

HOUSES OF THE STARS (answer)

by Stephen Beeman

The 24 movie trivia facts inside the wheel reference 12 movies. Pair the two facts for each movie to create a substitution cipher key:

A=M
B=E
C=P
D=Q
F=U
G=T
H=Y
I=L
J=V
K=R
N=S
O=W

Apply this key to the ring to get the following sequence, starting at the midpoint of the left side:

FINURSAMAJORDVIRGOROLESTH
SERPENSEGEMININSORTTHLEOM
INORELUPUSACTORSLEPUSLHOR
OLOGIUMASTNMONOCEROSAERID
ANUSMESINTOTARIESWLEOSETS

Pull out the constellation names:

URSA MAJOR
VIRGO
SERPENS
GEMINI
LEO MINOR
LUPUS
LEPUS
HOROLOGIUM
MONOCEROS
ERIDANUS
ARIES
LEO

which leaves

FIND ROLES THEN SORT THE ACTORS LAST NAMES INTO TWO SETS

The English translation of each constellation's name maps to a particular role from one of the previously-identified 12 movies:

URSA MAJOR, "the Big Bear" = Kenai from *Brother Bear*

VIRGO, "the Virgin" = Andy Stitzer from *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*
SERPENS, "the Snake" = Kaa from *The Jungle Book* (1967)
GEMINI, "the Twins" = Hallie Parker/Annie James from *The Parent Trap* (1998)
LEO MINOR, "the Lion Cub" = Young Simba from *The Lion King*
LUPUS, "the Wolf" = Winston "The Wolf" Wolfe from *Pulp Fiction*
LEPUS, "the Rabbit" = Rabbit from *8 Mile*
HOROLOGIUM, "the Clock" = Cogsworth from *Beauty and the Beast*
MONOCEROS, "the Unicorn" = Amalthea the Unicorn from *The Last Unicorn*
ERIDANUS, "the River" = River Tam from *Serenity*
ARIES, "the Ram" = Rams QB Joe Pendleton from *Heaven Can Wait*
LEO, "the Lion" = Aslan from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

The last names of the actors for these roles are

Kenai from *Brother Bear* is Joaquin PHOENIX
Andy Stitzer from *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* is Steve CARELL
Kaa from *The Jungle Book* (1967) is Sterling HOLLOWAY
Hallie Parker/Annie James from *The Parent Trap* (1998) is Lindsay LOHAN
Young Simba from *The Lion King* is Jonathan Taylor THOMAS
Winston "The Wolf" Wolfe from *Pulp Fiction* is Harvey KEITEL
Rabbit from *8 Mile* is Marshall MATHERS
Cogsworth from *Beauty and the Beast* is David Ogden STIERS
Amalthea the Unicorn from *The Last Unicorn* is Mia FARROW
River Tam from *Serenity* is Summer GLAU
Rams QB Joe Pendleton from *Heaven Can Wait* is Warren BEATTY
Aslan from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is Liam NEESON

Sort these last names into two sets based on whether their roles were live action or voiceover ("half the time the only way to identify actors is by their voices"):

PHOENIX
HOLLOWAY
THOMAS
STIERS
FARROW
NEESON

CARELL
LOHAN
KEITEL
MATHERS
GLAU
BEATTY

Apply the substitution cipher to the first letters of these names to get

C
Y
G
N
U
S

P
I
R
A
T
E

The constellation Cygnus is “the Swan”. The actress who played the pirate Elizabeth Swann in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies was Keira

KNIGHTLEY

NIGHTLY should be accepted as well.