



JUNGLE BEAT 2 THE PAST Production Notes

SANDCASTLE STUDIOS and SUNRISE ANIMATION STUDIOS

Present

JUNGLE BEAT 2 THE PAST

Based on 'Jungle Beat', created by BRENT DAWES

Producers

TIM KELLER

RITA MBANGA

PHIL CUNNINGHAM

JACQUI CUNNINGHAM

Executive Producers

PHIL CUNNINGHAM

JACQUI CUNNINGHAM

SANET KRITZINGER

FRED KRITZINGER

AMA ZING

Written by

SAM WILSON

Directed by

SAM WILSON

SPECIFICATIONS

Genre: Children's Adventure

Run Time: 1h27m

Language: English

Format:

FPB Rating:

Country: South Africa

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/junglebeatofficial>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/junglebeatbrand>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@SunriseJungleBeat>

SYNOPSIS

Logline

A stegosaurus called Clarence mysteriously appears in the African jungle, drawing Munki and Trunk into a Jurassic-sized adventure with time-travel, aliens, action, and laughs for the whole family!

Short Synopsis

Jungle Beat 2 The Past is the dino-sized sequel to Jungle Beat: The Movie, a Netflix Original Film. One morning, Munki and Trunk wake up to discover a stegosaurus in their jungle! It has accidentally fallen through a hole in time made by their friend, Fneep the alien. When they try to carry the dinosaur back to the past, Trunk falls into the time hole too, and ends up stuck in prehistoric times. Meanwhile, back in the present, history changes and Munki gets stuck in an alien zoo! But Munki and Trunk aren't going to let little things like time and space come between them. With the help of Trunk's new dinosaur friends they put history back on track, and teach the cave-aliens who are trying to conquer the Earth that their clubs are no match for the rhythm of the jungle!

Long Synopsis

MUNKI the monkey (David Menkin) and his best friend TRUNK the elephant (Ina Marie Smith) wake up one morning to discover a stegosaurus in their jungle. They soon find out why it's there: Their alien friend FNEEP the alien (Ed Kear) and his father GROGON THE UN-CONQUEROR (David Rintoul) are trying to go back in time to stop their cave-alien ancestors from conquering the universe.

Munki, Trunk and Fneep lift the stegosaurus up to the time-hole and drop it back into the past. Unfortunately, Trunk also falls through and ends up stuck in the prehistoric swamp. She makes friends with TIPTOES (Jenny Stead), a Nessie-like plesiosaurus who's scared of water, TREY (Rob Van Vuuren), a tyrannosaurus who is extremely proud of his 'mighty arms', and a host of small, hyperactive velociraptors. Meanwhile, Gorgon's plan to tell his ancestors not to conquer the universe goes very badly when he accidentally gives them the idea to conquer the universe. The cave-aliens come to take over the Earth, led by their mighty chieftain ZOOG (Sandra Dickenson).

The whole of history changes, and in the present, Munki finds himself trapped in an alien zoo! Munki and Trunk are separated across time and space, but that won't stop them. They know each other so well that they're able to collaborate across the centuries. They work out how to get Munki to come back in time, too. He tries to rescue Trunk, but he quickly gets caught by the cave-aliens, and it's up to Trunk to rescue him! Trunk mounts an epic rescue mission with the help of her dinosaur friends. But in the end, it's Munki and Trunk's friendship, generosity and love of music that teaches the cave aliens a better path and sets history back on track.

PRODUCERS' STATEMENTS

"Being part of the Jungle Beat journey has reminded me how important good friends are. Navigating our way through this highly challenging industry during COVID has been ... let's say interesting. Our amazing partners on this journey has made it super rewarding. I LOVE our new Jungle Beat friends and appreciate the valuable life lessons and humour of Jungle Beat 2 The Past."

- *Sanet Kritzinger, Executive Producer*

"Story telling has always been a passion of mine. Primarily, movies are about stories and keeping to the north compass of the story. That is one of my most important roles as a producer, making sure that all the requirements are in place to allow the team to stick to the north compass."

- *Phil Cunningham, Executive Producer*

"The thing I love the most about this film is that any parent can put the story on, walk out the room and not have to worry about what their kids are watching. It's a positive, wholesome, family building, wonderful story."

- *Jacqui Cunningham, Executive Producer*

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“No one asks for an animated sequel to be way funnier, more beautiful, and more epic than the first one, but we did it anyway!

Jungle Beat 2 The Past started in the pandemic. One Tuesday morning in the middle of lock-down, I had a conversation with (Executive Producer) Phil Cunningham about a script idea for a new movie, which led to a 48-hour writing frenzy, with the first draft of the movie completed in two days!

The script has come a very long way since then, and on every level, this movie is an improvement on the original. Each new installment of Jungle Beat has been accompanied by a significant increase in quality, so this movie is the biggest, funniest, most entertaining Jungle Beat story yet. It's given us a chance to explore new worlds and discover new characters, and to aim for new heights in storytelling, emotion, comedy and filmmaking.

The Jungle Beat films are growing up with their audience. While the first Jungle Beat movie was aimed at younger viewers, Jungle Beat 2 The Past is for the whole family. We've made great strides on the technical side, too, which has let us create a truly vast and beautiful new world.

As well as being the current writer and director of the Jungle Beat series, I'm also a science fiction writer, and a former child – so getting to write and direct an animated movie with spaceships and dinosaurs is a dream come true. I'm proud to have been able to do it with such an enthusiastic creative team, while staying true to the charming, innocent heart of Jungle Beat”.

- Sam Wilson, Writer and Director

THE STORY SO FAR

Jungle Beat started in 2002 as a series of 5-minute animated shorts. Each episode starred a different jungle animal in a different slap-stick situation. The series grew in popularity and was broadcast in over 200 countries around the world.

In 2016, the show turned into a real series, with the characters getting names and appearing together for the first time. The stars of the show were Munki and Trunk, the big-hearted elephant and monkey duo.

The new version of the show became an international smash hit, with more than 10 million subscribers on YouTube, and over 5 billion channel views.

In 2020, Jungle Beat took another huge step forward in its first feature film. In *Jungle Beat: The Movie*, an alien called Fneep crash-landed on Earth, and for the first time, he gave the jungle animals the power of speech. The film was picked up internationally as a Netflix original, where it stayed in the top-ten lists for over a month.

Now, Fneep, Munki and Trunk are about to go on their greatest adventure yet - all the way across time and space! We had a big change this time around with a new writer and director in Sam Wilson, which has brought a fantastic, new magic to the Jungle Beat world.

“Jungle Beat is within me; I just know it. But it has been so wonderful to hand over the baton to Sam Wilson to direct this film. It allowed me to watch the magic happen from a different seat.”

- *Brent Dawes, Creator*

“The fact that I got to work on the first movie, and then on the second movie be allowed to fully embrace the humor and joy while going off on wild tangents, was amazing. It’s been such a wonderful ride.”

- *Sam Wilson, Writer and Director*

INTRODUCING JUNGLE BEAT 2: THE PAST TO THE WORLD

“Jungle Beat: The Movie was targeted at younger viewers of 4 to 6 years old. Jungle Beat 2 The Past skews slightly older at viewers aged about 5 to 8, to grow with its audience. It also has much stronger co-viewing appeal.”

- *Sam Wilson, Writer and Director*

Although Jungle Beat 2 The Past follows on from Jungle Beat: The Movie, audiences do not need to have watched the first film to understand the second.

“I love animation as a medium for storytelling. I feel like it has an incredible transcendental nature and it’s a privilege to work in this everchanging industry.”

- *Rita Mbangwa, Producer*

“I love that there are values and that I can take those values and talk to my children about them. Talk to my children about values such as friendship and kindness.”

- *Kerry Stewart, Marketing Manager*

Cast and Crew around the world

A major theme in *Jungle Beat 2 The Past* is trust and collaboration over impossible distances, and the creative team are no strangers to this. The first movie was made by teams working together in Mauritius, South Africa, Indonesia, the US and the UK. But with the pandemic forcing people to work from their homes, the opportunity to collaborate remotely with international artists expanded greatly, and Sandcastle Studios and Sunrise Animation Studios took full advantage of this for the sequel.

“It’s been a journey, literally around the world, to bring this movie to life. But what a journey it’s been working with such fantastic people!”

- *Tim Hoffman, Chief of Staff*

“For us, the people are more important than the process, so we pour a lot of energy and time into making sure that we have a fantastic team. We are very blessed to have team members in 17 countries across the world. It brings such richness and diversity to what we do.”

- *Jacqui Cunningham, Executive Producer*

FRIENDSHIP CROSSES TIME AND SPACE

Munki the monkey and Trunk the elephant are the stars of Jungle Beat. Since they first appeared on screen together they have been inseparable, and a running theme of the series and the first movie is that their friendship is pure and unbreakable. They always see the best in each other, and they're never mean or jealous. Conflict may drive drama, but friendship drives Munki and Trunk, and their good-natured trust and generosity are at the core of the show's DNA.

In Jungle Beat 2 The Past, we get to see this friendship from a new perspective. When Trunk falls through a hole in time and ends up trapped in dinosaur times, and Munki gets caught in a futuristic zoo, they're separated by a vast distance of time and space. For the first time, their friendship is truly challenged.

But because they're such close friends, they can take comfort and wisdom from each other even when they're apart. In a pivotal scene of the movie, the two characters talk to each other across time and space, because they know each other well enough to predict what the other one would say. And, since they know what the other one would do, they are able to collaborate across vast distances, and rescue each other despite impossible odds.

The separation they experience adds a new emotional heft to the Jungle Beat universe. While the film is filled with comedy and action, the theme of being connected to people even when you're apart is a deeper theme that gives the movie meaningful stakes.

"I love these characters; I love the story we've been able to tell. It's this perfect message of true friendship that crossed time and space".

- *Tim Keller, Producer*

"I hope that as this film goes out into the world it inspires people. That it reminds them how beautiful love is, how beautiful friendship is, how wonderful it is to stay positive even when there is negativity around you".

- *Phil Cunningham, Executive Producer*

'Back to the past'

The creative team has been excited to introduce dinosaurs into the Jungle Beat universe for years. Even when Jungle Beat was about the individual characters, there were hopes for a spin-off series nicknamed 'Jurassic Beat'.

The idea was very loose, with no stories written or characters designed. But after the first movie introduced aliens, there was suddenly a story-based reason to travel back in time.

Suddenly, dinosaurs were possible. And everything's better with dinosaurs.

"With this new film we go into an exciting new environment, the Jurassic. Massive trees, swamps, volcanic areas. It brings a whole new uniqueness to the Jungle Beat world".

- *Valentina McOnie, Art Director*

JUNGLE BEAT 2 THE PAST CHARACTERS

The Dinosaurs

CLARENCE is the first dinosaur that the Jungle Beat animals meet. He's big, lumbering, slow, and not very talkative. The movie, Clarence the Stegosaurus is named by Munki, which explains his slightly strange, old-fashioned name.

TIPTOES is a plesiosaur - a dinosaur-like creature that Trunk meets in a prehistoric swamp. She's a swimming creature who is terrified of swimming, but she puts on a smile and pretends there's nothing wrong. She gets her name because she walks everywhere on the ends of her flippers, as if she's on tiptoes.

TREY is the king of the dinosaurs, a slightly overweight tyrannosaurus who is extremely proud of his arms. His voice is a mixture of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Andre the Giant. Trey gets his name because it's one letter away from T-rex.

"When you think of dinosaurs you think of big, strong and scary. My challenge was to make them cute and fit into the Jungle Beat world".

- *Stephen Kulp, Character Design*

The Aliens

In the first movie the aliens were blue, and now they're orange. Why? Well, at the end of the first movie, the Jungle Beat animals taught the aliens how to hug, which gave them an inner warmth and light that completely changed their appearance. Of course, when we go back in time, we see that their cave-alien ancestors are still very blue.

"The second movie just explodes with aliens, spaceships, dinosaurs and time travel. This is way bigger, there's way more. I think that we are going to see a lot of wide-eyed delight when the audience watches this film".

- *Brent Dawes, Creator*

ABOUT JUNGLE BEAT 2

Jungle Beat is the first animated movie from Africa to get a sequel. This makes Jungle Beat Africa's first animated film franchise!

The new dinosaur world built in 3D for "Jungle Beat 2 The Past" is huge: More than twice the size of the existing Jungle Beat world where the TV series and the first movie were set.

"Our office has a lot of stuffed toys of Jungle Beat characters lying about, and I take photographs of them to show the storyboard artists and animators how I'm imagining the shots. We call these "Plushiematics".

- *Sam Wilson, Writer and Director*

"With the development of new in-house tools for atmospheric simulation and set dressing, as well as many advances in lighting, compositing and VFX, this is the best that the Jungle Beat world has ever looked".

- *Sam Wilson, Writer and Director*

"One of my favorite stories from production has to be hearing our director, Sam Wilson, reading the dinosaur lines to himself at the top of his voice, echoing across the whole office. If you have heard the dinosaur voices, you'll understand how entertaining it was!"

- *Amy Vergunst, Marketing Producer*

"Did you know that the cloud in the Volcano set looks like Grogon's ship, all that work for so little result".

Music

Sunrise's sound department took on the music for the first time in Jungle Beat 2 The Past and it was a steep but incredibly satisfying learning curve. The team adapted themes from Jungle Beat: The Movie to fit into the new film and maintain brand cohesion. They also created new themes and thematic material for the new worlds and characters. There was a huge amount learnt and the new direction stretched the two-person department in such a great way.

"To be able to work on Voice, Foley, Sound design and Music for a feature film was a dream come true and we are very proud of the film and how we have grown as engineers, musicians and people. Whether we work in single roles such as Sound Designers, Foley Artists, Voice Editors or

Composers or work across the full spectrum of post audio in the future our new skills and perspective will help us deliver a better more refined product, and that's what really excites me!"

- *Matt Gair, Lead Sound Engineer*

CHARACTERS

Munki - The Bold, Banana-Juggling Adventurer

Munki is a bundle of energy, bravado and big ideas; he can do ANYTHING! He's bananas about his best friend Trunk – who's always there to pick him up when his grand schemes go wrong.

Trunk - The Big-Hearted Optimist

This enthusiastic elephant is the world's greatest cheerleader. With a heart as big as her size, she's always ready to make new friends, no matter which aeon they're from!

Fneep - The Underdog Alien

Fneep is an alien who came to Earth and tried to conquer it, but Munki and Trunk taught him about hugs instead. He used to be purple, but the inner glow he feels now that he knows that people care about him has turned him orange.

Tiptoes - Insecure But Chipper

Tiptoes is a plesiosaurus who lives in a swamp. She refuses to swim, because the swamp is full of terrifying things, so she walks everywhere on the tips of her flippers. She's friendly and chipper, but she's also a tremendous liar. She can't admit to anyone, even herself, that she's scared of pretty much everything.

Trey - The King Of The Dinosaurs

Trey is a tyrannosaurus who has grown so used to being the king of the dinosaurs that he has really let himself go. He's arrogant, commanding, self-important, and lazy.

He gets all his self-confidence from the fact that his arms are the largest arms of any dinosaur in the jungle, even though they're objectively tiny. When he discovers other creatures with longer arms, his entire world collapses. He's a lovable bad guy, not dangerous, just completely self-absorbed.

Clarence - Large and Lumbering

Clarence is an extremely relaxed stegosaurus. He's big and slow, and he's happy to do his own thing, but don't let that fool you. Like all of the Jungle Beat dinosaurs, there's more to Clarence than meets the eye...

The Velociraptors - Trey's Little Helpers

Trey's servants, who are in awe of their mighty king. They're halfway between kittens and pigeons - cute, playful, and all a little crazy.

Rocky - The Two Tonne Puppy

Rocky is huge, strong, and enthusiastic. He doesn't desire much except getting a ball to play with.

Tallbert - Paranoid and Gangly

The Jungle Beat animal most likely to get caught in some kind of slapstick disaster. It doesn't take much to make him panic. Due to an error in the alien translation device, Tallbert only talks in the Zimbabwean language Shona.

Humph - Mr Prickles

Humph is grumpy, contrary and rule-oriented. His lawn is his everything - he's obsessed with keeping it trimmed and monkey-free.

Baby Ostrich - Bringer of Anarchy

She's the toddler: The fearless, smiling, curious, uncontrolled and funny one who pops up when you least expect her.

Mama Ostrich - The Bedrock Of The Jungle

Mama Ostrich is a voice of reason. If anyone in the jungle needs a dose of wisdom, Mama's the one they come to.

Grogon - The Un-Conqueror

Formerly the conqueror of a thousand planets, Grogon learned a lesson in kindness from his son Fneep, and has turned his life around. He's still vain, bombastic and domineering, but he's doing his best to make the universe a better place.

Zoog - Cave-woman Chieftain

Zoog is an alien cave-woman chieftain. She is huge and hulking, and takes great pleasure in hitting things with her club. She commands a tribe of other cave-aliens, and flies through space with them in a cave-ship.

She is very loud, self-confident, and proud of her own strength. She thinks conquering planets is very, very fun.

ABOUT THE CAST

ED KEAR – Fneep

Actor and comedian, Ed Kear is most widely known for his starring role in BBC Three sitcom 'Crims'. Since then he has been building up a career as a regular on British television and also making appearances in films in both the UK and US. Credits include 'Spy', 'Back', 'Grandpa's Great Escape', 'The Aliens', 'Plebs' and more.

DAVID MENKIN – Munki

David has worked as an actor and voiceover artist for over 15 years. Film and TV work includes 'Florence Foster Jenkins', 'A Hologram for the King', and 'Zero Dark Thirty'. Recent animation work includes 'Thunderbirds Are Go', 'Space Chickens in Space', 'Thomas and Friends' and 'Noddy, Toyland Detective'. In video games he is best known by his work on the 'Battlefield: Bad Company' series and 'Xenoblade Chronicles 2'.

INA MARIE SMITH – Trunk

Alongside achieving her Masters in classical acting at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Ina has a growing body of work. Recent voice acting credits include: 'Dance Rebels' and 'The Bell Jar' for the BBC, 'Battlefield 5', 'Star Ocean Anamnesis', 'Pillars of Eternity II: Deadfire' as well as commercials for Vero, Fage Yogurt and Roblox.

JOHN GUERRASIO – Humph

John has had presence for years on Broadway, the West End and with the leading regional theatres across the US and Britain. Not limited to the stage, he has appeared in major feature films and in Netflix, Hallmark and National Geographic productions. He has been a regular voice in BBC radio dramas for decades and can even be heard in animation and games.

LUCY MONTGOMERY – Mama

Lucy Montgomery is a comedy writer and performer. Her voice credits include "Disenchantment" (Netflix), "Hey Duggee," "Thomas and Friends," "Digby Dragon" and "Bob the Builder."

DAVID RINTOUL – Grogon

David has had a long career played leading parts with many of Britain's most prominent theatre companies and has worked extensively on television, film, radio, video games and cartoons. He has also lent his voice to over 250 audio books.

JENNY STEAD – Tiptoes

Jenny Stead is an award winning actress, singer and experienced voice artist. She has been nominated for and has won various awards, including a Fleur du Cap for her performance in Reza de Wet's Breathing In.

ROB VAN VUUREN – Trey

Rob van Vuuren is a South African actor. He rose to prominence for the exceptional display of his acting talent in each role he plays. Many television viewers know him for playing the role of Twakkie in The Most Amazing Show.

FLORRIE WILKINSON – Baby Ostrich

Currently making her professional stage debut as Molly in the UK tour of Annie The Musical. Her previous credits include Disney 101 Dalmatian Street and Cry Babies Magic Tears.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

SAM WILSON - Director

Sam is the director and head-writer of the last five seasons of Jungle Beat. He has been writing and directing animation for sixteen years, and writes novels in his spare time.

BRENT DAWES - Creator

Brent Dawes is the lead writer and director at Sunrise Productions in Cape Town. After studying Drama at Natal Technikon and a two-year stint as a copywriter, Brent joined Sunrise as lead animator on Africa's first animated feature The Legend of the Sky Kingdom. Since then, Brent has gone on to create the Jungle Beat series, multiple international sporting mascots, and help Sunrise grow into the fun, vibrant and visionary studio that it is today.

SAM WILSON - Writer

Sam has spent the last 15 years writing for movies and TV. He directed several international animations, including the hit series "Munki and Trunk". His debut novel 'Zodiac' is published by Penguin UK and has been translated into seven languages.

JACQUI CUNNINGHAM - Executive Producer

Jacqui is the Co-founder and Executive Producer of Sunrise Productions. Over the last 21 years, together with her husband and producing partner Phil, they have grown Sunrise into an international animation studio with world class talent. Jacqui has an expansive entrepreneurial approach to life and filmmaking and has overseen and managed the building of Sunrise's brand-new full-service animation studio in Cape Town, South Africa.

PHIL CUNNINGHAM – Executive Producer

Phil co-founded Sunrise Productions to create Africa's first animated feature film, 'The Legend of the Sky Kingdom'. Over the last 20 years, he has grown Sunrise into an international film and animation studio. His unique and inspiring entrepreneurial approach to filmmaking has attracted a team of vastly experienced collaborators all of whom believe in Phil and Sunrise's vision of creating world-class family entertainment.

FRED KRITZINGER – Executive Producer

Fred is the Financial Director of A2G Group Limited and has been with the company since 2012.

SANET KRITZINGER – Executive Producer

Sanet is Managing Director of A2G Group Limited and a director of Sandcastle Studios. She joined the team who pioneered the Group two decades ago. Building something special has always been and continues to be her main motivation. Something of consequence that one can look back on with pride and say, “I had a significant role in creating something special”. Something of value and something that preserves the values she would like to be known for.

TIM KELLER - Producer

Tim is a leading producer for Sunrise Productions. He joined the company in 2014 to create the third season of Jungle Beat. This award-winning series went on to be broadcast in over 200 countries. He has also produced successful shows like ‘Munki and Trunk’, ‘The Explorers’ and in partnership with Juventus F.C, ‘Team Jay’.

RITA MBANGA - Producer

Rita has 20 years of experience producing live-action and animated feature films, commercials, short films and TV series.

Press Boilerplate

Sandcastle Studios Established in 2018, Sandcastle Studios is an animation studio based on the island of Mauritius. Jungle Beat Animation Limited, who own the Jungle Beat IP, partnered with the cool new kid on the block, Sandcastle Studios Limited, to finance and produce Jungle Beat: The Movie in collaboration with Sunrise Animation Studios.

Sandcastle and Sunrise have a long-term, first-look deal where Sandcastle finances and owns the IP with Sunrise supporting as service provider. The second film on their slate is the sequel to Jungle Beat: The Movie, called Jungle Beat 2 The Past.

Jungle Beat Animation Limited

Jungle Beat Animation Limited has seen huge success with its hit TV Series, Jungle Beat. With 8 seasons, as well as 2 spin-off seasons and now the IP being made into 2 feature films, the brand is constantly being taken to new heights.

Sunrise Animation Studios

Sandcastle Studios produced Jungle Beat 2 The Past in collaboration with Sunrise Animation Studios, the Cape Town studio who have provided and led production services since the start of the Jungle Beat series.

Sunrise Productions was originally founded in Zimbabwe in 1997, and since then it has grown to a crew of over 150 people.

The Cape Town animation industry, and Sunrise Studios in particular, has seen tremendous growth over the past few years. From its new three-story studio headquarters on a wine farm in Noordhoek, Cape Town, Sunrise Studios has grown into a full-service animation house, with its own sound and music studio, render farm, and in-house teams for animation, modelling, surfacing, grooming, layout, dressing, finalling, lighting, compositing, editing, foley, sound mixing and score composition.

“Our purpose statement at Sunrise is to inspire through story. I always say to people that it’s not just the story we’re telling, it’s the story that people bring. Each person brings their own unique story to the table.”

- Jacqui Cunningham, Executive Producer

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