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Mulan Jr.

Stephen Schwartz's "Written in Stone" is included on the Mulan Jr. musical available for licensing through Music Theatre International.

On Leaving Disney for DreamWorks

Question:

I had never really heard of you until your involvement with "Pocahontas" and "Hunchback of Notre Dame" but have admired your work since. Collaborating with Alan Menken must have been awesome and, although I applaud your decision to leave Disney's animation department to do "Prince of Egypt" with Dreamworks, do you ever harbor any hard feelings with Disney for not using any of the songs you started with on "Mulan"? Nothing against Zippel and Wilder, they did good work but I think your work may have given the movies music another dimension that I thought it lacked, that's just my opinion.

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

I'm often asked about my feelings about DreamWorks vs. Disney and about the MULAN situation in particular. I was of course extremely disappointed to be replaced as songwriter of MULAN, because I thought it was a wonderful story and was very happy with the songs I had written for the film thus far. But it was a political situation I had no control over. And certainly MULAN was a successful and well-received film without my involvement. Working for the two companies was different, naturally, but each had its pleasures and rewards and each had its challenges and frustrations.

Of course, I'm in the middle of two projects for Disney right now -- the stage adaptation of THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME and an original musical for television, GEPETTO, for Wonderful World of Disney. And while I don't currently have anything after PRINCE OF EGYPT I'm doing for DreamWorks, I am certainly open to working with them again on a future project if the right one comes along. It is my hope and belief that the early antagonism between the two companies, which I got caught in during the writing of MULAN, has faded considerably. In the meantime, I go on trying to do projects that interest me and that I feel I can bring something to, regardless of what company is producing them, and hope to stay out of the political maelstrom as much as possible. Thanks for asking. Best, Stephen Schwartz

Songs for Mulan

Question

I hadn't realized you had written songs for Mulan. How developed was the project by the time you left? Did the song "For Love of You" from the "All For Love" compilation CD in Hong Kong/Taiwan come from the original Mulan score? Had you written many songs for the film? Is there any chance they'll be released in any form (maybe as demos similar to the Ashman/Menken Disney box set)? - from Stephen Golden

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

The song "For Love of You", which has music by Alan Menken, was not from MULAN, but was

written with Alan as a special project for the Asian album of Disney songs that included it. (David Zippel also collaborated on a song with Alan for that album.) The two songs I had completed for MULAN were a song called "China Doll", which more or less corresponds to the scene in the film in which MULAN goes to the matchmaker (or is it a dressmaker in the film? I forget) and a song called "Written in Stone", during the course of which she gets into soldier's clothing and rides her horse off to join the army. I had begun work on two other songs, "Destiny", which would have been the opening number for the film, and "We'll Make a Man of You", to be sung when she is trying to learn to be a soldier, but neither of those was far enough along to have been demo-ed. I can't imagine that Disney would ever release the demos of the two completed songs, but I suppose stranger things have happened. As I've said on numerous occasions, I was very disappointed not to be able to finish work on the film, because I loved the story and was enjoying working with my collaborators on the film, but I'm glad that the movie was so successful, even without my contribution. Stephen Schwartz

Mulan

Question:

Researching Disney's "Mulan", I found some info that you originally signed on to do the songs. I heard that you submitted two or three songs, including an opening song called "Destiny". This is probably my main question: Did you work in the early version of "Mulan"? If yes, How much songs you submitted?

Answer from Stephen Schwartz:

In addition to "Destiny", which was to have been the opening number, I wrote two other songs for MULAN, both of which had been accepted by Disney before I was replaced on the film. One was called "Written in Stone", which essentially was replaced by "Mulan's Reflection" and was one of my favorite songs I have ever written an animated feature. The other was "China Doll", and was similar to the song now in the film in which Mulan is dressed and prettied in preparation for meeting her betrothed.