are trained using methods that intimidate and inhibit their innate behaviors. Even then, the strength and unpredictable nature of these wild animals means that they can only be used for a short time as actors before they become too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous. Apes are then deemed useless to the entertainment industry, and sold into situations that range from uncomfortable to downright harmful. The lucky ones are able to spend the remaining 50 years of their life in a primate sanctuary.

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) was founded in 2010 by the directors of seven of the leading chimpanzee sanctuaries on the continent. We care for former ape actors in our sanctuaries, and we see how their lives have been damaged by their involvement in television and film.

We hope you will reconsider the message you spread with your celebrity. Please cut the chimpanzee scenes from your show before they air, and do not film with primates in the future. Let the focus remain on your acting talent, creativity and wit.

The usage of chimpanzee actors is archaic and, quite simply, not funny at all.

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury
Program Manager

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Program Manager
March 25, 2015

Alex Anfanger and Dan Schimpf  
c/o Lee Kernis, Brillstein Entertainment Partners  
(emailed)

Dear Mr. Anfanger and Mr. Schimpf,

We write to you in response to your new show, “Big Time in Hollywood, Fl,” that was filmed using a chimpanzee. When you use a chimpanzee in entertainment, you are giving the world a very skewed and inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals.

The entire lifetime of a primate is negatively affected when they are used in entertainment. As infants, they are removed from their mothers at a very early age — years before they would naturally separate. They are trained using methods that intimidate and inhibit their innate behaviors. Even then, the strength and unpredictable nature of these wild animals means that they can only be used for a short time as actors before they become too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous. Apes are then deemed useless to the entertainment industry, and sold into situations that range from uncomfortable to downright harmful. The lucky ones are able to spend the remaining 50 years of their life in a primate sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Erika Fleury  
Program Manager

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NAPSA is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, a San Francisco-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
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