**DONKEY HODIE**

**Winter 2021 TCA Panelist Bios**

**Ellen Doherty, Fred Rogers Productions**

**Executive Producer, *Donkey Hodie***

Ellen Doherty is Chief Creative Officer for Fred Rogers Productions and an executive producer on *Donkey Hodie*. At Fred Rogers Productions, she oversees the creation of television and digital content for the company’s PBS KIDS series—*Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, *Peg + Cat*, *Odd Squad*, as well as the new animated series, *Alma’s Way*, for which she also serves as Executive Producer—as well as developing new properties. She is the creator, head writer, and executive producer of the award-winning shortform, preschool series *Through the Woods*. In 2018, Doherty was nominated for a Primetime Emmy® Award for *Mister Rogers: It’s You I Like*, the retrospective tribute to the 50th anniversary of *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*. An Emmy® Award-winning producer and writer with more than 20 years’ experience in children’s media, she was previously executive producer and story editor of the PBS KIDS series *Cyberchase*. She oversaw production of television and digital content for the series for six seasons, including several shortform video series. Doherty began her career as an associate producer on the award-winning PBS KIDS series *Reading Rainbow*.

**Adam Rudman, Spiffy Pictures**

**Co-Creator/Executive Producer/Head Writer, *Donkey Hodie***

Adam Rudman is a co-creator, executive producer, and the head writer on *Donkey Hodie*. He is a prolific writer, with credits ranging from classic cartoons to puppet series, and from children’s books to short film. Rudman is a six-time Emmy® Award-winning writer for *Tom & Jerry*, *Cyberchase*, *Scooby-Doo*, and *Sesame Street*, With his production company Spiffy Pictures, Adam is currently the co-creator, executive producer, and head writer for PBS KIDS’ *Nature Cat* in addition to *Donkey Hodie*. He was creator, head writer, and executive producer on *Jack’s Big Music Show*, *Bunnytown*, and *Curious Buddies*. He is also the author of the first *Cyberchase* book for Scholastic, “The Search for the Power Orb.” Rudman wrote and produced the award-winning short film *Notes*, starring late Blues legend Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown.

**David Rudman, Spiffy Pictures**

**Co-creator/Executive Producer/Writer/Puppeteer (“Bob Dog,” “Grampy Hodie,” “Stanley”), *Donkey Hodie***

David Rudman is an Emmy® nominated producer, director, writer, and performer with Spiffy Pictures as well as a co-creator, executive producer, writer, and puppeteer (“Bob Dog,” “Grampy Hodie,” “Stanley”) on *Donkey Hodie*. He co-created, executive produced, directed, and performed in *Jack’s Big Music Show*, *Curious Buddies*, *Bunnytown*, *Scooby-Doo: The Mystery Map*, *Nature Cat*, and *Frankie and Frank*. In addition to his work with Spiffy, he is a core Muppet performer—playing Cookie Monster, Baby Bear, and The Two Headed Monster on *Sesame Street,* and Scooter, Janice, and Beaker with *The Muppets*. Rudman has recently performed live at the Hollywood Bowl and at the O2 in London with The Muppets. His numerous television credits include *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, several appearances on *Saturday Night Live*, and the *42nd Annual Kennedy Center Honors*. His film credits include *Muppets Take Manhattan*, *Labyrinth*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *Elmo in Grouchland*, *The Muppets*, and *Muppets Most Wanted*.

**Haley Jenkins, “Donkey Hodie”**

Haley Jenkins plays the title role in the new PBS KIDS series, *Donkey Hodie*. Her puppeteering can most recently be seen in the Sony Pictures film, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. On television, Jenkins puppeteers Karli on *Sesame Street* as well as Marvie for Sesame Studios. She is the U.S. puppeteer for the international *Sesame Street* character, Zari. Her puppetry can also be seen on *Saturday Night Live*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, *America’s Got Talent*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, and *The Katie Couric Show*, as well as in commercials for H&M, National Geographic, McDonalds, and Comedy Central. Jenkins has performed on stage in *The Pee-wee Herman Show* (Original Broadway Cast), John Tartaglia’s *ImaginOcean*, and The Center for Puppetry Art’s *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

**Frankie Cordero, “Purple Panda”**

Frankie Cordero plays “Purple Panda” in *Donkey Hodie*. He is deeply honored to be a part of this Fred Rogers Productions and Spiffy Pictures production. He began working with Spiffy Pictures and *Sesame Street* during summers while majoring in puppetry at The University of Connecticut. Cordero has worked internationally as a puppeteer/builder, bringing countless characters to life in short films, music videos, national commercials, and TV shows. His work has appeared on *Sesame Street* as Rudi, *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, The Tick, CSI: Las Vegas, It’s a Big, Big World, Julie’s Greenroom* as Spike, *Oobi* as Papu, *Frankie and Frank* as Frankie, *Jack’s* *Big Music Show*, and *Nature Cat*. He has also trained puppeteers for these international *Sesame Street* productions: Afghanistan’s *Baghch-e-Simsim* and Bangladesh's *Sisimpur*.

Cordero’s theater credits include performances at La MaMa ETC, Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, and The Metropolitan Opera, in which he was one of three principal puppeteers in *Madama Butterfly*, portraying the title character’s three-year-old son, Sorrow. He has also toured nationally and internationally with companies including Blair Thomas & Co, Hystopolis Productions, Phantom Limb Company, Walking with Dinosaurs, and Dramaton Theater, where he was a principal performer and co-Artistic Director. Cordero’s work was recognized by the 2002-2004 Jim Henson Memorial Prize in Puppetry while he was a student in The University of Connecticut's Puppet Arts Program and more recently with the 2015 Armstrong Vine Award in Comedy.