

## *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers: The Movie Notes*

- Likes
  - Dulcea
  - The remixed theme song
  - The practical effects (costumes)
  - JDF
  - “Taking care of business!”
  - CLASSIC MAKER: Ivan Ooze
- Dislikes
  - Rangers are indistinct
  - Not canon
  - Fred
  - The show’s villains get sidelined hard
  - TRAGIC MAKER: The CGI

### THE MOVIE

- Starts like *Star Wars* with scroll-up text. Catches up the uninitiated audience. Ironic given this takes place in a different universe. So, could it be argued that in this universe, these are the “original” Rangers?
- You know, most teens don’t get to do this much awesome stuff.
- They all say something different jumping out—including “banzai.”
- This was a pop culture event. It’s not popular songs in it. A big budget. Hollywood effects. Well, sorta.
- The soundtrack...so ‘90s.
- Angel Grove feels a much bigger in this.
- Of course their chutes and outfits are color-coordinated.
- Oh...the Power Kenny. He’s almost inconsequential to the story.
- Dagnabbit, they’re just great at everything. Including the nerd! Rollerblading.
- “Stealth Eagle.”
- That purple egg prop looks impressive. But how did no one find this before?
- The communicator sound is a bit different.
- I really like the Command Center in this. Much less minimalist.
- Zordon looks much less abstract.
- So, does this mean there were Rangers 6,000 years ago?
- Zedd was redesigned and has a different voice. I like this suit, but the voice is more typical PR villain. It’s also a different actress for Rita but the same voice. Goldar was re-deigned, and he looks weird. It’s my least favorite next to Maximus.
- The heck with this pig?

- Ivan Ooze looks like Freddy Kruger. I thought it was the same actor. How epic would that have been?
- “What is that odious stench...smells like...teenagers.” –Ooze
- Why disguise himself if only for morph effects?
- “Woo! Where’s my autograph book?” –Ooze
- I like these Ooze zombie minions more than Tengas.
- “Welcome to my nightmare!”-Ooze and Tommy (Alice Cooper reference)
- “You ooze, you lose.” –Billy
- In this, we actually see them hold up the Morphers.
- How confusing was this for the Japanese audiences when they saw it? It has costumes and Zords from three different Sentai series.
- These suits look great. Even now. Not spandex. Armor-like. I like seeing their Power Coins on the center chest diamond.
- The CGI, on the other hand...hasn’t.
- PR tradition: establish your villain’s threat level by having him invade the HQ.
- “I’ve had a Charlie horse since the Renaissance.” –Ooze
- “Oh, the things that I have missed: the Black Plague, the Inquisition...the Brady Bunch Reunion.” –Ooze
  - How does Ooze know about these? Not important.
- Villains invading the Command Center. Always a bad sign of trouble.
- You know, I like the helmet lights. They’re practical. The “power cope” looks weird.
- The fight choreography is pretty impressive. Reminds me of TMNT.
- Cartoon face when ooze minion has his head kicked on either side. He doesn’t get squished.
- The Rangers have new weapons. Kim has a whip. Billy a grappling hook. Billy does the fancy moves...because.
- Where was Tommy hiding Saba? Do I want to know?
- How did the Rangers get back to the Command Center?
- We actually see Zordon the man outside of the tube/time warp.
- The moon castle set is similar but really different.
- “Finally, someone shut her up.” –Zedd
- “The boogiemán is taking over!” –Ooze
- “Dingledorks”?
- Tengus born from Ooze snot. Ew. They can fly in space. And quickly. Of course. Sending them to Thados is very *Wizard of Oz*.
- The horned creature is like the Space Jockey in *Alien*: implies a greater history and universe.
- “How could I forget—I never knew.” –pig
- The factory scene makes me think of *Batman* (1989).
- The Tengu here are actors in suits. They’d be CGI now. Which is why they look weird at points.
- PR movie tradition: the Rangers are hardly morphed.

- Here comes Too-Hot-for-TV (Dulcea). She says, “Follow me.” I’ll follow her anywhere. The original Mistress of Midriff.
- Did they actually sell Ivan’s Ooze in stores? Are these little bits of himself? Ew.
- Power Kenny is wearing an Air Jordan hat.
- He corrupts children. Of course.
- This Ooze commercial reminds me of something similar done by the Joker in *Batman* ’89.
- The Ninja Rangers. These are original to Power Rangers and not from a Sentai—although they have a passing resemblance to *Kakuranger*.
- I read Johnny Yong Bosch improvised his line about being a frog. Dulcea doesn’t give a description for it. Only one. It got him a kiss from Dulcea. I wouldn’t complain.
- Her doing this makes me think of Galadriel giving her gifts to the Fellowship.
- “Want us to take another whack at it?” “How about another quack at it?” –Ooze
- Are these six characters or one?
- Ooze’s plan makes sense: enslave adults and not kids because adults can do more work.
- “I had a weak back about a week back.” –pig
- Adam: “Welcome to Jurassic Park.” Ha! The other popular dinosaur franchise.
- CGI: The skeleton monster looks great! So glad it wasn’t CGI.
- “I’ve got a bone to pick with you!” –Tommy. Biology paid off, Billy? This was covered in it?
- “Hasta la vista, baby!” –Ooze
- The Scorpotrons look like ugly rejected Beast Wars models.
- This is very much a classic quest, perhaps even an odyssey. They travel to different places, face monsters, and retrieve a weapon or knowledge that lets them defeat their foe. Very Campbellian.
- These morph effects are right up there with *Mortal Kombat* (also 1995).
- At least with these ninja suits, we can see enough of the actors’ faces to know it’s them. Unlike the show.
- “Ever play leadfrog?” “Let’s rock his world.” “Talk about a splitting headache,” Billy says to the audience.
- Corkscrew Kick: the Ninjetti suits must give them some powers.
- Aisha: “Great Power...” “Great responsibility.”
- The Great Power doesn’t seem to be the same as the Morphing Grid.
- “We’ve got the Power.” –Tommy
- Dulcea is an owl.
- There are *a lot* of pop culture references in this compared to the show.
- “I love the smell of destruction in the evening.” “Inconceivable.”
- Kim: “Nice stereo.” Her first line in a Zord in episode 1.
- 7Up: blatant product placement.
- “Touch me again, and you’ll be chicken wings in the morning.” -Ooze
- This was the first step toward making Goldar a comical character, I think.
- At least here we get some individual Zord action, unlike what I remember in season 3.

- Ooze combining with the bug mech is a clever way to make him grow without a weird power-up.
- These effects are terrible, but it is nice seeing the inner workings of the robots.
- Falcon Zord saving the trains is reminiscent of *Superman: The Movie*.
- That was a practical Zord when it was thrown through the building.
- Ooze couldn't tell the parents to just jump from anywhere to their dooms? Admittedly, it's still creepy, especially with them chanting.
- Fred is barely a character in this.
- Rita and Zedd actually cheer for the Rangers for once. "Put him under my misery."
- "Have you hugged your Zords today?" –Ooze
- Wasn't there another line originally?
- Crotch kick of doom. "Taking care of business!"
  - The scripted line was, "Balls out!"
- Deus ex Morphica.
- Of course they play, "The Power."
- Fred becoming a Ranger? A Silver Ranger? A Gold Ranger? Predictions. Too bad that couldn't be paid off.
- Gotta admit I like ending on some Van Halen.
- "I am King Goldar, ruler of the universe!"
- One of the end credits songs says Rita has a sword.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox? Is this a Disney movie now?

*Other sources:*

- "The Mighty Leap to the Silver Screen" (blu-ray)
- Blu-ray featurette
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mighty\\_Morphin\\_Power\\_Rangers:\\_The\\_Movie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mighty_Morphin_Power_Rangers:_The_Movie)
- [https://powerrangers.fandom.com/wiki/Mighty\\_Morphin\\_Power\\_Rangers:\\_The\\_Movie](https://powerrangers.fandom.com/wiki/Mighty_Morphin_Power_Rangers:_The_Movie)
- <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113820/>
- <https://screenrant.com/might-morphin-power-rangers-movie-trivia-facts/>
- When Fox came in, there was talk as to whether it should be like *Batman* '89 or "Mighty Mouse meets Superman." (Skull actor)
- Spicer worked on the script and wanted to take the audience on a journey.
- It was Spicer's first movie—much like most of the cast. Spicer's previous experience was with TV.
- The "frog" was originally about speed and agility.
- Spicer was described as a "visual director" who wanted to prove himself. He also wanted to utilize special effects.
- The filming pace of the movie was slower than the show. The actors were used to 1-2 takes, but here they took closer to 30.
- The movie was shot in Australia, especially Sydney.

- The production designer on this movie later won an Oscar for *Mad Max: Fury Road*.
- The costumes were made of PVC and, depending on who you talked to, they weighed between 20-40 pounds. The stunt actors spent four hours for fittings so they could be molded. One actor did get a bit of heat stroke.
- They tried to have helmets with open visors because Spicer thought the audience needed to see the actors' faces to believe they were the heroes. They did test footage like that, and it didn't work. The actors couldn't do the "special movements" the stunt crew had developed.
- Paul Freeman was well-known for playing villains, particularly Belloq in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. It took on average 4 ½ hours to get into the prosthetic makeup. He often fell asleep and would drink Guinness through a straw. He would eat smoked oysters because of his fake teeth. He developed allergies to the glue and had to take time off. He also sprained his ankle one day and had to go to the hospital with his mask on.
- Jeff Pruitt had to list his stunt team as actors to get them into Australia, whose government wanted local talent to be hired.
- Rat suits were made for the movie, but they didn't work, so they were removed and used in two episodes of the TV show.
- The only CGI were the Zords at the end. The city was a miniature. Spicer says he had a budget of \$20 million. CGI was still new, time-consuming, and expensive. He did everything he could to use practical effects.
- It premiered at the Chinese Theater.
- Ivan Ooze's shapeshifting was compared to the T-1000.
- RangerWiki: "In order for the purple tongue to match the purple body, Freeman drank black currant juice, held it in his mouth and spit it out before each take."
- RangerWiki: "The TV shows are known for using the action scenes from the Super Sentai series in Japan, but *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie* was the first Power Rangers feature to use 100% new and original material."
- RangerWiki: "Like the show, the pay and benefits to the actors was considered controversial. The Ranger cast was largely kept to their regular salaries. Saban did not cover lodging, rental cars, or food. While the actors did receive a daily per diem to cover some of their costs of living, it was kept at a low \$50. Paul Freeman actually earned more on his salary than the Ranger cast."
- RangerWiki: "Catherine Sutherland originally auditioned for the part of Dulcea, but was turned down because the producers felt that she was too young for the part. However, she would later be cast on the TV series' third season as Katherine and would take over the role of the Pink Ranger when actress Amy Jo Johnson left the show."
- Johnny Yong Bosch and JDF did their stunts.
- RangerWiki: "The theme music *Go Go Power Rangers*, although having the same lyrics and musical notes, was played using electrical and heavy metal instruments, with rock star-like singing, whereas the series' theme song is more orchestral. For this version, The song was performed by "The Power Rangers Orchestra:" a collaboration that featured credits of **Mr. Big front man Eric Martin, guitarist Tim Pierce, former Pablo Cruise bass player**

**John Pierce, singer-pianist Kim Bullard and former Guns N' Roses drummer Matt Sorum.”**

- IMDb: “In November 1994, Gabrielle Fitzpatrick was diagnosed with an ovarian cyst which had to be removed immediately. Mariska Hargitay replaced her. Hargitay spent several weeks filming her scenes, but she just didn't seem right for the role. Hargitay was fired, and Fitzpatrick got the part back in January 1995 after she recovered. On *Late Night with Seth Meyers*: Mariska Hargitay/Lizzy Caplan/Sam Fender/Terence Higgins (2019), Mariska Hargitay explained about her firing. She was in Australia filming the movie and was not being used for scenes in the movie. When it got closer to Christmas, she told the producers she was going home to be with her family on the holidays. When she called the producers after the holiday season was over, she learned of her firing.”
- IMDb: “One of the songs featured in the film is the Red Hot Chili Peppers' cover of Higher Ground, which had previously appeared in the 'TV series' unaired pilot episode.”
- IMDb: “Dulcea's back story was scripted, but cut from the final film. In the script, Dulcea was the sole survivor of an alien race named the Nathadians and it was her race that created the power of the Ninjetti stored in the Ninjetti Temple. Dulcea also explained she was a member of the Order of the Meledan, a group of young warriors that defeated and imprisoned Ivan Ooze on Earth, and that her friend Zordon was a member of the Order.”
- IMDb: “The character Dulcea was actually supposed to have a small, green, anteater-type alien pet named Snoggle. Snoggle spoke in an alien language only Dulcea could understand, was supposed to add "comic relief" to the film, and Snoggle often was annoying to, and picked on, Kimberly (Amy Jo Johnson). This was cut out because the character was deemed unnecessary by the crew and the scenes filmed with Snoggle had taken place when Mariska Hargitay had recast Gabrielle Fitzpatrick as Dulcea.”
- IMDb: “Steve Wang worked three months as director on the film during preproduction, but he quit over disagreements with producers. This was when the production had been planned to film in the United States and Canada. Bryan Spicer was then hired as director. The production moved to Australia due the availability of the cast from October to December 1994 (which clashed with winter in the northern hemisphere), and location possibilities such as Sydney substituting for the fictional setting of Angel Grove.”
- IMDb: “Rowan Atkinson, Phil Collins, Tim Curry, Danny DeVito and Christopher Lloyd were considered for the role of Ivan Ooze.” “Christopher Walken had expressed interest to play Ivan Ooze.” “Bob Hoskins, Jon Voight and Dennis Hopper were also considered the part of Ivan Ooze.”
- Screenrant: “Despite all the hoopla over how bad the film was, the bad word of mouth wasn't the kind of negative publicity that would normally keep Power Rangers fans from storming the theaters, but with films like *Pocahontas* and *Batman Forever* soaking up all the young filmgoers' attentions, MMPR: The Movie debuted at a disappointing fourth place at the box office.”

*The Hero's Journey*

- Sources:
  - *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero%27s\\_journey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero%27s_journey)
- Campbell: “It has always been the prime function of mythology and rite to supply the symbols that carry the human spirit forward, in counteraction to those constant human fantasies that tend to tie it back.”
- Campbell: “It is the business of mythology proper, and of fairy tale, to reveal the specific dangers and techniques of the dark interior way from tragedy to comedy.”
- The hero’s journey is a cycle of “*separation—initiation—return*.” As Campbell defines it: “A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”
- Campbell: “The effect of the successful adventure of the hero is the unlocking and release again of the flow of life into the body of the world.”
- The 17 stages of the journey and how they apply to this movie:
  - **Departure**
    - The Call to Adventure
      - The Rangers skydiving, skating; they’re sent by Zordon to bury Ivan’s chamber.
    - Refusal of the Call
      - This does happen in the show (and presumably in the movie’s backstory), but here there is slight hesitation that is cut off when the Rangers hear there won’t be enough power to teleport them back to Earth. They’ll have to hope they find the Great Power.
    - Supernatural Aid
      - Zordon at first, but later it’s Dulcea. She helps the Rangers tap into their Ninjetti powers.
    - The Crossing of the First Threshold
      - The Rangers are teleported to Phaedos.
    - Belly of the Whale
      - The Rangers fight the Tengu on Phaedos.
  - **Initiation**
    - The Road of Trials
      - The Rangers battle a skeleton dinosaur and the four Gatekeepers.
    - The Meeting with the Goddess
      - The Rangers enter the temple and meet the sacred animal spirits.
    - Woman as the Temptress
      - It’s brief, but it’s arguably seen when Adam says, “I’m a frog.” It’s self-doubt.
    - Atonement with the Father
      - This is difficult to identify mostly because it happens very fast. Whatever the Great Power is, it sees the Rangers as worthy of restored powers after they defeat the Gatekeepers.
    - Apotheosis

- The Rangers receive the Great Power.
  - The Ultimate Boon
    - The Rangers get new Ninja Zords
- **Return**
  - Refusal of the Return
    - This doesn't happen because the Rangers immediately leave Phaedos.
  - The Magic Flight
    - The Rangers teleport back to Earth.
  - Rescue from Without
    - See above...sorta.
  - The Crossing of the Return Threshold
    - The Rangers are briefly confused by the destruction wrought by Ivan upon their return.
  - Master of the Two Worlds
    - The Rangers defeat Ivan, resurrect Zordon, and restore the Command Center.
  - Freedom to Live
    - The Rangers eat dinner, encourage Fred, and watch celebratory fireworks that thank the them for saving the city.