

= Destination : Imagination =

" Destination : Imagination " is a television special of the animated television series Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends . The plot of the special follows Frankie , who becomes trapped in a huge , mysterious world where she is treated like royalty but forced not to leave . Bloo , Mac , Coco , Eduardo , and Wilt journey through the world to rescue her , facing perils and challenges along the way .

Written by Lauren Faust and Tim McKeon , " Destination : Imagination " was directed by Rob Renzetti and series creator Craig McCracken . The plot was conceived after the crew decided that they wanted to make an episode with adventure , featuring the characters going out on a large quest of sorts . Due to the dark and serious storytelling approach used , the special came out " edgier " than most episodes of Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends .

The special originally broadcast on Cartoon Network on November 27 , 2008 , on Thanksgiving Day . It was well received and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program (for Programming One Hour or More) . It was also nominated for two Annie Awards ? one for Best Animated Television Production Produced for Children and another for McCracken and Renzetti 's directing .

= = Plot summary = =

During the pouring rain , a mother and father leave a heavily chained toy box at the doorstep of Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends with instructions to not be opened . The next day , Frankie has grown outraged about her job as the house caretaker ; Mr. Herriman has been giving her endless chores to take care day after day without thanking her for any of it . When Frankie discovers the box left on the doorstep , Herriman instructs her to leave it in the attic . In a fit of anger toward Herriman , she intentionally ignores the instructions given in the box and peeks inside it . She falls inside , only to discover it is a vast world filled with anthropomorphic toys and delectable treats . She hears and sympathizes with a young boy 's voice (Max Burkholder) , later revealed to be the imaginary friend named World (given the name by the crew of the show) , who has been living alone in the toy chest since his family left the box at Foster 's .

Frankie adores the world and goes to visit it every day , being treated like royalty by the voice . But one day , when she goes to leave , the friend refuses to allow her and locks every exit in the castle they are abiding in . Bloo , Mac , Coco , Eduardo , and Wilt become curious with her sudden disappearance . They go up to the attic and enter the toy box , discovering for themselves the vast world that resides in it . They ask around a small town if anyone has seen a woman of Frankie 's description but nobody responds . A group of weeble policemen discover they have entered the world and chase after them , but the gang are saved by a heroic man . He tries to warn them that their pursuit of Frankie will lead through extremely dangerous environments , but they are determined to rescue her . Mr. Herriman , in the meantime , is outraged by Frankie 's disappearance and attempts to find a replacement for her , but to no avail .

After failing to cross a musical and colorful bridge , the gang falls into a pit where sticky material becomes their zombie @-@ like doppelgangers and moves to chase them . They escape through a Super Mario World @-@ like environment and go to the house of a toy dog , where they are set up for a trap to eat crumpets with sleeping powder . Mac does not eat the crumpets (since the sleeping powder was thought to be powdered sugar , and he can 't eat sugar without temporarily losing his mind) and is able to save the others . As they try to escape , they discover that the heroic man and several others they have met on their journey are all controlled by a single face ? World ? who can animate and control seemingly anything he latches onto . World is trapped on an apple and the gang leaves it at a desert ; but latches on a horse , truly the guise of Mac and the gang rides by , and World is able to move once more . It gallops off to the castle , where the gang find Frankie and attempt to save her . However , Frankie reveals that World never kidnapped her , she was staying of her own free will and is happy to be away from the work at Foster 's and Mr. Herriman 's constant nagging . The friends then plead with Frankie to come home insisting that they need her to take care

of them . She believes their pleas to be selfish and storms off as she is " sick of taking care of everyone and everything without never even receiving a word of thanks , an ounce of help , or a tiny little smidgen of respect " . They attempt to console her , but World gasses them and they fall asleep . When they awaken , they find themselves in a fake version of Foster 's created by World , who shrank them into it .

Frankie begins to hear their tiny voices calling to her and , though World tries to distract her from it , she finally discovers her friends . World finally becomes upset and scolds Frankie of planning to leave him alone in the toy box forever . She calms him down enough to befriend and unshrink the gang , but Mr. Herriman bursts in , having gotten into the toy box and somehow past the gang 's obstacles , and harshly scolds World before preparing to take the gang home and leave World to " think long and hard about what you 've done " . World 's world falls to pieces until it 's nothing but a white void . World becomes angry and unstable and turns into a chimera @-@ like creature to attack them all (made of the remaining refuse of his world) . The gang manages to escape the toy box . Frankie climbs out as well and tries to convince everyone to let World out of the box . Herriman finally yields and releases World from the box , due to a realization of his long misjudgement of Frankie and newfound appreciation for her during her absence . World gets happy already and shouts that he 's free and everyone is really confused , Frankie 's answer is : " Well , think of it this way : Imagine if you were able to have anything you wanted , except one thing , but that one thing is what you wanted more than anything else . For him , that thing is a friend . That 's all he wanted ; that 's what he was trying to protect . So I brought him here . Here he can have all the friends in the world ! I mean come on , isn 't friendship what Foster 's is all about ? " Instantaneously Bloo shouts , " No , it 's all about me ! " promptly Herriman slaps him with a glove , to the delight of everyone else .

World adapts to the new environment and lives as a stuffed rag doll in the home . Herriman , having learned a valuable lesson from the experience , creates a new Fair Chore Act to divide the chores between the imaginary friends and thus give Frankie a well @-@ deserved break from her job . All the imaginary friends in the house are free to travel in and out of the toy box , where they enjoy themselves (they go to the toy box in a style similar to the show 's theme) , with the last to enter being World and Frankie , the latter of who shout out " BOOYAH ! "

During the post credits scene , Madame Foster returns from her vacation only to be greeted by an empty house and wonders where everyone is .

= = Production = =

" Destination : Imagination " was co @-@ written by Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends co @-@ creator Lauren Faust along with Tim McKeon . Other series co @-@ founder Craig McCracken directed it along with Rob Renzetti . The special was conceived by the four , along with Darrick Bachman , Edward Baker , Vaughn Tada , and Alex Kirwan , as a means of creating an adventure story , to " send the gang on a fantastic quest . "

The character of World was created as a means to have an imaginary friend that was an entire world instead of the usual " sentient being that you hang out with . " Baker suggested that the character should be portrayed as a young child , which McCracken agreed because it brought originality to the story , and allowed him to " be more emotional , to not understand the bigger picture , to be confused and vulnerable and like a kid , to throw a fit when they don 't get their way . "

The special was written with the goal of " telling the story in the most honest and sincere way . " The writers attempted to continue the tense and unpleasant relationship between Frankie and Mr. Herriman , which they had begun developing since the series began , but approaching it in a believable and sensible fashion . With the heavy plot running through the special , the writers tried to use Bloo and his companions as a means to add humor into it . They wrote Bloo to be more obnoxious and demanding than previously , but did not want him to be cruel or malicious .

A lot of the special was more " edgy " and dark than what had been done previously on Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends . A major reason behind this was the peril , danger , and conflict that

constructed the plot so heavily . McCracken explains , " When we start a show one of the first things we think about is tone , is this a goofy one , is it a serious one , whatever it may be we stay true to that tone . This one had some higher stakes so we let it naturally unfold that way . "

= = Reception = =

" Destination : Imagination " was originally broadcast on Thanksgiving Day , November 27 , 2008 , on Cartoon Network , at 8 : 00 P.M. EST . It followed an afternoon @-@ long marathon of the animated series Chowder and a My Gym Partner 's A Monkey Thanksgiving special entitled " A Thanksgiving Carol " . The first special for the series , entitled " Good Wilt Hunting , " had also aired on Thanksgiving , back in 2006 . At the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards , the special won the award for " Outstanding Animated Program (for Programming One Hour or More) " , winning over Spike TV 's Afro Samurai : Resurrection . It was nominated for two Annie Awards for Best Animated Television Production Produced for Children and Directing for an Animated Television Production or Short Form . The special lost both to Nickelodeon 's Avatar : The Last Airbender .

" Destination : Imagination " received generally positive reviews from television critics . Newsarama reporter Steve Fritz called it " one of the best and ? well ? most imaginative chapters , ever . " Fritz praised Tom Kane and Grey DeLisle 's performance as Mr. Herriman and Frankie , calling it " stellar , " along with the dark and " edgy " undertones of the special .