SPIRITED AWAY

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS PRESENTS
A STUDIO GHIBLI FILM

"A Masterpiece, Pure And Simple."
— Dave Kehr, The New York Post

"Spectacularly Inventive."
— Jane Hornick, Washington Post

From one of the most celebrated filmmakers in the history of animated cinema comes the most acclaimed film of 2002. Hayao Miyazaki's latest triumph, filled with astonishing animation and epic adventure, is a dazzling masterpiece for the ages. It's a "wonderfully welcoming work of art that's as funny and entertaining as it is brilliant, beautiful and deep" (Joe Morgenstern, Wall Street Journal).

Spirted Away is a wondrous fantasy about a young girl, Chihiro, trapped in a strange new world of spirits. When her parents undergo a mysterious transformation, she must call upon the courage she never knew she had to free herself and return her family to the outside world.

This deluxe 2-disc set overflows with outstanding bonus features, including the Japanese television special about the making of the film, an inside view into the artistry of Miyazaki, and a storyboard-to-scene Comparison. Spirited Away is a spectacular DVD the whole family will want to experience over and over again.
BONUS FEATURES

DISC 1

- Spirited Away Introduction
  Academy Award®-winning director and
  Miyazaki admirer John Lasseter®
  introduces the film.

- The Art Of Spirited Away
  See why Hayao Miyazaki is renowned by
  filmmakers the world over as one of the
  premier animators in motion picture history,
  and how his masterpiece was translated
  for English-speaking audiences.

DISC 2

- Behind The Microphone
  Go behind the scenes of the English-
  language version with the voice cast,
  including Suzanne Pleshette and
  Jason Marsden.

- The Nippon Television Special
  View this Japanese television special to get
  an insider's peek into Studio Ghibli during
  the creation of Spirited Away.

- Original Japanese Trailers

- Select Storyboard-To-Scene Comparison
  Using the angle button on your remote
  control, witness Miyazaki's creative process
  as you switch between selections of his
  original storyboards and the final animated
  scenes, complete with Japanese and English
  language tracks.

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MIYAZAKI'S
SPIRITED AWAY

DISC 1: FEATURE PRESENTATION

SCENE SELECTIONS

1: Opening Credits/
The Middle Of Nowhere
2: “It’s Just A Dream”
3: Finding Work
   At The Bathhouse
4: Meeting Yubaba
5: Sen’s New Life
6: “We Have An Intruder”
7: Working For Tips
8: A Strange Visit To
   The Nursery

9: The Golden Seal
10: A Monster Called
    ‘No Face’
11: The Train To
    Swamp Bottom
12: “What Did You Do
    With My Baby?”
13: A Visit With Zeniba
14: Finding The Way Home
15: One Final Test
16: End Credits
IN THE WORDS OF THE FILMMAKER — CREATING SPIRITED AWAY

I would say that this film is an adventure story even though there is no brandishing of weapons or battles involving supernatural powers. However, this story is not a showdown between right and wrong. It is a story in which the heroine will be thrown into a place where the good and the bad dwell together, and there she will experience the world. She will learn about friendship and devotion, and will survive by making full use of her brain. She sees herself through the crisis, avoids danger and gets herself back to the ordinary world somehow. She manages not because she has destroyed the ‘evil,’ but because she has acquired the ability to survive.

— Hayao Miyazaki

INSPIRATION FOR THE STORY

The most popular film in the history of Japanese cinema began in a very modest fashion. Legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki met the daughter of a friend, a bored little girl who made an impression on him, and he decided to make a movie for young girls. As it turned out, his audience was much larger than that.

“I tried as much as possible to make the main character an everyday person. So her face is not particularly beautiful. She was not cute or appealing, and I was wondering what to do with her. But by the end of the film, I wasn’t worried about her at all, and felt quite sure that she would become an attractive person.”

ENTER THE BATHHOUSE

The film’s setting is a hot springs bathhouse frequented by various Japanese gods and spirits. Miyazaki reflects, “I have some strange impressions of Japanese bathhouses dating from my youth. I always wanted to stage a film in a strange place, and I thought a bathhouse for gods would be even more fun. I suppose the gods of

“FOR THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE TEN YEARS OLD AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE TEN YEARS OLD.”

— Hayao Miyazaki

Japan go to a hot springs bath and resort to rest their bodies for a couple of days just as we do. They want to stay there for a while longer, but they leave reluctantly when the weekend is over. Thinking this way is how I decided how the backgrounds and structures should look.

Miyazaki continues, “In my grandparents’ time, it was believed that gods and spirits existed everywhere—in trees, rivers, insects, wells, anything. My generation does not believe in this, but I like the idea that we should treasure everything because...there is a kind of life to everything.”

The appearance of one of the gods in the film is derived from a paper mask of an old man that is used in a particular ceremony at the Kasuga Taisha Shrine. But for the most part, the gods in Japan dwell in rocks or trees, and don’t have actual physical forms. But a god visiting a hot springs bathhouse must have some kind of physical form. We needed to use our imaginations to figure out what the gods would look like.

FINDING THE WAY HOME

At the end of the film, Chihiro has transformed from an apathetic child to a confident young woman. “Our story is one in which the natural strengths of the character are revealed by the situations she encounters,” Miyazaki concludes. “I wanted to show that people actually have these things in them that can be called on when they find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. That is how I wish my young friends to be, and I think that this is also how they, themselves, hope to be.”