Robbie The Reindeer in Legend Of The Lost Tribe

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Hold on to your antlers for an epic voyage of discovery on BBC One this Christmas.

Bafta-winning Robbie The Reindeer and his motley band of pals are back – and this time they’re on a death-defying quest to find a mythical band of warriors in Legend Of The Lost Tribe.

A star-studded voice cast featuring David Attenborough, Rob Brydon, Steve Coogan, Harry Enfield, Ricky Gervais, Jeff Goldblum, Jane Horrocks, Sean Hughes, Ardal O’Hanlon, Alistair McGowan, Natalie Imbruglia, Paul Whitehouse and The League Of Gentlemen makes Robbie’s adventures “must-see” family viewing this Christmas.

Robbie and friends have been brought to life in model animation by the BBC’s Animation Unit in Bristol, with BBC Worldwide in association with Comic Relief.

Legend Of The Lost Tribe is written by Andy Riley and Kevin Cecil (both Hooves Of Fire, So Graham Norton, Friday Night Armistice) and directed by Peter Peake.

One hundred per cent of BBC Worldwide’s net profits from Robbie The Reindeer will be donated to Comic Relief. A video of Legend Of The Lost Tribe will be available for sale from 26 December 2002, priced £9.99.
A Right Cast Of Characters

Robbie (voice by Ardal O’Hanlon)
Probably the second most famous reindeer in the world. A well-intentioned, accident-prone action hero.

Donner (voice by Jane Horrocks)
She’s head over hooves in love with Robbie, but she’s at the end of her antlers.

Blitzen (voice by Steve Coogan)
Smooth, suave, sophisticated and pure evil.

Prancer (voice by Paul Whitehouse)
A mobile disco on four legs.

Old Jingle (voice by Harry Enfield)
Potty – but a mine of deep and ancient wisdom.

White Rabbit (voice by Jeff Goldblum)
Blitzen’s reindeer-hating henchman.

The film also features the voices of David Attenborough as himself, Ricky Gervais as a penguin, Rob Brydon as a prison guard, Sean Hughes as a tapir, Natalie Imbruglia as a koala, The League Of Gentlemen as the Vikings and Alistair McGowan in various guises.

“A very big thank you to all the cast and other contributors who generously gave their performances for Comic Relief.”

Kevin Cahill, Chief Executive, Comic Relief.
Robbie, what have you been up to since we last saw you, in *Hooves Of Fire*?

Me and the other deer at the North Pole have set up a travel business. I’ve been thinking up slogans: “Come to the North Pole. Most visitors only lose three fingers!”

Is it true that your arch-nemesis Blitzen got out of prison?

He did. He’s pure antlered evil, that deer. He does some terrible things to me and my pals. But if you want to know what exactly, you’ll have to watch!

Do we meet any new friends of yours in *Legend Of The Lost Tribe*?

Well, I do find the last tribe of Vikings left on Earth. They’re called Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus, Magnus.

Magnus, Magnus and Magnus. Oh, hang on. I forgot Magnus. He will be upset. Sorry Magnus ...

What do you do in your spare time?

I spend quite a lot of time on the net. My favourite site is Sleigh Teams Reunited. One of my old colleagues, Dancer, who pulled the sleigh with me in 1999, now runs a plastics company in Leighton Buzzard.

Any plans for the future?

In May I’ll be taking part in *Celebrity Animated Character Big Brother*. There’ll be me, Bob The Builder, Hair Bear, Jafar from *Aladdin*, Parsley the Lion, Optimus Prime from the Transformers, Skeletaur, two of the guys from *Hatty Town* and Ainsley Harriott.

Aren’t you also doing some work for Comic Relief?

Yes. Money from my videos and DVDs goes to help projects in the UK and Africa. Aren’t I nice?

Your voice sounds a lot like the comedian and actor Ardal O’Hanlon ... 

Yeah, people say that. I wonder why that is? My other friends sound an awful lot like The League Of Gentlemen, Alistair McGowan, Harry Enfield, Paul Whitehouse, Jane Horrocks, Jeff Goldblum, Rob Brydon, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais and David Attenborough. Spooky, huh?

There are rumours that you’ve had a nose job ...

We agreed not to talk about that. This interview is over!
Robbie and pals have been brought to life by the BBC’s Animation Unit in Bristol.

A crew of 30, including some of the best animators in the business, worked for over a year to create Legend Of The Lost Tribe.

The technique used to make the film is called “stop motion”. The action was shot with digital cameras straight onto disc, rather than film. The models are fully armatured foam latex with replacement Plasticine mouths. There are five models for each main character.

The BBC Animation Unit

BBC Bristol’s Animation Unit develops and produces a wide range of animated films for adult and family audiences in collaboration with independent animation companies.

Since 1993, the Unit’s productions have been nominated for or won many of the most important international prizes, including: Oscars for Wallace And Gromit films (directed by Nick Park at Aardman); a Bafta and Oscar nomination for The Old Lady And The Pigeons (directed by Sylvian Chomet); a Bafta for Robbie The Reindeer In Hooves Of Fire; and the international TV industry’s coveted accolade, the Banff “Rockie” for Flatworld (by Daniel Greaves) and Gogwana (by Deiniol Morris).
The Writers

Andy Riley and Kevin Cecil’s writing credits include *Robbie The Reindeer In Hooves Of Fire*, *Smack The Pony*, *So Graham Norton*, *The Friday Night Armistice* and *Spitting Image*. They were nominated for a 2002 British Comedy Award for *Black Books*, and are currently writing an animated feature for Walt Disney.

Richard Curtis, executive producer, is the writer behind many British comedy classics, including *Not The Nine O’Clock News*, *Blackadder* and *The Vicar Of Dibley*. He also co-wrote *Robbie The Reindeer In Hooves Of Fire*. His film *Four Weddings And A Funeral* won a Bafta for Best Film, and was nominated for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film at the Academy Awards. His other film successes are *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Bean* and *Notting Hill*. Richard is the co-founder and vice-chairman of British Comic Relief.

The Director

Peter Peake worked for many years for Aardman Animations, where he says he was “forced to do loads of crisp commercials, but when no one was looking I made a short film called *Pib And Pog*”. This won the MacLaren Award at the Edinburgh Film Festival and was nominated for a Bafta.

Peake’s second film, *Humdrum*, won the MacLaren Award and was nominated for a Bafta and an Oscar in 2000.

The Producer

Jacqueline White started her television career in documentaries, filming around Europe and the Far East. In 1989, she moved into natural history and environmental productions for BBC TV, Channel 4, WNET, National Geographic, Survival Anglia and for ABC/Kane. In 1992, she produced the award-winning CD Rom *Xplora* for Peter Gabriel/Realworld. She has since produced a number of animated projects, including *The Morph Files*, two series of *Rex The Runt* and *Robbie The Reindeer In Hooves Of Fire*. 
Comic Relief is committed to helping end poverty and social injustice in the UK and Africa. Since its launch in 1985, Comic Relief has raised over £250m to help some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the UK and Africa to help themselves.

Most of the money raised has come from the eight Red Nose Days held so far. The most recent, in March 2001, broke all records, raising a staggering £55m. One-third of the money raised is allocated to projects working in the UK and two-thirds goes to projects working in Africa.

For more information on Comic Relief, visit www.comicrelief.com

Comic Relief is a registered charity, number 326568.