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WARRIORS OF THE WIND (KAZE NO TANI NO NAUSHIKA)

1984, 35mm, color, 95 min.

In English.

Print courtesy New World Pictures.

Produced by New World Pictures/Tokuma Shoten/Hakuhodo.

Director/Screenplay: Hayao Miyazaki.

Animation Supervisor: Kazuo Komatsubara.

Music: Ken Kisaishi.

Kinema Junpo #7, 1984

A fable of the future, set one thousand years after a devastating war known as the "Seven Days of Fire" in a small land known as the Valley of the Wind. The surviving inhabitants live beneath the Toxic Jungle and near the Sea of Decay; their skies are dominated by giant insects called Gorgons. Their most courageous leader is a young woman, Princess Zandra, daughter of King Zeal, the local lord. Zeal is slain and Zandra is taken prisoner in an attack by the evil Queen Selena, who plans to loose the Fire Demon in order to conquer this kingdom. But Zandra and her pal Axel escape to confront and conquer Selena.

In the original Japanese version of *Warriors*, which has been trimmed by some twenty minutes for American release, Zandra was known as "Naushika," whose name gave the film its title. "Naushika of the Valley of the Wind." Naushika is a version of Nausicaa, a woman warrior of Homeric legend who appears in *The Odyssey*.

This beautifully drawn, magnificently animated piece of allegorical science-fiction was not created to appeal only to that narrow but lucrative "kiddy-cartoon" segment of the film "market." It was conceived as a serious entertainment for the broadest possible audience. It has rightfully attracted an enormous following. Overriding everything else is the sheer beauty of its moving images.



Hayao Miyazaki