

# Aladar Dinosaur

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**Aladar Dinosaur** It looks like you're referring to Aladar, the main character from the Disney animated film *Dinosaur* (2000). Here's a quick overview:

## Aladar the Dinosaur

**Species:** Iguanodon

- **Movie:** *Dinosaur* (2000) – a Disney CGI/live-action hybrid film.
- After a meteor shower destroys their home, he leads a group of dinosaurs to the safety of the "Nesting Grounds," facing challenges from predators and a stubborn herd leader named Kron.
- **Personality:** Kind, compassionate, and a natural leader, unlike the more aggressive dinosaurs in the herd.

## Key Characters

- **Neera:** A female Iguanodon who allies with Aladar.
- **Kron:** The aggressive leader of the main dinosaur herd.
- **Bruton:** Kron's loyal but ruthless second-in-command.

## Aladar's Backstory & Character Arc

- **Origin:** Aladar hatches from an egg stolen by a carnivorous Oviraptor. After a meteor shower scatters his egg, he's adopted by Plio, a lemur, and raised on an isolated island.
- **Unique Traits:** Unlike other Iguanodons, Aladar grows up in a peaceful, cooperative environment, making him more empathetic.
- **Role in the Herd:** When the island is destroyed, Aladar joins a migrating dinosaur herd but clashes with Kron, their authoritarian leader, over survival strategies.

## 2. The Dinosaur Herd & Survival Struggle

- The herd's journey to the Nesting Grounds is fraught with danger:
- **Predators:** Carnotaurs (the film's main antagonists) relentlessly hunt the herd.
- **Kron's Leadership:** Kron believes only the strong should survive, abandoning weaker dinosaurs. Aladar challenges this, protecting the elderly (Baylene, a Brachiosaurus) and injured (Eema, a Stygimoloch).
- **Themes:** The film explores unity vs. survival of the fittest, with Aladar representing compassion and adaptability.

## 3. The Lemur Family

- Aladar's adoptive lemur family provides comic relief but also emotional depth:
- **Plio:** The wise, motherly figure who raised Aladar.
- **Zini:** A wisecracking lemur (voiced by Max Casella) who serves as Aladar's best friend.
- **Yar & Suri:** Elderly lemur Yar and young Suri add familial warmth.

## 4. Behind-the-Scenes of *Dinosaur* (2000)

- **Groundbreaking Visuals:** Disney combined CGI dinosaurs with live-action backgrounds filmed in locations like Venezuela and Hawaii.
- **No Dialogue for First 10 Minutes:** The film opens like a Silent Movie, using visuals and music to tell the story.
- **Soundtrack:** Scored by James Newton Howard, featuring tribal and orchestral themes.
- **Controversy:** Some paleontologists criticized the inaccuracies (e.g., lemurs living with dinosaurs).

## 5. Legacy & Trivia

- **Box Office:** Earned \$349 million worldwide but had mixed reviews due to its dark tone.
- **Disney Parks:** The *Dinosaur* ride at Disney's Animal Kingdom (formerly Countdown to Extinction) features similar creatures but isn't directly tied to the film.
- **Alternate Ending:** Early scripts had a bleaker conclusion, with more dinosaurs dying before reaching safety.

Paleontological Accuracy vs. Creative Liberties

- Iguanodon Depiction: Aladar’s design is mostly accurate (thumb spikes, bipedal/quadrupedal movement), but his face is more expressive than real fossils suggest.
- Carnotaurus Accuracy: The film’s Carnotaurs are oversized and more demonic-looking than real ones (which were sleeker, with smaller arms).

Anachronisms:

- Lemurs (like Zini) evolved millions of years after dinosaurs went extinct.
- The film mixes dinosaurs from different eras (e.g., Stygimoloch lived in the Late Cretaceous, while Brachiosaurus was Jurassic).
- Dinosaur Sounds: The roars were created using animal noises (lions, whales, even donkeys) mixed with synthetic effects.

2. The Meteor Apocalypse Scene

- Opening Sequence: One of Disney’s most intense openings, showing the asteroid impact that led to the K-T extinction.
- Realism: The firestorm and tidal waves were based on scientific theories about the Chicxulub impact.
- Controversy: Some parents found it too scary for young kids (similar to The Lion King’s Mufasa scene).

3. The Herd’s Hierarchy & Symbolism

Character	Dinosaur Species	Role in the Herd	Symbolism
Kron	Iguanodon	Ruthless leader	Survival of the fittest, tyranny
Bruton	Iguanodon	Kron’s enforcer	Blind loyalty to flawed authority
Neera	Iguanodon	Kron’s sister, later Aladar’s ally	Transition to a new way of leading
Baylene	Brachiosaurus	Elderly but wise	Strength in gentleness
Eema	Stygimoloch	Grumpy but kind	Resilience of the "outsiders"

4. Cut Content & Early Concepts

- Original Title: The movie was initially called The Lost Continent.
- Darker Scripts: Early drafts had more deaths (including a Carnotaur killing Bruton on-screen).
- Aladar’s Original Design: He was going to have a more rugged, scarred appearance.
- Deleted Subplot: A small Dromaeosaur-like predator stalked the herd in early storyboards.

5. Voice Cast Secrets

- Aladar – D.B. Sweeney (also a live-action actor in The Cutting Edge).
- Plio – Alfre Woodard (Oscar-nominated actress).

6. The Film’s Troubled Production

- Development Hell: The movie was in the works since 1986
- but kept getting delayed due to tech limitations.
- Budget: \$127.5 million (one of Disney's most expensive films at the time).
- Reception: Critics called it "visually stunning but emotionally shallow," though it has gained a cult following.

## 7. Hidden Disney References

- The lemurs' island has a hidden Mickey in the foliage during Aladar's childhood scenes.

## 8. What Could a Sequel Have Been?

- Disney's Unmade Plans: A direct-to-video sequel was discussed, possibly following Aladar and Neera's offspring.
- Comic Continuation: A Disney Adventures comic briefly expanded the story.

## 9. Where to Watch & Experience It Today

- Streaming: Available on Disney+.
- Theme Parks: The Dinosaur ride at Animal Kingdom shares creatures (like the Carnotaur) but has a different plot.
- Merchandise: Rare but sought-after (Aladar plush toys, original soundtrack CDs).

## The Film's Original "Grittier" Script

- Aladar Was Almost Killed Off: Early drafts had a much darker ending
- where Aladar sacrifices himself to save the herd, dying from Carnotaur wounds.
- Neera would then lead the survivors to the Nesting Grounds.
- Kron's Death Was More Graphic:
- Instead of just falling into lava,
- becoming a cautionary figure.

## 2. Deleted Characters & Scenes

- The "Scavenger Dinosaur": A creepy, Velociraptor-like predator was cut.
- Lemur Civil War: A scrapped subplot involved rival lemur tribes on the island, with Zini as a reluctant peacemaker.
- Extended Carnotaur Fight: Aladar was supposed to use his thumb spikes to blind a Carnotaur in a brutal climax.

## 3. Real-World Filming Locations

- The CGI dinosaurs were composited onto live-action footage from:
- Venezuela's Canaima National Park (for the lush island).
- Hawaii's Waimea Canyon (the barren "badlands").
- Western U.S. Deserts (the final Nesting Grounds).
- Fun fact: The team had to digitally remove modern plants (like palm trees) to keep things "prehistoric."

## 4. The Hidden "Easter Egg" Dinosaur

- In the stampede scene, a Pachyrhinosaurus (a relative of Triceratops) briefly appears—a nod to Disney's Dinosaurs TV series (1991), which featured a Pachyrhinosaurus family.

