

disney the little mermaid 2 return to the sea

Introduction to Disney's The Little Mermaid 2: Return to the Sea

Disney's The Little Mermaid 2: Return to the Sea is a beloved animated sequel that continues the enchanting story of Ariel and her family beneath the waves. Released in 2000 as a direct-to-video film, it expands upon the magical underwater world introduced in the original 1989 classic. This sequel explores themes of family, identity, and adventure, captivating audiences with its vibrant animation, memorable characters, and heartfelt storytelling. For fans of Disney's iconic mermaid, understanding the background, plot, characters, and impact of this film offers a deeper appreciation of its place within the Disney canon.

Background and Development of The Little Mermaid 2

Origins of the Sequel

Following the tremendous success of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and the subsequent wave of animated classics, Disney announced plans for a sequel in the late 1990s. Unlike the original, which was a theatrical release, *The Little Mermaid 2: Return to the Sea* was produced as a direct-to-video film, a strategy that allowed Disney to capitalize on the franchise's popularity while minimizing production costs. The film was developed by DisneyToon Studios, a division responsible for many other direct-to-video sequels.

Creative Team and Production

The film was directed by Jim Kammerud and Robert Lence, who aimed to maintain the spirit of the original while introducing new characters and stories. The screenplay was crafted to appeal to both children and nostalgic adults, with a focus on moral lessons and engaging visuals. Voice actors from the original film reprised their roles, including Jodi Benson as Ariel, ensuring continuity in character portrayal.

Plot Overview of The Little Mermaid 2: Return to

the Sea

Setting the Stage

The story picks up several years after the events of the first film. Ariel and Prince Eric are now parents to a young daughter named Melody. While Ariel is delighted with her new life on land and her role as a mother, a part of her remains connected to her underwater roots.

Main Conflict and Themes

Melody, curious and adventurous like her mother, longs to explore the ocean. Her desire to experience the underwater world leads her to a forbidden area where she encounters her grandmother, Queen Athena, and the mysterious underwater kingdom. Unbeknownst to her, a new threat emerges in the form of an evil sea witch, Morgana, who seeks revenge and aims to seize control of the sea.

Major Plot Points

- Melody's fascination with the sea and her discovery of her mermaid heritage.
- The conflict with Morgana, who intends to dominate both land and sea.
- Ariel's realization of her daughter's independence and her need to reconcile her oceanic past with her terrestrial present.
- The importance of family bonds, bravery, and staying true to oneself.

Characters and Voice Cast

Main Characters

- **Ariel:** The beloved mermaid princess and mother, voiced again by Jodi Benson.
- **Melody:** Ariel and Eric's curious daughter, eager to explore her identity.
- **Prince Eric:** Melody's father, supportive and protective.
- **King Triton:** Ariel's father, the ruler of the underwater kingdom.
- **Queen Athena:** Melody's wise grandmother, who provides guidance about mermaid heritage.
- **Morgana:** The primary antagonist, an evil sea witch seeking power.