

"Before we can save the world,  
we must put aside our differences.  
We're all on the same rock."

-Animated Filmmaker, Michael Cawood



*The Wrong Rock*

Martin the Mushroom was born on the wrong rock.  
An award-winning animated special about unity, equality, and never giving up.



# *The Wrong Rock* wins Best Animated Short at Burbank & Davis International Film Festivals 2019

Director Michael Cawood is now a two-time winner of the Burbank International Film Festival in the Animated Short Category.

## **Additional Upcoming Festival Screenings**

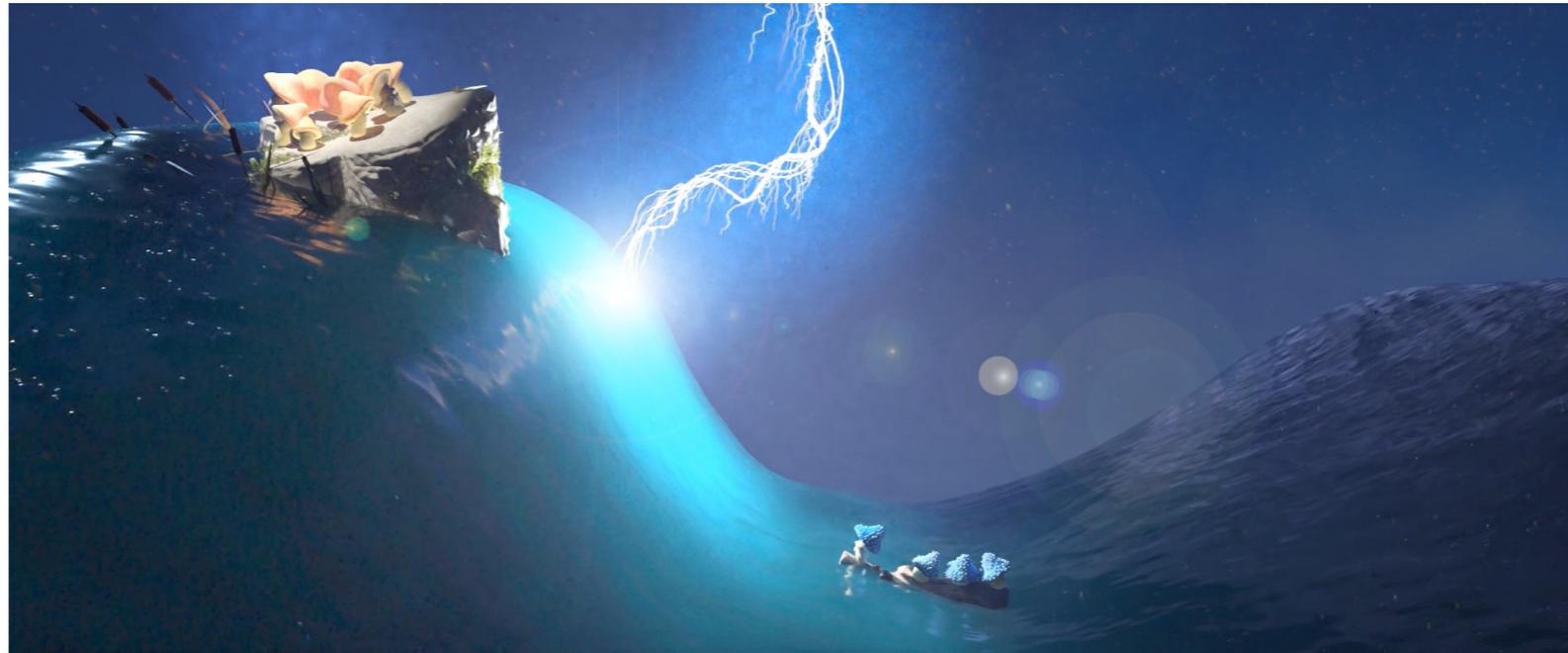
- St. Louis International Film Festival - November 10th
- Foyle Film Festival, Ireland - November 16th
- Animation Marathon, Athens - November 2019

## **Previous Screenings**

- World Human Rights Awards, Indonesia
- Lebu International Film Festival, Chile
- Cape Town International Animation Festival, Africa
- Bermuda International Film Festival, Bermuda
- Animfest Athens, Greece
- Riverrun International Film Festival, Winston-Salem, NC
- British Animation Film Festival London, United Kingdom
- Short Shorts Film Festival, Tokyo, Japan
- Rhode Island International Film Festival, Rhode Island
- HollyShorts Film Festival, Hollywood, California
- Dreamworks, Glendale, California
- Lift-Off Animation Showcase
- Animation Block Party
- Burbank International Film Festival - WINNER
- Edmonton International Film Festival
- Hamptons International Film Festival
- Satisfied Eye in the UK
- Davis International Film Festival - WINNER



*The Wrong Rock* is a tale of equality told through the adventure of a mushroom. Artists from all over the world volunteered to spread the message that despite our differences, we're all living on the same rock. Utilizing the Artella virtual studio platform, Director Michael Cawood worked with global teammates from countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Iran, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The film was rendered entirely with consumer graphics cards through Redshift.



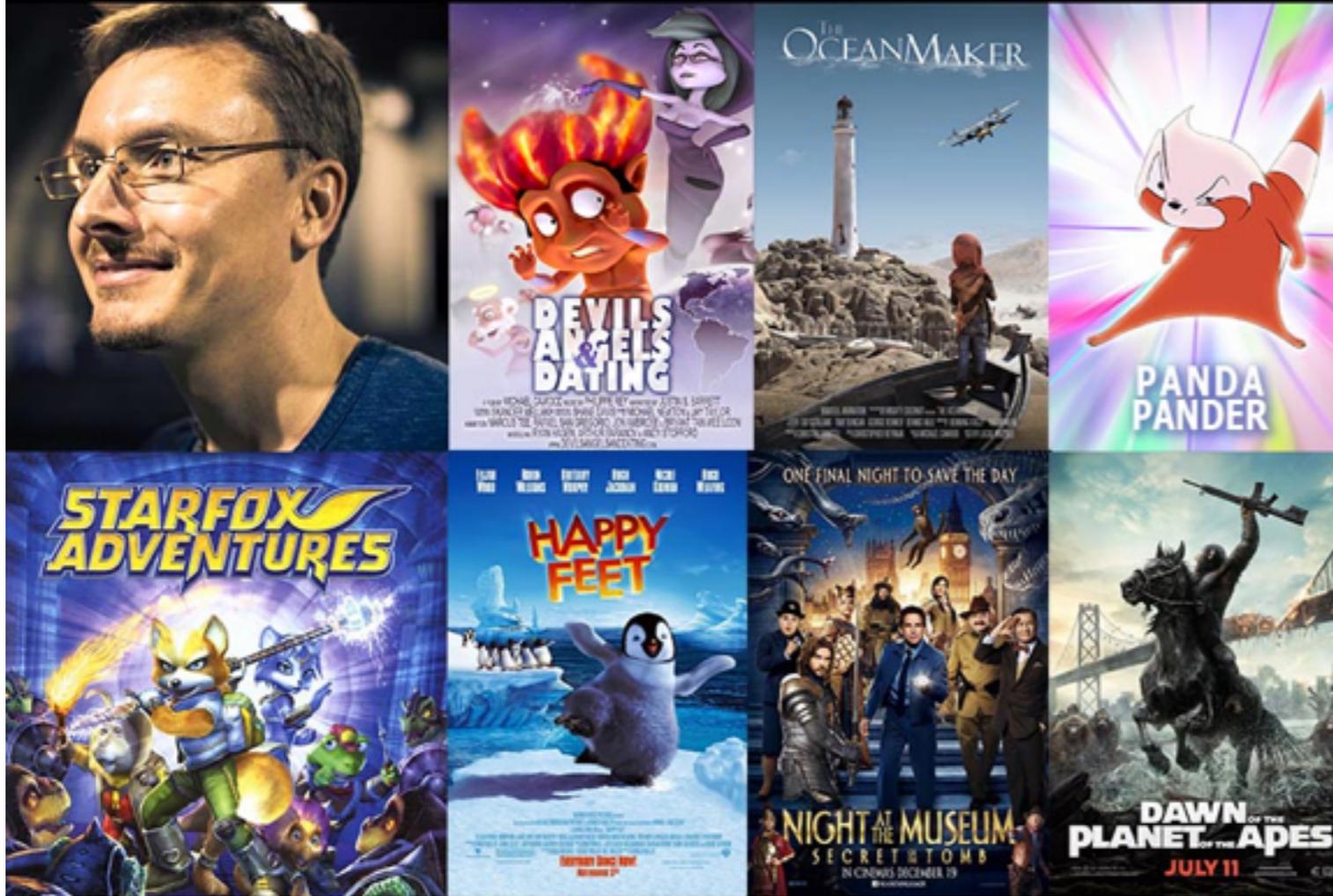
### **Full Synopsis:**

Martin the Mushroom was born on the wrong rock. The mushrooms on his rock look like him, but they don't share the same enthusiasm. When he notices another rock across the sea, he realizes those mushrooms look different, but share his passion for life. So Martin tries to get to the other rock, which is no easy task for a mushroom. The first time he makes the difficult journey, a native mushroom rejects him and he must return home. He's down, but not defeated. Instead of giving up hope, he inspires some of his mushroom friends to join his quest. Together they make the dangerous journey across the sea, but the jump onto the rock is too much to bear. Martin helps his followers get on the rock by hoisting them up. As he makes his final leap to his coveted destination, Martin falls and is lost to the sea.

The next morning, the sun shines brightly and the sea recedes. We pull back to reveal that the two rocks are really just two peaks of the same rock. Despite their differences, they were all on the same rock all along. This universal tale symbolizes the true unity of the human race. Despite racism, sexism, and every other form of bigotry, we are all on this rock together.

## DIRECTOR

## MICHAEL CAWOOD



**Director Michael Cawood** has worked in animation for over 20 years. His previous short film *Devils, Angels & Dating* has over 17 million views online. He's worked at Dreamworks Animation, Warner Animation Group, and recently served as Previs/Postvis Supervisor on *Bumblebee* and *The Mummy* with Tom Cruise. Some additional credits include *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, *Pete's Dragon*, *Happy Feet*, *Pirates of the Caribbean 5*, *Night at the Museum 3*, *Furious 7*, the new *Ghostbusters*, *Star Trek Beyond*, and the video games *Starfox Adventures*, *Kameo*, *Megaman*, *Call of Duty*, and *Skylanders*. He's the perfect person to tell this story because he feels like he was born on the wrong rock. He worked tirelessly for years to get to work in America.

## PRODUCER

## JULIE PIFHER



**Julie Pifher** is an award-winning filmmaker and author. She's premiered three short documentaries at the Cannes International Film Festival, one of which won Best in Short Documentary. Julie has developed and sold television series and pilots to a variety of networks; Syfy, Investigation Discovery, Pivot/Participant, History Channel, and Destination America, among others. Most notably, she created TLC's hit show *My Giant Life* which ran for three seasons, and *Born Behind Bars* for A&E Network. As Vice President of Film & TV for AfterShock Comics, she's adapted comic books optioned by Legendary, Fox, Hulu, and Universal.

## COMPOSER



## GRANT KIRKHOPE



**Grant Kirkhope** is a BAFTA nominated composer who has created the soundtracks to video games that have sold in excess of 30 million copies. From *Mario + Rabbids Kingdom Battle* to *Ghostbusters*, *GoldenEye 007* to *Banjo-Kazooie*, *Perfect Dark* to *Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning* and Sid Meier's *Civilization: Beyond Earth* to *Viva Piñata*, he has shown his versatility in being able to compose music in a huge variety of styles. His work in film includes composing music for the feature film *The King's Daughter* starring Pierce Brosnan, William Hurt and Kaya Scodelario.

## SONG WRITERS



## THE MRS

The band **The Mrs** lent their musical talents to the film by creating the song *The Same Rock* which perfectly summarizes the film's theme. The Mrs formed in Austin, Texas. The band is composed of: Andra Liemandt (Drums & Vocals), Jenny Mason (Bass & Vocals), Larissa Ness (Keyboards & Vocals), and Mandy Prater (Guitar & Vocals). The song is available on itunes.

**CG SUPERVISOR / LEAD**



**MAX PICKL**

**MODELLER & TEXTURE ARTIST**



**MARCUS NG**

**CG SUPERVISOR**



**MATT BERENTY**

**GENERALIST**



**HANS CASTRO**

**CHARACTER MODELER**



**RYAN SAPER**

To see more concept art, character rigs, models of the world, storyboards, behind the scenes videos, and previs, visit us online at [www.thewrongrock.com](http://www.thewrongrock.com)

The children's storybook is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)





"The Wrong Rock hits home and drives to the core of what makes cinema great. The team Michael has assembled is absolutely incredible. Despite everyone being spread out all over the world, Michael has been able to unify their efforts in an extremely cohesive way and the work they are doing is truly awe inspiring."

**Artella & Animation Mentor Founder & Pixar Animator – Bobby Beck**



"Through The Wrong Rock, Michael Cawood celebrates a powerful message of acceptance and unity. By assembling a global team of talented animators, he masterfully crafts (and echos) the journey of a single hopeful soul who helps shine a light on the truth that we are all one. There is no time more appropriate than now to spread this message, and I'm thrilled that Michael and his team are doing so with passion and integrity."

**Nimble Collective Founder & Head of Animation at Dreamworks – Jason Schleifer**



"Michael has the knowledge to make a film like this take off, he is great at bringing people together, running a large project and seeing it is completed. His previous experience and the way he managed the community of artists tells me this new film is sure to be a passionate and well managed endeavor."

**Disney Layout Supervisor – Joaquin Baldwin**

