Podtalk: Co-Directors Explain How 'Ralph Breaks the Internet'

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on November 21, 2018 - 12:50am

- [Alfred Molina](#) [2]
- [Ed O'Neill](#) [3]
- [Gal Gadot](#) [4]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [5]
- [Interview](#) [6]
- [Jack McBrayer](#) [7]
- [Jane Lynch](#) [8]
- [John C. Reilly](#) [9]
- [Online](#) [10]
- [Patrick McDonald](#) [11]
- [Phil Johnston](#) [12]
- [Podcast](#) [13]
- [Podtalk](#) [14]
- [Ralph Breaks the Internet](#) [15]
- [rich moore](#) [16]
- [Sarah Silverman](#) [17]
- [Taraji P. Henson](#) [18]
- [Vanellope](#) [19]
- [Video Game](#) [20]
- [Walt Disney Pictures](#) [21]
- [Wreck-It Ralph](#) [22]

CHICAGO – The visual density of today's animation reaches a new height in a rare Walt Disney Studio sequel, "Ralph Breaks the Internet." This is a follow-up to "Wreck-It Ralph," a huge animated hit film. Returning to guide the sequel, which has Wreck-It Ralph "inside" the internet, are co-directors Phil Johnston and Rich Moore.

Co-Directors Rich Moore and Phil Johnston of 'Ralph Breaks the Internet'
Photo credit: Walt Disney Pictures

Also returning for the sequel are a number of the voice actors and characters from the first film, including the saucy-tongued Vanellope (voiced by Sarah Silverman), Felix (Jack McBrayer), Calhoun (Jane Lynch) and John C. Reilly as Ralph… also joining them in this new outing is the new character of Shank (Gal Gadot). The story involves the arcade that Ralph and Vanellope live at (in their respective video games) and an accident that changes everything. To try and fix the situation, R and V will have to conquer a new frontier… the internet and the world wide web within it.

The animated internet universe that comes alive is due to two of the original creators of "Wreck-It Ralph," Phil Johnston and Rich Moore. This dynamic cartoon film duo took a break between the "Ralphs" to also help create a little Oscar winning film called "Zootopia." Phil Johnston

teamed with veteran animation director Rich Moore ("The Simpsons," among others) as a contributing writer on the first Ralph and Zootopia, and also co-wrote the screenplay for the current Ralph, along with taking the co-directing reins for the first time. Johnston also scripted a notable independent feature called "Cedar Rapids,' a film in which John C. Reilly was a main character.

In a Podtalk with Patrick McDonald of HollywoodChicago.com, co-directors Phil Johnston and Rich Moore of "Ralph Breaks the Internet" talk about imagining, then creating, the world wide web for the Ralph universe, and the three laugh about the classic episodes that Rich Moore directed of "The Simpsons."

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" opens in Chicago on November 21st. Featuring the voices of John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Gal Gadot, Taraji P. Henson, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch, Alfred Molina and Ed O'Neill. Screenplay by Phil Johnston and Pamela Ribon. Directed by Phil Johnston and Rich Moore. Rated "PG"

[23]

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[14] http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/podtalk
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