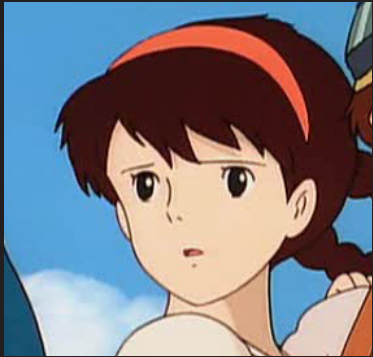




Hayao Miyazaki



FUN FACTS

He is a co-founder of Studio Ghibli. Miyazaki is the creator of many popular anime feature films, as well as manga. Although largely unknown in the West outside of animation circles until Miramax released his film Princess Mononoke in 1999, his films have enjoyed commercial and critical success in Japan and East Asia.



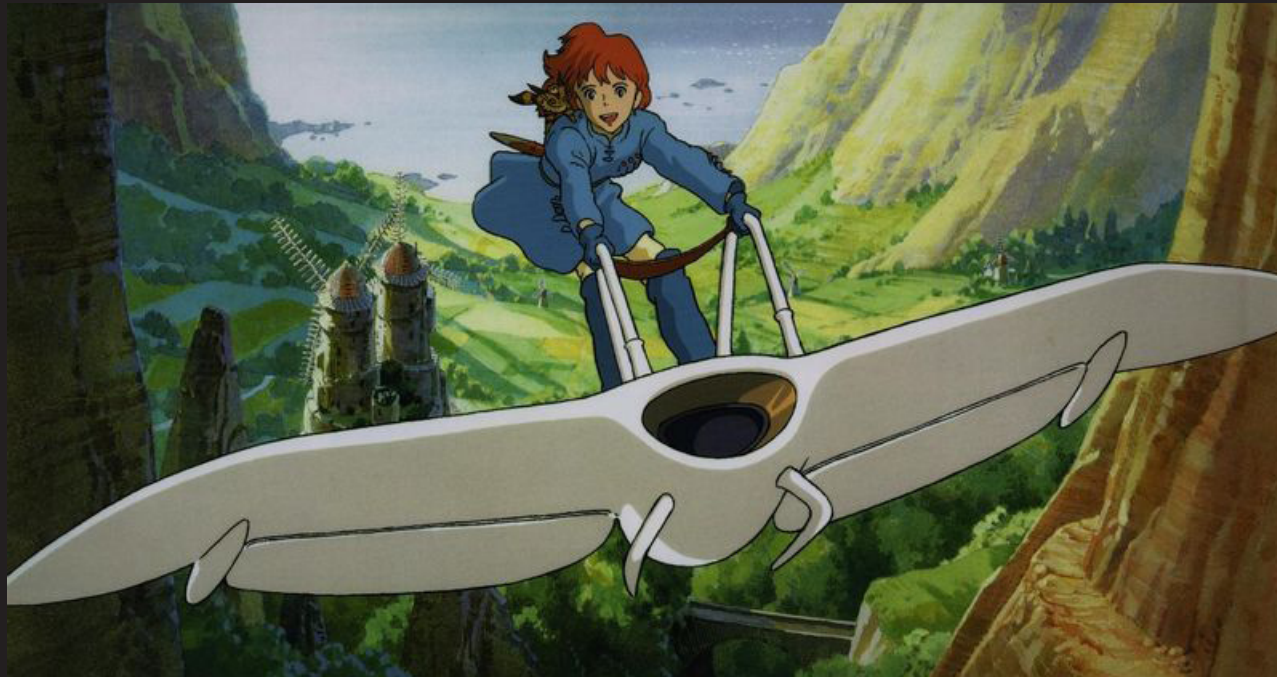
Miyazaki's Spirited Away is the highest-grossing film of all time in Japan; Princess Mononoke held the same title for a short period until the release of Titanic later in the same year.

Miyazaki's films are distinguished by recurring themes such as humanity's relationship to nature and technology, and the difficulty of maintaining a pacifist ethic. The protagonists of his movies are often strong, independent girls or young women; the "villains" are often ambiguous characters with redeeming qualities.



Miyazaki's films have generally been financial successes. His success has invited comparisons with American animator Walt Disney. However, Miyazaki does not see himself as a person building an animation empire, but as an animator lucky enough to have been allowed to make films with his own personal touch.

Miyazaki, had a lifelong fascination with aviation which became a recurring theme in his artistic works.



Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind , 1984



TIMELINE

1956, Entered Toyotama High School. Where he saw the film Hakuja Den, described as “the first-ever Japanese feature-length color anime”, [and began to take an interest in animation.

1963, Gakushuin University, graduating with degrees in political science and economics. He was a member of the “children’s literature research club,” said to be “the closest thing to a comics club in those days”

1963, Miyazaki got a job at Toei Animation, working as an in-between artist on the anime Wanwan Chushingura. He was a leader in a labor dispute soon after his arrival.

1964, became chief secretary of Toei’s labor union.

1965, he married fellow animator Akemi Otaand had two sons, Gorō and Keisuke.

1965, Gulliver’s Travels Beyond the Moon made. Miyazaki first gained recognition while working as an in-between artist on this Toei production.

1968, Chief animator, concept artist, and scene designer on Hols: Prince of the Sun a landmark animated film directed by Isao Takahata, with whom he would continue to collaborate for the next three decades.



Castle in the Sky, 1986



1971, Miyazaki left Toei for A Pro, where he co-directed episodes #7-8, #10-11, and #13-23 of the first Lupin III television series with Isao Takahata.



1979, *The Castle of Cagliostro*, made. Miyazaki's first film as a director. It is a light-hearted adventure film based on Lupin III.

1984, *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*. This was the first film which he had both written and directed. It was an epic adventure featuring many distinctive themes that reappear in later films: a concern with ecological issues, a fascination with aircraft, and the absence of a traditional villain. He adapted it from the manga of the same name, which he had himself created two years earlier

1985, Following the success of *Nausicaä*, Miyazaki co-founded the animation production company Studio Ghibli with Isao Takahata, and has produced nearly all of his subsequent work through it.

1986 - 1989 First three films made through Studio Ghibli.



Laputa: Castle in the Sky (1986), made. It recounts the adventure of two orphans seeking a magical floating island.

My Neighbor Totoro (1988) (*Tonari no Totoro*) tells of the adventure of two girls and a magical creature called a "totoro."

Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) is the story of a small-town teenage witch who strikes out on her own in a big city.



My Neighbor Totoro , 1988



1992, Porco Rosso made. Was something of a departure for Miyazaki, in that the main character was an adult male, an anti-fascist aviator transformed into an anthropomorphic pig. The film is a light-hearted adventure set in a fictional world based on 1920s Italy. Many also see the film as being an abstract self-portrait of the director himself.

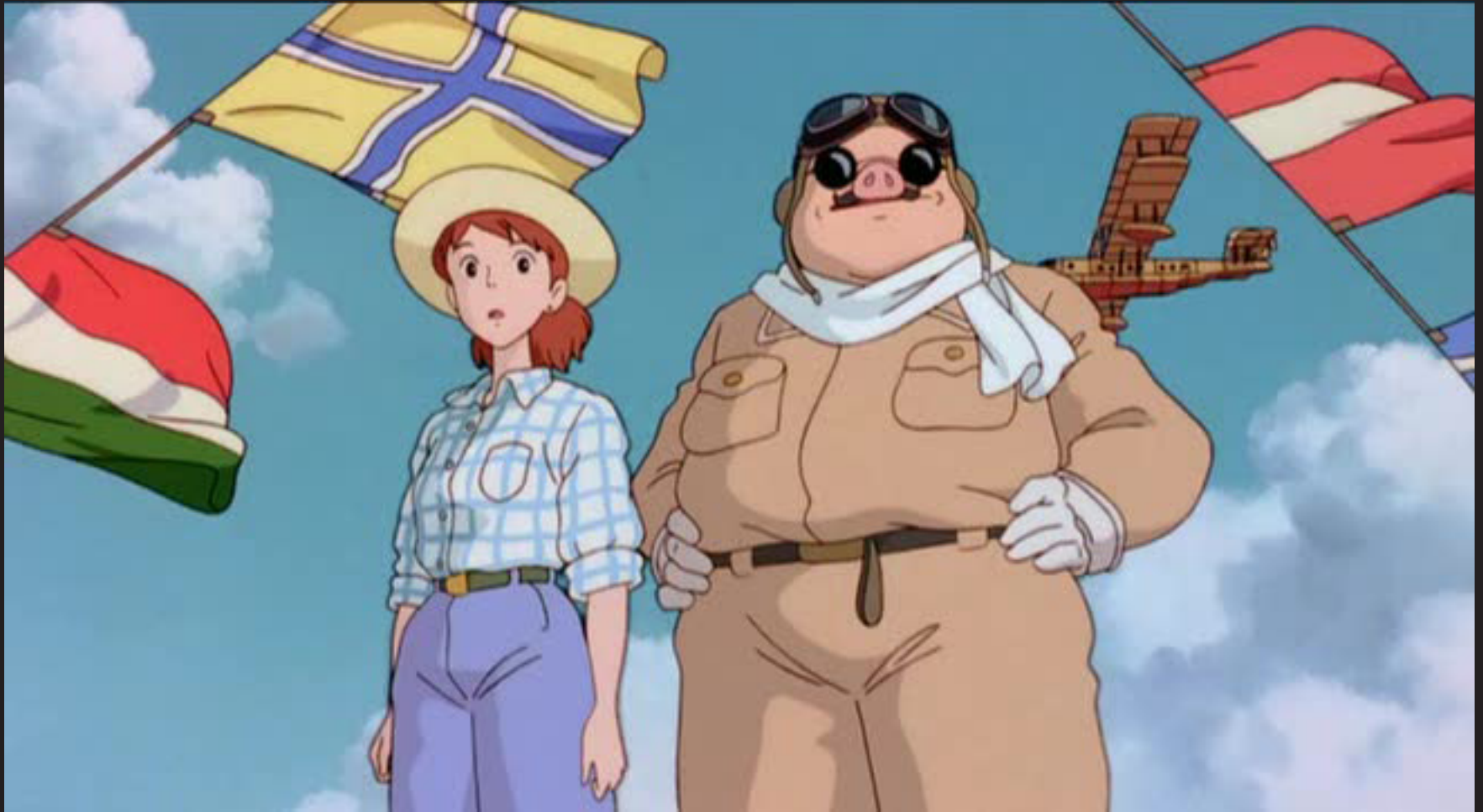
1996, Worldwide distribution deal with Disney Studios in brought several of Miyazaki's works to broader audiences; also lifting financial burden. He had established himself as an innovator and artist at least equal in stature to Walt Disney himself.



1997, Princess Mononoke (Mononoke Hime), released, returns to the ecological and political themes of Nausicaä. Epic struggle between the animal gods who rule the forest and the humans who are trying to exploit it for industry. The film was a huge commercial success in Japan, where it became the highest grossing film of all time. Won Best Picture at the Japanese Academy Awards.

1998, Miyazaki retired after making Princess Mononoke, intending it to be his last film as a director.

2001, Came out of retirement to create Spirited Away, the story of a girl who is forced to survive in a bizarre spirit world, enlisted to work in a bathhouse for spirits and gods after her parents are turned into pigs. Broke attendance and box office records, generating almost \$300,000,000 in total gross earnings from over 23 million viewings. Film awards, include Best Picture at the 2001 Japanese Academy Awards, Golden Bear (First Prize) at the 2002 Berlin Film Festival, and the 2002 Academy Award for Best Animated Feature, the first Oscar awarded to an anime production.



Porco Rosso, 1992



2004, *Howl's Moving Castle*, a film adaptation of Diana Wynne Jones' fantasy novel of the same name, for which he came out of retirement again, won the Golden Osella award for animation technology. Earned ¥1.4 billion in its first two days, continuing the record-setting trend of Miyazaki films at the box office. The English dubbed version was released in the U.S. through Walt Disney on June 11, 2005.

2005, Miyazaki was awarded for lifetime achievement at the Venice Film Festival.

2005, news was spread that Miyazaki's next (and, reportedly, last) project would be *I Lost My Little Boy*, based on a Chinese children's book. As of 2006, nothing more has been heard of the project.



FILMOGRAPHY

- Future Boy Conan , 1978
- The Castle of Cagliostro (Lupin III), 1979
- Sherlock Hound , 1982
- Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind , 1984
- Castle in the Sky, 1986
- My Neighbor Totoro , 1988
- Kiki's Delivery Service , 1989
- Porco Rosso, 1992
- On Your Mark, 1995
- Princess Mononoke , 1997
- Spirited Away , 2001
- The Whale Hunt, 2001
- Koro's Big Day Out, 2001
- The Cat Returns, 2002
- Howl's Moving Castle, 2004





Spirited Away , 2001