

Justin Martin: Already on Hollywood's Honor Roll

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There are some things in the world that cannot be explained. Seemingly appearing out of a vast nether region of nothingness, these phenomena invade the everyday life, shaping the cultural landscape as it pierces the skin of mainstream media and daily life. Nothing short of astonishing, the indelible mark left by these media giants is never forgotten.

In the word of giants, no kingdom reigns more supremely than the mighty Disney Empire; currently there is not a more powerful creature in the "House of Mouse" that is as powerful as the High School Musical franchise. Released in January of 2006, the original High School Musical movie was made for television, becoming a smash hit and the most successful Disney Channel original movie ever created and went on to spawn a concert tour, stage tour, video games, book and reality series.

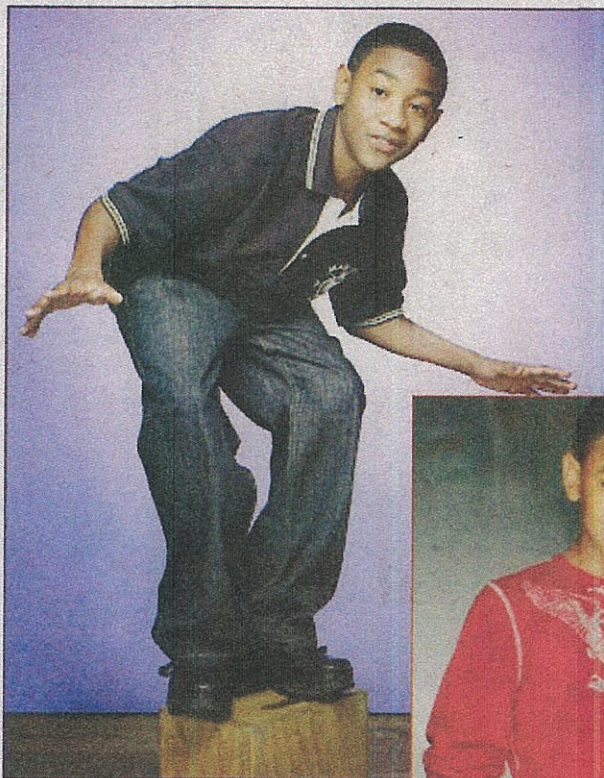
The pattern of success continued with its sequel, *High School Musical 2*. Now, the franchise looks to extend its swath of achievement to the big screen, with *High School*

Musical 3 (HSM3), becoming the first Disney Channel original film to have a theatrical release.

Utilizing the skills of a talented group of young actors and actresses, the original cast of the first two movies is set to return in the theatrical sequel, *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*. Set during their last year of high school, the third movie in the franchise will follow Troy (Zac Efron), Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens), Chad (Corbin Bleu), and the rest of the Wildcats as they sing and dance their way through senior year, attempting to cope with the stresses of being seniors and the possibility of drifting away after graduation.

This time around, the cast will be joined by a trio of brash, yet capable young bunch of thespians. Representing the future of the franchise, the new additions to will portray students at East High. Leading the batch of Wildcats is Atlanta native and blossoming movie star Justin Martin, who portrays "Donny Dion," a protégé of Chad's.

"My character is a sophomore at the school who looks up to Corbin Bleu's character and wants to be like him. He is a ball boy (on the basketball team) and is a little bit of a



trouble maker," said Martin of his character in *HSM3*. Barring a few cases of extreme loquaciousness, Martin declared that he was hardly a

trouble maker at school. Becoming a bona fide celebrity has many perks and just as many drawbacks, one of which being that Justin is not able to attend public

school. Rather, he is a home school student. "This is my first year being home schooled. The home school program is out of Alpharetta and is called Chalk to Champions and is for actors and athletes that can't go to real school because their schedules are too busy." Currently residing in Cobb County, if it were not for his acting career, Martin would currently be beginning his high school scholastic career, as a freshman at North Cobb High School.

High School Musical 3 will not be the only film that fans will be able to see Martin in this year. The young Broadway veteran, who has acted in the legendary theatrical productions "Raisin in the Sun" and "The Lion King," can also be seen in the upcoming college football flick, *The Express*. He is also due to co-star with Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. in *The Soloist*, a movie about the life of Nathaniel Ayers, a gifted, Julliard-trained violinist who with Schizophrenia.

High School Musical 3 is in theaters now.

