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# EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

For Immediate Release

## New “Alvin and the Chipmunks” is Latest Movie for Creative 20+ Year Olds on the Autism Spectrum



**Exceptional Minds visual effects artists are part of a new generation of creative 20+ year olds on the autism spectrum. The artists have worked on more than 30 movies or TV shows.**

**Sherman Oaks, California – December 18, 2015** – The young adults on the autism spectrum who worked on visual effects for “Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip,” which opened in theaters today, could have easily been pigeonholed into jobs that were either rote technical jobs or routine jobs, like stocking shelves at a grocery store.

Instead, they went on to develop visual effects skills at [Exceptional Minds](#) vocational school – and surprised an industry that is known for its creativity: Hollywood.

Meet Patrick Brady, Lloyd Hackl, Lauren Kato, Eli Katz, David Miles, Jeremy Pollock, Erik Prothero and Mason Taylor, who are part of a new generation of creative 20+ year olds with autism. These visual effects artists at [Exceptional Minds Studio](#) completed 27 tracker marker removals for “Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip.” Exceptional Minds is an approved studio for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, which produced and distributed the film, as well as other major movie studios. In

addition to “Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip,” Exceptional Minds Studio has worked on more than 30 movies or TV shows, including “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes,” another 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox production.

The project was overseen by Susan Zwerman, Visual Effects Executive Producer and Job Developer for Exceptional Minds; Craig Seitz, Exceptional Minds’ Head of Production; and Immanuel Morris and Josiah Van Arsdel, supervisors.

**About Exceptional Minds (<http://www.exceptionalmindsstudio.org>):** Exceptional Minds is a non-profit vocational center and working production studio for young adults on the autism spectrum. It was chartered in 2011 to provide the training necessary for creatively gifted individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) who may not otherwise be able to make the transition from high school to careers. Exceptional Minds offers technical proficiency and work readiness training that prepares students for careers in graphic arts, animation, web design, visual effects and rotoscoping. Located in Sherman Oaks, California, Exceptional Minds is both an instructional learning facility and a working studio with hands-on student involvement in production projects, many for the film industry.