

Moana is set to sail in on November 23<sup>rd</sup> this year, and the trailers have gotten people both excited and upset for various reasons. Once you see the trailers and screenshots for yourself, it's hard not to be sold on this fantastic looking movie and Disney's first Polynesian princess. If they aren't enough to entice you, perhaps these little fun facts will:

- The voice for Moana is brand new to the scene. Native Hawaian Auli'i Cravalho was
  called in due to the Hawai'I-based casting director remembering her singing
  performance from a fundraiser video submission. The new girl on the block went
  through three rounds of auditions before earning the role.
- 2. The portrayal of Maui is right on the nose. Maui is considered a great hero of Polynesian mythology, and stories of his exploits are told across nearly all Polynesian lands. His bravado in the trailers, displayed powers and attitude are all right out of the history books.
- 3. Directors Ron Clements and John Musker are not new to the rodeo. They, in fact, got their writing-directing debut with "The Great Mouse Detective", and went on to bust out some of your no doubt childhood favorites: "Aladdin", "The Little Mermaid" and, more recently, "The Princess and the Frog".

- 4. Some people aren't all that impressed with the portrayal of Maui. Jenny Salesa, of Tongan heritage, shared a picture on her Facebook account which claimed Maui looked like a "half pig, half hippo" creature. In short, the idea of a husky Polynesian man ruffled some feathers. Personally, we think the demi-god is looking as good as ever.
- 5. Moana is going to be, no doubt, a princess to end all. From the trailers alone, we can see that she is adventurous, not easily swayed by Maui's bravado, and willing to travel across the treacherous oceans in order to find not only salvation for her people, but herself as well.

Moana comes out November 23<sup>rd</sup> in theaters. If you aren't convinced by now to go and see it, then you might just have to see it to spite all the people raving about how gorgeous and interesting it looks.