

YAKARI



BAC
FILMS



BAC FILMS PRESENTS

YAKARI

A FILM BY **XAVIER GIACOMETTI**
AND **TOBY GENKEL**

BASED ON THE YAKARI COMIC BOOKS BY
DERIB + JOB
LE LOMBARD

© 2018 DARGAUD MEDIA / WUNDERWERK / BELVISION / FRANCE 3 CINEMA / BAC FILMS PRODUCTION / UNIVERSUM FILM / GAO SHAN PICTURES

BAC
FILMS



SYNOPSIS

With his tribe's move to follow the migrating bison imminent, Yakari, the little Sioux boy, sets out on his own to follow the trail of Little Thunder, a wild mustang said to be untameable. On his journey, and alone for the first time in his life, Yakari is visited by Great Eagle, his totem animal. Great Eagle gives Yakari a magnificent feather as well as the incredible ability to speak to animals.

Travelling far from home and deep into the territory of the terrible cougar-skins clad hunters, Yakari and Little Thunder undertake a great adventure and find their way back home again. Their journey, through breath-taking but treacherous landscape, will forever seal the undying friendship between the bravest little Sioux boy and the pony who runs like the wind.

- Delivery Spring: 2020
- Age target: 3-7 and the whole family!
- Running time: 75'

THE TONE

A great story of friendship.

Yakari is a humanist story which tells about the awakening to the world; it is the right balance between action, adventure, discovery, learning and comedy. Our young hero's adventures are suffused a deep sense of freedom: freedom of movement, of action, with a clear sense of a mutual respect.

THE LANDSCAPES

A lost paradise, with an intact, primal and spectacular nature. The great plains, endless forests stretching as far as the eye can see, mountain ranges, sinuous rivers heading towards an infinite horizon.





DIRECTOR STATEMENT

“Yakari” was made for the big screen.

As a director, this film is a dream come true: an awesome adventure, with the great outdoors as a back-drop and the almost endless bestiary of the North American continent. The big screen also allows for in-depth characterization as well as a superb narrative and puts comedy under the spotlight.

Yakari’s rich world is graced with beautiful and colourful characters. The members of his closely knit Sioux tribe live in harmony with their surroundings, respecting both nature and animals. The young Sioux’s determination, as well as his exceptional gift – speaking and understanding the animal language – make him endearing. He radiates like the promise of an exceptional destiny. His playground knows no bounds and his freedom of action is surprising for a child his age. That’s why Yakari has been playing a special part in children’s fantasy world for decades and still retains a special place in their hearts even after they have grown up. That’s also why Yakari will enthrall anyone who doesn’t know him yet.



The closeness between the hero and the animals presents a serious challenge with regards to staging. The story is above all about the birth of a great friendship between Yakari and Little Thunder, the mustang who cannot be tamed. How will they accept each other? Their fates are intrinsically linked, but the path leading to their mutual respect is scattered with apparently insurmountable pitfalls and obstacles.

Another big issue at stake is to do with giving comedy pride of place. Obviously, the confrontations between Yakari and the animals bring about funny situations: as Yakari discovers his amazing power, he must also learn how to harness and master it. Above all; he will learn that communicating with the animals is primarily about respect. The more aweinspiring the creature, the more resolute and imaginative the young Sioux has to be in order to overcome his apprehensions. In spite of his good will, he remains an unexperienced papoose who comes across animals widely suspicious of humans. But thankfully, Yakari's totem animal, Great Eagle, watches over him. The giant raptor gives him the keys to get to the end of his big journey.

A great journey, through breath-taking landscapes, unique sets and lights.





This semi-realistic film mixes techniques which serve a unique and timeless art direction: 3D animation breathes life into the characters and gives depth to the direction. As for the digital sets, they provide a very high resolution pictorial treatment and 3D modelled key places allow for more realistic storytelling, along with sequence shots. This directing style pays tribute to the original comic books while taking full advantage of what cinema and very high resolution have to offer.

The feature film also demands fine work on textures, colours and lighting. The greatest care will be given to compositing – a director of photography’s touch – in order to reconcile the emotion of the sequence and the processing of the image. With regards to sound, specific attention will be paid to voices, SFX and music, so they will illustrate the intimate moments, the humanity and the excitement of the great outdoors.

We will see things through a child’s eyes, with everything seemingly oversized and every event lived intensely. Yakari’s awakening to the world, this coming-of-age journey will resonate with every generation. It will be told as an ode to a nature still untouched, a paradise lost that enchants us but also sends us a message: it’s urgent to take care of our earth which feeds and fills us with wonder.

Xavier Giacometti and Toby Genkel





ACHIEVEMENT

SHARED FRIENDSHIP

ADVENTURE

THE VALUES

ECO-FRIENDLINESS

RESPECT

TOLERANCE

THE CHARACTERS

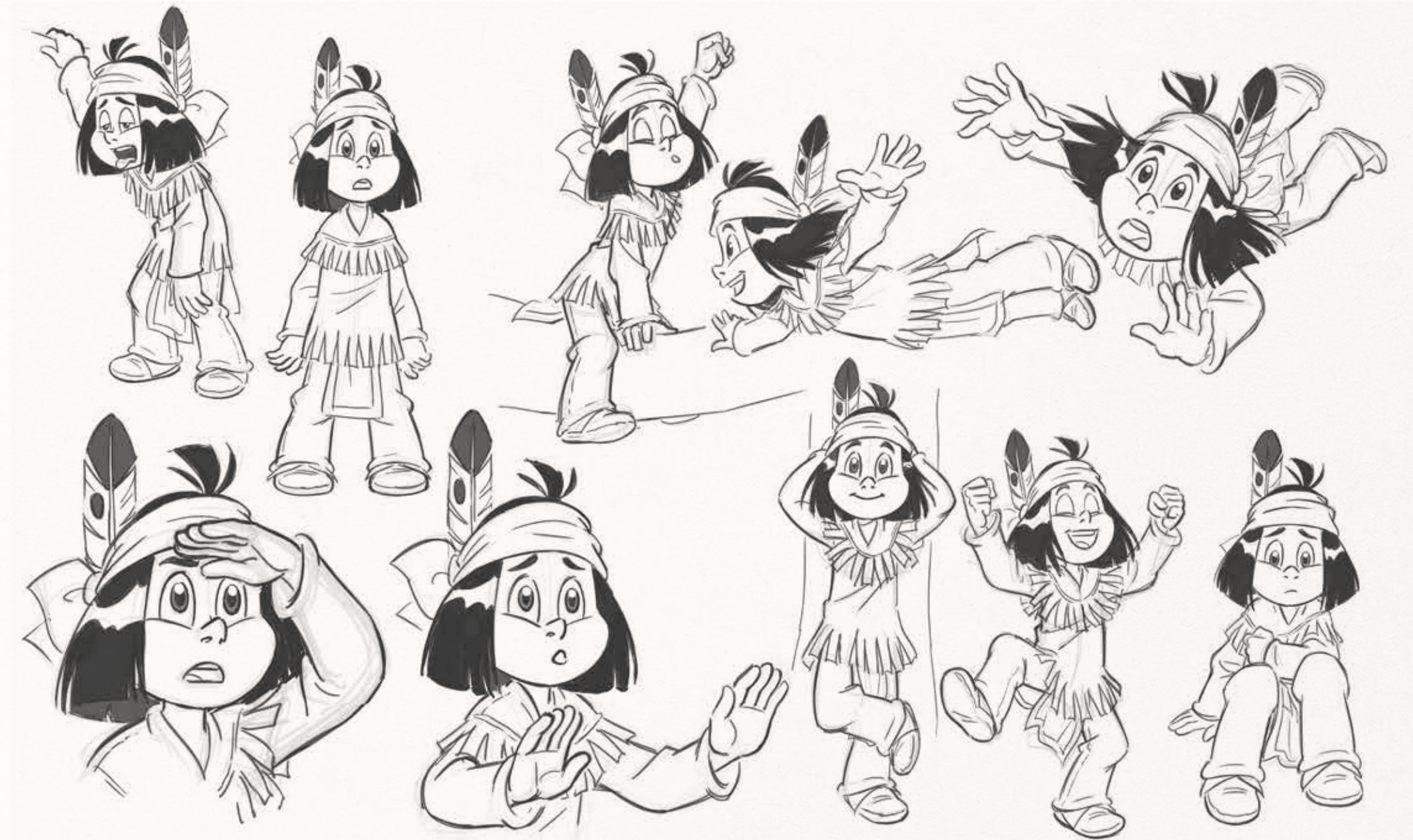
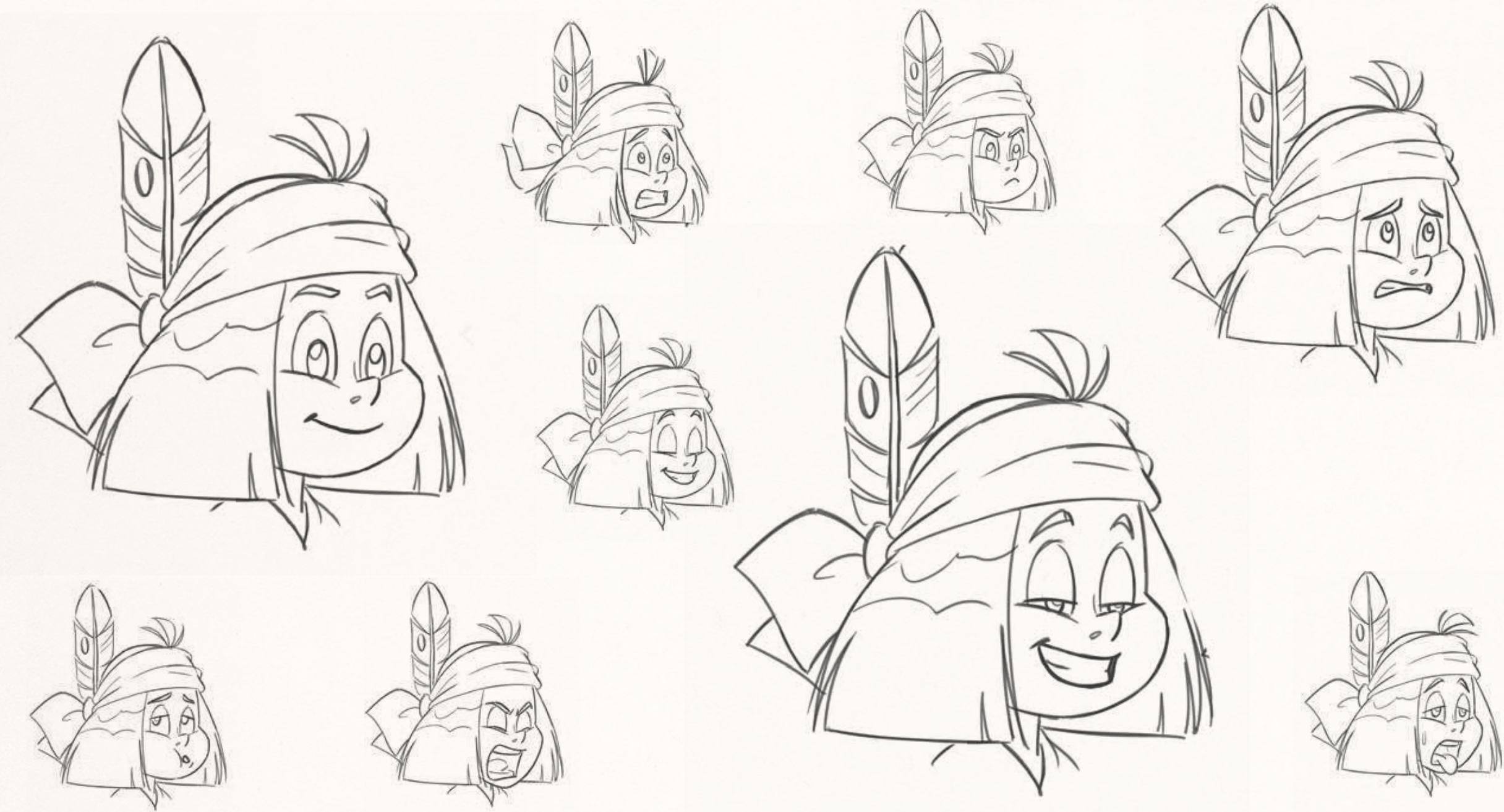


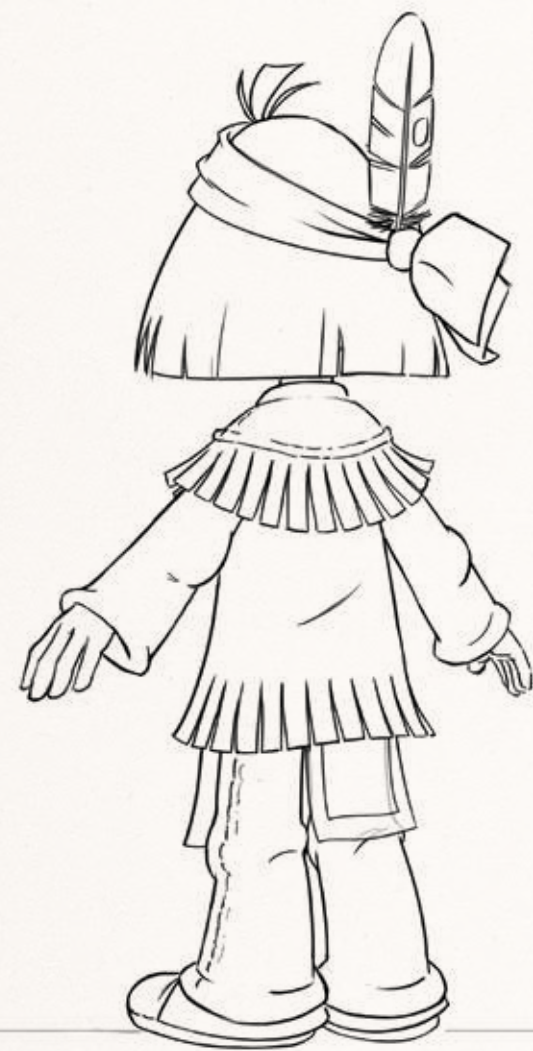


YAKARI

In spite of his young age Yakari is a “papoose” gifted with a remarkable vitality. Like every child his age, he has a lot of fun. Always enthusiastic, he is inquisitive, caring, considerate and respectful of the traditions and of the elders. He likes challenges, longs for an adventure and feels a real passion for the animal kingdom, which he helps and protects by any means at his disposal. What makes Yakari’s character truly exceptional is the gift he is given by Great-Eagle, his totem animal: Yakari will have the special ability to speak the language of all animals. But as ever, with great power comes great responsibility and this is no exception. It requires wisdom and involves duties for our young hero: that of looking after the animals and nature, without calculation, without any after-thought. Yakari will fulfil this mission with the utmost generosity. The story of the film takes place before the story told in the episodes of the series. Our hero is a little younger, more immature, and will become the hero we know at the end of the film.

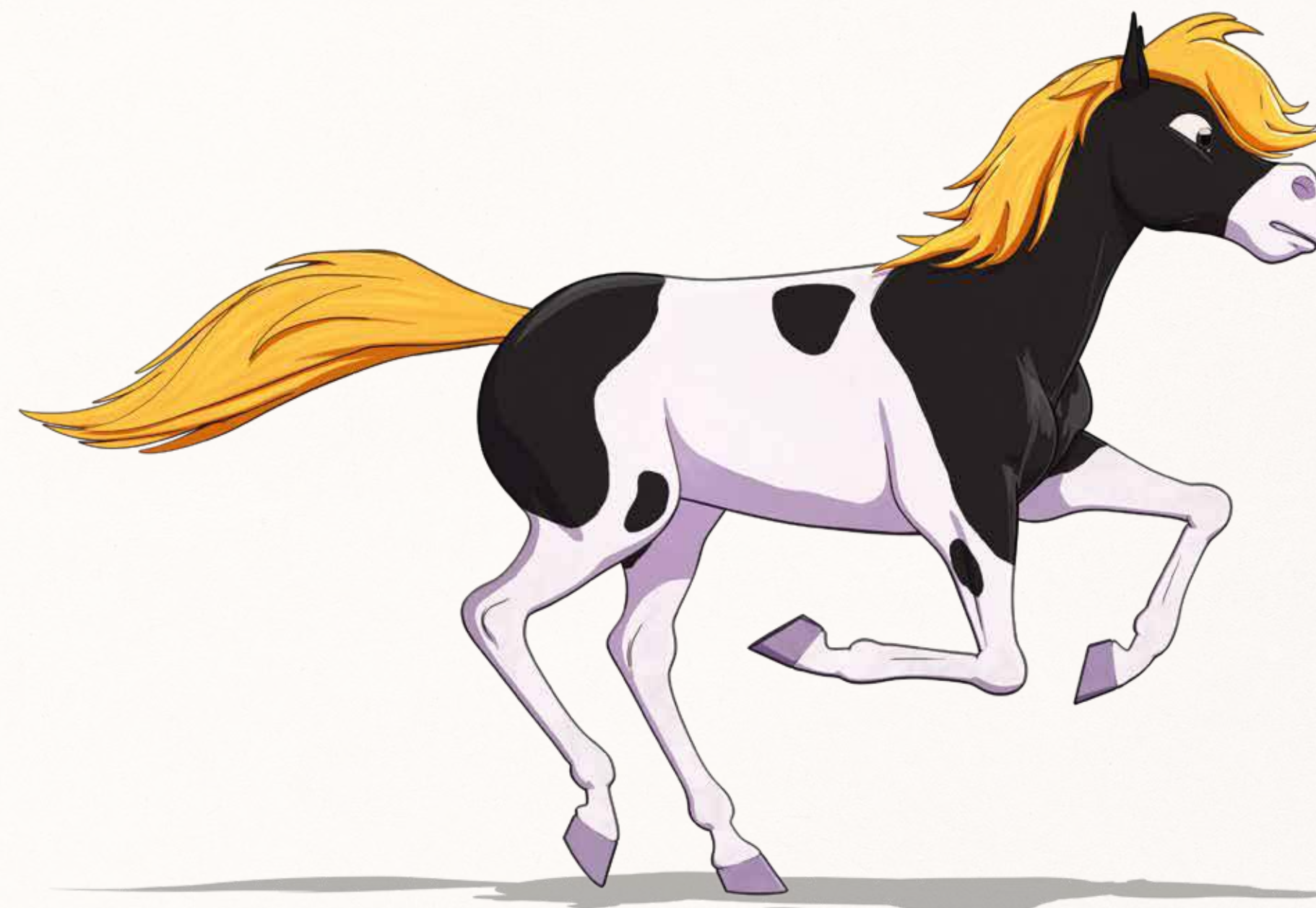


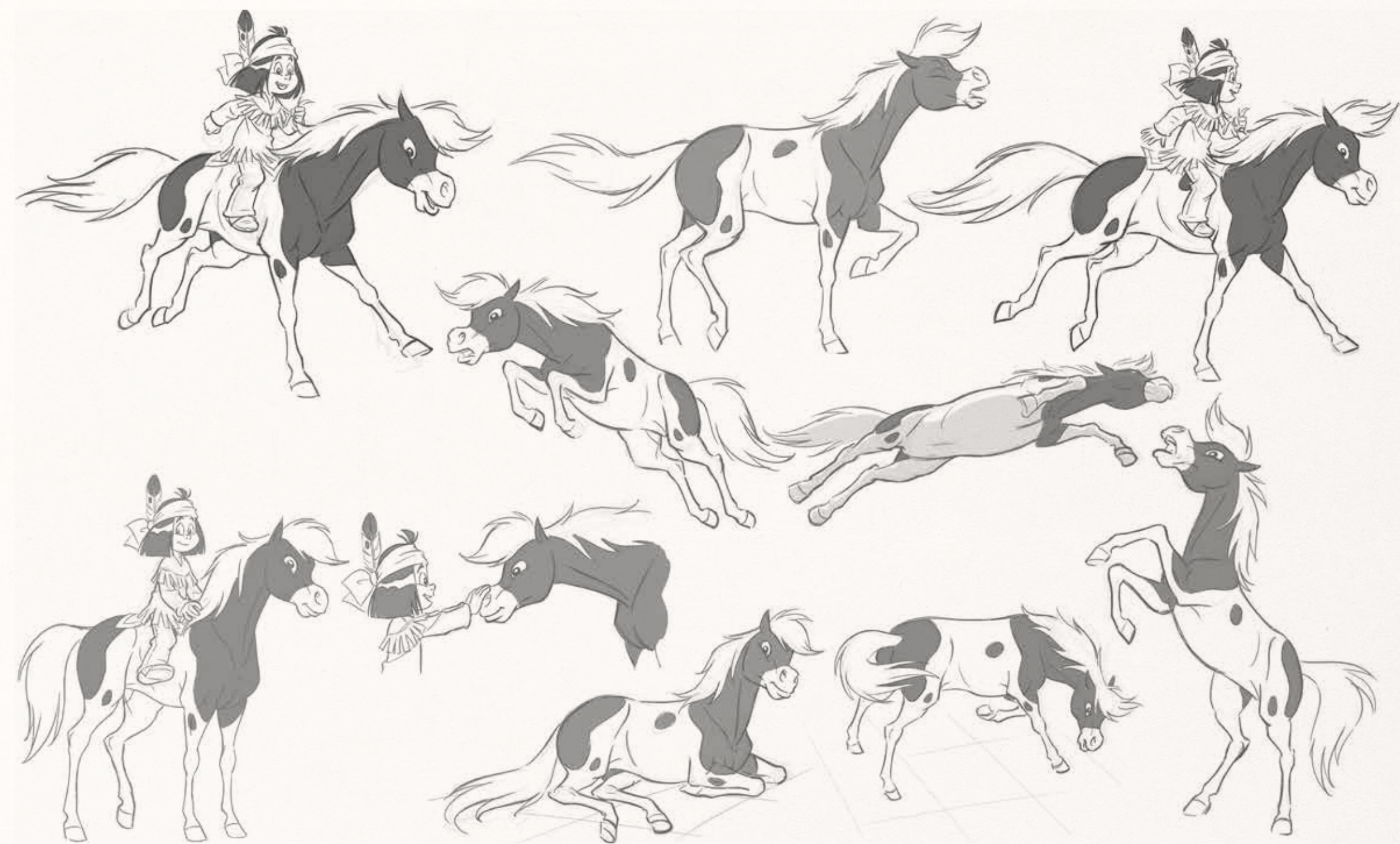
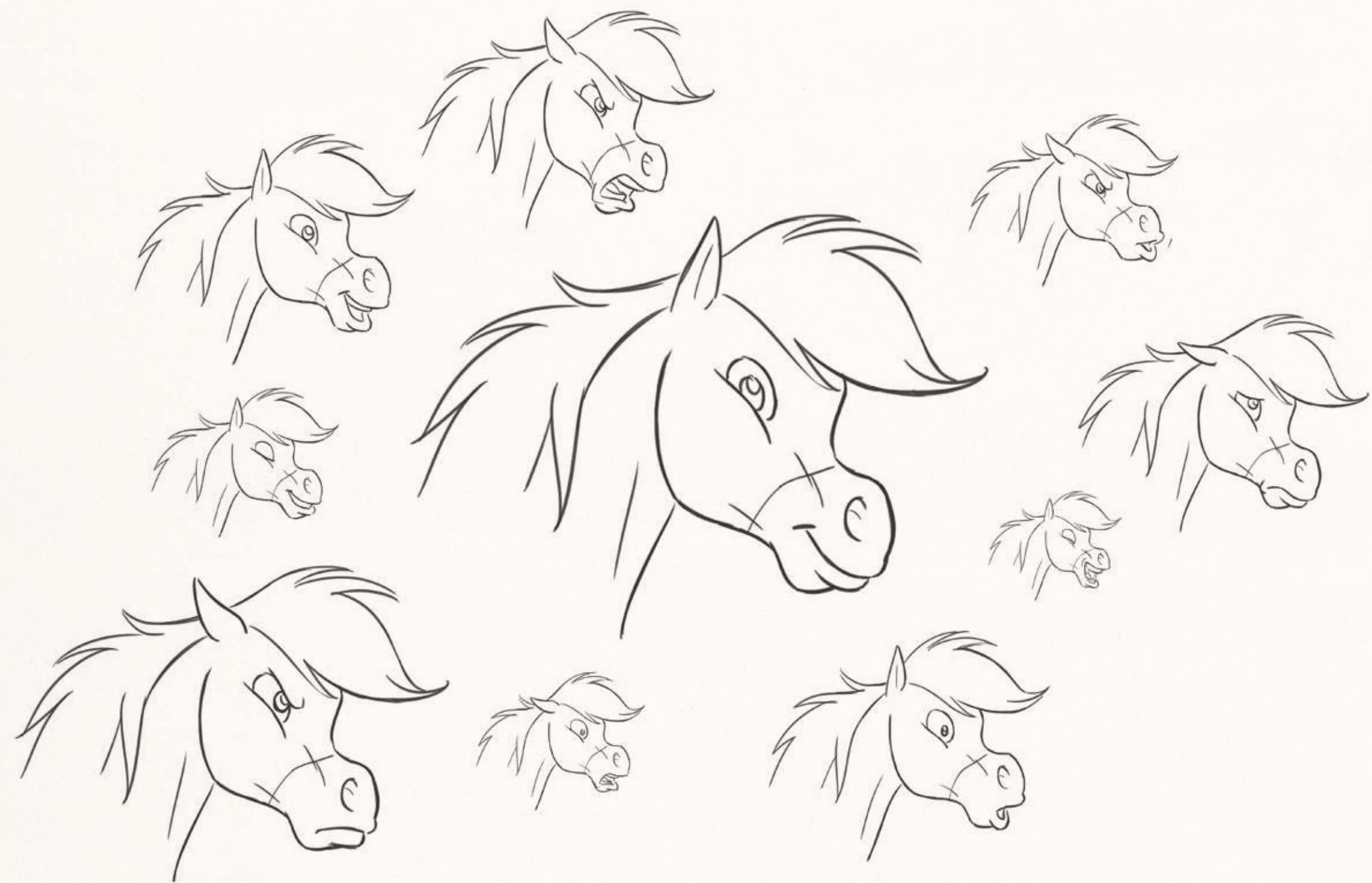




LITTLE THUNDER

An untameable mustang who revels in his freedom, he doesn't let just any person ride him. The mutual friendship and respect between he and Yakari grows through their shared adventures... This horse highlights the compatibility of men and animals born of a system where they respect one and other.





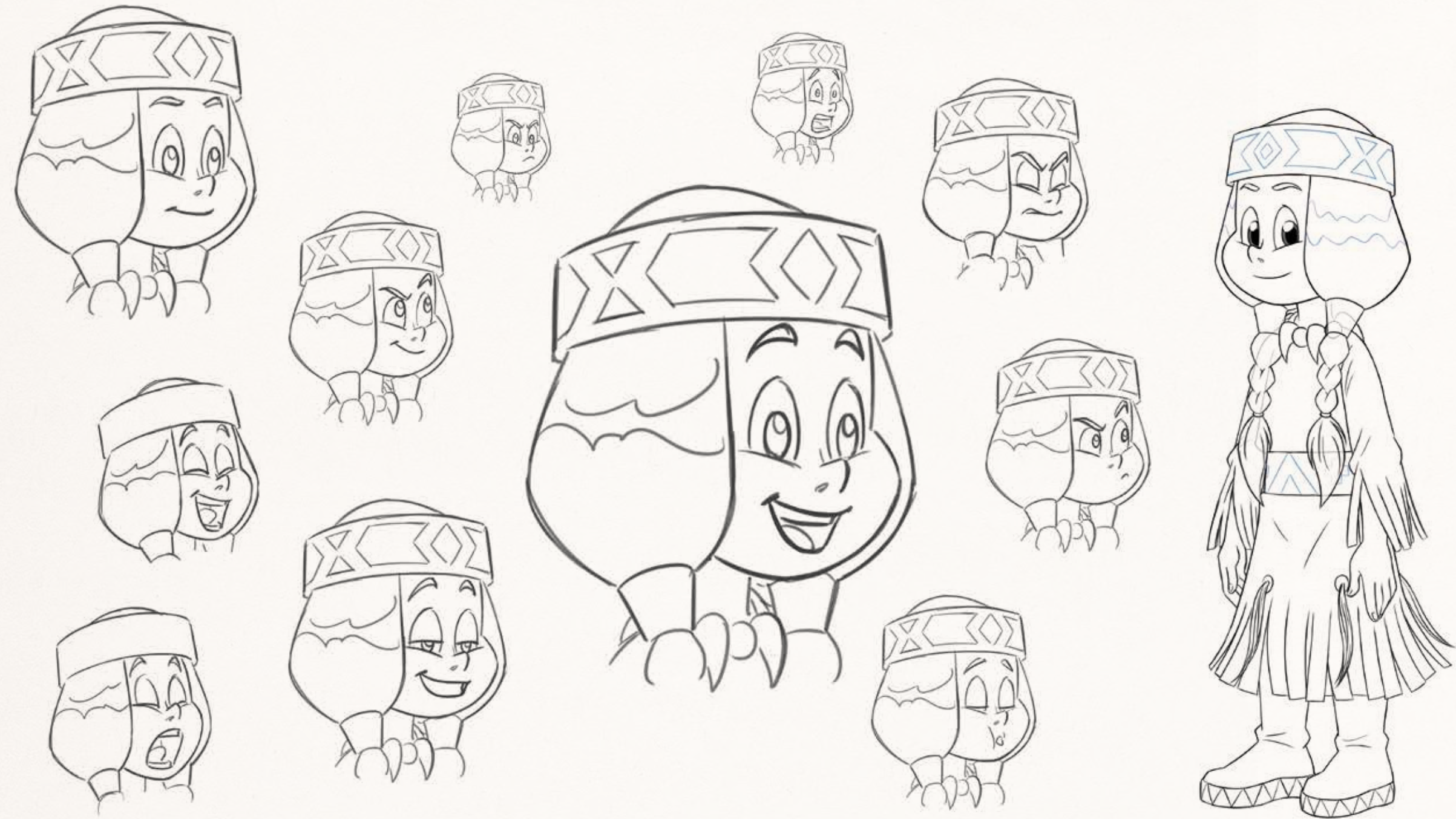


GREAT EAGLE

A comforting mentor figure, he takes on a parent-like role, always keeping an eye on his protégé but only ever intervening at the opportune moment.







RAINBOW

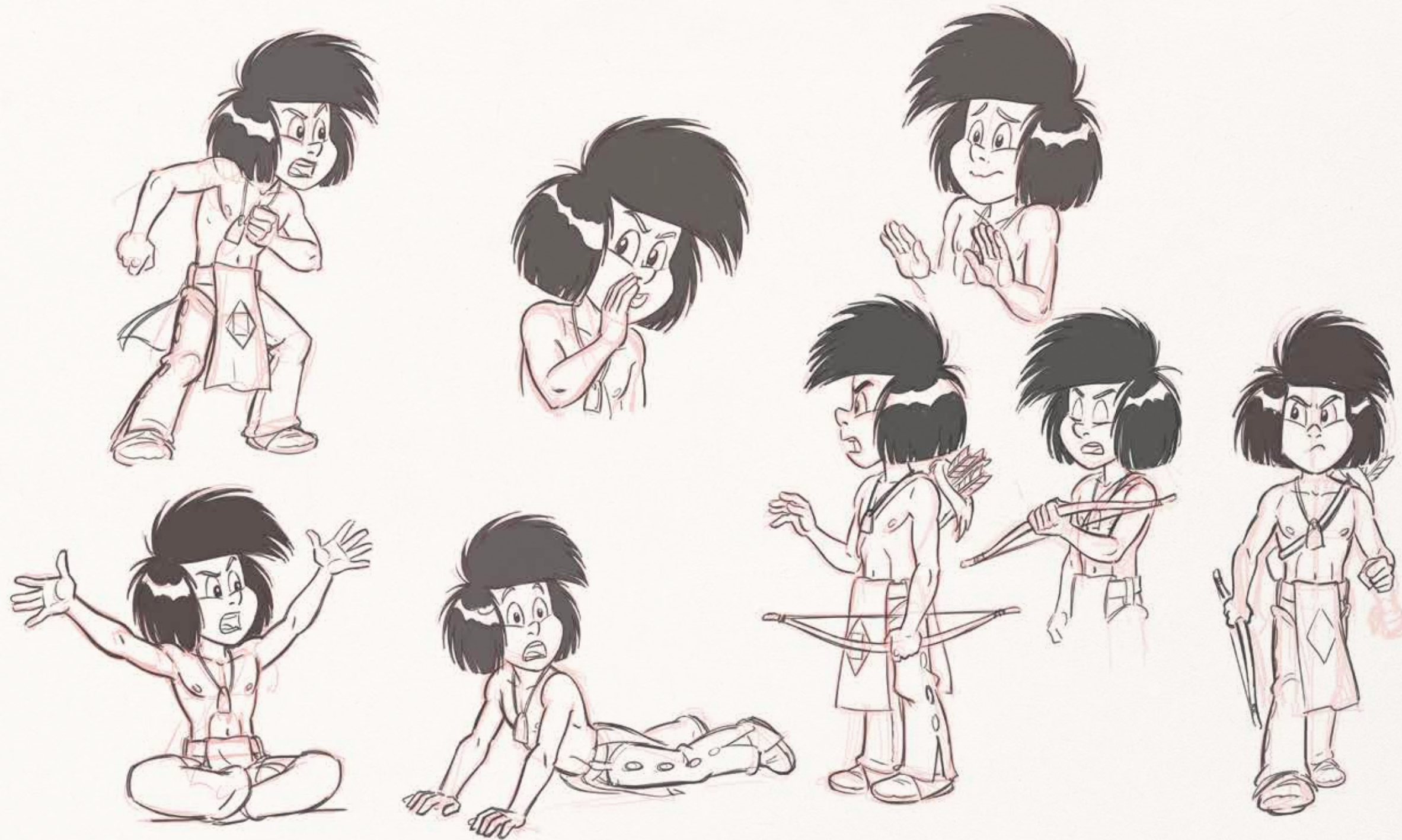
This is Yakari's best friend. She has a talent for arts and crafts and a deep knowledge of plants and flowers. She's a character that young girls can identify with, presenting modern values of gender equality.





BUFFALO SEED

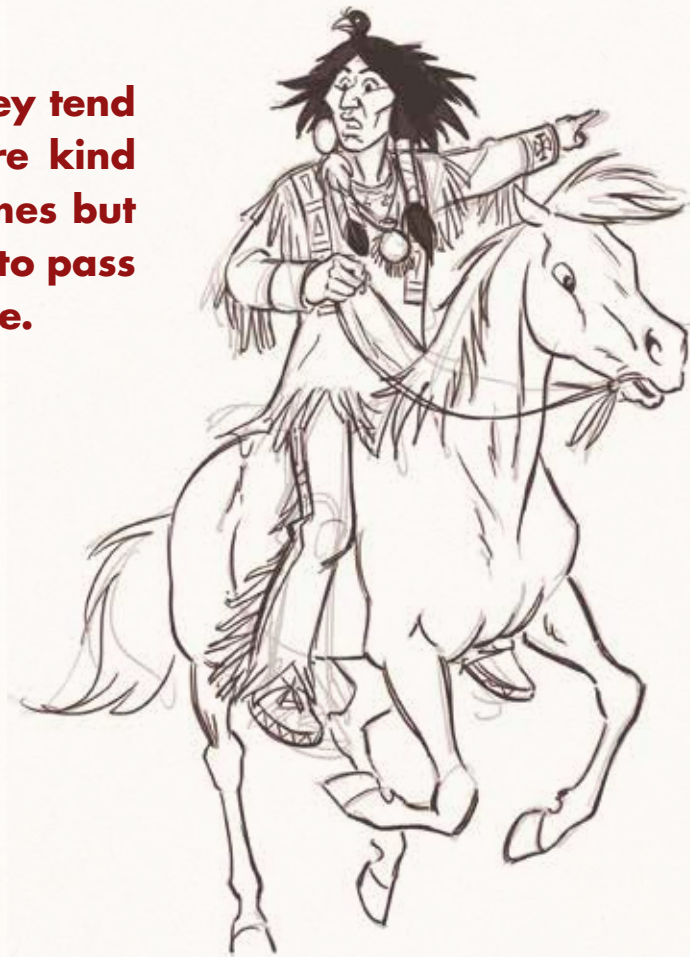
Totally impulsive, he often rushes into his adventures without thinking too hard. He represents the silly side of children, and is a good counter-balance for the sensible Yakari.





THE SIOUX

Yakari's tribe. They are hunters. Impassive and stoic, they tend to take strict stances and keep at them. The adults are kind towards the papooses. They don't infantilize the little ones but instead often treat them as equals. It is natural for them to pass on what they know to the youngest members of the tribe.



THE COUGAR-SKINS

They are four young hunters of another tribe enemy of the Sioux. The film's "villains" consist in a group of two young men and two young women who are not more than 17 years old. They are very different from the Sioux with regards to their behavior towards the animals: they are brutal due to their lack of experience, and stupid too. A small gang of young thugs left to its own devices, without the experience, the wisdom and the respect of the Sioux...



THE ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PRAIRIE

During the film, Yakari has the opportunity to try, for the very first time, the super power given to him by Great Eagle: the ability to talk to animals. This learning process is not straightforward, and thus the source of some comical moments.

Yakari, accompanied by his faithful companion Droopy-Ear, meets characters along the way including Linden the mischievous beaver, Ringtail the ring-tailed cat, Tiny-Wings the audacious bird and finally Honeycomb, a baby bear escorted by his formidable mama.



THE SETS

Nature is a character in its own right in the film. The sets are breathtaking: grand, spectacular, intact. Humans are few and far between and appear tiny in comparison of this world that seems infinite. Our adventure takes place in theory in Sioux territory, in South Dakota. But in order to vary the landscapes and show our story in the best possible light, liberties are taken in the film to open new horizons and provide Yakari's journey with variety and enrich it. Yakari will travel through a great variety of landscapes, each more impressive than the last one. They're all the more spectacular that they are filmed at "papoose" height, in order to make young viewers dream. Nature is a protector but it may also turn into a danger at any point. The unpredictable is a bit of a mixed lot: intense sunshine, rain, wind, snow, storm and of course the terrible twisters.



A vibrant, stylized landscape illustration. In the foreground, there's a field of tall green grasses and numerous small blue flowers with yellow centers. A large, prominent blue flower is in the lower-left. To the right, a river flows through a sandy bank, with tall green reeds on the right side. In the background, a dense forest of green trees is visible under a soft, hazy sky. The overall style is painterly and colorful.

THE RECURRING SETS

- GREAT PLAINS
- LARGE PRIMARY FORESTS WITH PINE TREES AND DECIDUOUS TREES
- WATERWAYS: FROM SMALL STREAMS TO VERY LARGE RIVERS WINDING THROUGH TOWARDS THE HORIZON
- CANYONS, RAVINES, CREVICES AND DESERTIC AREAS
- CAVES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES
- HIGH PLATEAUS. IMPASSABLE MOUNTAINS



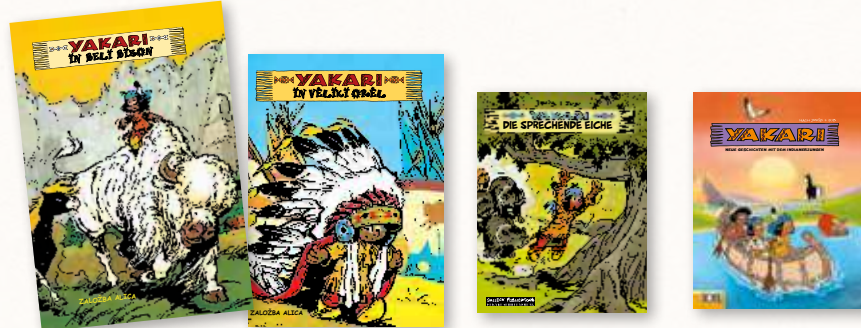


THE YAKARI TV SERIES (156 EPISODES EACH 13 MINUTES LONG) IS BROADCASTED IN

Azerbaïdjan, Canada, China, Danemark, Spain, Estonia, USA, Czech, Indonesia, Irak, Ukraine, Hongrie, Slovaquie, Bulgarie, Ex-Yougoslavie, Roumanie, Moldavie, Finlande, Greece, Hongrie, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italia, Lettonia, Norway



Comic book series created in 1973, **39 VOLUMES**
7 THEMED COMPILATIONS
5 MILLION albums sold worldwide:
3 MILLION in French-speaking countries
2 MILLION in foreign languages, 800 000 of which were in Germany



Translated into **13 LANGUAGES**: English, German, Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Spanish, Greek, Greenlandic, Indonesian, Polish, Czech, Vietnamese, Dutch, Russian... (press editions in Arabic and Russian, book format in all other languages)

THE BRAND





DARGAUD
MEDIA

WUNDER
WERK

BEI L'ISTOY

BAC
FILMS

3cinéma

universum film

GAOSHAN