

“SURF’S UP”

Surf’s Up is an animated action-comedy that delves behind the scenes of the high-octane world of competitive surfing. The film profiles teenage Rockhopper penguin Cody Maverick (Shia LaBeouf), an up-and-coming surfer, as he enters his first pro competition. Followed by a camera crew to document his experiences, Cody leaves his family and home in Shiverpool, Antarctica to travel to Pen Gu Island for the Big Z Memorial Surf Off. Along the way, Cody meets Sheboygan surfer Chicken Joe (Jon Heder), famous surf promoter Reggie Belafonte (James Woods), surf talent scout Mikey Abromowitz (Mario Cantone), and spirited lifeguard Lani Aliikai (Zooey Deschanel), all of whom recognize Cody’s passion for surfing, even if it’s a bit misguided at times. Cody believes that winning will bring him the admiration and respect he desires, but when he unexpectedly comes face-to-face with a washed-up old surfer (Jeff Bridges), Cody begins to find his own way, and discovers that a true winner isn’t always the one who comes in first.

Cody Maverick, the hottest (and only) up-and-coming surfer in Shiverpool, Antarctica, has always dreamt of something bigger than a job at the fish factory, even as his unsupportive family – mom Edna and older brother Glen – do not understand why he has to be different from everyone else. But Cody has always wanted to be a winner at something and he’s determined to take to heart the lesson that the late, great surfer, Big Z, imparted before going out for his final wave: find a way, because that’s what winners do. And Cody finds his way: hitching a ride on overcaffeinated shorebird surf scout Mikey Abromowitz’s whale, Cody heads for Pen Gu island and the 10th Annual Big Z Memorial Surf-Off. Along the way, he meets Chicken Joe, a goofball surf nut hailing from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, who learned the sport by riding the icy waters and small waves of the Great Lakes.

No sooner have Cody and Joe arrived than Cody falls head over heels for Lani Aliikai, the beguiling surf beach lifeguard on Pen Gu. After an awkward introduction and an even more awkward request for a date, Cody escapes down the beach to save himself further embarrassment... only to run into Tank “The Shredder” Evans, king of the nine previous Big Z Memorial Surf Offs, who is using a monument to Z for target practice. Cody is about to start a fight with the enormous bully when Reggie steps between them and turns the fight into a mini surf-off... which Cody quickly loses in an embarrassing wipeout.

Lani brings the embarrassed (and unconscious) surfer to the home of her friend, Geek, who quickly revives Cody. Soon after, Cody discovers the truth: this weird dude is his idol, Big Z.

The questions come quickly: Why is he alive? How did he get here? What really happened on that last wave? But none of that is important now; the bigger question is: Can Z help him win the championship? Z, frustrated by Cody’s poor surfing, blurts out, “You want to learn to surf the right way, you gotta make your own board.”

Cody’s impatience gets the better of him once again – and despite Big Z’s guiding hand, Cody makes a terrible board. Cody, unable to admit his mistakes, misses the point of Z’s lessons. Needing a break from his mentor, Cody heads off into the jungle – and runs smack into Lani, the pretty lifeguard who rescued him. She invites him to one of her favorite places – the lava tubes that run underneath the island. After an exciting, playful afternoon exploring the tubes, Cody

returns to Z's beach and repeats the steps that Z taught him earlier. This time, ready to heed Z's lessons, Cody creates a perfect board. Z is pleased with what Cody has created, but Cody, still preoccupied with the need to win, asks only how many points you get for being "in the tube" – inside the curl of a wave.

Z continues his teaching – first making Cody practice his surfing on land, and then – *finally!* – in the water. For the first time in 10 years, Z takes a board and dives into the ocean. Z is happier than he's been in years – until Cody asks Z to watch him surf during the competition the next day. Z is disappointed – if Cody still wants to compete, has he been listening at all? But Cody is convinced this is just an excuse for whatever happened ten years earlier. And it's true: Z says that he couldn't win against Tank, and couldn't face going back to the beach as a loser, so he chose to disappear. The young penguin, angry with Z, walks off, not caring what his mentor thinks about the competition.

Cody returns to the surf beach to compete – and shocks the crowd as he shows he is no longer the "wipeout kid" (in Reggie's words) that he was three days ago. With the confidence from his lessons with Z, he is simply taking the waves as they come. As the finals near, he will need to rise to the challenge and prove to Big Z, Lani, and himself what a true winner really is.

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