



BY EZRA



ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

- **ALEX THE LION: THE LEADER OF THE ZOOSTERS, VOICED BY BEN STILLER**
- **MARTY THE ZEBRA: ALEX'S BEST FRIEND, VOICED BY CHRIS ROCK**
- **MELMAN THE GIRAFFE: ONE OF ALEX'S FRIENDS, VOICED BY DAVID SCHWIMMER**
- **GLORIA THE HIPPOPOTAMUS: ONE OF ALEX'S FRIENDS AND MELMAN'S LOVE INTEREST, VOICED BY JADA PINKETT SMITH**
- **KING JULIEN XIII: THE KING OF MADAGASCAR, A RING-TAILED LEMUR, VOICED BY SACHA BARON COHEN**
- **MAURICE THE AYE-AYE: KING JULIEN'S ASSISTANT AND ROYAL ADVISER, VOICED BY CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER**
- **MORT THE GOODMAN'S MOUSE LEMUR: KING JULIEN'S BIGGEST FAN, VOICED BY ANDY RICHTER**
- **SKIPPER: THE LEADER OF THE PENGUINS, VOICED BY TOM MCGRATH**
- **KOWALSKI: SKIPPER'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND AND THE BRAINS OF THE PENGUINS, VOICED BY CHRIS MILLER**
- **PRIVATE: AN EAGER ROOKIE OF THE PENGUINS WITH AN ENGLISH ACCENT, VOICED BY CHRISTOPHER KNIGHTS**
- **GIA: AN ITALIAN JAGUAR AND ALEX'S LOVE INTEREST, VOICED BY JESSICA CHASTAIN**
- **VITALY: A TRAUMATIZED RUSSIAN SIBERIAN TIGER AND AN EX-SUPERSTAR OF CIRCUS ZARAGOZA, VOICED BY BRYAN CRANSTON**
- **STEFANO: AN ITALIAN NEW ZEALAND SEA LION, VOICED BY MARTIN SHORT**

WHERE MADAGASCAR GOT IT'S NAME

- **THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME MADAGASCAR IS UNCERTAIN, BUT IT'S LIKELY THAT EUROPEANS POPULARIZED THE NAME IN THE MIDDLE AGES. HERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS:**
- **MARCO POLO**
- **THE VENETIAN EXPLORER MAY HAVE CONFUSED MADAGASCAR WITH MOGADISHU, A KINGDOM IN SOMALIA, AND NAMED THE ISLAND AFTER MISPRONOUNCING AND MISSPELLING MOGADISHU.**
- **MALAY ISLAND**
- **THE ISLAND MAY BE NAMED AFTER THE ARABIC TERM GESIRA MALAI, WHICH MEANS "MALAY ISLAND". THIS NAME MAY HAVE BEEN INVERTED TO MALAI GESIRA BY THE GREEKS, AND THEN LATER TRANSLATED TO MALICHU IN LATIN.**
- **ARAB EXPLORATION**
- **A MAP USED BY ARAB EXPLORERS MAY HAVE WARPED THE DIRECTION OF AFRICA'S EAST COAST, CAUSING THEM TO CONFLATE MADAGASCAR WITH AN ISLAND IN INDONESIA.**
- **THE MALAGASY PEOPLE CALL THE ISLAND MADAGASIKARA, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY ARE CALLED MALAGASY.**

HISTORY

RELEASE: THE FIRST MADAGASCAR MOVIE WAS RELEASED IN THE UNITED STATES ON MAY 27, 2005.

DIRECTOR: ERIC DARNELL AND TOM MCGRATH DIRECTED THE MOVIE.

VOICE ACTORS: THE MAIN CHARACTERS WERE VOICED BY BEN STILLER AS ALEX THE LION, CHRIS ROCK AS MARTY THE ZEBRA, DAVID SCHWIMMER AS MELMAN THE GIRAFFE, AND JADA PINKETT SMITH AS GLORIA THE HIPPO.

SUCCESS: THE MOVIE WAS A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS, GROSSING OVER \$532 MILLION WORLDWIDE.

SEQUELS: THE MOVIE WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO SEQUELS, MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED.

OTHER MEDIA: THE MOVIE ALSO SPAWNED A CHRISTMAS TELEVISION SPECIAL, ANIMATED SERIES, AND FOUR SHORT FILMS.

PREMISE: THE MOVIE IS ABOUT FOUR ANIMALS FROM THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO WHO ARE SHIPWRECKED ON THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR.

INSPIRATION: THE MOVIE'S JOURNEY TO MADAGASCAR IS SIMILAR TO THE RAFTING HYPOTHESIS, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT LEMURS AND OTHER SPECIES MADE IT TO MADAGASCAR BY RAFTING ACROSS FROM THE AFRICAN MAINLAND.

FUN FACTS

- **MELMAN WAS ALMOST AN OKAPI:**
- **INITIALLY, THE QUARTET OF MAIN CHARACTERS WERE PLANNED TO BE A LION, A ZEBRA, A HIPPO, AND AN OKAPI. MELMAN, THE GIRAFFE, WAS CHOSEN TO BE MORE RECOGNIZABLE AND FAMILIAR TO AUDIENCES.**
- **NO CENTRAL PARK ZOO ANIMALS:**
- **NONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS (LION, ZEBRA, GIRAFFE, OR HIPPO) ARE ACTUALLY HOUSED AT THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO, THOUGH PENGUINS ARE!**
- **THE MOVIE'S THEMES ARE DEEPER THAN YOU THINK:**
- **SOME HAVE ANALYZED THE FILM AS A METAPHORIC PIECE, EXPLORING THEMES LIKE IDENTITY, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND ACCEPTANCE.**
- **THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP IS CENTRAL:**
- **THE FILM EMPHASIZES THE STRENGTH OF FRIENDSHIP, WITH THE**

CHARACTERS GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO HELP EACH OTHER.

- **BEHIND-THE-SCENES FACTS:**
- **MADAGASCAR'S ACCURACY:**
- **THE FILMMAKERS DID A GOOD JOB IN PORTRAYING MADAGASCAR'S UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE. THE MOVIE EVEN INSPIRED SOME PEOPLE TO VISIT THE REAL MADAGASCAR!**
- **THE MOVIE'S SUCCESS:**
- **THE "MADAGASCAR" FRANCHISE HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH THE FIRST MOVIE IN 2005, FOLLOWED BY "MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA" IN 2008, AND "MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED" IN 2012.**
- **THE MOVIE'S IMPACT:**
- **THE "MADAGASCAR" MOVIE HAS BROUGHT AWARENESS TO MADAGASCAR'S UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY AND THE CHALLENGES IT FACES.**

• **FUN TRIVIA:**

- **THE PENGUINS WERE A SURPRISE HIT:**
- **THE PENGUINS, ORIGINALLY MINOR CHARACTERS, BECAME FAN FAVORITES AND EVEN GOT THEIR OWN SPIN-OFF MOVIE!**
- **MADAGASCAR'S ISOLATION:**
- **MADAGASCAR'S UNIQUE WILDLIFE IS DUE TO ITS ISOLATION FROM OTHER CONTINENTS, WITH AROUND 90% OF ITS PLANTS AND ANIMALS FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.**
- **THE MOVIE'S APPEAL:**
- **THE MOVIE'S APPEAL LIES IN ITS HUMOR, ADVENTURE, AND HEARTWARMING STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND FINDING YOUR WAY BACK HOME.**

ABOUT THE MOVIES

- **MADAGASCAR**
- **THE FIRST MOVIE IN THE FRANCHISE, RELEASED IN 2005**
- **MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA**
- **THE SEQUEL TO MADAGASCAR, RELEASED IN 2008**
- **MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED**
- **THE THIRD MOVIE IN THE FRANCHISE, RELEASED IN 2012**
- **PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR**
- **A SPIN-OFF FILM ABOUT THE PENGUINS, RELEASED IN 2014**

HOLIDAYS

- **THE MADAGASCAR FRANCHISE INCLUDES A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL CALLED MERRY MADAGASCAR THAT AIRED ON NBC IN 2009. THE SPECIAL IS SET BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND MADAGASCAR FILMS AND FEATURES THE CHARACTERS FROM THE SERIES. IN THE SPECIAL, THE PENGUINS ACCUSE THE REINDEER OF STEALING SANTA'S WORKSHOP, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY LOCATED AT THE SOUTH POLE. THE PENGUINS USE SANTA'S THE MADAGASCAR THE MADAGASCAR FRANCHISE ALSO INCLUDES OTHER HOLIDAY-THEMED SHORTS, SUCH AS THE MADAGASCAR PENGUINS IN A CHRISTMAS CAPER AND MADLY MADAGASCAR. ALSO INCLUDES OTHER HOLIDAY-THEMED SHORTS, SUCH AS THE MADAGASCAR PENGUINS IN A CHRISTMAS CAPER AND MADLY MADAGASCAR. DUST TO FLY AND LEAVE SANTA WITH THE LEMURS.**



ANY QUESTIONS

THE END

