



MAKING MAGIC: 100 YEARS OF DISNEY

Turning Red

Bao

Director: Domee Shi
USA 2018
8 mins

Turning Red

Directed by: Domee Shi
©: Disney Enterprises, Inc., Pixar
a Pixar Animation Studios film
Presented by: Disney
Executive Producers: Dan Scanlon, Pete Docter
Produced by: Lindsey Collins
Associate Producer: Sabine Koch O'Sullivan
Production Manager: Lisa Fotheringham
Casting by: Natalie Lyon, Kevin Reher
Screenplay by: Julia Cho, Domee Shi
Story by: Domee Shi, Julia Cho, Sarah Streicher
Story Supervisors: Rosana Sullivan, Bill Presing
Visual Effects Supervisor: Danielle Feinberg
Animation Supervisors: Aaron Hartline, Patty Kihm
Character Supervisor: Christian Hoffman
Sets Supervisor: Steve Karski
Crowds Animation Supervisor: Jane Snow Cassidy
Crowds Technical Supervisor: Paul Kanyuk
Simulation Supervisor: Jacob Brooks
Effects Supervisor: Dave Hale
Global Technology Supervisor: Gordon Cameron
Directors of Photography: Mahyar Abouseedi, Jonathan Pytko
Edited by: Nicholas C. Smith
Co-Editor: Steve Bloom
Production Designer: Rona Liu
Original Score by: Ludwig Göransson
Original Songs by: Billie Eilish, Finneas O'Connell
Voice Cast:
Rosalie Chang (*Meilin/Panda Meilin*)
Sandra Oh (*Ming/Panda Ming/young Ming*)
Ava Morse (*Miriam*)
Hyein Park (*Abby*)
Maitreyi Ramakrishnan (*Priya*)
Orion Lee (*Jin*)
Wai Ching Ho (*Grandma/Grandma Panda*)
Tristan Allerick Chen (*Tyler*)
Loritan Chinn (*Auntie Chen*)
Mia Tagano (*Lily*)
Sherry Cola (*Helen*)
Lillian Kim (*Auntie Ping*)
James Hong (*Mr Gao*)
USA 2022©
100 mins

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Disney and Pixar's *Turning Red* introduces Meilin Lee, a confident, slightly dorky 13-year-old with a solid group of friends, an admirable record in school and a better-than-average relationship with her family for the most part. Meilin – Mei to her friends – has every reason to expect smooth sailing throughout the rest of her middle school career. But according to director Domee Shi, that's not how life goes for most 13-year-olds. 'I really wanted to explore the conflicts of a young teen girl – how she's torn between being a good daughter and embracing her true messy self.'

The mother-daughter relationship takes centre stage in *Turning Red*, and it's a theme that's very close to the director's heart. Shi, who helmed Pixar's 2018 Oscar®-winning short *Bao*, says that when she was asked why the little dumpling in the short was male, her response was – it turns out – prophetic. 'I said it would take a whole feature to unpack the mother-daughter relationship,' says Shi. 'It was actually a big motivating factor in my pitch for *Turning Red*. It's never black and white. At the beginning of the movie, Mei genuinely loves her relationship with her mom, but she's being pulled in new directions – as everyone her age is. It's a time of big changes.'

In *Turning Red*, this phase of growing up is marked in an unexpected, can't hide-from-it, larger-than-life way: when Mei's emotions get the better of her, she 'poofs' into a giant red panda. 'One minute, everything's perfect,' says Shi. 'And then, just like with all of us, all of a sudden there's terror everywhere. She's way taller, hungrier, more emotional. She's, in fact, turned into a giant red panda, and the only way to turn back into a human girl is to take deep breaths, calm herself down and control her emotions. It's kind of like *The Incredible Hulk*, but cuter.'

According to producer Lindsey Collins, *Turning Red* is set in Toronto, Canada, in the early 2000s. 'It takes place in a familiar time and place that kind of roots us all in reality,' says Collins. 'It's not a magical world. That's important because the story itself is pretty fantastical with a girl that hits a magical kind of puberty and turns into a big red panda – yet we can all still relate.'

'It's a coming-of-age story about change and those transitional moments,' continues Collins. 'It's about that time in our lives when we're trying to figure out who we are. We have a girl who is torn between her family and her friends, learning that she's not at all who she thought she was. And we have the mother whose daughter is suddenly interested in strange music and boys – a mother who struggles with letting go so her child can become who she needs to be. It's a universal theme that rings true whether you're the parent, the child, or maybe both.'

But, says Collins, it's not just that profound relatability that sets *Turning Red* apart from other coming-of-age stories – it's Shi's approach to filmmaking. 'Domee has an energy to her that I find really engaging – she's an engine,' says Collins. 'She moves fast; she's super decisive. She brings an unexpected and unapologetic quirkiness to her storytelling, the stylisation, and to the entire film.'

Director Domee Shi kicked off efforts behind *Turning Red* with an important mission topping her to-do list: getting to know her characters. 'I think finding

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The Jungle Book

Thu 3 Aug 14:20; Sun 6 Aug 13:00;
Wed 16 Aug 20:45; Wed 30 Aug 14:20

Beaches Thu 3 Aug 18:00; Sat 19 Aug 17:30

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

Fri 4 Aug 18:00; Sun 13 Aug 18:10;
Tue 22 Aug 14:20; Wed 23 Aug 20:20

101 Dalmatians

Sat 5 Aug 13:20; Thu 10 Aug 14:20;
Sat 19 Aug 15:30; Tue 29 Aug 14:20

Bedknobs and Broomsticks

Sat 5 Aug 15:40; Thu 17 Aug 14:20;
Sun 27 Aug 18:20

Sister Act Sat 5 Aug 20:40; Fri 18 Aug 18:20

Zootropolis (aka Zootopia)

Sun 6 Aug 13:10; Fri 25 Aug 18:00

Silent Cinema: Disney's Silent Shorts + intro

Sun 6 Aug 15:30

Freaky Friday

Sun 6 Aug 18:20; Fri 18 Aug 20:30;
Thu 24 Aug 20:50

The Parent Trap

Mon 7 Aug 18:00; Sun 20 Aug 15:10

Turning Red Tue 8 Aug 14:20; Sat 26 Aug 15:30

Pinocchio

Wed 9 Aug 14:20; Sat 12 Aug 11:30 (+ extended
intro); Mon 14 Aug 14:20; Sun 20 Aug 19:00

Mary Poppins

Wed 9 Aug 17:50; Mon 21 Aug 14:20;
Mon 28 Aug 13:00

Up Wed 9 Aug 20:30; Mon 28 Aug 12:30

The Love Bug

Fri 11 Aug 20:30; Sat 12 Aug 11:50;
Sun 20 Aug 13:30

A Disney Day for Young Audiences

Sat 12 Aug 11:30-16:30

Tarzan Sat 12 Aug 18:00; Sat 26 Aug 12:00

Soul Sat 12 Aug 20:30; Sat 19 Aug 13:00;

Thu 24 Aug 14:20

The Lion King

Sun 13 Aug 13:00 (+ Funday Sing-along);
Sat 26 Aug 20:30; Thu 31 Aug 14:20

The Fiendishly Difficult Disney Quiz

Sun 13 Aug 15:30 Blue Room

Bambi

Sun 13 Aug 15:50; Wed 16 Aug 14:20;
Sat 26 Aug 12:20; Mon 28 Aug 16:20

Finding Nemo

Sun 13 Aug 18:30; Sun 27 Aug 13:30

The Rescuers

Mon 14 Aug 18:30; Sat 19 Aug 15:50

Luca Mon 14 Aug 20:30; Sun 27 Aug 13:15

Ratatouille Sat 19 Aug 12:00; Tue 29 Aug 20:30

Dick Tracy

Fri 25 Aug 20:40; Tue 29 Aug 18:10 (+ intro by
Ben Roberts, BFI CEO)

The Little Mermaid

Sun 27 Aug 16:00; Mon 28 Aug 16:40

the characters as early as possible is the most important thing to making a good story,' she says. 'The first goal of a filmmaker is having the audience fall in love with your characters – being interested enough in them in those first five to ten minutes to want to sit down and follow their journey for the next hour and a half.'

Shi and her team went on to develop the kind of characters that would capture viewers' hearts and hold on till the credits rolled. Leading the pack, of course, is 13-year-old Meilin Lee, and Shi surrounded her protagonist with a crew of friends and family – each with a distinct personality that both complements and contrasts with Mei as she navigates adolescence. 'This is a very personal story for Domee,' says producer Lindsey Collins. 'It's a mother-daughter story set in the early 2000s, which is super cool. And it has a voice that feels very different – the reaction here at Pixar to the first scene [we shared internally] mirrored the way that I feel about this film: I've never seen this before.'

The look of the characters, adds Collins, is similarly distinct. 'Everyone had to tap their inner 13-year-olds to capture the style Domee wanted,' says Collins. 'It's a world seen through the eyes of Mei. Everything is vibrant and colourful. The design is textured and tactile and chunky, and the animation style and, every now and then, facial expressions are pushed. The characters are caricatured, and the way they move and pose is fresh. Domee's stylisation is extended through art, animation, camera and lighting, and her passion for anime shines through.'

Says Shi, 'I grew up watching anime. I love how fast and loose they play with emotion – how the expressions can change in an instant. It just felt perfect for a film about an adolescent girl who's on an emotional roller coaster with all of the mood swings.'

The character line-up includes Mei, her inner circle of friends and family and members of a boy band known as 4*Town. Filmmakers called on a rich roster of voice talent to help bring the characters to life. 'The Toronto setting of this story called for a diverse cast,' says associate executive producer Adrian Molina. 'Hopefully more and more people are seeing experiences like their own on the big screen. *Turning Red* offers a unique perspective of a 13-year-old Chinese Canadian that – at its heart – shows how we're all connected.'

Production notes

With thanks to The Walt Disney Company