



THUNDER

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THUNDER

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SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE: A young African pygmy elephant confronts his fears, achieves a dream, and fulfills a legend.

SYNOPSIS:

THUNDER, an African forest pygmy elephant, was born just as a thunderstorm broke over the African jungle. Almost immediately, he began to stomp vigorously on the damp ground with every thunderclap. His mother named him **THUNDER**; and his life would be marked with adventure and greatness.

When **THUNDER** is captured by poachers, he becomes separated from his mother and his herd. While being transported for sale, the poacher, **DRAGO**, crashes the transport vehicle releasing **THUNDER**, along with **PENELOPE**, an African Grey Parrot he befriended, into the wild. Unfortunately, the hillside collapses under him and **THUNDER** finds his leg caught under a huge log. Finally, a disgruntled Rhino named **SOMA** and two egrets **CEDRIC** and **SYDNEY** comes along and **SOMA** reluctantly helps him out. After **THUNDER** is freed, they all start the quest to find **THUNDER'S** mother and his herd.

Nearby, a small jungle village is struggling to feed its people. Times are tough, and elephant herds regularly trample their fields. **DRAGO** tries to entice **MOSI**, a farmer with a sick wife and small child, to join him and try poaching because there is money to be made off elephant tusks.

All the while, **THUNDER** is trying to find a way to rejoin his herd. He comes across a surf guru hippo named **RILEY** who tells **THUNDER** the prophecy of the **GREAT TUSKER** in the Sky, and hints that this may be **THUNDER'S** destiny. As their quest continues, **THUNDER** and his companions find **FREDERICK**, an eccentric Flamingo, to help find a way past an electrified fence and across vast fields where **THUNDER** spotted an elephant herd. **THUNDER** attempts to signal the elephants through a special means of communication called *rumbling*. The herd takes no notice. **FREDERIC** comes up with a plan to get **THUNDER** and **SOMA** across the field.

MOSI'S daughter, **IMANI**, is playing fetch with her puppy, **SENJI**. Soon, the rain comes creating a torrential downpour. **IMANI** chases after **SENJI**, and she follows him to her own peril. When she reaches **SENJI**, she finds herself stuck on a sand spit, now surrounded by water, and is trapped. **IMANI** calls out for help. Thankfully **THUNDER** hears her call and comes to **IMANI'S** rescue, but the flood waters are too strong, and he can't stay afloat. Suddenly, **SOMA** arrives and lends **THUNDER** a hand, but she is swept away in the flood. Fortunately, the elephants heard **THUNDER'S** rumbling and arrived in time to escort him and **IMANI** back across the raging river to safety. **MOSI**, the farmer, watched the elephants save his daughter and can no longer bring himself to destroy them. He drops his gun and watches it as it floats down the river.

Now with the help of the elephants, **THUNDER** is able to find his way back to his herd and finally his mother. But during the joyful reunion and after all the accolades for bravery have been bestowed on him, he is still deeply saddened by the loss of his friend **SOMA**. But because of his act of bravery, this one act of *kindness*, he has fulfilled the *prophecy* of the **GREAT TUSKER**. The **GREAT TUSKER** smiles down on him, and now there is *hope* for peace in the rainforest again – the **GREAT TUSKER** delivers **THUNDER** a very special gift – **SOMA**, alive and well, is back.



CHARACTERS

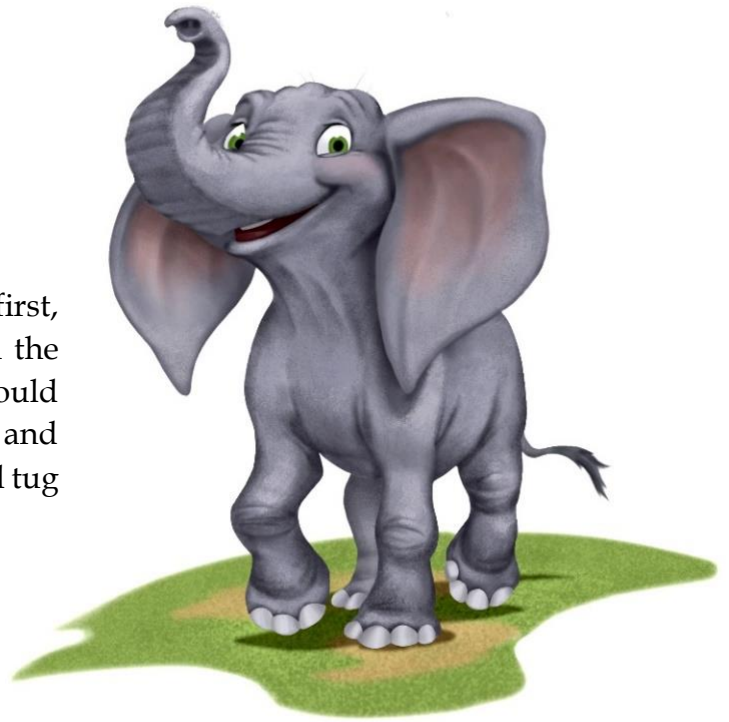
THUNDER-BABY



When Thunder is born his feet stomp so loud the earth shakes. That is how he earned his name. He is an adorable little African pygmy elephant born to make a huge difference in this world.

THUNDER-YOUNG

Thunder is a young elephant calf. He is naïve at first, as his mother has kept him quite sheltered from the outside world. He had no idea that uprights could poach him from his herd at any time. Curious and rambunctious, Thunder is an adorable calf that will tug at the heart strings.



PENELOPE



Penelope is a naïve African grey parrot, who has a sing song nature that makes her stand out from all the other characters. Not able to string a full sentence together, most of the time her words are bizarre words and phrases that often relate to some part of the discussion. She may not look like the lights are on but nobody's home, but she is much smarter than her vocabulary gives her credit for. A dear friend to Thunder, Penelope would do anything to help him find his way home.

SOMA

Soma is world weary. Soma is a survivor of poaching. She has lost her entire herd and when she did, she became used to solitude and making it on her own. She allows the egrets in her life only because they have a symbiotic relationship. Soma is sharp around the edges, but there is a small maternal instinct inside her that makes her soften up to the elephant calf when he needs help. She is fierce protector and will do whatever it takes to survive.



SERENITY



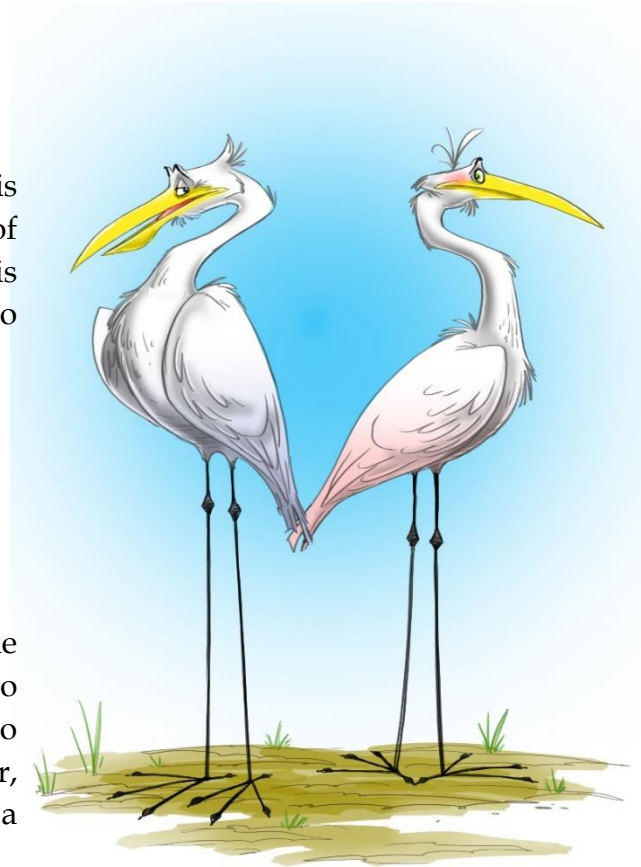
Serenity is a female elephant who has lost her mate. She is raising her child Thunder with her herd along with other female elephants. Serenity is a matron of the herd watching over all the calves at one point or another teaching them the ways of the elephant.

CEDRIC

Cedric is a male adult egret who is quite eccentric. He is constantly egging his sibling on. He has a good sense of humor but is not the brains of the bunch. Even though his sister get on his nerves, there is nothing he would not do to protect any of them.

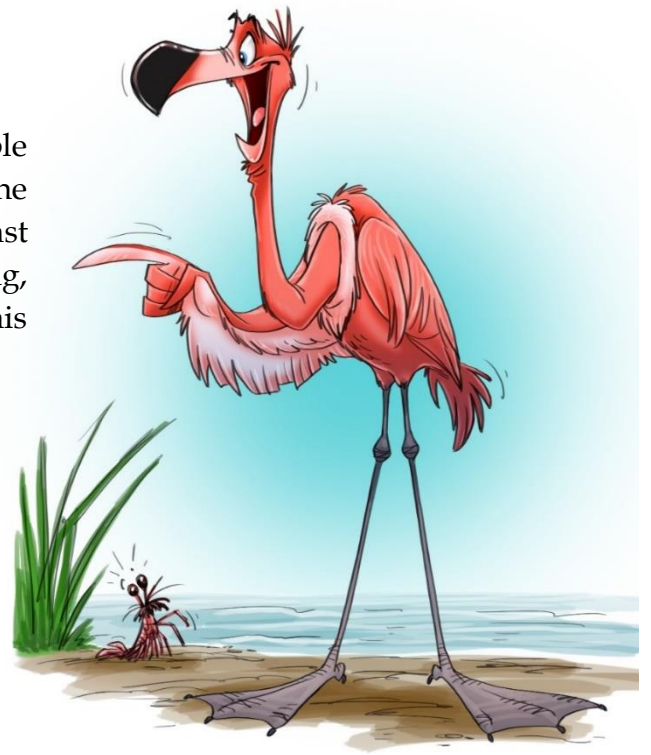
SYDNEY

Sydney is the female egret, and of adult age. She has the strongest personality. Never second guess her ability to do anything, because Sydney is a strong woman, she can do anything she puts her mind to. Often annoyed by her brother, Sydney is not above knocking him on his backsides to him a lesson.

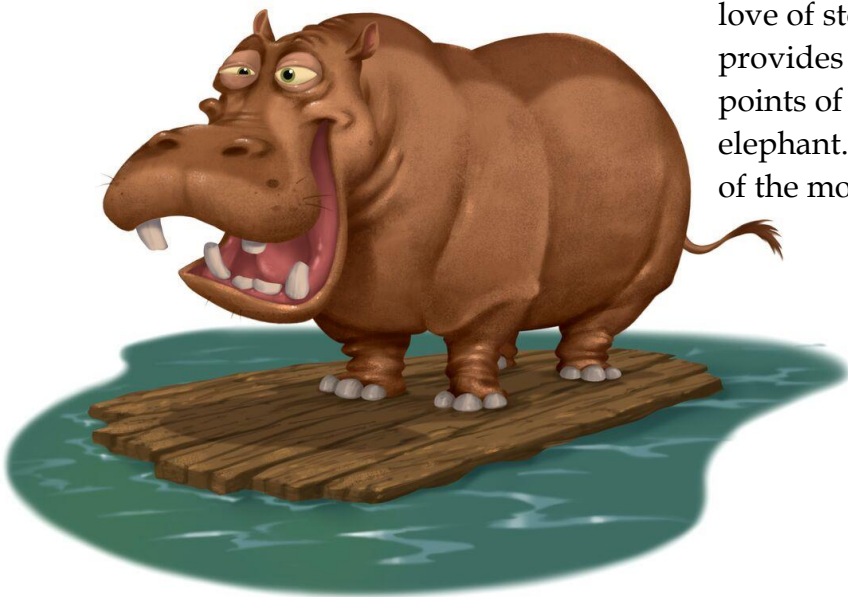


FREDERICK THE PINK FLAMINGO

Frederick is one ostentatious flamingo. Always fashionable and friendly, Frederick is also a problem solver. Albeit, the solutions are zanier than the bird himself, they at least provide entertaining moments. Frederick is a social being, craving attention, which is probably why he accentuates his vibrant good looks with lost items from the upright world.



RILEY



Riley is a surfing hippo, of adult age. He is like a guru to those that seek refuge on the beach. His avid love of storytelling, brings the beach together. Riley provides the guidance Thunder needs at different points of his life, making him a role model to the tiny elephant. Always ready to catch a wave, Riley is one of the most carefree characters in the story.

IMANI & SENJI



Imani is Mosi and Sarani's young daughter. She loves to spend time outdoors and her favorite friend is Senji, her basenji puppy. Playful and curious, Imani is oblivious to the hardships on her family's farm. When her pup runs off, Imani has no problem chasing after him to save him from himself. She is a brave young girl who is wise beyond her years.

DRAGO

Drago is the leader of the poaching ring. While he is a big shot, he still reports to someone else. He is unscrupulous where it comes to making money. He does not care that he is breaking the law. All he cares about is buying anything that projects his social standing, almost as if he is compensating for something. He does not see animals as anything but a means of profit.



HAROLD



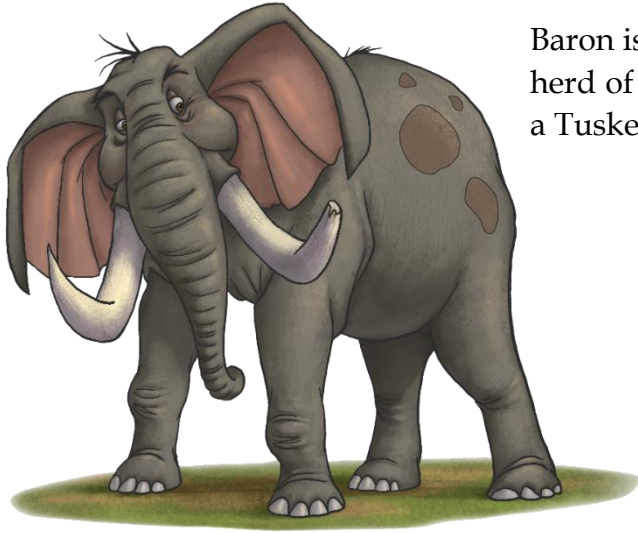
Harold is the more serious of the two silverback gorillas. Silent, and reflective, Harold is always pondering the difference between the world of the animals compared to the one the uprights live within. Don't let his serious exterior fool you though. Harold can clown around with the best of them. With Neville as his sidekick, he has gotten into many hilarious situations in his life time.

NEVILLE

Neville is a silverback gorilla who loves to have fun. He is a silent watcher of the world around him, when it suits him. Other times, he is the first to kick the dust off his fur and get into hilarious hijinks, like racing like a cowboy across the plains. He is an adult, but you would never know his age based on his actions. He is brave and a fierce defender of those smaller than him. His moral compass is sound.



BARON



Baron is one of the elder elephants who knows where a large herd of elephants has converged. He is a giant, but not quite a Tusker, as there are only a few of those in the wild.

JENETTA BLUE

Jenetta Blue is character that has no speaking parts. She is more of a curiosity for Thunder at first. She is an unknown guardian to Thunder, looking out for him across the series. She pops up at different intervals, almost like a sign of things to come or a catalyst of change.



Beat Boards

The beat boards tell the entire script. It fits Disney's DNA model.





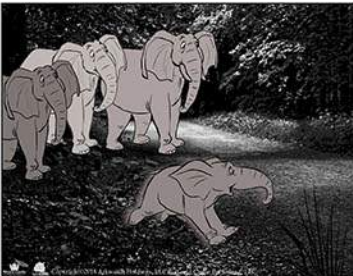
A magnificent African sunrise reveals the elephants arriving at the end of their pilgrimage.



The elephants ring the waterhole to join Serenity for a very special arrival.



Baby Thunder rises up on a gush of water, to the amazement of all.



Thunder earns his name as everyone can hear his galloping run from far away.



Thunder meets Penelope, the outrageous Grey Parrot.



Thunder and his friends arrive with a splash for their lessons.



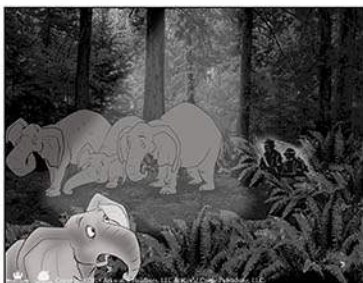
Thunder is lured away from his lessons by a mysterious Blue Butterfly.



In another part of the forest, Drago, an evil minded "Upright" is looking for elephants.



Drago spots the herd and plans his attack.



Drago's gang moves into position and are spotted by Thunder.



Thunder runs deep into the forest away from Drago



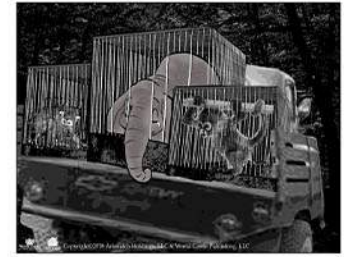
Thunder, lost and alone, comes upon Penelope and asks for help.



Drago catches Thunder unawares with a tranquilizer dart.



Thunder is caged with the other small animals Drago has captured.



Thunder feels sorry for himself as the truck starts to pick up speed.



Drago's truck crashes and the animals run free.



Thunder is trapped by a tree trunk, but help is on the way.



Thunder meets Soma the rhino and her hilarious egret friends, Cedric and Sydney.



Thunder, Penelope, and their new friends set off together.



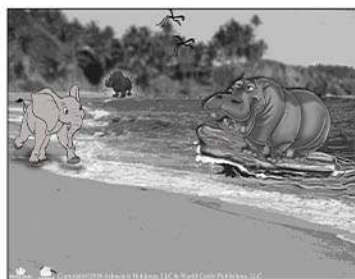
Imani plays with her dog, Senji on her small farm.



Mosi tries to drive off a herd of elephants trampling a field of crops.



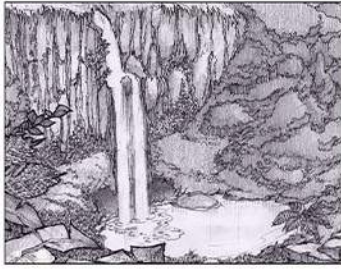
Thunder and his friends approach the beach.



Thunder meets Riley the Hippo and hears the "Legend of Tusker."



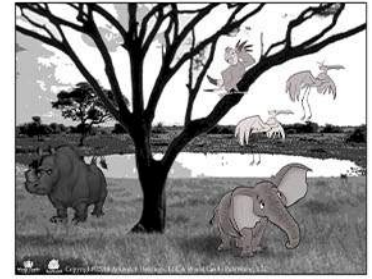
Drago tempts Mosi after the elephants have trampled his field.



The waterfall where Thunder and his friends rest.



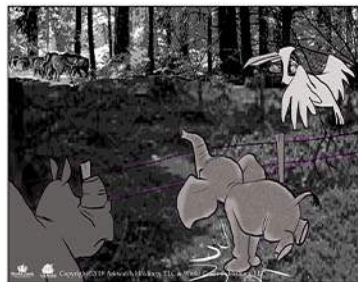
Thunder wonders if he will ever see his mother again.



Thunder and his friends hear a far off noise.



The villagers drive a herd of elephants away from their friends.



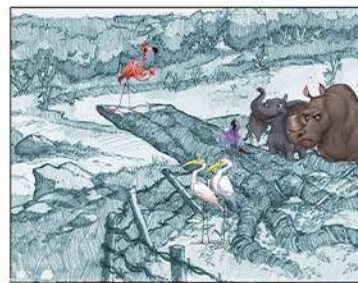
Blocked by a fence, Thunder 'rumbles' to try to call to the herd.



Drago gives Mosi a gun and his orders.



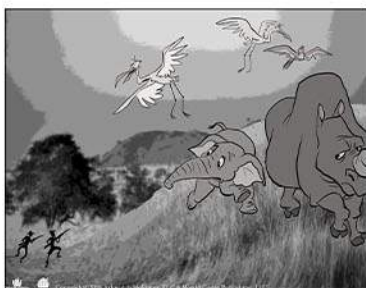
Imani plays with Senji by the river.



Frederick the flamingo, gives the friends some unexpected help.



Thunder and Soma cross the fence and tumble down the hill.



The friends flee the hunters.



The sudden storm causes the stream to flood and cut Imani and Senji off from land.



And they find themselves alone on an island as the river rises.



Drago bursts through the undergrowth in front of Thunder.



Cederic and Sydney sprint to attack!



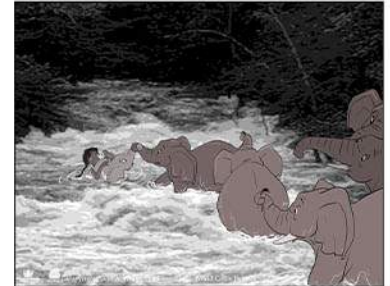
With Soma's help, they drive rago off for good.



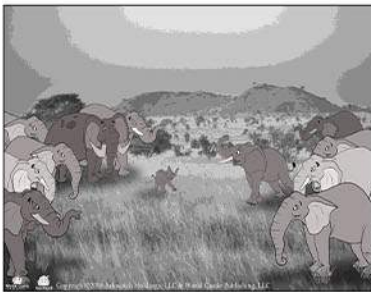
Meanwhile, the river rises higher around Imani and Senji.



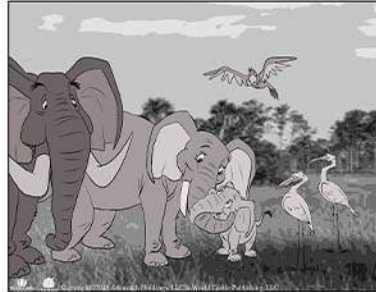
Thunder and Soma attempt the rescue, but Soma is swept away by the flood.



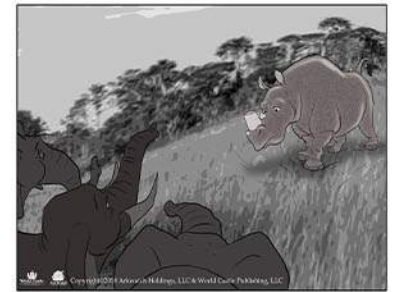
Barron's herd arrive just in time to rescue Thunder, Imani and Senji.



The herds rejoin and Thunder runs to meet Serenity.



All Thunder's new friends arrive to join Thunder and Serenity's happy reunion.



Soma has survived and joins the party.

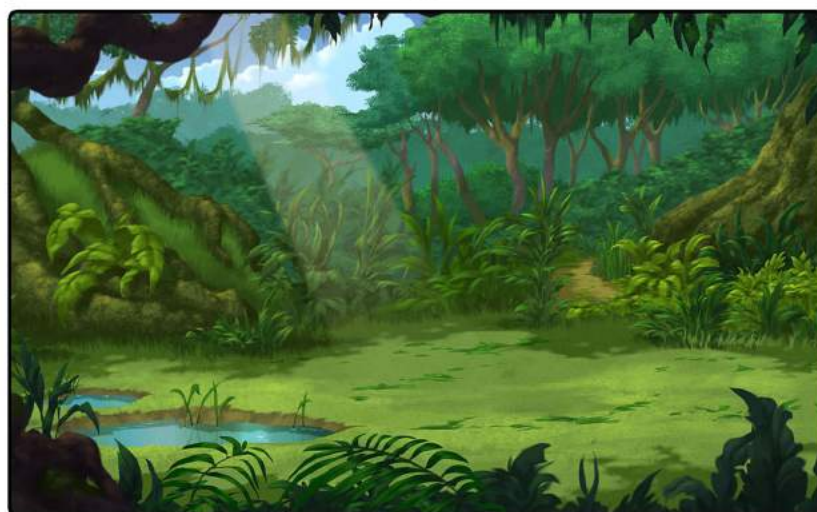


Thunder and Serenity share a happy moment as they start to pull back.



We truck out to reveal the herd, safe for now, in a natural refuge.

Backgrounds



CREATORS AND WRITERS

Creator and Screenwriter Erik Daniel Shein



Mr. Shein is an author who has co-authored an assortment of middle-grade books and screenplays including: *Thunder: An Elephant's Journey* Literary Series; *Rocket Hound*; *Aurora: Spirit Bear of the North*; *Seed Crackers*; *Kona*; *A Galapagos Tale* and *Mystic Kingdom*. Mr. Shein has co-authored a Young Adult Fantasy Adventure to include: *The Destined Guardians Series: Call of the Phoenix* and *Rise of the Winged Serpent*. Also, in the young adult category, he co-authored the action-packed young adult science fiction adventure/thriller *Primordial Code* released in March 2019. Screenplays recently optioned in 2021 are *Rocket Hound*, *Venomous Deception* and *Blood Body and Mind*. Mr. Shein also helped arrange financing, co-wrote and produced the CGI Animated Fantasy/Adventure Feature Film, "*The Legend of Secret Pass*," released in 2019 – represented worldwide by Lionsgate Entertainment. *Kona* is soon to be a major motion picture.

Creator and Screenwriter Karen Fuller

Mrs. Fuller has written several screenplays and has co-authored, *Mystic Kingdom*, a middle-grade Incan fantasy adventure, with Mr. Shein. Mrs. Fuller has also co-written the screenplays for: *Thunder: An Elephant's Journey*; *Footprints in the Sand*; *Hope Haven*; *Tusker*; *Aurora: Spirit Bear of the North*; *Kona*; *Rocket Hound*; *Call of the Phoenix*; *Through the Mortal Veil*, *The Mighty Tusks*, *A Forever Home for the Holidays*, *Blood, Body and Mind*, *Aurora Skies*, *EverGreen*, *Don't Speak* and *Primordial Code*. Screenplays recently optioned in 2021 are *Rocket Hound*, *Venomous Deception* and *Blood Body and Mind*. *Kona* is soon to be a major motion picture.



Creator and Screenwriter Melissa Davis



Mrs. Davis has written several screen plays has co-authored an assortment of middle-grade books with Mr. Shein including: *Thunder: An Elephant's Journey* Literary Series, *Rocket Hound*, *Aurora: Spirit Bear of the North*, *Seed Crackers*, *Kona*, and *A Galapagos Tale*. She has co-authored a Young Adult Fantasy Adventure to include: *The Destined Guardians Series: Call of the Phoenix* and *Rise of the Winged Serpent*, and *Through the Mortal Veil*. Also, in the young adult category, she co-authored the action-packed young adult science fiction adventure/thriller *Primordial Code*. Screenplays recently optioned in 2021 are *Rocket Hound*, *Venomous Deception* and *Blood Body and Mind*. *Kona* is soon to be a major motion picture.

Key Creatives



Several of Our Key Creatives
are Disney Hall of Famers
who have shared their artistic abilities
through their love and passion of the story
and project and would like to see it made.

Our key creatives were commissioned
work for hire.

KEY CREATIVES

Story Development James Costello



Mr. Costello is a veteran of the entertainment industry, from composing and conducting music, to writing, producing, and directing for the theatre, television and film, culminating in a leading career in International animation production for theatricals and television. As a producer in New York, London, Asia and Hollywood, his 35 years of experience led to the creation of the International Animation Studio, Moving Images, and the co-founding/owner of Toon City, Disney's largest source of independent animation production. At those two studios, under Mr. Costello supervision, there were more than 50 animated television series, specials and feature DVDs produced.

Mr. Costello also Produced, Co-wrote the CGI Animated Fantasy/Adventure Feature Film, "The Legend of Secret Pass," due for release in 2019 — represented worldwide by Lionsgate Entertainment.

Woody has spent most of his formative years in animation in one guise or another, animating and directing in forms as varied as CG, TV series and Stop Frame, and Theatricals, including more than two dozen years at Disney as an Animation Director. For the last handful of years, he has focused on developing various flavors of CG animation on projects as varied as Disney's GENIE'S GREAT MINDS and the outrageous 4WOMEN DRIVING. Lately he is making the rounds of festivals with the award-winning TV Special, 'ROOM TO GROW' and series 'POM POM and FRIENDS'. He has been ANNIE and EMMY nominated for 'Individual Achievement in Animation'. He was assistant director for 'THE LEGEND OF SECRET PASS'. 'THE LEGEND OF SECRET PASS,' is due to release in 2019 — represented worldwide by Lionsgate Entertainment.

Development Director Woody Yocum



KEY CREATIVES

Lead Character Designer/Story Artist

Kenny Thompkins



Animation Director at Disney Television, Visual effects artist, sculptor, designer, storyboard artist, director, animator at Walt Disney Television Animation

Kenny Thompkins was born and raised in Cleveland in a family of artists. He was inspired by both his siblings' art as well as the art of Da Vinci and Michelangelo. In 1979 at the age of eighteen, he moved from Cleveland to California, striving to work for Disney Animation Studios. He worked at a sandwich shop for two years until his art was discovered by Eric Larson, one of Disney's top animators and a member of the "Disney's Nine Old Men" core animators, known for his work in *Lady and the Tramp*, *Jungle Book*, and *Peter Pan*. He directed Kenny to California Institute of the Arts, where, after three attempts, Kenny was accepted and studied there for four years before graduating with a degree in animation. He worked for several years on other studios before finally being hired by Disney itself.

Production Designer

Derek Carter

Art Director, Animation Key BG Designer, Concept artist, Humorous illustrator, Layout artist, and Character artist.

Derek is English from just south of London. He came home one afternoon from his regular job in an exhibition design studio and caught Halas and Batchelor's "Tales of Hoffnung" series (shorts based on the cartoons of Gerard Hoffnung). He was looking for something a tad more challenging than making large felt covered plywood figures of British policemen and Yeoman Warders, he thought animation looked interesting so he sent queries off to John Halas and Walt Disney. John replied, Walt didn't so in March 1966 (about two days after the last dinosaur crashed to the ground, I don't remember no comet...) He entered the Georgian studio of Halas and Batchelor in Soho Square in the West End of London as a lowly totally inexperienced in betweener to work on his first series, Wrather Corp's "The Lone Ranger". -Animationsinsider.com



KEY CREATIVES

Art Director
James Gallego

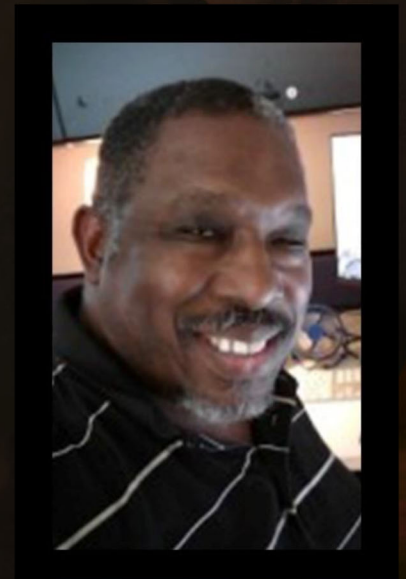


James Gallego graduated from Art Center College of Design as an Illustrator, and has been working in the animation industry since 1984. His credits include many titles for the Walt Disney company as a painter and Art Director. He has also worked for Nickelodeon, Dreamworks, Marvel, Warner Brothers, and many others, and has illustrated little golden books for Random House Publishers. James currently resides in Pasadena California and has two daughters.

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Center College of Design. Member Creative Talent Network, Twenty Five years as a painter, designer in the animation industry. Background key artist/visdev artist for 2D and 3D animation. Art directed four Disney direct to video animated productions and worked with studios in Australia and Japan. Most recently painted production backgrounds for Disney theatrical release "The Princess and the Frog."

Lenord Robinson is a graphic and digital artist who is employed by Walt Disney Television Studios and Dreamworks Production Companies. He has gained notoriety through his efforts as a storyboard artist, character designer, and animation director for various movies and television series. His notable efforts include The Lord of the Rings (1978), Jem (1987-1988), Animaniacs (1993-1994), The Lionhearts (1998), The Cleveland Show (2009-2010), Dragons: Riders of Berk (2012-2014), and The 7D (2014).

Lenord Robinson

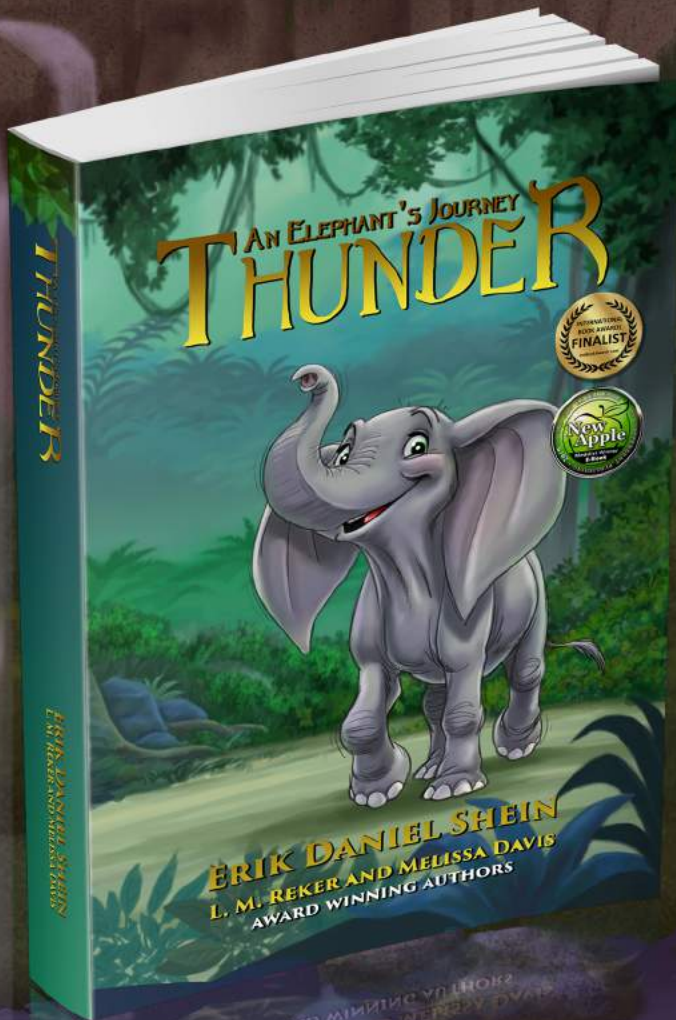


The Development of Thunder



THUNDER IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE BESTSELLING AND AWARD-WINNING NOVEL, THUNDER: AN ELEPHANT'S JOURNEY, PUBLISHED IN 2016 BY WORLD CASTLE PUBLISHING.

THUNDER: AN ELEPHANT'S JOURNEY
ERIK DANIEL SHIEN * MELISSA DAVIS * L. M. REKER
WORLD CASTLE PUBLISHING



Have you met Thunder yet? A new adorable elephant hero that everyone's falling in love with.

From the moment Thunder took his first step, it was clear that his footsteps would make quite an impression on the world around him.

The tiny elephant's life was pretty much perfect until one fateful night when poachers crept into it. In the cloak of darkness, they sprang on the herd, separating him from his mother and the rest of the herd. After a harrowing escape, Thunder must dig deep inside to find the courage to find his way home. With helpful friends and the watchful eye of the Great Tusker in the sky, Thunder's journey is an adventure of a lifetime.

A thrilling, inspiring tale of bravery and family. -
Kirkus Reviews





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