

= Pascal and Maximus =

Pascal and Maximus are a pair of fictional characters who first appear in Walt Disney Pictures ' 50th animated feature film Tangled (2010) as supporting characters , and subsequently star in its short Tangled Ever After (2012) . Created by directors Nathan Greno and Byron Howard , both characters are voiced by American actor Frank Welker in Tangled ; in Tangled Ever After , Welker reprises his role as Pascal while Greno replaces the actor as Maximus . A comedic chameleon and horse duo , Pascal and Maximus serve as sidekicks to main characters Rapunzel and Flynn Rider , respectively .

In Tangled , Pascal resides alongside Rapunzel in Mother Gothel 's tower , while Maximus is a police horse originally trained to arrest Flynn Rider before he befriends him at Rapunzel 's insistence . In Tangled Ever After , Pascal and Maximus appear as ring bearers at Rapunzel and Flynn 's wedding . When they lose the couple 's wedding rings , the duo frantically attempts to retrieve them . Greno and Howard created Pascal in order to provide the lonely , isolated Rapunzel with a friend to talk to . Feeling that a reptile would compliment Rapunzel 's quirky personality , the directors ultimately decided to make the character a chameleon as opposed to a traditional woodland creature . Meanwhile , Maximus was originally conceived as a very serious horse based on actor Tommy Lee Jones until the animators decided to make him a funnier and more likeable character . The unusual decision to make Pascal and Maximus non @-@ speaking characters with Welker providing them with realistic sound effects was inspired by the performances of silent film actors Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton .

Both individually and as a comedic duo , Pascal and Maximus have garnered universal acclaim from film critics , who referred to the characters scene stealers ? British magazine SFX dubbed Maximus the film 's breakout star while The Age hailed the character as the funniest horse in film history ? in addition to praising the fact that both characters are refreshingly funny , expressive and charismatic without the use of dialogue . Additionally , several film critics preferred Pascal and Maximus to the film 's couple .

= = Development = =

= = = Conception = = =

Filmmaker Walt Disney himself had first attempted to adapt the Brothers Grimm fairy tale " Rapunzel " into a feature @-@ length animated film during the 1930s . However , Disney eventually abandoned the project because the story was considered too " small . " When first approached to direct Tangled in 2008 , directors Nathan Greno and Byron Howard decided that it would be best to update the story " for a modern audience . " The directors soon discovered " that the problem with having a prison character [like Rapunzel] ... is that they don 't have anyone to talk to . " Howard explained that because Rapunzel is incapable of having a conversation with Mother Gothel , the isolated , incarcerated heroine " needed someone to relate to . " Unwilling to default to using the traditional " boring , ordinary side @-@ kick , " Greno and Howard created Pascal , conceiving the character as a chameleon because Rapunzel is , according to Greno , " a rough @-@ and @-@ tumble girl . " Howard explained that " what we wanted to do is something fresh , something different . This girl , she 's not a dainty , precious girl ... So what would she have ? ... She 's going to have a lizard . " Additionally , Howard believed that a reptile would compliment and suit Rapunzel 's personality best , describing the character as " a quirky pet for a quirky young woman . "

Maximus was originally conceived by Howard as the " ultimate super @-@ cop " , jokingly dubbing the character " the Tommy Lee Jones of horses " . Attempting to make Maximus feel like a " fresh " character , the filmmakers researched several historical horses from both animated and live @-@ action films in order to ensure that the character was unique and different enough from his predecessors . Greno explained that " Maximus ... could have easily slipped into the category of , ' Oh , I 've seen that before . ' " To prevent this , the filmmakers referenced " a board with photos of

all the different animated horses that had been done ". Howard explained that Maximus was originally conceived as a " pretty serious " character , but eventually developed into a funnier and more likeable horse as the animators continued to draw him with dog @-@ like attributes . Both Pascal and Maximus , who according to the Austin American @-@ Statesman are responsible for providing the film with the majority of its comic relief , were eventually written into the film by screenwriter Dan Fogelman . Analyzing the characters ' roles in the film , HitFix observed that " There 's a simplicity to it all that I admire , and you throw in a few anthropomorphized animals so everyone laughs a lot , and that 's the Disney recipe " . One critic wrote about Maximus :

" Horses have played a key role in armies and police forces around the world for hundreds of years , but Maximus is clearly one of a kind . Fearless in the face of danger , relentless in pursuit , and possessed of a nose befitting a bloodhound , this equine super @-@ sleuth won 't let anything stop him getting his man . "

= = = Characterization = = =

Considered rare for Disney animals , Pascal and Maximus do not speak . The idea to make Pascal and Maximus mute was inspired by the performances of actors Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton in Silent films . Identifying themselves as " huge fans " of Chaplin , Greno and Howard suggested that it would be a good idea to have a character like the actor featured in the film . Additionally , the directors explained in an interview with Orange that Pascal and Maximus ' silence was also inspired by the roles of Princess Aurora 's animal friends in Disney 's Sleeping Beauty (1959) , following the film 's rules and guidelines that even though they do not talk , they remain " very expressive " nonetheless and " act and understand without words . " Maximus particularly " belongs to the grand tradition of Disney creatures that are full of personality even though they don 't talk . " One film critic observed that Pascal and Maximus " have personalities all their own , making use of techniques harkening back to the silent era " . Howard explained that " Pantomime acting is a great challenge for our animators " because , according to animator Jin Kim , Pascal and Maximus both " had to be funny without speech " , forcing the animators to exaggerate their emotions and facial expressions . The Chicago Sun @-@ Times observed that " Pascal ... doesn 't speak , but manages to convey himself with eye rolls and changes of color . " Both animals ' sound effects are provided by American actor Frank Welker .

Pascal 's supervising animator Lino DiSalvo told the Los Angeles Times that at one point the animators " weren 't getting enough entertainment out of Pascal . " DiSalvo elaborated , " originally , he was very realistic . He moved like a real chameleon , " which in turn depicted him as very " cold . " By exaggerating the character 's shape and face , the animators eventually " amped [him] up " in order to make him funnier . The name " Pascal " was borrowed from a pet chameleon owned by Tangled animator Kellie Lewis . During production , Lewis ' other pet chameleon and Pascal 's mate hatched six eggs , in turn making Pascal a father . In tribute to Pascal , the directors included a " Chameleon Babies " credit in the film 's closing credits , parodying the more traditional " Production babies " credit , while Lewis herself received a " Chameleon Wrangler " credit .

Discussing the likelihood a Tangled sequel , Howard explained to the Los Angeles Times " We don 't want to do a sequel for the sake of sequels ... The story has to be worth telling . " Because the original film " buttons up " well , the directors wanted to avoid simply creating a movie wedding featuring Rapunzel and Flynn because " that 's not entertainment " , so Greno and Howard conceived a funny story about Pascal and Maximus instead , providing the animators and writers with " an opportunity to do a lot of slapstick " that was mostly absent in Tangled . Wanting the film " to be a movie for everyone " , the directors " figured out a way to give [the audience] exactly what they wanted , so there is a beautiful grand wedding in the short , but what happens pretty quickly , those two goofballs Maximus and Pascal lose the wedding rings ... It turned into this big , zany , cartoony , fun , action @-@ packed short . " In the short , Pascal and Maximus encounter " a trail of comical chaos that includes flying lanterns , a flock of doves , a wine barrel barricade and a very sticky finale " .

= = Appearances = =

= = = Tangled = = =

Pascal and Maximus first appear in Tangled (2010) . Introduced as the pet and best friend of Rapunzel , Pascal is a chameleon who lives with Rapunzel in Mother Gothel 's secluded tower . Although Rapunzel pretends to be happy living in isolation under Gothel 's strict , controlling parenting , Pascal refuses to hide his discontent . Meanwhile , Maximus and thief Flynn Rider share a bitter animosity ; a police horse , Maximus is determined to arrest Flynn Rider for stealing a crown . Seeking refuge from Maximus , Flynn hides in Gothel 's tower where he is quickly incapacitated by Rapunzel , and he and Pascal immediately adopt a love @-@ hate relationship . Determined to see the mysterious " floating lights " in time for her eighteenth birthday , Rapunzel agrees to return Flynn 's crown to him only after he escorts her to safely to the kingdom . Meanwhile , Maximus , who continues his search for Flynn , inadvertently tips off Gothel that Rapunzel , on whose magical hair she relies to stay alive , has left the tower accompanied by Flynn . With her life in danger , she desperately pursues them .

When Maximus eventually catches up with Rapunzel , Flynn and Pascal , the horse attempts to apprehend Flynn only to be charmed by Rapunzel , who convinces him to leave Flynn alone until they have arrived at their destination while Pascal ensures that the two maintain a healthy relationship . In the kingdom , Flynn , Rapunzel and Pascal embark on a canoe ride to see the floating lights , revealed to be lanterns , up @-@ close , while Maximus is forced to wait ashore as there is not enough room for him . In a friendly gesture , Flynn gives him a bag of apples . Realizing that he is falling in love with Rapunzel , Flynn attempts to hand off the crown he was promised to the Stabbington Brothers , two colleagues of his , only to be kidnapped and handed over to the police . Mistaking this for abandonment , Rapunzel is taken back to the tower by Gothel , who has caught up with them .

Maximus manages to help an imprisoned Flynn about to be hanged for his crimes escape from the dungeon and races him to Gothel 's tower , where he is stabbed . However , Rapunzel eventually heals Flynn after he cuts her hair , which in turn destroys Gothel , and they live happily ever after . Pascal and Maximus move to Corona with them ; Maximus is eventually knighted , becoming Captain of the Guards and eliminates crime in the kingdom .

= = = Tangled Ever After = = =

Tangled Ever After (2012) is set shortly after the events of the first film . In the short , Pascal and Maximus are ring bearers at Rapunzel and Flynn Rider 's wedding . When Maximus suffers a reaction from one of the flower petals Pascal is sprinkling along the aisle , Maximus sneezes and the rings are propelled off the pillow on which he is carrying the rings ; they fly through a window in the chapel and into the city streets . Pascal and Maximus discreetly sneak out of the chapel to retrieve them in time for Rapunzel and Flynn to exchange them . Pascal and Maximus encounter several obstacles and hindrances in their attempt , eventually crashing into a tar factor upon retrieving the rings from a flock of flying doves . Completely soiled , Pascal and Maximus finally return to the chapel and return the rings , only to cause the wedding cake to roll out the door .

= = = Miscellaneous = = =

Both Pascal and Maximus appear in the Nintendo DS version of Tangled : The Video Game (2010) . While playing mostly as Rapunzel , players are allowed to " interact with Flynn , Pascal , and Maximus " , according to Nintendo.com. The video game includes a minigame inspired by Pascal entitled " Pascal 's Colors / Melody Match " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Pascal and Maximus have garnered widespread universal acclaim from film critics , who greeted both characters with nearly equal praise but generally reviewed Maximus more enthusiastically . Citing both characters as " right on the money , " Jonathan Crocker of Total Film described Maximus as " A horse ... who thinks he 's John McClane . " Kerry Lengel of The Arizona Republic enthused , " In true Disney fashion , two of the most memorable characters are animals : Pascal ... and Maximus , a barrel @-@ chested horse with the tracking skills of a bloodhound and a sense of duty straight out of Gilbert and Sullivan . " The Chicago Tribune 's Michael Phillips wrote that both characters are " Very funny , very noble " and " lovely supporting character [s] . " Peter Travers of Rolling Stone admitted to having " fell hard " for Maximus and Pascal . Similarly , Lindsey Ward of Canoe.ca predicted Tangled Ever After , writing , " Kids and adults alike will also fall for Rapunzel 's trusty chameleon sidekick Pascal and palace horse Maximus -- whose hilarious role as Flynn 's foe @-@ turned @-@ BFF might just earn him his own spin @-@ off . " The Globe and Mail 's Jennie Punter hailed them as " characters that only Disney animators could so memorably portray . " Writing for the Miami Herald , Rene Rodriguez described both characters as " terrific , " while Alison Gang of U @-@ T San Diego called them " hilarious . " David Edelstein of Vulture.com admitted that he " can 't help liking a movie with chameleon reaction shots . " Joe Neumaier of the Daily News appreciated the fact that although " There are laughs involving ... Rapunzel 's silent chameleon sidekick ... directors Nathan Greno and Byron Howard keep the tale grounded . " Observing the way in which animal sidekicks have become " Disney animation staples , " Doris Toumarkine of Film Journal International wrote that Pascal is " cute @-@ as @-@ can @-@ be , " likening the character to Jiminy Cricket from Disney 's Pinocchio (1940) . Matt Brunson of Creative Loafing wrote that Pascal " is likely to charm the adults , further designating Tangled as silky @-@ smooth entertainment . " Norman Wilner of Now wrote that " the best performance is a silent one delivered by ... Maximus , a guardsman 's horse clearly modelled on Tommy Lee Jones in The Fugitive ? but funnier . " Describing the character as " marvelously bothered , " Michelle Orange of Movieline wrote that Maximus is " given a nuanced fidelity and expressive agility so precise that it seems more human than human . " Cynthia Fuchs of PopMatters called Maximus " magnificent . " Empire 's Helen O 'Hara wrote that Maximus is a " comic scene @-@ stealer and police horse extraordinaire . " While Ian Berriman of SFX dubbed Maximus the film 's " breakout star , " The Age 's Jim Schembri hailed the character as " the funniest horse in film history . " Sandra Hall of The Sydney Morning Herald labelled Maximus " The de facto star of ... Tangled " who " possesses the strength of Hercules , the nose of an airport sniffer dog and the crankiness of Harrison Ford . "

According to Greno and Howard , the decision to make Pascal and Maximus non @-@ speaking characters has been appreciated by both critics and audiences alike , explaining , " We 've gotten so many compliments about him and Pascal ... and so many people saying : ' Thank you for not making them talk . ' " Hailing Pascal and Maximus as " delightful supporting characters who continue yet another Disney custom without saying a word of dialogue " , Leonard Martin of Indiewire compared Pascal to a " comic Greek chorus " while dubbing Maximus " an extraordinarily expressive equine adversary ... who earns many of the movie 's biggest laughs . Similarly , The Wall Street Journal 's Joe Morgenstern wrote , " No one voices Maximus ... but he steals every scene he 's in " , while calling Pascal " endearing " . The Quad @-@ City Times ' Linda Cook reviewed , " it 's fun to watch the animal sidekicks express themselves , not through words , but facial expressions and body movements . The critters provide much of the comedy " , while Steve Persall of the Tampa Bay Times penned , " No talking animals here , although when they 're as amusing as a loyal chameleon and a horse who 's partly bloodhound and cop @-@ flick action hero , they don 't need to speak " , joking that the Brothers Grimm " probably wouldn 't object . " ABC Online " like [d] the way the animals were used " , explaining , " They don 't talk ... it really is funny " , accrediting this to executive producer John Lasseter 's influence on the film . Criticizing the script 's " abundant chatter , " Justin Chang of Variety commended the filmmaker 's " shrewd decision to have the animal

sidekicks ... express themselves without the benefit of speech . " Similarly , Richard Corliss of Time wrote that both characters " radiate plenty of personality without speaking . "

Critics who were generally less positive in their opinions of Tangled and its main characters Rapunzel and Flynn Rider were otherwise impressed by Pascal and Maximus ' performances . The Liverpool Echo 's Catherine Jones felt that " Pascal and Maximus shamelessly scene @-@ steal from the human characters " , while Chris Tookey of the Daily Mail wrote , " The enjoyable visual gags generally come from the two animal sidekicks " . The Illinois Times ' Chuck Koplinski wrote , " Throw in two animal sidekicks ? wily horse Maximus and protective chameleon Pascal ? and you have a film that , while not as moving as the Pixar movies , is a satisfying lark . " TV Guide opined that although " There 's nothing particularly innovative about Dan Fogelman 's screenplay " , the author wrote that " a cute animal sidekick ... extend [s] to the visual aspects of the film " . Similarly , Simon Reynolds of Digital Spy wrote , " This ride 's a familiar one , but with humourous (sic) sidekicks such as horse @-@ who @-@ thinks @-@ he 's @-@ a @-@ dog Maximus and chameleon Pascal , it 's thoroughly enjoyable . " Although Dave White of Movies.com strongly panned Tangled , he dubbed Pascal and Maximus the film 's " Most Memorable Cliché " , writing that the characters " are better than the movie deserves . " White continued , " they both steal scene after scene from the Cream of Wheat @-@ like main characters " , concluding , " I kept wishing I was watching a movie about just them . " The Independent 's Anthony Quinn , who was ambivalent towards the film , admitted that Pascal and Maximus " provide some chuckles . " Similarly , Tom Huddleston of Time Out wrote , " With two such bland heroes , it 's good that plenty of attention is paid to the supporting characters , notably ... a bad tempered but loveable horse " , while Todd Hertz of Christianity Today called Maximus " a more complex , multi @-@ dimensional character than some movies ' leads " . Despite calling the film " bland " , the Houston Chronicle 's Amy Biancolli called Maximus a " stone cool " character . Tyler Hanley Palo Alto Weekly , however , praised the entire ensemble as a whole , calling Rapunzel , Flynn , Pascal and Maximus " a thoroughly enjoyable quartet . " In a lone lukewarm review , James Berardinelli of ReelViews called Pascal " among the least recognizable animal sidekicks (although he possesses amusing mannerisms) . "

In 2013 , M Magazine ranked Maximus the sixth best Disney sidekick , while Pascal was ranked eighth . In 2014 , BuzzFeed organized a list of the " Definitive Ranking of Disney Sidekicks " , ranking Pascal and Maximus fourth and fourteenth , respectively . Author Jemima Skelley described Pascal as " The most badass chameleon there ever was " while hailing Maximus as " The fiercest horse you 've probably ever seen . " Unranked , Glamour slightly preferred Pascal to Maximus in the magazine 's article " Our Favorite Disney Animals of All Time " .

= = = Merchandise = = =

Tom Huddleston of Total Film predicted that the popularity of Pascal and Maximus , combined with the success of Tangled , would ultimately provide Disney with promising merchandising opportunities , describing the characters as " tie @-@ in toys you just pre @-@ ordered in your head , " while Keith Uhlich of Time Out called them " action @-@ figure ready . " Pascal 's likeness has since been adapted into a wide variety of items , including toys , decorations and ornaments , costumes , clothing , jewellery and cosmetics , as demonstrated by the Disney Store 's website . In much of the film 's merchandise , Pascal is included alongside Rapunzel , namely play sets ; The Rapunzel Tangled Figure Play Set features miniature figurines of both Pascal and Maximus in addition to Rapunzel , Flynn Rider and Mother Gothel . However , merchandise inspired by Maximus remains less common . The character 's likeness has , however , been adapted into a plush toy .