



FLOW (U)

Director: Gints Zilbalodis

Belgium/France/Latvia, 2024, 1 hour 24 minutes, no dialogue

Flow is a captivating journey, through natural and mystical realms, it follows a courageous cat after her home is devastated by a great flood. Teaming up with a capybara, a lemur, a bird, and a dog to commandeer and navigate, however unintentionally, a sailing boat, the animals go in search of a new home. At all times they must rely on trust, courage, and each other, to survive the perils of their newly aquatic planet.

From the boundless imagination of the award-winning Gints Zilbalodis (*Away*) comes a thrilling animated spectacle as well as a profound meditation on the fragility of the environment. *Flow* is a feast for the senses and a treasure for the heart. Ultimately, it's a paean to the spirit of friendship, kindness and community.

The production team were also adamant that all the animals be voiced by real animals. The only problem was the capybara. Capybaras are very quiet creatures, with slightly ridiculous, high pitched voices.

The sound crew tickled capybaras in the local zoo, but the sounds and the on-screen personality never matched... so they used a baby camel.

In a Q&A for the New Zealand International Film Festival, the Zilbalodis said that the animals were only ever referred to by their species, "Cat," "Retriever", etc. The animals were never named or gendered.

The whole film was created and rendered using the free and open- source software Blender.

Notes compiled by Matthew Evans

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