



Enhancing “Dolly Parton”

Canadian auteur Tara Johns teams with the artists at visual effects house Mokko Studio to bring her coming-of-age tale The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom to the big-screen.

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The filmmakers behind the 70s-era dramatic comedy ‘The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom’ employed the talents of the VFX wizards at Mokko Studio in order to evoke a true sense of the decade. The film tells the story of Elizabeth, a wide-eyed, adopted 11 year-old girl who sets out on a journey to track down her birthmother, who may in fact be country music superstar Dolly Parton.



Elizabeth (Julia Stone) and her guardian magpie, The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom ©2011, Palomar Films

Mokko provided the film with a number of seamless effects to compliment the Manitoba-shot project’s look, including background matte-painting work to embellish landscapes and filters and grain to simulate the time-period. In addition, the composers at Mokko delivered a heaping dose of visual-trickery for a precocious magpie (a character who plays a pivotal role in the story, guiding the young girl on a physical and spiritual journey) implementing the bird into specific shots, simulating flight and having it interact with the lush cinematography of the Winnipeg countryside.

“Our team created refined visual modifications that wouldn’t distract from the realistic nature of the piece.” says Visual Effects Supervisor Alain Lachance. *“It’s been extremely rewarding working on such a personal and artful film– and it always feels great to be part of Canadian cinema!”*

Produced by Palomar Films, The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom bounced into theaters March 4th.

Contact:

*Emilie Dussault, M. Sc.
Director, Marketing and Business Development
Mokko Studio Inc.
1711 St-Patrick, Montreal, QC
Canada, H3K 3G9
(514) 932-4191
<http://www.mokkostudio.com>*