

NMS RELEASING
PRESENTS

SUNBURNT UNICORN



LOGLINE

Lost in an endless desert, an injured teenager adopts the identity of a mythical Unicorn to survive surreal encounters and rescue his father from the Cactus King.

THEME

You do not have to be special to be worthy of love.





FORMAT

Feature length, 3D animated film

GENRE

Family, fantasy, adventure, horror

AUDIENCE

Children ages 8 - 12, parents and adults who fondly remember being captivated by the fantasy family films of the 1980s.

TONE

Whimsical, surreal, funny, and a little bit scary, packed with an emotional punch. Inspired by family films of the 1980s that fascinated and frightened us in equal measure (i.e. Return to Oz, The Neverending Story, Secret of Nimh, Coraline)



SYNOPSIS

After his father crashes their car in the desert, Frankie wakes up to find himself alone and burnt to a crisp with a piece of windshield glass embedded in his forehead. Luckily for him, an injured but gregarious Tortoise believes him to be the mythical Unicorn and has decided to help Frankie rescue his father from the clutches of the Cactus King.

Thus begins a surreal journey of wonder and terror, traversing sandy plains, alien landscapes, endless cracked earth, and deadly sandstorms. Along the way, Frankie will encounter creatures eager to help the mythical Unicorn of legend, but each hides a dangerous secret - they are all a reflection of Frankie's darkest fear, one that he must overcome if he is to survive his encounter with the all-powerful Cactus King.

PRODUCTION TEAM

NICK JOHNSON

Writer, producer, director
(Young George 2: No Dragons Allowed!)

PATRICK WILDING

Producer, Squid Brain Studios
(Ghost Toast, Valley of the Lanterns)

COLIN CURWEN

Executive Producer, New Machine Studios
(Tales of the First People, Wizards Christmas,
The Breadwinner, Valley of the Lanterns)

PIQSIQ

Composers - Performing ancient traditional songs and eerie new compositions, sisters Tiffany Kuliktana Ayalik and Kayley Inuksuk Mackay come together to create Inuit style throat singing duo, PIQSIQ. For this film they have created an unforgettable score consisting entirely of their haunting vocals.

CAST

DIANA KAARINA

FRANKIE - Canadian actress
(StarBeam, My Little Pony,
The Hollow, The Deep, Barbie)

KATHLEEN BARR

TORTOISE - Canadian actress
(Ed, Edd n Eddy, My Little Pony,
The Willoughbys, Reboot)

LAARA SADIQ

CORDELIA - Cdn/Pakistani actress
(The Dragon Prince, Yellowjackets,
Arrow, Battlestar Galactica)

TABITHA ST. GERMAIN

KIT FOX PUPS - Canadian actress
(Martha Speaks, Scary Gormother,
My Little Pony, Braceface)

BRIAN DRUMMOND

CACTUS KING - Canadian actor
(Death Note, The Dragon Prince,
Sonic Prime, Spiderman Unlimited)

FRANKIE



Frankie wants to be a poet but he knows he isn't anything special, and maybe that's why he agreed to visit that stupid school his dad is so excited about - it might be his only shot to finally make him proud. But then the car crashed and stranded him in the desert with this chunk of glass stuck in his head, and suddenly everyone he meets tells him that he *is* special, he *is* unique, *he is the Unicorn!*

Frankie knows he isn't strong enough to rescue his father on his own, so what's wrong with buying into this legend and showing off a bit if it get's him the love and respect he's always wanted? If this hunk of glass will make him worthy of his father's love, then every sacrifice he makes along the way is worth it, right...? Right...?!

TORTOISE



Sure, they may have been caught under the wheel of a passing car and smushed in half, with mere moments left before their life ebbs away into the sand, but nothing can bring down the mood of this happy-go-lucky Tortoise, for they have seen a Unicorn!

Tortoise is Frankie's conscience and guide as he navigates the desert, but will he have the wisdom to listen before Tortoise passes on ?



THE KIT FOX PUPS



Kit Foxes are wily, scrappy survivors, well-suited to thrive in the most harsh environment. These bouncy, playful pups are full of energy and excitement, driven by a strong sense of purpose: to honor the wishes of their mother and father, which includes the preparation of a glorious banquet in their tribute.

But will their desperate need to prove their worthiness lead them to make the ultimate sacrifice?

A world-renowned explorer plucked from the society page of a 1920s newspaper, Cordelia Francis Cabot III is a vision of bravery and determination... and she will never let you forget it!

After saving Frankie from a sandstorm, she reveals her proudest discovery: a lush Oasis with all the food and water they'll ever need. But no matter how much Frankie eats and drinks, his stomach still aches, and his temperature continues to rise...



CORDELIA

Franklin Sr's proudest moment was winning top awards at his University while his proud mother and father watched. He has had a successful career as an engineer and architect, just like his own father, and he has the rings and awards to prove it.

All he wants is for his son Franklin Jr. to find the same pride in his work. But are his attempts to inspire Frankie creating too much pressure?



FRANKLIN SR.

There have been stories of the Cactus King since the dawn of the desert. His exploits are legendary, the myth of his cunning and merciless rule grows mightier by the day. But what are all these stories attempting to conceal?

Perhaps the King dresses himself in lies and spines because he fears to be close to anyone. He knows that to be honest and open is to leave yourself vulnerable. What would he do against someone who doesn't buy into his mythology, whose example tempts him to reveal his true self?

THE CACTUS KING



NMS RELEASING presents

SUNBURNT UNICORN



NMS RELEASING presents In Association with NEW MACHINE STUDIOS INC. and SQUID BRAIN STUDIOS INC.
A NICK JOHNSON Film SUNBURNT UNICORN Starring DIANA KAARINA, KATHLEEN BARR, LAARA SADIQ,
TABITHA ST. GERMAIN and BRIAN DRUMMOND Original Music by PIQSIQ Executive Producer COLIN CURWEN
Produced by NICK JOHNSON and PATRICK WILDING Written and Directed by NICK JOHNSON Poster by SHO UEHARA

Promotional Poster

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