Anna Mik, "Entry on: My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic (Series, S02E19): Putting Your Hoof Down by Lauren Faust", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2020). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1112. Entry version as of July 12, 2026.

Lauren Faust

My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic (Series, S02E19): Putting Your Hoof Down

United States of America (2012)

TAGS: Minotaur

My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic, Ukrainian Logo by Hasbro, 2017. Retrieved from Wikipedia, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 (accessed: January 26, 2022).

General information	
Title of the work	My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic (Series, S02E19): Putting Your Hoof Down
Studio/Production Company	Hasbro
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	Worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2012
First Edition Details	*Putting Your Foot Down*. Directed by Jayson Thiessen, James Wootton. Script by Lauren Faust, Charlotte Fullerton, Hasbro Studios, 2012.
Running time	23 min
Format	Available as video on demand on Netflix, also DVDs (multiple editions) are available
Date of the First DVD or VHS	Season 2 box set was released on May 14, 2013
Official Website	mylittlepony.hasbro.com (accessed: September 17, 2020)

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Available Onllne	On Netflix (6 seasons, accessed: September 17, 2020). On Amazon Prime (accessed: September 17, 2020). On iTunes (accessed: September 17, 2020).
Genre	Animated films, Television series
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Anna Mik, University of Warsaw, anna.m.mik@gmail.com
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Creators

Lauren Faust, photographed by Rfaust76 on July 1, 2014 (accessed: January 7, 2020). The file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike.

Lauren Faust , b. 1974
(Animator, Producer)

Lauren Faust is the creator of: *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magi*c, a TV-series primarily for children, broadcast in 2011-2019, produced by Hasbro. She also has worked for the Cartoon Network Studios in the production of: *The Powerpuff Girls* (her husband, Craig McCracken, is the creator of this series) and for Warner Bros (she is responsible for the reboot of: *DC Super Hero Girls*). Her philosophical outlook could be described as feminist (as she states herself on social media and in various interviews).

Bio prepared by Anna Mik, University of Warsaw, anna.m.mik@gmail.com

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Additional information

Casting	Twilight Sparkle – Tara Strong, Pinkie Pie/Fluttershy – Andrea Libman, Applejack/Rainbow Dash – Ashleigh Ball, Iron Will – Trevor Devall.
Adaptations	*My Little Pony. Friendship is Magic* is a TV series, with multiple spin-off movies which all together provide the background for toys called "My Little Pony" produced by Hasbro; a similar phenomenon of cross-promotion also occurs in the case of *Monster High* (toys are accompanied by a TV series which reinforces popularity and sales of the toys).
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	The previous episode: *A Friend in Deed*. The next episode: *It's About Time*.
Summary	**Summary of the series** (see here) **Summary of the episode:** The title of the episode *Putting Your Hoof Down* alludes to Fluttershy's struggle (the shy, fragile, vulnerable pony) to stop being a push-over and finally stand-up for herself. To gain more confidence, she attends a workshop led by Iron Will, a minotaur and, most importantly, a motivational speaker, visiting Ponyville. With the help of his catchphrases like: "Don't be shy, look'em in the eye" and "Don't be sorry! Be assertive!" Fluttershy gradually becomes more and more confident. However, at some point the metamorphosis goes too far, and the formerly kind pony, becomes rude and physically aggressive towards other ponies. When she realizes the sudden change, Fluttershy has her own Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde moment: she locks herself in her house, afraid of the "other Fluttershy" revealing herself. Her friends are concerned for her, also due to the fact that Iron Will,

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being a good businessman, comes to collect the payment for the services he provided. The confrontation with the minotaur is a moment of truth for Fluttershy. She does not show her aggressive side, nonetheless, she assertively argues that she was not completely satisfied with the results of Iron Will's training – hence, she will not pay him. Minotaur is sort of impressed with Fluttershy's attitude and agrees with her. The pony finds a balance between being mean and being a doormat. In a way, also thanks to the minotaur, she achieves her initial goal.

Analysis

In *Putting Your Hoof Down* Minotaur is no longer trapped in the maze. He has a name, Iron Will, which reflects his strong personality. What is more, he also has a job. Full of energy, having passed the struggle of his own, he is now on the mission to help others gain confidence to get through their lives. The Minotaur is money hungry, as if the money would by a substitute for human tribute, known from Theseus's myth. Iron Will evolved from the classical "version" of the Minotaur, and knowing his worth, he now conquers the world of business.

Iron Will is a very specific kind of a minotaur. He is still aggressive; however, his aggression is built around the theme of a motivational speaker, characterised by strong charisma and a direct way of speaking. In such a manner, he easily convinces a shy pony to follow the same path as he does and belittle others to build-up his own worth. It would be an addition to the mythical story, in which Minotaur's point of view is not acknowledged at all. Here, Iron Will, still being a monster and a villain, "attacks" others with his ridiculous but persuasive catchphrases, and manipulates young ponies. However, they turn out to be smarter than he anticipated. And that is yet another lesson for Iron Will – to watch-out for little acts of kindness, sometimes more powerful than motivational speeches.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Minotaur

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Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adversity Character traits Emotions Friendship Gaining understanding Morality
Further Reading	Entry: "Minotaur" on Theoi.com (accessed: September 2, 2020). Hodkinson, Owen and Helen Lovatt, "Introduction" in *Classical Reception and Children's Literature: Greece, Rome and Childhood Transformation*, London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018.
Addenda	Translations: Multi-language soundtrack The series proved to be very popular among teenagers and adults as well: fans call themselves: "bronies"; because of this popularity, it could be considered as having reached a crossover audience.

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