

# The kids are back

*High School Musical 3* dances into movie theatres soon. **Jill Serjeant** takes a look at the movie, portrays a sweetly romantic, drug and violence-free teen scene.



Vanessa Hudgens

**B**REEZY, bouncy and bursting with enthusiasm, *High School Musical* makes its big-screen debut around the world this week in what could be the year's biggest family movie. *High School Musical 3: Senior Year* is the third film in a record-breaking Disney series that has created a US\$1 billion-plus (NZ\$1.61 billion) global franchise and a frenzied young fan base that has bought into its squeaky-clean vision of teenage school life.

Featuring clean-cut Zac Efron, 21, his on and off-screen sweetheart Vanessa Hudgens, 19, and a diverse cast of Latino, African-American and white young actors, *High School Musical 3* portrays a sweetly romantic, drug and violence-free teen scene.

Advance ticket sales in the United Kingdom have broken records set by *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* in 2005 and online ticket sales reports in the United States signal a bumper opening weekend box office.

But as the mostly pre-teen fans have grown up since the first made-for-TV movie was shown on the Disney Channel in early 2006, so too have the singing, dancing kids who populate the hallways of fictional East High.

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Zac Efron

## Please don't slip doctor

**MATE**  
MARK WILSON



**I**T'S strange when something you read or watch takes a very pressing parallel in real life — since the advent of *The Simpsons* this has become a regular occurrence.

I'm sure I am not alone in being able to relate real life events to an episode of *The Simpsons* and have a laugh about it. Sometimes it pays to laugh as the reality is no laughing matter — and after I finally decided to front up to the doctor, four weeks ago after a month of anguish, this rang very true. I awkwardly waited hoping no one would notice me. Who likes to be seen sitting outside the urologist's consultation room?

When I went in and had to drop my trou for a man (definitely not a usual occurrence), Gerry Forde's proctologist column resonated in my skull like a brick in the dryer, feeling of imminent doom — a flashback to past pain and anguish, search for a happy place . . .

After realising my little over-exertion of sorts a month earlier could be remedied with simple day surgery, I wondered why I had waited. The doc informed me some people toughed it out their whole life because they were too embarrassed to come in. I bet they weren't half as embarrassed as the poor receptionist when she got me to dictate the circumstances and location of my injury, for ACC, in front of the whole reception crowd. I offered a diagram but realised this would add to her already disturbing experience. It took a phone call later to finally get things in order, once her blushing had cleared. ACC was going to have a good laugh at this one, I thought.

Diagnosis is one thing but people brandishing sharp objects round the old fella is another. At the hospital I acted staunch like your typical male, but I was hoping like hell to wake up and find everything still attached.

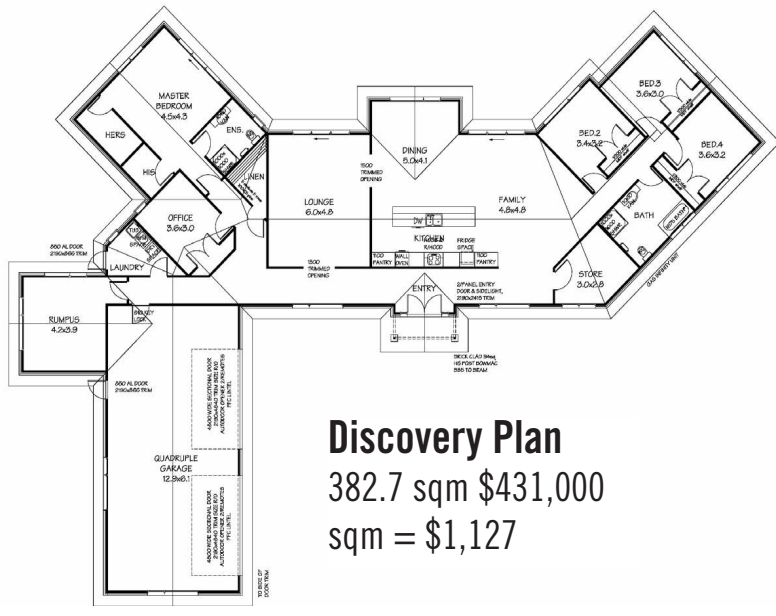
There was no point asking which limb was being done — instead, "describe the procedure you are having today Mr Wilson . . ." Response, there is no way I can pronounce that. So in my own words (banjo string) a rather inappropriate description of the impending surgery popped out, much to the amusement of the lovely nurses. "Are you comfortable Mr Wilson?"

Would you be? Lying here in a very camp-looking gown with everything exposed and someone about to take a knife to your most tender part?

For all the fear and loathing, I made it. Everything is still there and the stitches are almost dissolved. Fingers crossed it all works the same as before.

I recommend taking good care of your most precious asset, lads, and if things to go awry down south, get into the old urologist quick smart.

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