

*Jasper Goes To Bishop* Lights up Christmas Season  
By Helen T. Hertz

Sometimes you have an idea that sticks with you. Others might not see it at first, but something about it won't let you go. So you pursue it. And sometimes that vision catches on. Others contribute their talents to the effort and your original notion turns into a grand reality—something no one's ever seen before, something special.

That's a good way to describe the new Jasper the Mule DVD *Jasper Goes To Bishop*, produced by Meredith Hodges and Lucky Three Productions and scheduled to air on RFD-TV in December. Part animation, part live-action, this charming program draws on the talent of many to transport viewers into a world where reality and fantasy meet with heart-warming results. Meredith had the notion to do this project nearly three years ago, and while it took some months to develop the script, by the time production started Meredith had Director Cheryl Pollack and her enthusiastic crew fully on board.

"Until now Jasper has lived in his books and in animation only," says Meredith. "This show brings him to life in a new way I think will really surprise people. People who have seen our Jasper mascot at Bishop Mules Days and other events will recognize him here, but many will get a whole new perspective on the character."

Reminiscent of the *Wizard of Oz*, the show begins in Jasper's "real" world. The young mule, at home with his friends on the farm, gets wind of a fantastic event called Bishop Mule Days. Jasper, who's always ready for an adventure, must see this place. But how will he get there? That's where the magic comes in. Jasper makes a comical journey to Bishop, and when he arrives... well, suffice to say the sky's the limit for this little mule!

And why shouldn't Jasper go to Bishop Mule Days? The show is not only the biggest mule event in the country, it's also one of the best places to meet great people, ride with top competitors and have fun. Coming up on their 41<sup>st</sup> year, the hardworking folks who run this event host a show that offers top-notch competition without ever taking itself too seriously.

Filming for the production took place over two years not only at Bishop but also at Meredith's Loveland, Colorado, ranch and other locations. At Bishop, Meredith and crew were granted generous access to the grounds and events, and the cooperative event staff and friendly crowds made the filming process that much easier.

"We love Jasper!" says Mule Days Executive Director Kim Craft. "He's just awesome, and Meredith is truly a best friend of Bishop. We're so grateful for everything she does to get our name out there."

M.C. Hubbard, who's been on the Mule Days board of directors for many years and will serve as event president this year, says Jasper has been a popular addition to the show in recent years.

"We're delighted to be part of the birth of this project," she says. "I can just see that it will help people understand mules even more. They can be so fun—real characters—and something like this will personalize them even more."

Meredith has rarely missed a Bishop Mule Days event since its inception in 1969, and she considers her current role as advocate as important as her former role as competitor.

"Bishop has changed the way mules are viewed in this country," she says. "It's become a world-class show for world-class animals, and mules are better off for it. If this program entertains viewers of all ages and also promotes Bishop and mules and donkeys, we've done our job."

*Jasper Goes To Bishop* will air on RFD-TV Wednesday, Dec. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 30., and the DVD will be available for purchase in time for Christmas. Kids will also find the “Jasper Goes To Bishop” coloring book, with drawings by Bonnie Shields, at [www.JasperTheMule.com](http://www.JasperTheMule.com), as well as the other Jasper books and products.

*Check your local listing for show times on RFD-TV, and for more information about Meredith Hodges and Jasper the Mule, please visit [www.LuckyThreeranch.com](http://www.LuckyThreeranch.com) and [www.JasperTheMule.com](http://www.JasperTheMule.com) or call 800-816-7566.*