

# FRIENDS AND HEROES



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"MY FRIENDS AND I SHARED THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE'S HEROES  
...AND SOON WE BECAME HEROES TOO."



**FRIENDS  
AND  
HEROES**

**A COMBINED 2D AND 3D ANIMATED PRODUCTION**

**39 EPISODES IN 3 SERIES OF 13 x 26 MINUTES**

**FOR 6 -10 YEAR OLDS**

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# INTRODUCTION



*Friends and Heroes* is the epic animated tale of two young people in the First Century - Macky and Portia - whose idealism and friendship leads them across the ancient world, from the fabled Egyptian port of Alexandria, to the besieged city of Jerusalem and finally, to the very heart of the Empire: Rome. As they fight for justice and even survival against the might of the Roman Empire, they become friends and then, in turn, heroes.

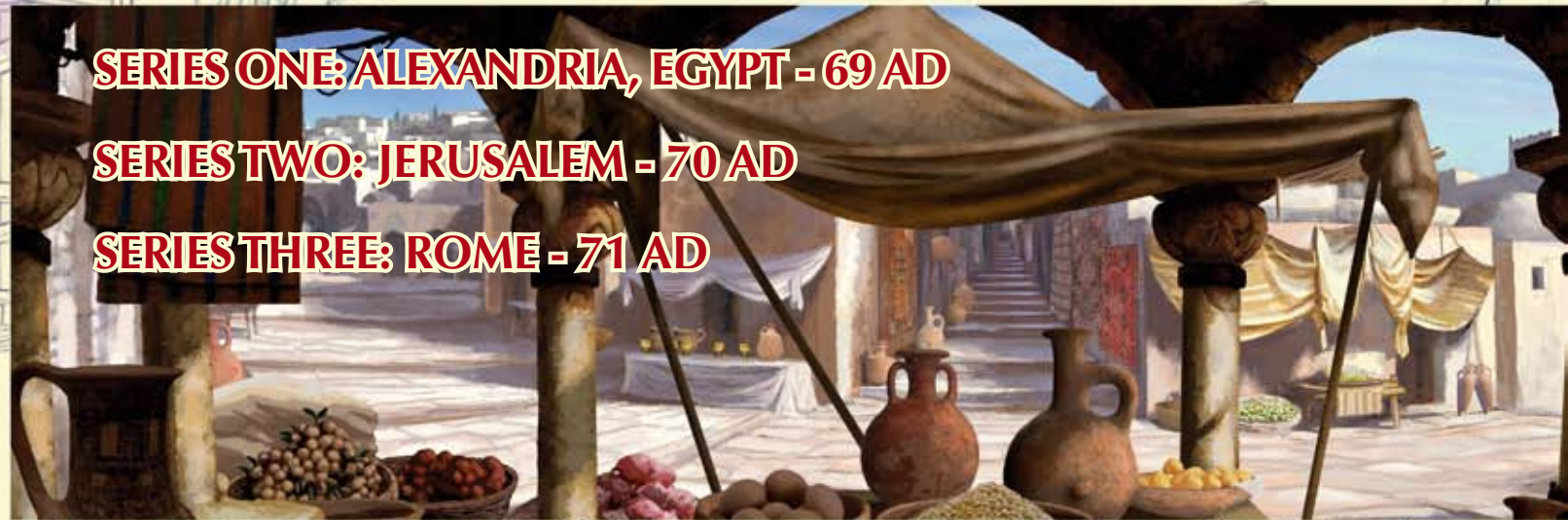
Through Macky and Portia, *Friends and Heroes* brings the inspiring stories of the Old and New Testaments to a new, worldwide generation of children in the Twenty-First Century, whatever their faith or background. Like our heroes, children will be empowered by what they see and hear, as they share the courage and compassion, the everyday dangers faced by Macky and his friends.

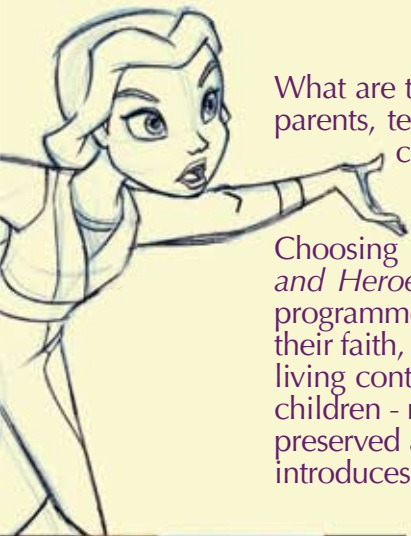
And what Macky learns is that one person can make a difference - as a friend, or as a hero.

**SERIES ONE: ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT - 69 AD**

**SERIES TWO: JERUSALEM - 70 AD**

**SERIES THREE: ROME - 71 AD**





### THE CHALLENGE

What are the origins of western civilisation, our collective culture, moral codes and religion? As parents, teachers, broadcasters - citizens - we have all seen the values of our society shift and change, and witnessed the loss of this shared cultural memory in our children.

### OUR APPROACH

Choosing a fascinating and turbulent period in our history - the First Century AD - *Friends and Heroes* places children's action-adventure stories within this vivid historical context. The programmes entertain, educate and inform the audience, introducing a new generation, whatever their faith, to the stories of the Old and New Testaments. This approach - of setting Bible stories in living contexts amongst the people who kept them alive, by passing them on 'down the line' to children - runs throughout as a constant motif. It demonstrates the reasons why these stories were preserved and the impact the stories and their preservation had on those who kept them alive. It introduces Biblical stories in an appealing, fresh and memorable way, creating a clear connection between the religious themes and exciting adventure stories by the innovative use of combined 2D and 3D animation. Cartoon-style 2D animation tells the adventure stories, mixing seamlessly to 3D animation for the Bible stories, two or three of which are interwoven in each episode.



### CHILDREN TODAY AND YESTERDAY

The adventure stories take place almost two thousand years ago, yet Macky and the gang will appeal to today's children; they are attractive, inspirational, and very real characters.... funny and brave, but just like us in the Twenty-First Century, they don't always get things right! They face similar issues and dilemmas to those faced by children today. Their experiences, combined with the stories they tell, will help foster respect for and kindness to others, as well as encouraging tolerance.

### THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

*Friends and Heroes* seeks to empower children to listen to their conscience and to make good decisions about respect, kindness, compassion, faith and tolerance, based on knowledge and not ignorance.

Fun



# CONCEPT AND AIMS OF THE SERIES



### SERIES ONE

It is AD 69. The place is the Port of Alexandria, Egypt. The Roman Empire has conquered Europe and North Africa. Resistance is futile. The residents of Alexandria learned this three years earlier, when the Romans brutally put down a rebellion.



Fourteen-year-old Macky lives here, with his family - his father, Samuel the silversmith, his mother, Diana, and his little foster sisters, Rebecca and Leah.

Not everyone's spirit was broken by the Romans. Some in Alexandria have taken their beliefs underground, while still maintaining normal facades. Macky and his family are drawn into a secret network of Jews and Jewish Christians - the Friends of Jesus. Together, these friends take part in a daring series of rescues and raids, all designed to help the sick, the starving or the unjustly imprisoned - and to combat the injustices of Roman authority whenever possible. Their inspiration comes from the Bible's rich oral tradition, stories from the Old and New Testaments.



Alexandria's Roman governor, Tiberius, is furious, of course, but he's continually frustrated. That's because his chief lieutenant, Tobias (Toadie), is a corrupt coward, and Toadie's flunky, Brutacus, barely qualifies as a half-wit.

For Macky, Leah and Rebecca, this is all a huge and exciting adventure, but things get more complicated for Macky when he meets a young Roman girl named Portia. Initially a bit of a snob, Portia soon warms to Macky, and to his friends - and vice versa. But then Macky finds out who Portia is: she's the niece of Governor Tiberius...





*Friends and Heroes* is the story of this difficult relationship, played out over a tapestry of politics, war, daring escapes and even comedy.

The action moves swiftly and takes place across a range of locations: from the bustling port to the Jewish commercial quarter, the Governor's palace to the slave market, the military encampment, the home, the prison and more...

In each episode our friends tell their stories from the Old and New Testaments - tales of earlier friends and heroes presented in stunning 3D animation.

At the end of Series One we see Macky and Portia both leaving Alexandria for different reasons.

**SERIES TWO** sees the action move to Jerusalem, where Macky and Portia meet the zealots in the besieged city, fighting the Roman oppressors.

**SERIES THREE** takes us to the heart of the Empire: Rome, amidst the gladiators of the Circus Maximus and all the intrigue of this most fascinating of imperial cities, seen from a child's viewpoint.



# STORY OVERVIEW



# THE CHARACTERS

# Action



Basic hair construction  
Feel like hair and not a solid block

Mouth shape  
simple  
No visible lips



Extremes





# Macky

Our first impression of MACKY is that he's an average fourteen-year-old. He's bright, funny, sometimes hot-headed and courageous, sometimes confused and torn - in fact not that different from his Twenty-First Century counterparts.

But there's more to Macky, much more. Like his father, Samuel, Macky is drawn to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Under the Romans, beliefs like these have to be kept secret, but Macky refuses to give in to the oppressors. He dreams of freedom for all those persecuted by the might of Rome, and he's always taking part in intrigues, daring rescues and secret missions, all designed to get his fellow rebels out of trouble. Above all, Macky is an idealist.

Macky knows the streets and alleyways of Alexandria like the back of his hand; he is a daring horseman, agile, athletic and resourceful - a great ally in any escapade. He's usually ready with a witty answer, but one look from his mother, Diana, can silence him pretty sharply!

Does he hate the Romans? His upbringing tells him he shouldn't, but he's a teenager, and he can't help it. But as he shares the stories of the Old and New Testaments with family and friends, Macky travels the most important journey of all through *Friends and Heroes* - the journey of life.



There's so much else going on ... war... rebellion...

# Daring



Romans don't do things like that!



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# Portia

PORTIA is the same age as Macky, but with a vastly different life experience. As a member of the Roman upper class, she's always had the best of everything - education, clothes, food, and culture. Until she meets Macky, she doesn't give much thought to the advantages she's had; they're simply her due as a Roman. She has certainly never questioned the Romans' power or the oppression of conquered peoples and ideologies.

Portia's father is a high-ranking Roman army commander, far away with his troops, and she lives with her Uncle, who is the powerful Governor of Alexandria. He is no substitute for a warm, caring parent and Portia misses that care - though she would never admit it; she's a Roman, after all: strong, uncompromising and able to persevere in the face of adversity.

Meeting Macky and his family, Portia begins to get a sense of what she is missing. She finds herself drawn to them... especially Macky.

There are enormous obstacles: class, religion, money (and the lack of it) - not to mention Macky's dangerous involvement with the underground - a capital offence. But Portia starts to see her fellow Romans through Macky's eyes, and that, combined with the wonderful stories he tells, begins to change her. She starts to use strength of character and perseverance to help others, and in the course of thirty-nine episodes, we'll see her change from spoiled child to gracious young adult.





# Tiberius

TIBERIUS, Portia's Uncle, is the Roman Governor of the Egyptian port city of Alexandria. A consummate politician, Tiberius discharges his duties with cold, ruthless efficiency, whether it's collecting taxes, putting down rebellions or ferreting out fugitive rebels.

Tiberius's coldness carries over into his relationship with Portia. Though he is her guardian, he shows little interest in her or her friends and consequently, Portia drifts away from him and all things Roman.

At the end of Series One, Tiberius's politicking pays off and he is given a plum assignment: helping to lead the siege of Jerusalem. After Jerusalem falls, Tiberius takes yet another step up the ladder - a job as Prefect in Rome.

A vain man, Tiberius is seldom without his precious hand mirror.





# Tobias

Lots of Gold just for me!

TOBIAS might be Tiberius's only mistake. Hired to be Tiberius's deputy, Tobias is an utterly corrupt self-promoter and as incompetent as he is greedy. He's also a shameless flatterer, hence his nickname, TOADIE.

Tobias is a schemer with a certain animal cunning, but his grossly inflated sense of self-importance often blinds him to what is going on around him. Tiberius takes Tobias with him to Jerusalem and later, Tobias pops up in Rome, this time as a free agent, willing to betray anyone for a price. He is one of Macky's arch enemies....



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There they are, Get em

# Brutacus

Since Tobias won't trust anyone smarter than he is, it's no surprise that his own deputy is the incredibly strong... but also, incredibly slow-witted BRUTACUS. Too dim to be corrupt on his own, Brutacus does whatever Tobias says, without question.

But is Brutacus really as stupid as he seems?





# S amuel

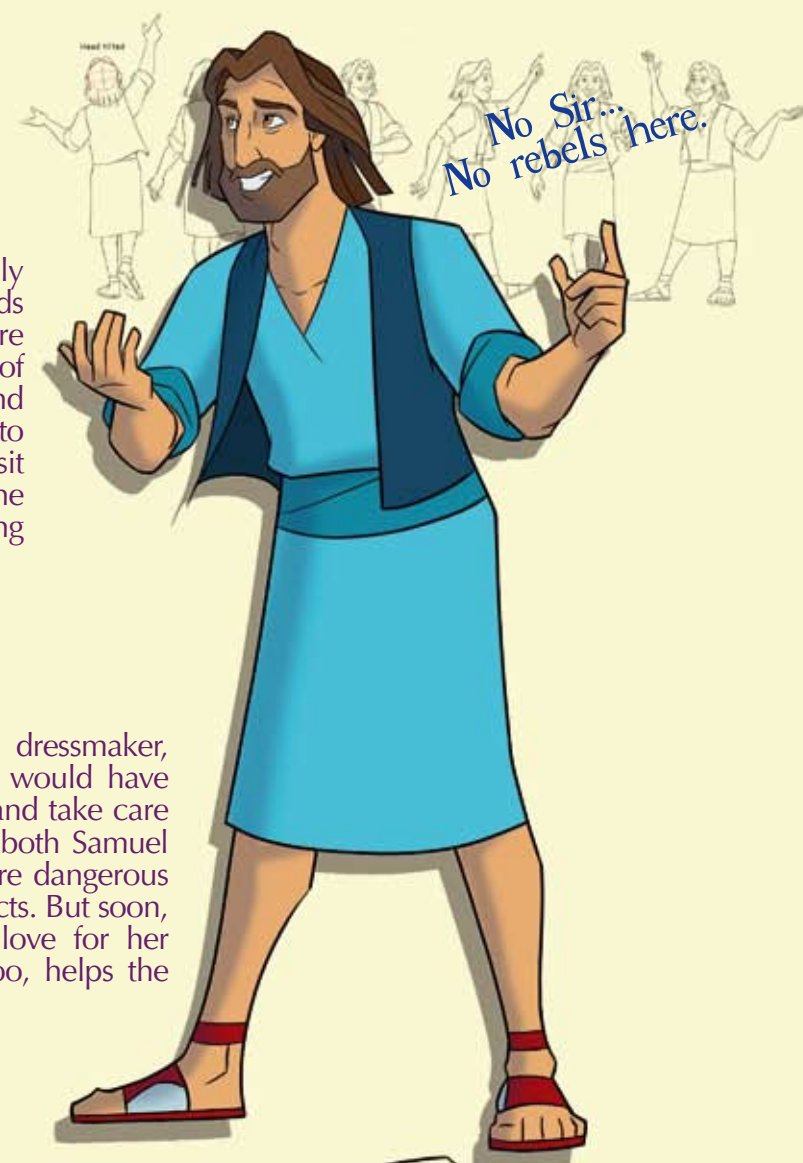
SAMUEL is Macky's father, a successful silversmith. A warm, friendly and wise man, he was born Jewish, but later was drawn to the Friends of Jesus, and it's been a difficult path. Because of the war they're fighting in Jerusalem with the zealots, the Romans are suspicious of nearly all the religious minorities within their Empire. So Samuel and the Friends of Jesus exist in secret. When the Roman vice begins to tighten, Samuel is forced to make a difficult decision: should he sit back and reap the profits of his successful small business, or should he risk everything by working with the rebel underground, and helping the Friends?



# D iana

DIANA is Macky's mother. A dressmaker, poised and glamorous, Diana would have been content to ply her trade and take care of her husband and son - but both Samuel and Macky have chosen a more dangerous path, which, at first, Diana rejects. But soon, Diana's humanity - and her love for her family - wins out, and she, too, helps the rebel movement.

*How much of my time...my life, must I give?*

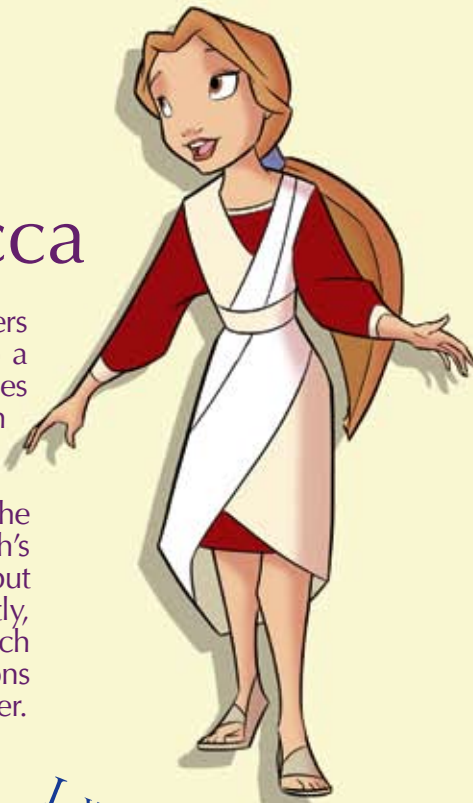




# L eah & R ebecca

REBECCA and LEAH, 8 and 5 years old, are the two daughters of DANIEL, a brave rebel fighter in Galilee. Daniel is also a childhood friend of Samuel's and when his fighting jeopardises the lives of his two children, he sends them to live with Samuel's family.

Rebecca, the older daughter, has a basic understanding of the peril they're in and so, to a certain extent, she acts as Leah's surrogate mother. Leah might not be as aware as Rebecca, but she's bright and adventuresome and funny, too. Consequently, she gets into more than her fair share of trouble... which sometimes threatens the family's underground connections and even their very lives. It's hard, however, not to forgive her.



*You'd think we could've at least waited 'til breakfast*



*I wouldn't let her anywhere near my hair*

# P ontius

Macky's wayward, feathered friend, PONTIUS is an African Grey Parrot with an apparently insatiable appetite - "Starvin' here!" is one of his favourite phrases. When Macky needs him, Pontius can usually be relied on to turn up and help his master, but otherwise the parrot comes and goes as he pleases; now you see him, now you don't. Pontius is not popular with centurions and often succeeds in annoying Macky's parents too, when his quirky vocabulary and brilliant mimicry are the source of humour and chaos.

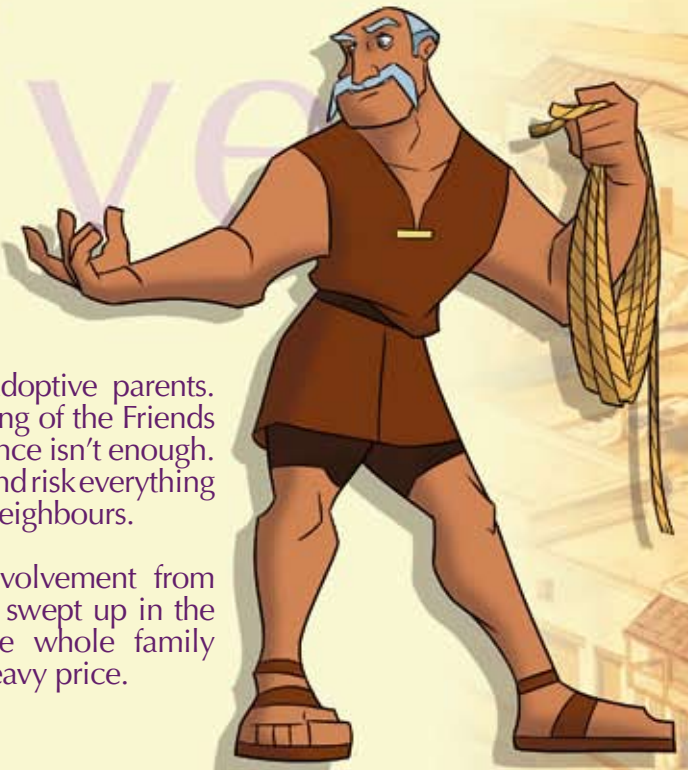


# Inventive

## Nathan and Miriam

NATHAN and MIRIAM are Sollie's adoptive parents. Though they are Jews, they are accepting of the Friends of Jesus, but they soon see that acceptance isn't enough. Circumstances force them to take sides and risk everything they have in order to help their neighbours.

At first, Nathan tries to keep his involvement from Miriam, but soon Miriam too is swept up in the rebel movement, and the whole family eventually pays a heavy price.



## Sollie

SOLLIE is Macky's neighbour, an average-seeming little kid in most ways, except that he just happens to be a mechanical genius. Also a bit of a bookworm, Sollie can create strange and unique machines out of almost nothing. Whether he needs to frighten the Romans with unearthly noise or sink a massive Roman warship, Sollie has a creative solution. The only problem is that he's reluctant to leave his studies. That's where Macky comes in, always persuading Sollie to do the right thing.

*Father, please. I have to finish my studies.*





# STORIES AND THEMES

# Series One

## 1. LONG JOURNEY

In the bustling marketplace of Alexandria we meet Samuel and Macky. Soon they encounter two young refugee girls who have stowed away aboard a ship from Galilee and are being pursued by Roman soldiers. Macky and his family risk their safety and defy the Romans by taking the sisters into their home. Samuel tells the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den to encourage the family not to be afraid - and Macky learns that violence is not the answer.

When the girls are captured, Macky reminds everyone how Jesus demonstrated his power with a Miraculous Catch of Fish before calling his followers to leave everything and follow him. This motivates Samuel to help Macky spring a daring raid on the prison to free the girls.

## 2. A FRIEND IN HIGH PLACES

Macky rescues a snobbish, aristocratic Roman girl, Portia, from her runaway horse and she is so fascinated with Macky and the whole world of Alexandria's Delta Quarter ghetto, that she returns and hires Diana to make a dress for her - at the Governor's palace! Rebecca is horrified that a Roman should enter their lives and uses the story of how Delilah led Samson astray to warn against being corrupted by foreign ways. But Macky senses there is more to Portia than they have seen so far.

Diana teaches the youngsters the value of tolerance through the story of Peter's friendship with Cornelius, the Roman Centurion - and with help from their new Roman friend Portia, the gang thwart an extortion scheme run by Tobias and his sergeant, Brutacus.





### 3. LEVIATHAN

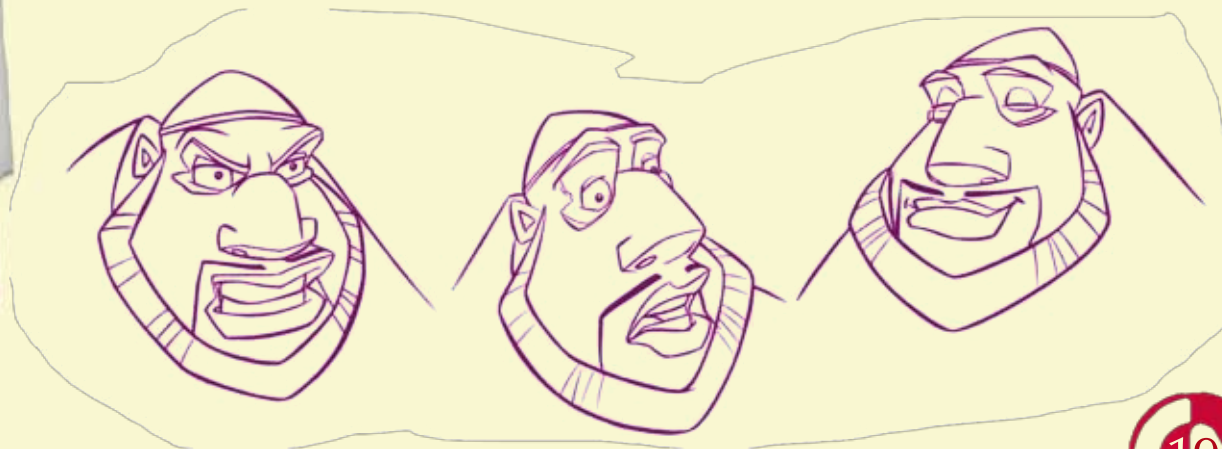
A giant warship docks in Alexandria harbour and Macky learns from Portia that the ship's mission is to attack the rebels resisting the Romans in Galilee. Macky inspires his neighbour, the young genius Sollie, with the story of David and Goliath. Sollie comes up with a plan to sink the ship.

When Macky and Samuel are captured and imprisoned on the doomed ship, the story of how God released Peter from prison encourages them never to give up hope. As a result of the heroic destruction of the ship, its Roman architect decides to stay away from objects of war.

### 4. FALSE HEROES

Macky and the family take a risk and give shelter to two men they think are fugitive rebels, brothers Caleb and Aaron. The story of Rahab teaches the family, and Portia, about caring for strangers. Aaron is very sick, and to nurse him Diana needs to cool his raging fever. Disguised as musicians, Macky and Samuel venture into the Governor's palace to bring back ice from a lavish Roman banquet. When the sickness looks serious, the story of how Peter raised Tabitha back to life encourages Caleb never to give up hope for his brother.

We're left in suspense at the end of the episode when it's discovered that Caleb and Aaron are actually dangerous criminals.



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### 5. TRUE HEROES

Caleb and Aaron are trying to escape Alexandria. Meanwhile, after intelligence reports of refugee rebels entering the city by sea, Tiberius orders the famous lighthouse extinguished, threatening the lives of many innocent fishermen too.



Macky is inspired by the story of Gideon not to feel defeated by the might of the Romans. Portia, Diana and the girls make a desperate, dizzying descent from the top of the lighthouse as they take a stand against Aaron. Together they must find a way to re-illuminate the dangerous shore. Samuel's telling of the well-known Christmas Story - where the Good News was first told to lowly shepherds - turns Caleb and Aaron from criminals into heroes.

### 6. SWEET FREEDOM

Macky and the gang want to rescue some slaves who are forced to work, shackled, in the Roman granary, but their friends and neighbours are worried about the repercussions. Sollie's mother, Miriam, challenges them by telling the story of Moses beating the Egyptian slave master, and Macky soon finds he has enough support to help the slaves.

Once rescued, the slaves must be hidden from the Romans, and Marx Brothers-style havoc ensues as Diana - theatrical wardrobe mistress - hides them right under the Romans' noses at the theatre. The story of how Paul was changed on the Damascus Road gives Macky hope that even the Romans might one day change - and slavery will disappear.





### 7. LOST IN ALEXANDRIA

Portia is still trying to make friends with all of Macky's family and Diana learns from the story of Ruth and Naomi how to reach out to others - even outsiders like Portia.

Little Leah gets lost in the chaotic back streets of the city and is tricked by a devious Roman called Lydia, (actually Portia's palace tutor), who leads her to enslavement in a sweatshop run by Tobias. Macky uses the story of the Good Samaritan to remind Samuel that Portia, though a Roman, can help, and soon with additional help from Pontius the parrot they find and rescue Leah, ruining Tobias's lucrative sweatshop in the process. Only the audience knows that Lydia's story is left unresolved. Will she pose a future threat to our heroes?

### 8. THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Whilst Macky and the girls are minding Samuel's shop, a petty thief steals a piece of jewellery. The silver fish has information vital to the rebel movement engraved on it and if it falls into Roman hands, there will be serious consequences. Macky can't figure out how to get the fish back, but after telling Leah the story of a resilient John being beaten by the authorities for the crime of healing people, all becomes clear.

Moments after getting the fish back, the bars of the harbour prison slam shut on the kids. Just as things are looking desperate, and it seems the gang are to be sent to the salt mines as slaves, Macky remembers the story of Shadrach and the Furnace. Samuel intervenes and creates an elaborate ruse that sets everything right.



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## 9. DOING OUR PART

It's Purim time and while Macky, Sollie and the kids act out the story of Esther's bravery, Diana shows her own bravery, as she tries to lead destitute refugees through the dangerous streets of Alexandria.

When Diana is captured, she tells her Roman guard the story of the selfless generosity of Joseph of Cyprus (Barnabas) and finds that the guard is sympathetic to the Friends of Jesus. He releases her, but still she can't shake off Brutacus who with his troop insists on following her home through the streets, as the refugees try to thread their way to safety. Between them, Diana and Sollie use their wits to avert disaster and get the soldiers out of the way so the refugees can safely join in the Purim celebrations.

## 10. HORSEPLAY

Out on Macky's horse without permission, Leah easily outrides a spoilt Roman boy, Caius, who challenges her to a horse race so he can salvage his damaged pride. Rebecca is furious with her little sister, but Macky tells her the famous story of Joseph and his Brothers and she sees that forgiveness between brothers, or sisters, is more important than chastising Leah for her disobedience.

When Leah goes to meet Caius and face his wager, Rebecca plans to help her and stop the Roman boy and his flunkies from cheating to win. Meanwhile Portia has been pulling strings amongst her fellow Roman aristocrats to help Leah from the opposite side. Between them they outwit Caius and Brutacus, but Leah had been hoping to get the wealthy Roman boy to pay his dues after beating him in the race. Rebecca tells Leah the story of Simon the Sorcerer, who foolishly thought money would make him all-powerful, and little Leah finally understands her big sister's message.



## 11. EXODUS

As Macky's family and guests celebrate Passover, Portia brings her Roman tutor, Lydia, with her to dinner. Leah recognises Lydia from the sweatshop incident. As the family recount the stories of the Burning Bush and the Exodus, Leah sits in silent fear of Lydia. Lydia is anxious that the Governor will find out about the illegal sweatshop from Leah and Portia, so she gets Tobias to intimidate Samuel and the whole family.

A tense but comic cat-and-mouse game ensues as Tobias searches for Leah, but fails to find her and then tries to double-cross Samuel. Portia takes a big risk and warns Samuel of this trickery. Tobias leaves frustrated, once again. Nevertheless Samuel decides there have been too many close calls and to emphasise his belief that it is time to leave Alexandria, he tells the story of the Last Supper Jesus shared with his friends.

## 12. NO WAY OUT

Macky and his family have left Alexandria and have sought safety amongst some desert ruins. Macky argues with his father that they have run away from their responsibilities and Samuel tells him the story of Jonah and the Big Fish, showing that it is never really possible to leave behind responsibilities. Searching for Samuel back at the shop, a vengeful Tobias arrests their neighbour Nathan and Sollie brings this news to the family in the desert.

Returning to the city, Samuel and Macky meet a thief, their old adversary Caleb. When Caleb recounts the story of the Prodigal Son, they know he is no longer a thief and enlist his help to free Nathan from prison. But to their horror, they realise Tobias had been using Nathan as bait to capture Samuel...



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### 13. NO TURNING BACK

With Samuel imprisoned and Caleb injured, Nathan tells a discouraged Macky the story of Elijah and King Ahab to help restore his hope. Portia hears that Daniel, the father of Rebecca and Leah, has been captured by the Romans in Jerusalem and that she is being moved away from Alexandria to Jerusalem with her Uncle. She brings the distressing news to Macky and the girls and Macky makes a promise to Rebecca and Leah that he will, somehow, rescue their father.

A torrential rainstorm commences and Samuel tells his frightened fellow prisoners the story of the First Pentecost. Sollie devises a scheme to use the rainwater to flood the palace jail, forcing the guards to open the jail doors. Samuel is finally free, but now Macky tells his parents of his decision to go to Jerusalem, with Portia. Samuel and Diana see that they must let go of their young son. Macky must travel his next journey alone.

Powerful



# Friends and Heroes - Story Overviews

## SERIES 2 – Jerusalem, AD70

Macky and Portia arrive in Jerusalem during the Roman siege. The people inside are starving, whilst the Romans grow desperate to break through the city walls.

Outside the city, Macky makes several key acquaintances. One is Isaac, who pretends to be senile most of the time, but he's actually an active member of the rebel underground. His house, filled with hidden rooms and secret passages, is a safe house for the oppressed. Here Macky links up with the rebels (zealots) who live inside Jerusalem and soon becomes a courier between Jerusalem and the outside world.

Inside Jerusalem, Macky meets a girl, Sarah. Macky is drawn to Sarah's idealism, and this puts a strain on his relationship with Portia. He also meets a Roman officer named Lucius, widowed father of two young children and secretly a Friend of Jesus – he was one of Paul's guards, many years earlier in Rome.

Macky learns to trust Lucius and he becomes a valued secret ally as Macky faces his two old adversaries from Alexandria: Tobias and Brutacus.

Towards the end of the siege, Macky takes greater and greater risks and is finally captured by the Romans. Portia tries to intervene, but can't get him released. Instead she ensures that Macky is sent to Rome, her next destination, and his only hope.



Pre-production information - subject to change as production proceeds.

## SERIES 3 - Rome, AD71

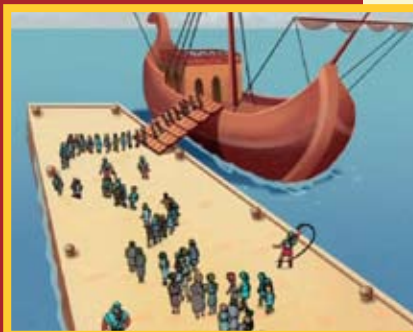
Arriving in Rome, the centre of power, culture, civilization and also a snake pit of intrigue and treachery, Macky finds himself in gladiator school for Circus Maximus, where the only rule is kill or be killed. Macky wants to do neither, so Portia intervenes with a Senator, Antonius, who takes Macky as a slave.

Macky discovers that Antonius is a secret Friend of Jesus and that at night, he dons a mask and goes out and rescues fellow Friends of Jesus from jail or helps them escape from slave-masters. Soon Macky in a disguise of his own starts helping the Senator.

Antonius has an enemy in the Senate - Marcus, who blames all the Empire's woes on the Friends of Jesus. Marcus would like to prove the notorious masked rebel is actually his enemy, Antonius. But Antonius is too clever for him.

Marcy enlists the help of Tiberius, Brutacus, Tobias and Tobias' mother Luciana, an expert manipulator and political in-fighter with friends in high places.

Marcy's noose begins to tighten around Macky and Antonius and Macky's and Portia's relationship deepens and matures through the difficult choices they have to make. Portia will be forced to make the most difficult decision of all: wealth, power and comfort or love and faith?



# Friends and Heroes Stories and Themes - Series 2

**ONE OF US** – *Overcoming obstacles* – **King David captures Jerusalem** – 2 Samuel 5:1-9; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 and **Jesus in the temple as a boy** – Luke 2:41-52 Approaching Jerusalem, Macky is pressed into service carrying medicine through the claustrophobic water tunnel that leads into the besieged city. Once inside, he has to convince the zealots he's not a spy.

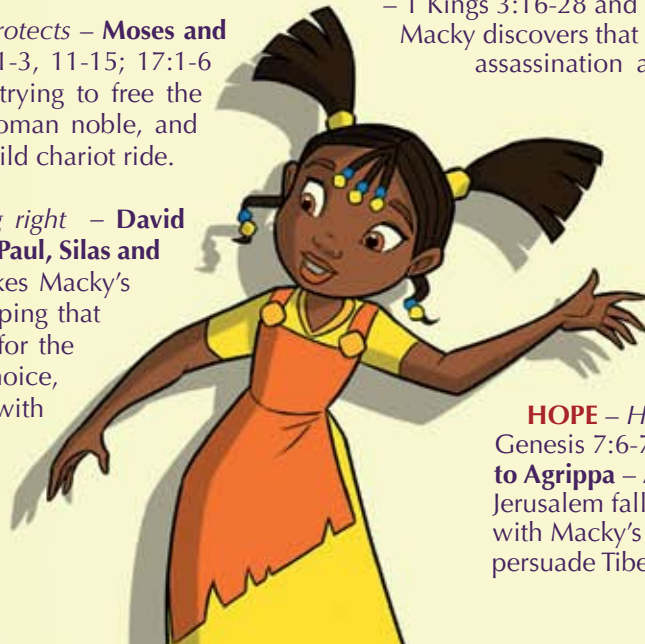
**OVER WALLS** – *Learning trust* – **Jacob and Esau** – Genesis chapters 25; 27; 32; 33 and **Paul escapes in a basket** – 2 Corinthians 11:32-33 Charged with bringing an ailing man out of Jerusalem, Macky agonises over whether he can trust a Roman soldier who claims to be a Friend of Jesus.

**THE RAM** – *Grace and Justice* – **Elijah, Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard** – 1 Kings chapter 21 and **Paul and the Shipwreck** – Acts chapter 27; 2 Corinthians 11:25ff The Romans are bringing a huge battering ram to Jerusalem, and Macky must once again turn to his Roman friend, Lucius. But will Lucius help him this time?

**RESCUE STRANGERS** – *Humility and Righteousness* – **Michal's rescue of David from King Saul** – 1 Samuel 18:6-11; 19:9-18 and **Paul and Barnabas** – Acts 14:8-20 When he plans to rescue a zealot prisoner from the Romans, Macky is mis-led by a stranger and winds up rescuing the wrong man – a vicious criminal.

**PRINCE FOR A DAY** – *God provides and protects* – **Moses and the Miracle Water** – Exodus 15:22-25; 16:1-3, 11-15; 17:1-6 and **Paul and Elymas** – Acts 13:4-12 Still trying to free the zealot prisoner, Macky pretends to be a Roman noble, and when he's exposed, he's forced to take a wild chariot ride.

**UNWILLING GUESTS** – *Mercy and Doing right* – **David spares Saul's life** – 1 Samuel chapter 26 and **Paul, Silas and the earthquake** – Acts 16:16-36 Tobias takes Macky's friend Isaac, and several others, hostage hoping that Macky will surrender himself in exchange for the hostages' lives. Faced with an impossible choice, Macky must rely on Portia to save the day with the rebels.



**AID AND COMFORT** – *Obedience and Healing* – **Elisha and Naaman** – 2 Kings 5:1-17 and **Jesus cures a sick woman** – Mark 5:21, 25-34 Lucius convinces a reluctant Macky to bring medicine from Jerusalem to save the life of an ailing Tobias. But the zealots get wind of this, and Macky has to put his life on the line... for the sake of his worst enemy.

**HOSTAGES** – *Making Difficult Decisions* – **The Boy Samuel and Eli** – 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 3:1-19 and **Herod and the Wise Men** – Matthew 2:1-18 Portia contrives to have herself taken prisoner by the zealots so that her uncle, General Tiberius, will let the zealot children leave the besieged city. But the kids don't want to leave.

**THE BIG LIFT** – *Helping Others* – **Elisha and the woman with olive oil** – 2 Kings 4:1-7, 42-44 and **Jesus feeds the five thousand** – Mark 6:30-44 The zealots inside Jerusalem are starving, and Macky sets up an elaborate scheme to trick Tobias out of some of the grain that he's been hoarding. But is Macky being too clever for his own good?

**HOME** – *Overcoming difficulties* – **Paul escapes from the mob** – Acts 17:1-10a and **Jethro the Midianite welcomes Moses the stranger** – Exodus 2:11-23 As the Romans tear down the houses around Jerusalem for building material, Isaac rushes to demolish his own home, lest the Romans discover the secret tunnels beneath it. Macky devises a plan to stall the Romans, but will it give Isaac the time he needs?

**DESPERATE MEASURES** – *Wisdom* – **Solomon's wisdom with a baby** – 1 Kings 3:16-28 and **Paul appeals to Caesar** – Acts 24:27 – 25:12 Macky discovers that a zealot plot to kidnap Tiberius is actually an assassination attempt, and when he tries to stop it, he's captured by the Romans.

**TOADIE ON TRIAL** – *Bravery and God's Provision* – **Moses and the desert trek; manna from heaven** – Exodus 16:11-26 and **Paul's disappearance** – Acts 28:15-16, 23, 30-31 As the life of an injured Lucius hangs in the balance, Portia must defend herself against Tobias's charge that she's in league with the rebels.

**HOPE** – *Hope and Trust* – **Noah and the Ark** – Genesis 7:6-7; 17-24; 8:1-11; 9:12-17 and **Paul speaks to Agrippa** – Acts 25:13-27; 26:1, 9-29 As Jerusalem falls, Portia has a final confrontation with Macky's zealot friend, Sarah and tries to persuade Tiberius to save Macky.



# Friends and Heroes Stories and Themes - Series 3



**GLADIATOR SCHOOL** – *Courage in adversity* – **Amos speaks out** – Amos 7:10-17 and **John the Baptist** – Luke 3:1-16, 21-22 Now in Rome, Macky is imprisoned in a gladiator school, but there might be a way out — if he can beat Tobias in an obstacle course race.

**SCHOOL'S OUT** – *Standing firm* – **David and three Soldiers** – 2 Samuel 23:13-17 and **Jesus Speaks in Nazareth** – Luke 4:14-24, 28-30 When Macky's attempt to escape from the gladiator school fails, Portia intervenes with the mysterious Senator Antonius to save his life.



**FRIENDS, ROMANS AND MYSTERY MEN** – *Trusting friends* – **Jesus calms the storm** – Mark 4:35-41 and **David and Jonathan** – 1 Samuel 18:5-9; chapter 20 Now a slave in Senator Antonius's home, Macky soon discovers that Antonius has a secret life, staging daring rescues of the Friends of Jesus.

**SOWING THE SEEDS** – *Helping others* – **David and Mephibosheth** – 2 Samuel chapters 4 & 9, **The Parable of the Sower** – Matthew 13:1-9 and **The House built on Rock** – Matthew 7:24-29 When Macky's friend Absolom from gladiator school is forced into a fixed match that will almost certainly result in his death, Macky and Antonius intervene to save him.



**SENATORS ONLY** – *Helping strangers* – **Abraham and three strangers** – Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 and **Jesus and Zacchaeus the tax collector** – Luke 19:1-10 Portia discovers that the bigoted Senator Marcus is planning an horrific crime that he intends to blame on the Friends of Jesus. Attempting to thwart him, she discovers Macky's and Antonius's secret.

**SENATORS FIRST** – *Trust and Healing* – **Joseph and Pharaoh's Dreams** – Genesis 40:1-8; 41:1-44 and **Jesus brings Jarius' daughter back to life** – Luke 8:40-56 As Macky hovers on the brink of death due to a snakebite, Portia must work alone to stop Marcus's plot to murder the Senators.

**ROME ALONE** – *Growing Confidence* – **Jesus heals Blind Bartimaeus** – Mark 10:46-52 and **Saul is anointed** – 1 Samuel 9:1-24, 26-27 and 10:1 Antonius's young mute son, Felix, is left home alone – where he must cope with a suspicious Tobias, who is determined to find incriminating evidence there against Antonius.



**GIVE AND TAKE** – *Provision and Persistence* – **Elijah is fed by ravens and a widow** – 1 Kings 17:1-16 and **The Parable of the Lost Sheep** – Matthew 18:10-14 Marcus blackmails ex-gladiator Babatunji into a scheme to capture Antonius. When the scheme fails, Antonius and Macky must find a way to free Babatunji from Marcus's influence.

**SPIES AND LIES** – *Doing what is right* – **Jesus rides into Jerusalem** – Mark 11:1-11, **Jesus and the Moneylenders** – Mark 11:15-17 and **Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man** – Mark 2:1-12 When Antonius speaks out against Marcus's bigotry in the Senate, Marcus frames him, and only Macky and Portia can prove Antonius's innocence.

**CONFLICT** – *Seeing things differently* – **Jesus and the Widow's Offering** – Mark 12:41-44 and **The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard** – Mark 12:1-9 Marcus stages an audacious robbery of the Roman treasury, and Macky and Antonius risk their lives to stop him. But will a greedy Tobias ruin everything?

**BETRAYAL** – *Servanthood and Betrayal* – **Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet** – John 13:1, 4-9, 12, 15-17, **Jesus and the Lepers** – Luke 17:11-19 and **The Last Supper and Jesus' Arrest** – Mark 14:17-19, 29-46, 53, 66-72 Felix is kidnapped and used as bait to lead Antonius into a trap that will force him to unmask and reveal his true identity.

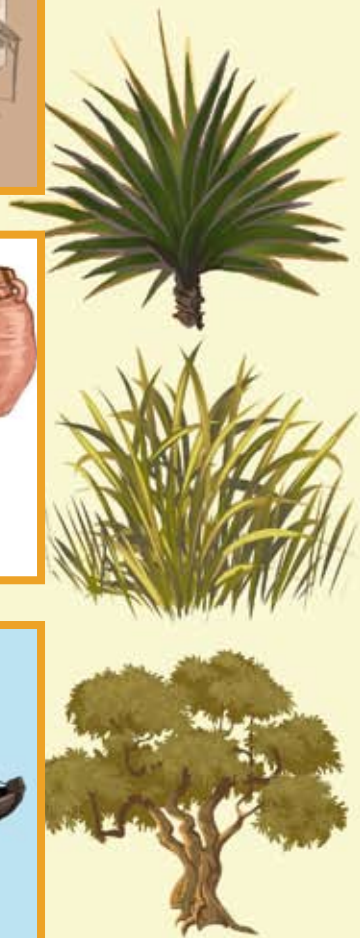
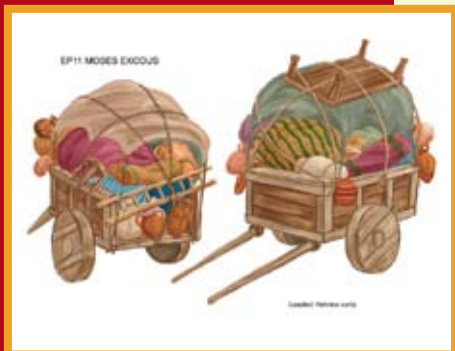
**TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS** – *Sacrifice* – **Jesus before Pilate** – Mark 15:1-15, **Jesus carries his cross** – Mark 15:16-23 and **The Crucifixion** – Mark 15:24-37 With Antonius on trial for sedition and likely to be convicted, Portia and Macky each work feverishly on their own rescue plans.

**THE ROAD AHEAD** – *Making good choices* – **Jesus seen on the road** – Luke 24:13-34, **Jesus and the Rich Young Man** – Mark 10:17-23 and **Moses and the Ten Commandments** – Exodus 20:1-17 Macky and Portia must find a way to prevent Marcus from burning the scrolls that contain Antonius's carefully compiled New Testament stories.



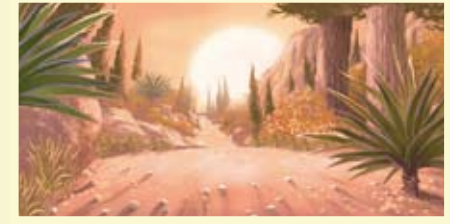


# BROADCAST AND BEYOND



### NOT ONLY BUT ALSO....

*Friends and Heroes* is not only produced as children's entertainment, but also as entertaining education. The historical context of the 2D animation in *Friends and Heroes* is carefully researched and portrayed so that the setting of each series - three landmark cities of the ancient world, and their hinterland - is an accurate depiction of the architecture and lifestyle of that place and time in history. The 3D biblical stories are carefully selected to appeal to children and to complement, illustrate and develop the narratives and character development of the 2D adventure stories. This depth of research offers an exciting platform for a range of other media, educational and related products - DVDs, books and games - to inspire children. The series and its ancillary products will aid both parents and teachers, as well as appeal directly to children in the teaching of history, religious education or cultural studies. The programme can be used as a springboard for classroom projects and the *Friends and Heroes* website [www.friendsandheroes.tv](http://www.friendsandheroes.tv) supports these and inspires children's curiosity and enjoyment.



### SINGLES, SERIES AND SPECIALS

Whilst each single episode is self-standing and each series of thirteen shows has its dramatic conclusion, they are all linked in one seamless story by the journeys of Macky and Portia. In each series, two pairs of two episodes follow one storyline and can be combined to create two longer form "Specials", suitable for broadcast at particular times, such as Christmas.

The producers of *Friends and Heroes* welcome the opportunity to work with broadcast and other partners in developing and realising ancillary products to stimulate and entertain children.

*Friends and Heroes* was hailed as "The best Youth/Children's Programme of 2007" by the UK's Religious Broadcasting Council and was nominated in the USA for the John Templeton Foundation's prestigious 2008 Epiphany Prize "for movies and programmes which increase man's understanding and love of God".





# THE TEAM



### An International Production

Friends and Heroes has been produced by Friends & Heroes Productions Ltd, a company operating in the Isle of Man. All pre-production and design work is being carried out in the UK by a highly experienced animation team, with the script-writing team based in Los Angeles, USA. Voice recordings were undertaken in Toronto, Canada whilst Animation took place in England and Korea. Post-Production is completed at BBC Wales, Cardiff.

### Brian D Brown & Eric J Danenberg - Joint Series Creators

Brian Brown and Eric were also involved in writing for the *Storykeepers* project.

### Gary Kurtz - Supervising Producer - Series 1

The award-winning producer of many films including *American Graffiti*, *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, has been active in the UK animation, television and film industries for the last fifteen years.

### Naomi Jones - Producer - Series 2 & 3; Senior Line Producer - Series 1

Naomi is based in Cardiff, Wales. Her impressive CV includes the S4C/BBC production of *Testament*, and the animated feature film *The Miracle Maker* amongst her achievements to date.

### Dave Osborne - Supervising Director

Dave is a leading animation director with a wide range of credits for several major UK animation producers, including Cosgrove Hall Animation and Telemagination.

### Alan Batson - Production Designer

Previously an advertising Art Director, Alan was trained by the Walt Disney Company and has operated a freelance career for over 10 years, working closely with Disney on Standard, Classic and Pixar characters, and has designed characters, merchandise and publishing on projects for a varied client base including Hanna-Barbera, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros, BBC and Hasbro.

### Karl Twigg & Mark Topham - Music Composers

Karl and Mark have created many hits for Pete Waterman Limited and are responsible for composing the stunning title track for *Friends and Heroes* and all its background music.

### Lauren Waterworth - Lead Vocalist

The powerful voice on the *Friends and Heroes* title track, "Looking for a Hero", belongs to Lauren Waterworth. Lauren has toured the UK with No 1 boyband "Westlife" and has appeared on the BBC's "Songs of Praise" Christmas Special alongside Sir Cliff Richard. She was thrilled to be asked to record "Looking for a Hero" with Topham and Twigg.

**Stan Berkowitz - Series Editor**

Based in the USA, Stan has received seven EMMY nominations and two EMMY awards for his previous work. He has 20 years' experience in writing animation scripts for many different studios and broadcasters. He recently completed a long term commitment to Warner Brothers TV Animation, and headed a team of experienced writers for Friends and Heroes. Recent writing credits include Superman, Batman and Justice League.

**Tony Pastor - Voice Director, Series 1 & 2**

Tony has directed and/or story edited over 750 hours of television programming including such hits as *Spider-Man*, *The Silver Surfer*, *Peter Pan*, *The Avengers* and *The BackStreet Boys* series. He is also a recording artist, a record producer, a writer, and an accomplished stage and film actor. In 1990, Tony established Pastor productions to produce family entertainment for theatrical, television and home video markets. In 1998, Tony became Vice President of Creative Affairs at Stan Lee Media.

**Stephen Gaukroger - Senior Biblical Advisor**

Stephen is the author of over twenty books on Biblical and Leadership themes. He is an international conference speaker and Senior Minister of Gold Hill Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in the UK.

**Alison Dorricott & David Dorricott - Executive Producers**

Based in the Isle of Man and with backgrounds in the Software industry and in Education, David and Alison are the Executive Producers of *Friends and Heroes*. Providing business management and financial control support for the production, they are also actively involved in the promotion and marketing of the series. David and Alison also continue to develop AFD Software Ltd, which has been a core financial supporter of *Friends and Heroes*.

**Starburst Animation - 2D Animation - Series 1**

Established in 1998 in Seoul, Korea, with a team of some 250 animation artists, Starburst produced almost 300 half-hour shows, as well as several theatrical and DVD features. Clients included Nelvana, DreamWorks, Cartoon Network, Walt Disney TV Animation and Marvel Entertainment.

**The CharacterShop - 3D Animation, Series 1**

Charactershop's 3D studio in Birmingham, England, is led by Paul Howell, and has won awards at the Annecy and Holland Animation Festivals, as well as Promax UK, BDA (USA) and Royal Television Society.

**GIMC - 2D & 3D Animation, Series 2 and 3**

Gangwon Information and Multimedia Corporation (GIMC) was set up in 2002, under the chairmanship of Dr H.S.Park. As a company their stated aim was to develop opportunities for young Korean animation innovators and creators, initially by an involvement in international co-production work, and eventually planning to develop and market home-grown animated productions. Co-production partners since 2003 have included Warner Bros, Nelvana Group, Sony USA and Nickelodeon. The company is particularly proud of its co-production involvement in the *Danger Rangers* series, which aired on over 125 stations across the USA alone. The company's main production facility is in the lakeside city of Chuncheon in South Korea, also having animation studio facilities in the capital city, Seoul.



# CONTACTS



## CONTACTS

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# FRIENDS — AND — HEROES

"MY FRIENDS AND I SHARED THE STORIES OF OUR PEOPLE'S HEROES  
...AND SOON WE BECAME HEROES TOO."



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