

Angel Films præsenterer

# POTER AF STÅL



**Premiere:** 25. august 2022

**Længde:** 98 minutter

**Censur:** 7 år

**Instruktører:** Chris Bailey,  
Mark Koetsier, Rob Minkoff

**Premierebiografer:**

75 biografer over hele landet. Se fuld  
liste på side 2.

**Danske stemmer:**

Credit-liste tilgængelig på:

[www.angelfilms.dk/poter-af-staal](http://www.angelfilms.dk/poter-af-staal)

## Synopsis:

*Hunden Hans drømmer om at blive en stor samurai, men det er tydeligt for enhver, der møder ham, at han er aldeles ukvalificeret. Det beslutter den udspekulerede skurk Ika Chu sig for at udnytte i sine egne planer om at ødelægge den lille landsby Kakamucho. Kakamucho har nemlig anmodet om en ny samurai til at beskytte byen og Ika Chu kan ikke forestille sig et bedre valg end en uduelig tæppetisser. Før Hans ved af det, er han indlogeret i den lille by med titlen samurai. Det er dog ikke kun Hans manglende evner, der udfordrer populariteten blandt byens indbyggere. De er nemlig alle sammen katte og som alle ved, kan katte virkelig, VIRKELIG ikke lide hunde! Desperat efter at bevise sit værd som samurai får Hans hjælp fra Jimbo, en forhenværende mægtig (men nu temmelig ugidelig) samurai, og den energiske killing Emiko. Det bliver starten på et eventyr, hvor fordomme overvindes, heltmod opdages og usandsynlige venskaber formes.*

Kontakt: Mikkel Lund, [mikkel@angelfilms.dk](mailto:mikkel@angelfilms.dk)

## Premierebiografer

CinemaxX København, CinemaxX Aarhus, CinemaxX Odense, Nordisk Film Biografer Palads, Nordisk Film Biografer Fields, Nordisk Film Biografer Falkoner, Nordisk Film Biografer Aarhus, Nordisk Film Biografer Aalborg Kennedy, Nordisk Film Biografer Aalborg City Syd, Nordisk Film Biografer Lyngby, Nordisk Film Biografer Odense, Nordisk Film Biografer Taastrup, Nordisk Film Biografer Esbjerg Broen, Nordisk Film Biografer Hillerød, Nordisk Film Biografer Næstved, Nordisk Film Biografer Randers, Nordisk Film Biografer Herning, Nordisk Film Biografer Kolding, Nordisk Film Biografer Waves, Nordisk Film Biografer Køge, Nordisk Film Biografer Viborg, Nordisk Film Biografer Frederikssund, Nordisk Film Biografer Nykøbing F, Panorama Middelfart, Panorama Fredericia, MovieHouse Hellerup, Atlas Biograferne, Cinema Center Helsingør, Kulturbio grafen Frysehuset Holbæk, Silkeborg Bio, Kosmorama 6100 Haderslev, Big Bio Herlev, Big Bio Nordhavn, Big Bio Holstebro, Scala 1-2-3-4 Svendborg, Megascop e Horsens, MovieHouse Ringsted, Panorama Slagelse, Kino Ro's Torv Roskilde, Lido Biograferne Vejle, Empire Bio København, Biograf-caféen Vordingborg, Malling Bio, Varde Bio, Grindsted Kino, Gilleleje Bio, Trommen Bio Hørsholm, Bio Mors, Lalandia Bio Rødby, Kino Thisted, Humle Bio Humlebæk, Bibliografen Bagsværd, Cinema4 Skive, Kinorama Aabenraa, Kinorama Sønderborg, Værløse Bio, Apollon Struer, Rødovre Viften, Parkteatret Frederikssund, Kom-Bi Hornslet, Birkerød Bio, Valby Kino, Ishøj Bio, Albertslund Biograferne, Katuaq Bio Nuuk, Bio Korsør, Palads Teatret Frederikshavn, Den Blå Engel Kalundborg, Kino Grenaa, Kastrup Bio, Toftlund Bio, Grafen Farum, Ringkøbing Bio.

## **DIRECTOR STATEMENTS**

*“Paws of Fury is a freewheeling mash-up of east and west. An action-packed comedy featuring incredible performances from our stellar cast of hilarious characters, it also delivers a great message of inclusion and acceptance. It’s sure to be a treat the whole family can enjoy.”*

**Rob Minkoff, Director & Producer (*The Lion King, Mr Peabody & Sherman, Stuart Little 1&2*)**

*“Paws of Fury may follow in the footsteps of the classic & unrivalled Blazing Saddles, but it’s so much more. Packed with humour and serious prejudices that reflect on our society right now, the film is intertwined with a lot of love, heart and hope. The small town of Kakamucho is the typical western, dusty, drab town in the Sergio Leone style, which contrasts with the bright vibrant bold colours of the dastardly Ika Chu’s palace. It’s a bold and unique design throughout which we have pushed to an extreme and this all leads towards the personalities of the colourful characters’ which reside there. The rich against the poor so to speak. We have an incredible cast of actors, including Michael Cera as Hank, Ricky Gervais as Ika Chu, Samuel L Jackson as Jimbo and newcomer Kylie Kuioka as Emiko who all bring a unique richness to the characters they voice; each of which will put a grin on your face and a skip to your step after you have watched this movie.”*

**Mark Koetsier, Director (*The Grinch, Big Hero 6, Madagascar: Escape To Africa*)**

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### HANK #EagerDreamer.

From fumbling Fido to fearless friend, Hank bumbles, barks, and battles his way to becoming a true Samurai. The lone dog in a world of cats, Hank proves it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, what's important is who you are on the inside.

Voiced by Michael Cera

### JIMBO #ReluctantMentor

Once famed, now shamed, this former master Samurai is now the cat-nipped cat of Kakamucho. Reluctantly honouring his Samurai oath, Jimbo mentors Hank. And through their friendship, the lost cat finds himself.

Voiced by Samuel L Jackson

### IKA CHU #BadKitty

If Hedley Lamar (Harvey Korman in Blazing Saddles) and Dr. Evil had a love-kitten, it would be Ika-Chu. The ultimate narcissistic baddie, his dream of building the grandest palace in the land is threatened by the town of Kakamucho. He will stop at nothing to wipe "that eyesore" off the map.

Voiced by Ricky Gervais

### EMIKO #KickAssKitten

A white-hot ball of feline fury, Emiko may be small, but her fighting spirit is huge. She embodies everything it means to be a true Samurai.

Voiced by Kylie Kuioka

### SUMO #GentleGiant

Though this towering tabby fights with brute force, Sumo is "just a prawn in the ocean of life." Sent to destroy Kakamucho, he is won over by Hank's kindness and finds enlightenment on his journey.

Voiced by Djimon Hounsou

### OHGA #BigBrawnSmallBrain

Ika Chu's right-hand cat, he would do anything to please his beloved leader... especially wiping "that eyesore" of a town off the map.

Voiced by George Takei

### YUKI #DontMessWithThisMother

Like all good mamas, Yuki is fiercely protective of Emiko. Behind her stern façade is a heart full of love which bursts with pride for what she know her daughter can achieve.

Voiced by Michelle Yeoh.

## ANIMATING PAWS OF FURY

The Cinesite animation team loved working on Paws of Fury. Both of the directors Rob and Mark were 2D animators at Disney and were invaluable to the animation team as they often did 'draw overs' throughout production meaning they directly drew over the images they were seeing and reviewing to embellish or enhance certain elements, essentially live visual feedback. Animation Director Jason Ryan commented on this process *"Rob's drawings always pushed the appeal and strengthened the characters' poses. Meanwhile Mark boarded full sequences by himself, when he did this, he almost animated the characters so his direction to us as a team was always clear."*

In terms of the animator's approach, they focused on the acting first with live action references and then would exaggerate the performance for the animated characters. In terms of style they animators would say *"it was pushed but still with natural acting"* adds Ryan.

All the animators dove into live action acting to solve the performances before launching into animation. For the fight choreography, the directors shot live action fighters so the animators could base the actions on something grounded, the artists then interpreted that for the character designs.

The storyboards and pacing set by the directors and layout department helped to give the animators a good foundation for the performances, then they can set about breaking the shots down into clear actions, that can be read first time through. Jason Ryan the animation director explains an example of this process. *"There is a shot with the ninja's jumping on Sumo, this was very challenging because we needed to animate Sumo first without the Ninja's and get him pretty close with a low rez version of the ninja's jumping on him. Once the directors approved the animation for Sumo then the animator's could begin refining the performance and movement of each Ninja - about fifty of them!"*

Another instance when careful planning aided the animation team was the big flood sequence, Cinesite's FX department did a pass on the water first so the animation team knew where the characters should be and their travel speed. This helped a lot so as the animators could allow the water to drive the characters.

Delivering a great performance through animation is where skill and artistry comes to fruition. The team adopted certain techniques to capture the essence of the characters. As an example, for Jimbo, the team kept him contained because he was in control mentoring Hank, that is until he needed to move fast, then the team would have him jump into 5th gear very quickly! For Hank, he has a very long torso and little legs, so the animators had to work with his physical limitations and then exaggerate movements without making him feel unbelievable as a character.

Jimbo also presented the team with challenges because as a character he has to do a lot but his design forced the artists to come up with creative solutions. Jimbo's chest and body are very wide so the animators needed to be able to bring his arms to the front of his chest for folding or for holding a sword in a samurai stance. The talented Cinesite rigging team incorporated a sliding system, that allowed the animators to slide Jimbo's arm connection when needed.

Natural acting is always challenging to achieve in animation, especially when characters such as Jimbo & Hank are very pushed design wise. However, the animation team overcame this by thinking in real acting terms rather than super cartoony movements, this helped them to contain and control the performances. Key examples of this subtle natural acting can be seen in the film when Jimbo and Hank are arguing with each other and feeling hurt by each other's words and when Jimbo reveals that he cares for Hank.

Jason Ryan added "All the characters were a lot of fun to animate, personally I liked the Shogun, because Mel Brooks' voiced him, he had a great energy to his performances."

## THE FILMMAKERS

### ROB MINKOFF – Director & Producer

Rob Minkoff is known for directing the Academy Award-winning animated feature *The Lion King*. Minkoff was born in Palo Alto, California. He studied at California Institute of the Arts in the early 1980s in the Character Animation department. He has directed several films for Walt Disney Feature Animation, including *The Lion King* (1994) and two of the Roger Rabbit shorts: *Tummy Trouble* (1989) and *Roller Coaster Rabbit* (1990). While working at Disney he wrote the song "Good Company" for Oliver & Company. He also made the films *Stuart Little* (1999), *Stuart Little 2* (2002), *The Haunted Mansion* (2003) and *The Forbidden Kingdom* (2008). Minkoff also participates as a member of the jury for the NYICFF, a local New York City Film Festival dedicated to screening films for children between the ages of 3 and 18.

### MARK KOETSIER – Director

With a 28-year career in the entertainment industry, animation veteran Mark Koetsier has an all-star list of credits to his name. The first years of his career were dedicated to animation at commercial houses as well as large studios, including spending most of his time at Disney Studios animating characters on over 30 feature films and TV series including: *The Lion King's 'Scar'*; *Pocahontas' 'Governor Ratcliff'*; *Tarzan's 'Jane'*; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame's 'Esmeralda'*; and many more.

Later, following his passion for developing characters and weaving compelling narratives, Mark moved to Dreamworks as a Storyboard Artist where he created stories for animated feature films such as *Kung Fu Panda*, *How To Train Your Dragon*, *Puss In Boots* and *Mr Peabody & Sherman* for over 14 years.

### Adam Nagle – Producer

As Producer Adam oversees all commercial aspects of film production for Aniventure, including finance plans, casting agreements, comprehensive budgeting, scheduling and financial forecasting for all of Aniventure's development, pre-production, production and post-production.

He also oversees tax credit claims and financing for both the UK and Canada. Adam has successfully produced animated shorts and feature length productions Prior to working in Aniventure, his credits included other animation projects, including *Gnome Alone*, *Charming* and *Klaus* and a number of visual effects projects, including *San Andreas*, *The Man From Uncle* and *Robocop*.

### Guy Collins - Producer

Guy joined the film industry in 1976, raising production funding for *The Wild Geese* starring Richard Harris, Richard Burton and Roger Moore. From here Guy raised finance for numerous high-profile independent films, introducing international banks to structured film financing.

In 1988 the opportunity arose to finance a sequel to the highly successful feature film *Highlander*. This led to a 20 year involvement in the financing & distribution of four *Highlander* movie sequels and a TV series which ran for 7 years. The aggregate budgets totalled circa \$225m and helped to forge one of the most successful independent film franchises. From here Guy extended his business activity to

include distribution marketing & sales on all films where he undertook production financing. His animation credits include *Planet 51*, *Duck Duck Goose*, *A Wizard's Tale* and forthcoming features *Paws of Fury*, *10 Lives*, *A Greyhound of a Girl* and *Sneaks*.

Guy's day-to-day responsibilities include the management of the company and overseeing GFMA's corporate and production financing activities.

#### **Nate Hopper - Writer**

Nate is a seasoned animation executive who spent years at Sony Pictures Animation where he served as the lead creative executive on the company's inaugural movie, 2006's *Open Season*, and worked on *Surf's Up*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *Arthur Christmas*. He was also key to the making of SPA's hit franchise *Hotel Transylvania*.

#### **Mike Andrews- Editor**

Mike is a film editor who has lived and worked in Los Angeles for 32 years. He moved to Los Angeles from Chicago to enroll in UCLA Film School, with a focus on Animation. Through his student work and early career in television, he found himself drawn to the editing aspect of film production. He honed his craft over several years on TV shows like; *The Ren & Stimpy Show*, *Duckman*, and *Spawn*. Before progressing to animated features.

In 1997, Mike started working at DreamWorks Animation, editing feature films like: *Shrek*, *Shrek 2*, *Megamind*, and *Peabody & Sherman*, which saw Mike teamed with director Rob Minkoff for the first time.

In addition to reteaming with Rob for his film *Paws of Fury*, Mike's feature-animation credits include Sony Pictures Animations' *Wish Dragon* & Paramount Animations' *The Spongebob Movie: Sponge on the Run*. Mike is currently editing Sony Picture's Animation *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse 2*, which will be released in October 2022.

#### **Jason Ryan- Animation Director**

Jason is renowned throughout the animation industry, not just for his skills as an animation director, but as a passionate advocate for educating the next generation of artists.

Credits from Jason's 27-year career with Walt Disney, DreamWorks Animation and Cinesite are extensive, including *Riverdance: The Animated Adventure*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *The Croods*, *Big Hero 6* and *Meet the Robinsons*, *Shrek 4* and now *Paws of Fury*. He is also co-founder of world-leading online training platform, iAnimate.