

Lilo & Stitch

USA | 2002 | 85m | U

Directors: Chris Sanders, Dean DeBlois

Starring: Daveigh Chase, Chris Sanders, Tia Carrere

Released just over 20 years ago, *Lilo & Stitch* remains a firm favourite in the Disney canon and is still regarded as a highlight of the studio's post-millennium productions. The origins of the film stretch almost as far back again, all the way to 1985 when co-writer and co-director Chris Sanders graduated from college.

'I wanted to do a children's book about this little creature that lived in a forest. It was a bit of a monster with no real explanation as to where it came from,' he told *Vulture*, and whilst he was never able to make it work, the idea of Stitch would remain in the back of his head as he rose through the ranks at Disney as an animator.

Eventually, Sanders was tapped to create his own film, and once he was paired up with Dean DeBlois as a writing and directing partner, the two had fleshed out Stitch's background and settled on a story of family, belonging, and finding a friend in a world that is alien to you.

The setting shifted to Hawaii early in production, and during a research trip to Kaua'i for inspiration, the crew first discovered the concept of 'ohana', which soon became one of the central themes of the film – as Stitch puts it to Lilo, 'Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.'

Lilo & Stitch was released in 2002 to great acclaim, with Roger Ebert describing it as 'one of the most charming feature-length cartoons of recent years--funny, sassy, startling, original and with six songs by Elvis,' and Claudia Puig – writing for *USA Today* – praising the film's visual style, describing the colours of the film as "ultra-vibrant and rich, appropriate to the Hawaiian setting.'

Since its release, *Lilo & Stitch* has maintained a great legacy, with a number of sequels and spin-off shows. It also offered Sanders and DeBlois the perfect start to a fruitful, creative partnership, with the two going on to write and direct another family favourite, *How To Train Your Dragon*.

'Beneath its absurdity, Lilo & Stitch captures what it feels like to yearn for belonging and to struggle to be understood,' *Inverse*.



Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!

Did You Know?

- The film was almost entirely finished before Michael Eisner – head of Disney at the time – had seen any of it, leading to a very nerve-wracking first screening
- To promote the film, Disney created trailers consisting of scenes from classic Disney films with Stitch inserted into them, including a version of the infamous opening sequence of *The Lion King* with Stitch in Simba's place.

Tell Us What You Think!



Nominate your favourite film to be this year's Audience Award Winner and enter our prize draw to win a FilmBath Fan Club Membership!

We really value your opinion and your answers are really helpful to help us understand our audiences, improve the festival and apply for funding.

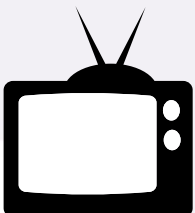
Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:



SpongeBob Squarepants

he misadventures of a talking sea sponge who works at a fast food restaurant, attends a boating school, and lives in a pineapple under the sea.



I Am Groot

The mischievous toddler Baby Groot learns to grow up among the stars with the help of his friends and family.

FilmBath Club 2024

To bring you that FilmBath feel out of festival time, FilmBath will host monthly evenings of film and food at Widcombe Social Club. Our first three screenings are a selection of heartwarming, remarkable and absorbing films: **EO**, **Mother and Son** and **War Pony**.

Tickets are just £10 and go on general sale on 20 November OR become a FilmBath Fan and book today!

FilmBath Fan

FilmBath Fan's can enjoy top benefits including a free ticket to the first FilmBath Club screening of the year, priority booking, invites to launch parties and a 25% discount off tickets to the FilmBath Club!

Become a FilmBath fan today for just £20 a year.

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!