

WHEN BUGS FLY™

Tale of the Nite-Kite

when you believe,

magic happens



PRESS KIT

Waterside
PRODUCTION GROUP



introduction letter

Waterside Production Group
PO Box 450715
Westlake, OH
44145

Dear Network Executive/Content Executive,

There's nothing quite like a quirky set of new animated Bug-Buddies exploding on the scene, worming their way into the minds of little ones everywhere.

And we've done it!

Created here on the lakefront of Cleveland, OH, these endearing friends will warm the cockles of your heart and expand the far reaches of your imagination — making a true believer out of you and yours.

Launching in spectacular 3D, this fable is packed with adventure, tempered with care, and filled with moxie to move our main character, Sebastian the Slug, forward to pursue his dream of a lifetime.

Through mishaps, setbacks, and disappointments our troupe of champions will bulldoze their way past every one of those obstacles leaving you cheering them on and on and on.

All of us at Waterside Production Group, and our family of Bug-Buddies, thank you for your interest.

Joni Nowak CEO

Joni Nowak

“For a little magic can take you a long way”
— Roald Dahl
James and the Giant Peach

“When you believe, magic happens”
— Sebastian the Slug
Tale of the Nite-Kite



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press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“When Bugs Fly: Tale of the Nite-Kite”

A team of bug-buddies make magic happen in the midnight sky.

An original, animated short for the pre-school/kindergarten audience.

(Westlake OH) — Joni Nowak’s second animated short, “Tale of the Nite-Kite,” is a heart-warming story featuring Sebastian the Slug who desperately wants nothing more than to fly in the night sky with his best friend, Edison the Firefly.

Teaming up with all his Friends of the Pond — Edison, Charli, Dart, and Fetcher — Sebastian turns his impossible dream into reality. Along the way, Sebastian discovers that if you believe hard enough you can create the magic to turn your dreams into reality. And you strengthen the bonds of friendship with those who believed in your dream and worked to make it happen.

Nowak’s dream parallels that of Sebastian. For a year, she and her band of friends followed her dream of creating this animated short film, seemingly against all odds. By dint of will, Joni’s dream became magic and then became true.

Joni is an artist/author/illustrator drawn to animation since childhood. In 2016, this 40-something veteran-nurse produced her first animated short and accompanying illustrated childrens book called “Sebastian Calls 911,” an 8-minute, 2D animated short along with a hard-cover full-color book. “Nite-Kite” is animated in 3D and is 13 minutes in length.

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about the film

“When Bugs Fly: Tale of the Nite-Kite”

SEBASTIAN IS A SLUG WHO LIVES in a wooded-pond community. His best friends include Edison the Firefly, Charli the Caterpillar, Fletcher the Frog, and Dart the Dragonfly. As is the case with many woods and ponds creatures, most of their activities occur at nite.

SEBASTIAN HAS A DREAM — he wants to fly. He doesn’t believe that being a slug — a bug without wings — should hold him back. “When Bugs Fly: Tale of the Nite-Kite” is the story of Sebastian’s dream and how his friends help him overcome adversity and set backs and give Sebastian the experience of lifetime.

THE VALUES THAT UNDERLIE and undergird “When Bugs Fly: Tale of the Nite-Kite” — friendship, support, belief, determination, and dreams — are the ones that parents, grandparents, educators, and nurturers hold dear. The characters in Nite-Kite” are buggy, little representations of ourselves who want to provide the comforts that good friends, loyal cohorts, and caring comrades can offer.

SO, INVITE YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS to follow us to the pond's edge, stay for the night, and bask in the delight and success of Sebastian and friends.



scenes from the film



SEBASTIAN & EDISON

CHARLI



HIGH ABOVE THE HOUSE



EDISON

EDISON



THE GANG WATCHES SEBASTIAN FLY

For more scenes in higher resolution
watersideproductiongroup.com/media



credits

WRITTEN/DIRECTED BY JONI NOWAK
ANIMATION DIRECTED BY MOSES MERIGA
MUSIC BY BRAD ALEXANDER
POST-PRODUCTION BY JOHN LORINCE
SOUND DESIGN BY JOHAN SUGAREV
GRAPHIC DESIGN/BOOK DESIGN BY RANDY MARTIN
3D PROJECT MANAGER ANYA ADAM
3D PRODUCTION SUPPORT
KRISHNA MOHAN
SAEED AGHAKAN
LEAD ANIMATORS
MOSES MERIGA
SADEGH MAHDAV
MIRAN
RK DEEPAK
VASANTH KUMAR
LEAD MODELING SOHEIL SAFA
LEAD TEXTURING MAHDIEH AGHAKHANI
LEAD RENDERING
MOHSEN SEPEHRI
ALI MHADAVI



director

Joni Nowak: Registered Nurse turned film director

JONI'S FATHER WAS AN ARCHITECT and taught her to draw, sketch, and create at a very young age. In high school, she took college prep courses, went on to become a full-time registered nurse — where her career landed and remained for more than 40 years. It was when she retired from the medical field that her love of animation surfaced.

JONI IS A PROLIFIC WRITER who enjoys creating characters for animation to perpetuate her storylines and entertain preschool and kindergarten audiences. “Tale of the Nite-Kite” is her second production.

IN 2016, NOWAK FINANCED, produced, and directed her first attempt at a film short, an 8-minute, 2D animation for preschoolers entitled “Sebastian Calls 911.” As the title suggests, the video detailed the problems Sebastian encountered when his Grandpa had chest pains and Sebastian had to get help in a hurry.

JONI WROTE THE STORY and created the original sketches, which became the foundation of her first book and the guidance for Moses Meriga to animate the storyline in classic 2D. Meriga again took Joni’s original sketches, this time for “Nite-Kite,” and developed the 3D look of Joni’s characters, created the modeling packs, and directed the 13-minute animation.

AS WAS THE CASE WITH “Sebastian Calls 911,” Joni’s sketches became the basis for for the hardcover book that parallels the animated storyline. Both books were designed by Randy Martin

THOSE WHO KNOW JONI will attest to her vision, determination, and success. And those friends are no doubt unsurprised that Nowak has at least 3 more video/film/ book concepts ready for production in 2022.



production team - 1

MOSES MERIGA • ANIMATION DIRECTOR

Moses is an animator, director, and artist who was born in 1974, in India. He studied at the Academy of Fine arts and the Academy of Animation Film Making. He trained under Russian animators. His animation short films and student shorts were screened at Hyderabad International Film Festival. “Haseena for adoption” (2004) won awards at various film festivals. He also worked as an animator on many animated shows for European and American television.

Moses’ focus is on short film making, directing animated films, and commissioned artwork. Owner of Acorn Animation Films, he lives with his wife and three children in Tampa, FL.

BRAD ALEXANDER • MUSIC

Brad Alexander is a NYC-based composer whose TV credits include: Lead Composer for CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG (Scholastic/Amazon/PBS Kids), five episodes of PBS’ Emmy Award-winning PEG + CAT, and VH1’s “Celebreality” campaign. Theater credits include: SEE ROCK CITY & OTHER DESTINATIONS (Richard Rodgers Award, BMI Foundation Jerry Bock Award, Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical), DOG MAN: THE MUSICAL (Off-Broadway, National Tours), CLICK, CLACK, MOO (Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel Award nominations), JUST SO STORIES and MARTHA SPEAKS; songs for DUCK FOR PRESIDENT, FLY GUY and WE THE PEOPLE (Lucille Lortel Award nomination). Current projects: MISTY MAKES IT BETTER and BREAD AND ROSES. Brad is a member of NAMT, The Dramatists Guild, SAG-AFTRA and BMI Workshop. bradalexander.com

JOHN LORINCE • POST PRODUCTION

John Lorince is an editor and director, known for Transits (2020), KILF’s (2012) and The Warden (2007). When he is not working on films, he enjoys watching movies with his wife and three children. He is the principal at Graziano Lorince Insurance.



production team - 2

JOHAN SGAREV • SOUND DESIGN

Johan has worked on countless films, shorts, commercials, and sound projects. His employers say things like “One of the most talented sound designers I had the opportunity to work with!” Because Johan works with sound, words about his work pale when compared to how his sounds simply make the images pull you in.

Take a listen: www.Sugarev.com/reel

RANDY MARTIN • GRAPHIC DESIGN, BOOK DESIGN

Randy is a graphic designer, ghost writer, author, and editor. His books have garnered eight MarCom Awards, two Summit International Awards, three Ippy Awards, two Mom’s Choice Awards, and two Hermes Awards. He also has two MarCom awards for web design, and a dozen Emmys awarded during a twenty-year stint as a television producer/director/writer. He serves on the board of directors for the Desoto Arts Council, The Hernando Veteran’s Parade, and the Friends of the Von Theatre. In his spare time, he sings and plays guitar with Mississippi Greystone. Randy is the owner of martinDESIGN.info

MARTY ALLEN • NARRATOR

Marty Allen is one of Cleveland Radio’s most respected King of all Trades: producer, production manager, show host, and voice presentation specialist. Over the years he has worked with and produced for the most respected names in Cleveland radio, though most listeners may not be aware of the man behind their heroes. A man always ahead of the curve, Marty moved into online radio with his creation of Rogue Radio more than a decade ago. Narrating “When Bugs Fly: Tale of the Nite-Kite” is Marty’s second vocal project for Joni Nowak and his smooth vocal tones set exactly the right tone for this animated adventure.



the cast - 1

JORDAN WILDER With his elastic voice and uncanny ear, Jordan Wilder has been entertaining audiences from behind the mic for thirty years His voice has been featured in dozens of national TV and radio ads:

AT&T, EXXONMOBILE, GEICO, GOOGLE, VERIZON, PEPSI, PIZZA HUT, PNC BANK, SONIC, SEGA, OREO, MATTEL and YOUTUBE.

While commercials pay the bills, Jordan's true passion has always been storytelling and bringing life to original and complex characters. His work has been featured in movies, cartoons, video games and audiobooks. Jordan just finished narrating the first of a six-book anthology entitled "BRANDED," a teen fantasy thriller written by Joseph T. Humphrey.

Jordan is also a celebrity and political impersonator. He's thrilled to have been given the opportunity to originate Sebastian the Slug in Joni Nowak's upcoming animated series, "When Bugs Fly."



JEREMY ERNST "Hey, I'm Jeremy Ernst with VoicesByJAE, and I'm the voice of Edison the Lightning Bug in "When Bugs Fly!" I'm just a big kid still growing into my voice(s.) Whether it's narration, character voices, or E-learning style videos, I have an original voice just waiting to be heard. I have a passion for developing my own character voices, and dream of one day seeing my future children playing with a toy I did the voice for.

I have years of experience working in the medical field as a paramedic and firefighter. I've used this experience to build confidence in public speaking, teaching, and most importantly, creating behind a microphone!

I love my job as a paramedic, but I have quickly learned the difference between interest and passion since I began my career as a professional voice actor. "

I love my job as a paramedic, but I have quickly learned the difference between interest and passion since I began my career as a professional voice actor. "



the cast - 2

BECKY SHRIMPTON

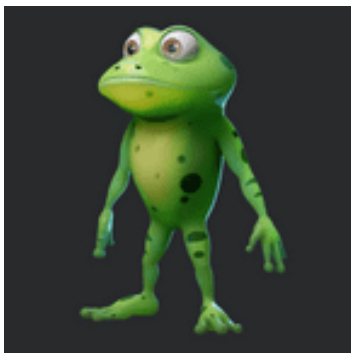
Charli, Dart



From being a voice kids would recognize in games and animations they love, like *Five Nights at Freddy's*, *Doki Adventures*, *Fireman Sam*, *League of Legends*, *Disney/Byju's Early Learn*, *Presto School for Magic*, the just-announced *Luna*, *Chip & Inkie: Adventure Rangers Go!*, and more to hundreds of commercials and narration projects, Becky Shrimpton has enjoyed being a voice actor for the last decade. She's an avid movie watcher and expert in Canadian film, which led her to become an award-winning podcast host and producer for brands like Microsoft, The Globe and Mail and Hollywood Suite. You can also catch her takes on classic films on the Hollywood Suite's original series *A Year in Film*.

LARRY MARUO

Fletcher the Frog



“As a child, Larry wanted to be a Muppet. Collecting puppets from the local toy stores, Larry became obsessed with creating voices and performing them for his family and friends, using his collection of puppets.

In college Larry got the acting bug and completed a degree in Theater. Comedy came into play by studying with the world-famous Groundlings Improv Group. Larry soon joined the Hauska Groupe, made up of various Groundlings, and had the privilege of performing at legendary Hollywood comedy clubs such as The Comedy Store and the Ice House.

After working as an on-camera actor, performing improv comedy, and as a professional musician, Larry has now come full circle back to his childhood dream of creating voices.



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the cast - 3

GRASSHOPPER REESE LASCHINGER
EDISON JEREMY ERNST
MOSQUITO CAL LASCHINGER
CHARLI AND DART BECKY SHRIMPTON
ANT MAX LASCHINGER
FLETCHER LARRY MAURO
BUTTERFLY ADDISON WESTFALL
NARRATOR MARTY ALLEN
LADYBUG CLAIRE MCGINTY
SNAIL ISLA MCGINTY
WORM HENRY MCGINTY



the company

The Waterside Production Group, Inc.

IN THE SPRING OF 2020, Joni Nowak founded The Waterside Production Group (WPG) to produce her double-barreled dream of animated shorts paired with an accompanying hard-cover, 8” by 8,” full-color book. Today, WPG is fast becoming a rising-star producer of high-quality 3D-animation, as well as beautifully-illustrated children’s books, which follow the storyline of the animation.

Their productions are targeted primarily for preschool/kindergarten audiences. **WATERSIDE PRODUCTION GROUP** is committed to producing and creating the highest-quality, relevant content in the children’s market today.

“**WHEN BUGS FLY: TALE OF THE NITE-KITE**” will be in distribution in the Spring of 2022, and the book will be available for purchase in Mid-Feruary at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, BAM! Books a Million, Dorrance Online Bookstore, and various brick and mortar stores.

THE VISION OF WATERSIDE PRODUCTION GROUP is

To achieve greatness, create excellent content, and provide fantastic entertainment for little ones by creating truly-relatable stories for preschool and kindergarten audiences that teach and define the core values nurtured at home. These instilled values are the ones that will carry our children through their elementary years into adolescence, and then adulthood. Values instilled early guide our children throughout their entire lives. It is our responsibility to ensure that those values represent the epitome of human behavior.

***Thus, each of our storylines** should encourage teamwork, true friendship, and complete acceptance between sometimes-unlikely characters who learn to trust and empower each other to follow their dreams, push toward their goals, and make those dreams come true.*

Joni M. Nowak: CEO/President

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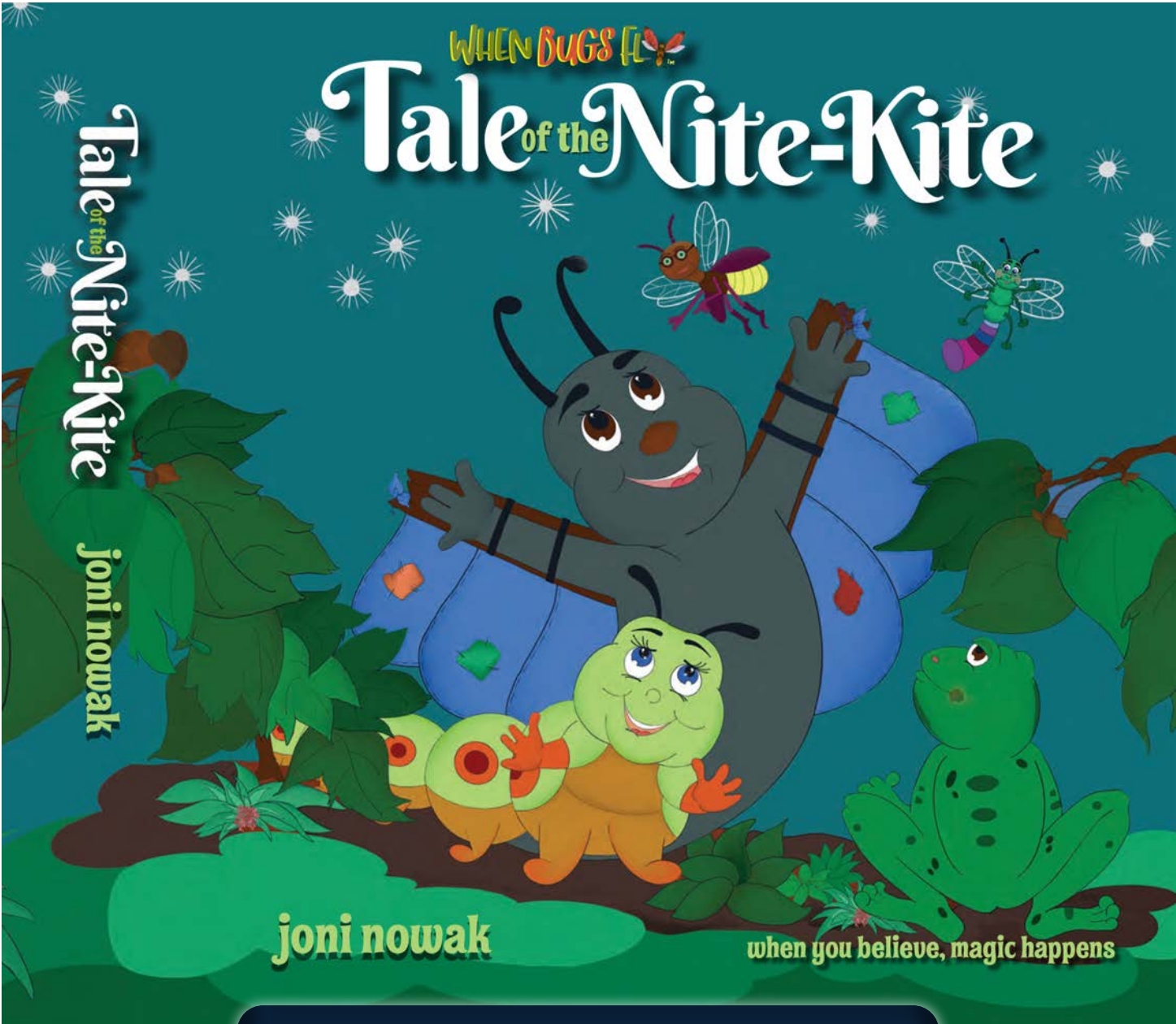
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INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/watersidegroup/

WEB: whenbugsfly.com |watersideproductiongroup.com



the book



Dedicated to the world's little ones. Believe!
Because sometimes you just need a little magic.



the book - 2

Tale of the Nite-Kite

All his life, Sebastian, The Little Gray Slug, has wanted more than anything to fly. But since slugs don't have wings, he will need the help of his woodland friends to turn discarded trash into the wings that will help him realize his dream.

Will spectacular adventures unfold? Will the most dubious of dreams become real? They will if you believe in magic.

Author and illustrator Joni Nowak teams with her twin sister Jean to bring the story of Sebastian and all his woodland friends to life as they work together to make his dream come true. For you see, Sebastian wants to fly!



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the end



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