

The Art and Making of Paranorman



The Art and Making of ParaNorman by Jed Alger

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Paranorman is a stop-motion animated film that tells the story of a young boy who can see ghosts. The film was released in 2012 and was a critical

and commercial success, grossing over \$107 million worldwide. It was also nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film.

Paranorman was directed by Chris Butler and Sam Fell, and it was produced by Laika, the same studio that produced Coraline. The film features the voices of Kodi Smit-McPhee, Anna Kendrick, Casey Affleck, and John Goodman.

The art of Paranorman is both beautiful and haunting. The film's characters are designed with a unique and stylized look, and the backgrounds are rich and atmospheric. The film's animation is also top-notch, and it brings the characters and world to life in a way that is both believable and magical.

In this article, we will take a look at the art and making of Paranorman, and we will explore the creative process behind this groundbreaking film.

The Story

The story of Paranorman is based on a screenplay by Chris Butler. The screenplay was inspired by Butler's own childhood experiences of growing up in a small town in Massachusetts. Butler said that he was always fascinated by ghost stories, and he wanted to create a film that would explore the themes of fear, friendship, and acceptance.

The film tells the story of Norman Babcock, a young boy who can see ghosts. Norman is an outcast in his small town, and he is often bullied by his classmates. However, Norman's ability to see ghosts also gives him a unique perspective on life, and he is able to see the beauty and humanity in the spirits that others cannot.

When Norman's town is threatened by a curse, he must use his ability to see ghosts to save the day. With the help of his friends, Norman must face his fears and learn to accept himself for who he is.

The Characters

The characters in Paranorman are all unique and memorable. Norman is a complex and sympathetic protagonist, and his journey of self-acceptance is relatable to audiences of all ages. The film's supporting cast is also well-developed, and each character has their own unique personality and motivations.

Norman Babcock is the main protagonist of the film. He is a young boy who can see ghosts. Norman is an outcast in his small town, and he is often bullied by his classmates. However, Norman's ability to see ghosts also gives him a unique perspective on life, and he is able to see the beauty and humanity in the spirits that others cannot.

Neil Downe is Norman's best friend. He is a kind and supportive friend, and he always stands up for Norman when he is being bullied. Neil is also the first person to believe Norman's claims that he can see ghosts.

Courtney Babcock is Norman's older sister. She is popular and outgoing, and she is often embarrassed by Norman's strange behavior. However, Courtney does love her brother, and she is always there for him when he needs her.

Mitch Downe is Neil's older brother. He is a bully who is always picking on Norman. Mitch is also a coward, and he is afraid of ghosts.

Mr. Prenderghast is Norman's teacher. He is a kind and understanding teacher, and he is always willing to help Norman. Mr. Prenderghast is also a bit of a ghost enthusiast, and he is fascinated by Norman's ability to see ghosts.

The Animation

The animation in Paranorman is top-notch. The film's characters are designed with a unique and stylized look, and the backgrounds are rich and atmospheric. The film's animation is also very fluid, and it brings the characters and world to life in a way that is both believable and magical.

Laika is known for its innovative animation techniques, and Paranorman is no exception. The film was shot using a combination of stop-motion animation and computer-generated imagery (CGI). The stop-motion animation gives the film a unique and handcrafted look, while the CGI helps to create the film's more complex and fantastical scenes.

The film's animation team spent years developing the film's unique look and feel. They studied the work of classic stop-motion animators, such as Ray Harryhausen and Willis O'Brien, and they also developed their own new techniques. The result is a film that is both visually stunning and emotionally resonant.

The Themes

Paranorman is a film that explores a number of important themes, including fear, friendship, and acceptance. The film shows that fear can be a powerful force, but it can also be overcome. The film also shows that friendship is important, and that it can help us to overcome our fears.

Finally, the film shows that acceptance is important, and that we should all be accepted for who we are.

The film's message of acceptance is particularly important for children. The film shows that it is okay to be different, and that we should all be accepted for who we are. This is a message that is important for children to hear, and it is one that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The Legacy

Paranorman is a groundbreaking film that has had a lasting impact on the world of animation. The film's unique look and feel, its complex characters, and its important themes have made it a classic of



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