

## **Production Notes**

### **Chimera Tribe: The Rakai**

"A labor of love" None of us have been paid during the three years we've worked on this project. We started with the intention of making a small production that would serve as the vehicle to propel a feature-length story; what we've ended up with has become a tale unto itself. Our characters were born from a combined love of martial arts films, comic books, and many late hours spent playing Final Fantasy and Dungeons & Dragons. Their world, though beholden to magic and fickle demons, is one in which the principles of friendship, loyalty, and devotion ring true. And it's because of the generosity of our friends, families, and everyone else who got involved that we've been able to get as far as we have. The film really began growing into itself during pre-production, when we examined character art and storyboards, held them against the script, and saw this particular piece of the Chimera universe begin to coalesce. Long hours of production were punctuated with rain, cold, fatigue, even injury, yet cast and crew alike showed incredible resolve through all of it. Post-production was challenging at times, as often only one or two people were readily available to create the completed film. What we've accomplished here is nothing less than a testament to the passion we hold for our story and our vision.

"Peeling back the surface..." I remember when it all began... We decided to send a call out to writers we knew for concepts for what we settled on to be a seven minute short film: a fight scene. Stories combined and our artist friends designed characters that evolved more story. Before we knew it, we had feature-creep on our hands to the umpteenth degree. We compiled what we could to form a cohesive whole and discovered the makings of a feature-length film. We shot our fight scene, but it only served to expose the holes in our process. We became committed to creating a short film that could serve as a springboard into real financing for our feature. A complete story, in an original fantasy, martial arts-based world, ready for festivals. In the winter of 2005 we wrote The Rakai to fulfill this commitment. Within six months of writing we began casting and pre-production, which included a number of guerilla fundraising events and thousands of hours of volunteer work. We were shooting by September. Eleven out of fifteen days of shooting it rained. Our experiences became shaped by our commitment to one another and the project. The year that followed saw The Rakai slowed significantly as our editing experience grew to meet the demands required to finish. It's 2009, and we're finally ready to unveil it to the world. Two years in post-production and we've pulled together an original score, sound design and SPFX animation. It's finally in a place we're proud of.