



RODNEY MATTHEWS'

# Yendor

The Journey  
of a Junior Adventurer

Directed by **Rodney Matthews & Sarah Matthews**

2021 | 17 min | United Kingdom | English | Children's Animation



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**Cast & Crew**

**Narration**

**SARAH MATTHEWS**

**Written, Directed & Produced by**

**RODNEY MATTHEWS & SARAH MATTHEWS**

**Animation & Post-Production**

**MATTHEW HENRY**

**Animation Consultant**

**JON RASHID**

**Original Score**

**OLIVER WAKEMAN**

**Based on the Illustrated Book by**

**RODNEY MATTHEWS**





## Logline

A small boy, with big dreams, sets off into the wild country, little knowing where his adventure will take him or who he will encounter.

## Synopsis

Yendor may be small, but his dreams are big and his courage is mighty. Longing to be an adventurer like his father, he sets off into the wild country, alone. Little does he know that his chosen path is a perilous one, filled with fantastical beasts that even the most seasoned adventurer would fear to cross - a Grumposaur, a Grabsting, a Killwing and the nastiest of them all, the Marauding Scrawnies! To survive, he is going to need both skill and wit. To make it home again, is another matter altogether.



## **RODNEY MATTHEWS**

### **Writer, Director & Producer**

Rodney is an English illustrator and conceptual designer, who first achieved international acclaim in the 1970s with his fantasy poster art. His unmistakable style can be seen in fantasy and sci-fi books, on the covers of rock albums and in video games. His passion for animation is long-standing, first realised in the 1990s when, alongside Gerry Anderson, his conception 'Lavender Castle' was successfully released worldwide as a children's stop-motion animation. Yendor is his directorial debut.



## **SARAH MATTHEWS**

### **Writer, Director, Producer & Narrator**

Sarah achieved a joint honours degree in Language & Linguistics and Philosophy and a masters degree in Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen before taking on the role of agent for her husband, Rodney. She is now Studio Manager of their company Rodney Matthews Studios. In addition to being her directorial debut, Yendor is also her debut as a narrator, performed in her native Scottish accent.

## **MATTHEW HENRY**

### **Animation & Post-Production**

With a degree in Film and 3D Animation from Staffordshire University and a decade of industry experience as a Lead 3D Animator, Matthew has worked with a range of clients producing product visualisations, medical animations, adverts and animated shorts.

## **JON RASHID**

### **Animation Consultant**

Jon's wealth of knowledge is drawn from an illustrious career, having notably worked as CG Artist for gaming company Traveller's Tales and as CGI Manager at Cosgrove Hall Films, where he worked on several BAFTA award-winning children's animations.

## **OLIVER WAKEMAN**

### **Original Score**

Oliver is an award-winning keyboardist, pianist and composer. He has written and appeared on various prog-rock albums, all of which have been released to critical acclaim. He is best-known as keyboardist with legendary prog-rock band Yes, with which he has toured the world.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is the intended audience?**

Although this charming tale will captivate the hearts of adventurers both young and old, it is primarily aimed at children aged between 4 and 7. The perilous journey that the protagonist embarks upon is thrilling, yet safe for young minds. Confrontations with dangerous beasts are shrewdly handled with excitement and suspense, not fear or violence, and heightened tensions are reassuringly soothed away by the narrator.

### **What is the history behind the animated short?**

Yendor is the 1970s brainchild of Rodney, conceived in a series of illustrations that were published as a children's storybook in 1978. Circumstances permitted only one print run, but for those who had a copy, it became treasured and is now being read to their children and in some cases grandchildren! Rodney and Sarah revisited the old favourite at the beginning of 2020, self-publishing the classic with new layouts and a sensitively updated story to suit modern needs. Their enthusiasm quickly led to an audiobook, narrated by Sarah herself with an original score composed by prog-rock royalty, Oliver Wakeman. With each of these elements in place, the inner animator in Rodney realised that they had an animation waiting to happen.

### **How did lockdown affect production?**

The Matthews were fortunate that lockdown gave them several months of uninterrupted creativity. Their main concern was funding. They had contributed heavily themselves but knew completion would rely upon successful crowdfunding, which, given the climate, could have proven difficult. They were overwhelmed however by the support they received from a multitude of backers, who believed in them and helped them to smash their target. What is unusual is that the Matthews have never met their animator, Matthew Henry, in person! Due to Covid restrictions, the team - Rodney, Sarah, Matthew and consultant Jon Rashid - had to hold all of their meetings online.

### **What makes Yendor unique?**

Yendor is a kaleidoscopic feast for the eyes, imagined by a master of his craft. At the forefront of fantasy art for over fifty years Rodney has made an indelible stamp on the genre. Here, he has created a world in an entirely retro style, rooted in the late 1960s / early 1970s, with a rich colour palette and draftsmanship associated with an innate understanding of the natural world. The vibe is wholly enhanced with a full-length prog-rock soundtrack evocative of the period, which ensures the viewer's complete immersion into the wondrous realm.

### **Will there be more adventures?**

Yendor has a promising future. The sequel is underway; with a working synopsis, Rodney has already begun illustrating new scenes.

## Directors' Quotes

"We have stepped back in time to a fantastical epoch, where all things are possible when you believe, and brought back a feel-good tale of adventure, a tale that has already brought wonder to several generations."

- Rodney Matthews

"Making a film for young minds comes with great responsibility. You have to get it right and that is what we worked hard to achieve. To see children championing Yendor and involving themselves in his world is a real honour for us. We are delighted to have provided a catalyst for their imaginations."

- Sarah Matthews

