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The movie "The Brave Little Toaster" was released in 1987 by Hyperion Pictures and Kushner-Locke Company. It is an animated adventure film based on a novella of the same name by Thomas M. Disch. The story follows five household appliances - a toaster, electric blanket, desk lamp, vintage radio, and vacuum cleaner - as they embark on a quest to find their original owner after he leaves them behind in a cottage in the woods. Along the way, they face various challenges, including meeting an air conditioner who delivers devastating news about the master's departure. The movie features a mix of humor, adventure, and heart as the appliances work together to achieve their goal. Toaster employs an unconventional mode of transportation with its office chair and car battery named Junko, allowing them to travel through the countryside while the gang rests in a clearing overnight. The group encounters various animals at a flowery meadow and lake, but Toaster becomes overwhelmed by their reflections in his chrome. A lone yellow flower mistakes him for another of its kind, leading Toaster to run away before it sheds a petal in sadness. Meanwhile, the animals interact with other appliances, prompting Toaster's return. A group of mice attempts to eat his picture of the Master, but Toaster protects himself and retrieves the image. As night falls, Blanky provides shelter for the gang, allowing them to camp under his fabric. This warm gesture leads to Lampy discussing the concept of warm feelings with Toaster, who reminisces about being replaced by a new bulb, leaving him with a sense of glowing warmth. However, their peaceful evening is disrupted by an evil clown attacking Toaster with forks and water, sending him into a nightmare where he's electrocuted. Waking up in fear, the gang soon faces a violent thunderstorm that awakens them from their slumber. Blanky is swept away by strong winds, and the group struggles to find him, but eventually discovers him in a nearby tree. Kirby devises a rescue plan, saving Blanky but explaining that his actions were driven by a desire to keep the others moving forward. As they continue their journey, they encounter a massive waterfall that sends Kirby into a panic. The group calms him down, and he joins them as they navigate this challenging obstacle together. Appliances arrived at their new home but couldn't find their leader, the Master, so they decided to wait for his return. During their stay, they ran into an old friend, a black and white TV named T.V., who left with possibly Plugsy, a purple ginger jar lamp. The Cutting-Edge Appliances felt jealous of the Master choosing the gang over them and attempted to educate them on what "(on the) Cutting Edge of Technology" means, but ultimately tossed them into a dumpster outside, hoping the Master would take them instead. Meanwhile, the Master tried to locate the gang at their old cottage but ended up repairing Air Conditioner, who joyfully returned to life with tears of shame and joy. As the gang was being carted away in a garbage truck, they found themselves at Ernie's Disposal junkyard, watching as cars were crushed into pieces. Rob saw an advertisement for Ernie's Disposal on TV and decided to visit, only to find the picture of himself that Blanky had dropped. The gang soon spotted Rob as they were hanging from the Magnet, determined to escape but consistently hiding and reappearing. After a few close calls, Rob found Radio, Kirby, Blanky, and Lampy, but just as he was about to pick them up, the Magnet dropped them onto the conveyor belt headed for the compactor. Toaster jumped into the gears and managed to disable the compactor, saving the gang. Later, Chris told Rob that she was scared to death, and she left with some junkyard parts. Back at the apartment, Rob fixed Toaster despite Chris's suggestion to replace it. The gang then headed off to college in Chris's car, excited for their new adventures at the Master's dorm. Given article text here The Brave Little Toaster is the story of Rob, who owns five appliances: a Toaster, Radio, Lampy, Blanky, and Kirby, as well as another appliance named Plugsy. The Toaster has various flashbacks to its past when it was still owned by Rob's father, where he appears as a child. The main antagonist is Joe Ranft's voice as Elmo St. Peters, who runs a parts shop and owns multiple broken machines. Other key characters include Phil Hartman's sarcastic Air Conditioner, Colette Savage's tomboyish girlfriend Chris, Jim Jackman's Plugsy, Jonathan Benair's T.V., and the villainous Giant Magnet and Crusher. The film rights to The Brave Little Toaster were purchased by Disney in 1982. John Lasseter and Glen Keane wanted to create a feature based on the book, but faced issues pitching the idea due to the high costs of traditionally animated characters in computer-generated backgrounds. Despite initial rejection, the project eventually moved forward with Lasseter at the helm. The production of the film shifted to Hyperion Pictures after being acquired by former Disney employees Wilhite and Willard Carroll. With the backing of Disney, the project became an independent endeavor, attracting additional investors such as electronics company TDK and video distributor CBS-Fox. The cost was reduced to $2.3 million, allowing Jerry Rees, a Disney veteran, to take the helm as director and writer on the screenplay alongside Joe Ranft. Rees drew inspiration for voice casting from the Groundlings improvisational group, featuring stars like Jon Lovitz and Phil Hartman, who were also prominent in Saturday Night Live at the time. Veteran Disney animator Ken O'Connor handled color styling, bringing his expertise to the film. However, some scenes sparked debate among producers, including a nightmare sequence that was initially considered for removal due to its intense nature. Despite receiving critical acclaim at the 1988 Sundance Film Festival and earning a Grand Jury Prize nomination, the film struggled to find mainstream distribution. Initially relegated to premium cable, it only saw limited theatrical releases before being released on home video by Disney in July 1991. The film gained popularity as a rental among children and received several awards, including a Parent's Choice Award. It has since been re-released on VHS and DVD, with the latter featuring an edited frame to remove a provocative image. Originally, stars were placed over Toaster's chest, but these were replaced with a bra during the same period as Knick Knack, before John Lasseter's sexual allegations in 2018. As of now, Disney has not made an official statement on a potential Blu-ray release of the film. Reception-wise, The Brave Little Toaster received a 75% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, with praise from The Washington Post calling it "a kid's film made without condescension". It also earned an Emmy nomination for Best Animated Program in 1988. Two sequels followed: The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars (1998) and The Brave Little Toaster to the Rescue (1999). Music-wise, David Newman scored and conducted the film, with performances by the New Japan Philharmonic. Original songs include "City of Lights", "It's a 'B' Movie", "Cutting Edge", and "Worthless", written by Van Dyke Parks. The film features dark tones and frightening scenes, such as Junkyard's trash compactor nearly killing Rob, and Blanky being blown away in a thunderstorm. Other intense moments include the Air Conditioner overheating and dying, only to be repaired later on. Toaster has a dream about an evil clown chasing him, and Elmo disassembling the blender, causing horror among the appliances. Home media release details can be found in the main article: The Brave Little Toaster (video). The film utilized a remastered version. Voice actors Jon Lovitz, as Radio, and Phil Hartman, as Air Conditioner, were part of Saturday Night Live during the movie's creation. The number "A113" on the Master's door is a nod to John Lasseter's room at CAL Arts College, and it appears in every Pixar film since. However, Disney+ only features DTV sequels due to distribution issues, omitting the original film. This title isn't even available digitally, as marketing efforts focused solely on the sequels. The novel differs in several ways: characters refer to themselves as "its" instead of genders, and Air Conditioner's death is mentioned but not shown, unlike in the film where it dies from overheating and gets repaired.

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