

Press Release

Around 10 million dollar production budget

20 Million Yen Box Office

BRAVE STORY

DVD & VCD

16th November on Sale

Synopsis

Wataru, the main character, is a 10 year old 5th grade elementary school student. His grades are so-so and he is a meek and unassertive boy who is easily manipulated by girls. One day his father runs off with a mistress, leaving Wataru and his mother behind. In shock, his mother suffers an accident and is near death. Brokenhearted, Wataru goes inside a neighborhood building that is reputedly haunted. The building actually is the entrance to a delusional world called Vision, in which Wataru must master magic techniques and collect hidden treasures to meet a goddess, who, it is believed, can make wishes come true. Together with new friends he meets there, Wataru's magnificent journey through Vision begins. Adventure, friendship, growing up, family ties, love and magic: this fantasy includes everything viewers expect and can be enjoyed by a wide range of audiences.

About the story

“Beyond that door is a chance to change your destiny.”

Wataru is an ordinary, eleven-year-old kid whose world has just collapsed around him. His father has walked out on the family and his mother is in the hospital for attempted suicide. All he wants now is his old secure and comfortable life back. When a new student at his school tells him he can change his destiny by entering a magic gateway to another world called “Vision,” Wataru literally leaps at the opportunity. All he needs to do is collect five magic gemstones that will lead him to the Tower of Fortune, and there he’ll be granted any wish. But this is no playful treasure hunt and Wataru quickly realizes that he’ll need to summon every ounce of bravery in his 11-year-old mind and body to meet the physical and mental challenges that lie ahead. Before he can save his family, he’ll need to do battle with a world of demons, his own friends and, ultimately, himself!

From the material to “visionary” world, two boys experience the power of wishful thinking!

Wataru is rummaging through an abandoned building rumored to be haunted when he catches sight of a door that appears to be floating in mid-air and a boy his age that talks cryptically and quickly vanishes. Later recognizing the boy as Mitsuru, a standoffish new student at school, Wataru becomes

curious and learns that Mitsuru possesses some extraordinary powers. “So what’s behind that floating door,” Wataru bravely asks. “A chance to change your destiny,” responds Mitsuru. Shrugging off his mysterious new friend, Wataru returns home just in time to see his father pack up and leave for good and his mother hospitalized for an attempted suicide. With his life suddenly falling apart, Wataru remembers Mitsuru’s words and rushes off to find the floating door. “This isn’t how things are supposed to be,” he wails as leaps through the doorway and plummets into a bottomless pit. When Wataru comes to, he finds himself in a dazzling new world, a different dimension called “Vision” where his first challenge is to escape from a cave set up to test his wits and physical skills. He emerges with his life intact but is given an exceptionally low score from a wizened guru named Master Lau who anoints Wataru as a “hero apprentice” and fits him with a sword before sending him on his itinerant quest for the five magic gemstones.

Still reeling from the embarrassing start to his journey, Wataru soon finds himself in a hot desert fleeing from a snarling pack of wolves with “corkscrew mouths” and fumbling to get a handle on his newfound powers. He is rescued by a giant wagon-pulling lizard called Kee Keema, who as a member of the “Water Tribe” regards “travelers” from the material world as a wonderful sign of good luck. Now joined by a trusty sidekick, Wataru takes off on a series of adventures that has him befriending a flying trapeze artist named Meen and a fire-breathing dragon, Jozo, who join Wataru on his journey.

What price would you pay to get your greatest wish?

Wataru’s maturation as a hero and his growing attachment to the Vision world eventually sets him on a collision course with a powerful wizard who has been wreaking havoc on the land and its people – Mitsuru! Harboring a tragic past, Mitsuru has gotten hold of the final “Dark Gemstone,” unleashing a race of demons that had long been sealed up inside. When Wataru pleads with Mitsuru to stop the destruction, Mitsuru responds coolly. “Just what did you come to this world for, Wataru? I’m here to get my wish and I’ll do whatever it takes.” As demons swarm over the “Vision” world, wreaking havoc and casting it into darkness, Wataru pursues Mitsuru up the Tower of Fortune in an attempt to stop him. But awaiting him is an ultimate test of bravery that will augur the fate of Wataru’s life and that of every creature in “Vision” - a confrontation with himself.

About the production

Brave Story is an expansive tale in two volumes and is the product of several years of work by popular author Miyuki Miyabe. Enjoyed by both children and adults alike, this fantasy story sold more than 420,000 copies following its launch in March last year. Well-known for titles that feature a unique fusion of 2D and 3DCG technologies, animation production company GONZO will bring this robust fantasy to life in a theatrical animation release. Up-and-coming director Koichi Chigira of LAST EXILE, Full Metal Panic! and Gatekeepers fame will make his theatrical directing debut with this title.

Based on the work of popular novelist Miyabe Miyuki, Brave Story is a landmark collaboration between Fuji Television and powerhouse animation studio GONZO (Hellsing, Samurai 7). The first anime to be produced by Fuji TV, this US\$10 million dollar production boasts a stunning combo of 3-D and 2-D animation techniques, and is helmed by Chigira Koichi, who previously handled the GONZO television productions Gatekeepers and Last Exile. Released in Japan during the summer of 2006, Brave Story made an impact at the box office, and was considered by many to be better than its direct competition, the Studio Ghibli film Earthsea.

GDH has provided many TV animations to Fuji TV, including popular titles such as Hellsing, Choujoushin Gravion, Kiddy Grade, Chno Crusade and GANTZ. With the intention of broadening its range of genres further, GDH will take advantage of its accumulated digital technologies and production know-how and work with Fuji TV to create a large scale theatrical animation. In addition, GDH will utilize its global network to reinforce its ability to market this theatrical animation release overseas.

About GONZO DIGIMATION HOLDING K.K.

GDH is a global Japanese company founded in February 2000 controlling the overall business management strategies of its group companies, including title licensing management and overseas sales. GDH is a leader in content development that actively promotes both domestic and global reach in Japan's animation culture, which is well-known worldwide. For additional information, visit <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0778631/>

Director:

Kôichi Chigira

Writers:

Miyuki Miyabe (novel)

Ichiro Okouchi (screenplay)

Cast:

Takako Matsu ... Wataru Mitsuya (voice)
Eiji Wentz ... Mitsuru (voice)
Miki Imai ... Goddess of Destiny (voice)
Tarô Ishida ... Bishop Daimon (voice)
Shirô Itô ... Monk Rau (voice)
Ayako Kawasumi ... Mysterious Girl (voice)
Kirin Kiki ... Onba (voice)
Yo Oizumi ... Ki-Kima (voice)
Chiwa Saito ... Miina (voice)
Rie Shibata ... Yunababa (voice)
Katsumi Takahashi ... Akira Mitsuya (voice)
Yoshiko Tanaka ... Kuniko Mitsuya (voice)
Takako Tokiwa ... Cutts (voice)

About “Brave Story”

Brave Story (ブレイブ・ストーリー) is a Japanese novel by Miyuki Miyabe. A manga adaptation started in 2004 serialized in the Weekly Comic Bunch and consists so far of 17 volumes.

An animated film adaptation, directed by Koichi Chigira and produced by Gonzo Studio, was released in cinemas in Japan by Warner Bros. on 2006-07-08 and on DVD, Blu-ray, HD DVD and UMD on 2006-11-23. Optimum Releasing plan to release the film in the UK. [1]

The novel is available in the English language by VIZ Media, translated by Alexander O. Smith, [2], while the manga is being released by Tokyopop in anglophone countries. Only the first volume has so far been released.

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Official Website:

http://www.e-muse.com.tw/property/brave_story/introduction/20070604/index.html

Specifications

DVD format

- **Language:** 1. Japanese Dolby Digital 6.1 EX
2. Japanese DTS-ES 6.1
3. Cantonese Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo
- **Subtitles:** 1. **Traditional Chinese**
2. **English**
- **Grade:** I
- **Duration:** Approx. 113mins
- **Others:** 16:9 ANAMORPHIC WIDESCREEN ; DVD-9 ; NTSC-3 ; MPEG-2
- **Retail Price:** \$79
- **Release Date:** 16th November, 2007

VCD format

- **Language:** Japanese & Cantonese
- **Subtitles:** Traditional Chinese
- **Duration:** Approx. 113mins
- **Grade:** I
- **No. of discs:** 2 Discs
- **Retail Price:** \$49
- **Release Date:** 16th November, 2007

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