



JOCK

ANIMATION

November 2009

Production:

What a month it has been, here at the Jock studio. Everyone in the team knows the importance of hitting our end year deadline that has been set. While the rest of JHB seems to be winding down... we are definitely speeding up!

Our most exciting news for the month has got to be the huge progress that has been made on the music front. Sir Tim Rice was out for a week in November, and together with Marius Brouwer, the films composer/music producer and a few brilliant local musicians, recording started on the Jock soundtrack. Tim Rice has been writing the lyrics abroad for the film, and together with the other artists, were locked away in a studio for a week and recorded a total of 3 songs that will feature in key moments of the film. I was fortunate enough to briefly sit through one of the recordings. It was incredible to see these extremely talented musos at work. The music and rhythms seems to flow through each of them so easily. It was great for myself, who is so used to the 'visual' side of production, to experience the more musical side of it. The two sides fit together perfectly. More work is to be done on a couple more songs for the film, and will be recorded at a later stage.

Director Duncan MacNeillie had the following to add: "Music is an exciting stage in production, it creates mood, atmosphere and contributes to pace. It is a good thing having the composer, Marius Brouwer involved from an early stage. He is also involved with sound effects, which may be unusual, but I believe will create interesting possibilities with a cross over between music and effects.

It is a pleasure working with Tim Rice. His contribution lyrically and creatively is a great inspiration to the musicians. The first three pieces of music are working well and I believe we are going to have a couple of hits. Also good to work with Johnny Clegg again, its been 23 years since the release of the first film for which he wrote Spirit of the Great Heart.

As Kerry has said we are at full steam and the team are doing good work. Thanks to all for their invaluable contribution."

Marketing by Andy Rice:

The publicity drive continues. Duncan and Andy were interviewed by Jeremy Maggs, South African's leading media commentator, for his TV programme Maggs on Media, which was broadcast in mid November on the national ETV 24-hour news channel. The movie was also featured as the lead story in a recent issue of The Daily Maverick, a new online newspaper that specializes in ferreting out the more interesting stories from South Africa and beyond.

Meanwhile, the presentations to potential commercial partners have been going very well. We now have firm interest expressed by major brand names in fields such as clothing, books, fast foods, toys and pet-care. One of the country's leading supermarket groups has also made it clear they plan to ride the Jock character licensing wave in 2010! Local film distribution deals should be completed in the next few weeks, as will DVD agreements.

The momentum is growing – keep watching this space!

All parts that make up the production are running smoothly. From animation, caching and lighting to rendering, special effects and compositing. At any given time in this production, the team work on 11 different scenes. This is excluding our Stereoscopic team, which themselves are working on numerous sections of the film. Our render farm is smoking! We are, as a whole, running at absolute full capacity.

It is crazy to look back over the last year and see just how far the team has come. In January we were busy animating Scene 14. Today we are working on Scene 46. Only one more month to push before the team has a well deserved break. Keep going everyone!

Sunny wishes
Kerry Liss
Production Supervisor



In the Mountains

The hunt for the leopard begins!

