



BFI FAMILIES

FAMILY FRIENDLY FILM SCREENINGS,
ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS



CHICKEN RUN

What's it about?

A group of chickens living on an egg farm find themselves in hot water when the farmer decides that a new line of chicken pies might be good for business. Before long, an escape plan is hatched! This fun take on *The Great Escape* was Aardman's first feature film and is still just as fresh, plucky and creative as it was 21 years ago.

Making 'Chicken Run'

A huge set was built to create the world of the chicken farm depicted in the film. The main farm area was 60 feet long. The corrugated roofing on the huts was created by putting tin sheets into two serrated rollers. The barbed wire around the chicken yard was manufactured by winding wire onto a board with pegs and adding tiny, twisted barbs. The backgrounds were painted onto stretched canvas.

The greatest challenge to the filmmakers was creating the chickens in the film. 'The idea of chickens with fat round bodies standing on spindly little legs gave us pause,' says director/producer Nick Park. 'And feathers,' director/producer Peter Lord adds. 'We realised you can't do feathers in plasticine, you can't do thin legs, and the bodies were going to weigh a ton.' After much experimenting by the animators, they created plasticine sculptures and from these they created moulds in order to make latex skins. They then fitted these skins over silicone body shapes which contained the intricate skeletal body that was needed for the figures to be moved. 430 different chicken models were used in the film.

The film itself was made by 40 animators who were split into two teams and guided by the directors. If you consider that there are 24 frames of film time per second, it is possible that each character would have to be moved 24 times for each second of film along with props and scenery.

Did you know?

3,500 kg of plasticine was used during the making of the film. A total of 60 colours were used. Each character's colour is individually blended and mixed in a converted chewing gum machine.

563 plasticine puppets were made for the film.

The models are made of a special blend of plasticine called the Aardman Mix. This is tougher and more durable than ordinary plasticine. Aardman is the name of the studios that made the film *Chicken Run* along with the Wallace and Gromit films.

Justin Johnson

CHICKEN RUN

Directors: Peter Lord, Nick Park

©/Production Companies: DreamWorks LLC,

Aardman Chicken Run Limited, Pathé Image

Production Company: Aardman Animations

Executive Producers: Jake Eberts, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Michael Rose

Producers: Peter Lord, David Sproxton, Nick Park

Story/Continuity Supervisor: Bridget Mazzezy

Casting: Patsy Pollock

Screenplay: Karey Kirkpatrick

Script Collaborator: Pete Atkin

Additional Dialogue: Mark Burton, John O'Farrell

Based on an original story by: Nick Park, Peter Lord

Supervising Director of Photography: Dave Alex Riddett

Directors of Photography: Tristan Oliver, Frank Passingham

Digital Visual Effects: The Computer Film Company

Model Production Designer: Jan Sanger

Supervising Animator: Loyd Price

Editor: Mark Solomon

Production Designer: Phil Lewis

Art Director: Tim Farrington

Pie Machine and Flying Machine by: Farrington Lewis

Music: John Powell, Harry Gregson-Williams

Voice Cast

Phil Daniels (*Fetcher*)

Lynn Ferguson (*Mac*)

Mel Gibson (*Rocky*)

Tony Haygarth (*Mr Tweedy*)

Jane Horrocks (*Babs*)

Miranda Richardson (*Mrs Tweedy*)

Julia Sawalha (*Ginger*)

Timothy Spall (*Nick*)

Imelda Staunton (*Bunty*)

Benjamin Whitrow (*Fowler*)

John Sharian (*circus man*)

Jo Allen, Lisa Kay, Laura Strachan (*additional chickens*)

USA/UK 2000©

84 mins

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