

CHRISTMAS AT CATTLE HILL

By **Will Ashurst**

Norway 2020



SYNOPSIS

Young city cow Klara is excited to spend her first Christmas on her father's farm but is disappointed that he is not the type to celebrate holidays. When her father is unexpectedly called away to help a neighbour who is snowed in, Klara sees it as an opportunity to bring some Christmas feel to Cattle Hill with the help of a cheeky elf who lives on the farm. Klara finds out that what is really important about Christmas is being together.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I love Christmas and 2nd to that is watching Christmas films once December rolls in, from the emotion of *Miracle on 34th Street* to the slapstick of *Home Alone* there is always a Christmas film for whatever takes your fancy! But one fancy that has never been told is what happens to a traditional Norwegian farm Gnome who has several bowls of Christmas Oatmeal... before Christmas Eve? In the traditional Norwegian folktales it is said that the Gnomes must receive ONE bowl of porridge for all their hard work done on the farm during the year and if he doesn't get it he will leave your farm and move to a farm where he will be appreciated, causing years of misfortune and bad luck on your farm! But what happens if you give him too much? When I started working on the film I wanted to take in all the fun and stressful experiences I have had with my own Christmases, from the excitement of being a child to the stress of an adult with frantic last minute internet shopping, but then add in the mix the unpredictability of an overfed and destructive Farm Gnome, as he frantically rummages around Cattle Hill ruining everything in its path as it searches for one more hit of that elusive bowl of Christmas Oatmeal! This is a Christmas no one on Cattle Hill will forget in a while!



ON THE MUSIC

Original music played a significant role in the first *Cattle Hill* film and for the sequel I have heightened the music's involvement to include several exclusive songs that help drive the story onward, Clara has her moment in the spotlight with a song which is inspired by the classic Disney songs from past and present, the film climaxes with a big show stopper, with the original cast all returning to lend their vocals as they sing to save Cattle Hill from ruin. The rest of the music features rock, pop and EDM so every genre is covered to please all types of music fans. The score is composed by the award winning Gaute Storaas with his unique take on the classic fifties Hollywood Christmas films, such as a *Wonderful Life* as well as modern classics such as *Elf* to give the film a nostalgic and recognisable atmosphere.

DIRECTOR

Will Ashurst co created *King Arthur's Disasters* in the UK, which earned him a BAFTA nomination. He has contributed to many children's film productions such as the first *Two Buddies* and a *Badger film*, and as director he also helped reimagine the Elias universe for an international audience in *Elias' New Adventures*. He made his debut as a feature director on the award winning *Anchors Up*, also from the Elias universe. *Christmas at Cattle Hill* is his sophomore feature after serving as the Animation Director on the first *Cattle Hill* film.



FILM INFORMATION

Original Title: Jul på KuToppen
English Title: Christmas at Cattle Hill
Genre: Children Animation
Country: Norway
Language: Norwegian, English dubbing
Year: 2020
Duration: 65 min.
Picture: Color
Aspect Ratio: 2.35 : 1
Sound: 5.1
Available Format: DCP

CAST

Norwegian cast:

Henriette Faye-Schjøll
Fridtjov Såheim
Mats Eldøen
Jan Martin Johnsen
Marit Andreassen
Charlotte Frogner
Sigrid Bonde Tusvik
Thomas Seltzer

English cast:

Charlotte Reynard

Corin Silva

Daniel Maley

Terence Mann

Giana Carpenito

Julie-Ann Dean

Kath MacColl

CREW

Director: Will Ashurst

Screenplay: Ole Christian Solbakken

Editing: Simen Malmø

Music : Gaute Storaas

Production design: Simon Dahle Nyhus

Production company: Qvisten Animation

Co-production company: Dyreparken

With support of: Nordisk film og tv fond, The Norwegian Film Institute

Producers: Heidi Palm Sandberg, Ove Heiborg

Co-producer: Jonas Røyem Ny

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