

Ninja Tales



Pitch By Jason Spizzo

Overview

Ninja Tales follows the exploits of a small ninja clan as they flounder through missions... and life.



It's not easy for small businesses to succeed these days. This is especially true for Super Stealth, a struggling four person ninja clan that is more bumbling than accomplished. Take one look at their low success rate on missions as well as the hapless members in the group, and it's no wonder why they are a fledgling business.



The Super Stealth Clan in all its... well, let's just call it glory.

Whether it's the indifferent leader more interested in scoring a date or the accident prone second-in-command trying to usurp him between emergency room visits, incompetence permeates through each member of the Super Stealth Clan. The obese weapons specialist is the most capable out of the group, but he loses focus from a whiff of fried foods. Then there's the new guy, whose confidence is shattered after finding out he's filling an often vacated position. This ninja clan shouldn't be trusted to feed your imaginary cat.

Overview

Ninja Tales focuses on the many aspects of ninja life for the Super Stealth Clan. It could be scaling a building to recover a prized artifact or trying to tail that 80 year-old lady in a wheelchair – no task is too easy or convoluted to screw up. The group must also endure the business side of being a ninja clan. This includes performance reviews, cuts to the weapons budget, and fighting carpal tunnel (perhaps the only thing this outfit can quell).



Headquarters for the Super Stealth Clan, located on Gaiden Blvd.



"A mission that wasn't a complete failure!?
Up top!"

Episodes of **Ninja Tales** will be 11 minutes in length. They will have a 2D cartoony look, supplemented with 3D objects and environments. It is a comedy but will also have elements of action (because they're ninjas) as well as drama (because they're people). Even though primarily episodic in nature, there will occasionally be call backs to previous events and characters from past episodes.

Cold Steel

Cold Steel is the founder and de facto leader of the Super Stealth Clan – a position he definitely isn't qualified for. It's not clear if he's unaware or just indifferent to his right hand man's desire to take over as leader. Cold Steel is more interested scoring a date for the night than double checking mission intel. Between overlooking the fact that the enemies they're about to ambush carry flame throwers and refusing to turn off his cell phone while tailing their already suspicious target, the group's success suffers from his propensity to cut corners.



Cold Steel scaling the wall of futility... and sending out a Tweet.

The Super Stealth Clan is ultimately his business to run so Cold Steel is forced to keep the group somewhat in check. It's also his responsibility to handle all of the administrative aspects. This includes communicating the cuts in the weapons budget to everybody. Hopefully he'll remember to tell them the throwing stars are now made of Styrofoam before the mission begins.

Quick Stab



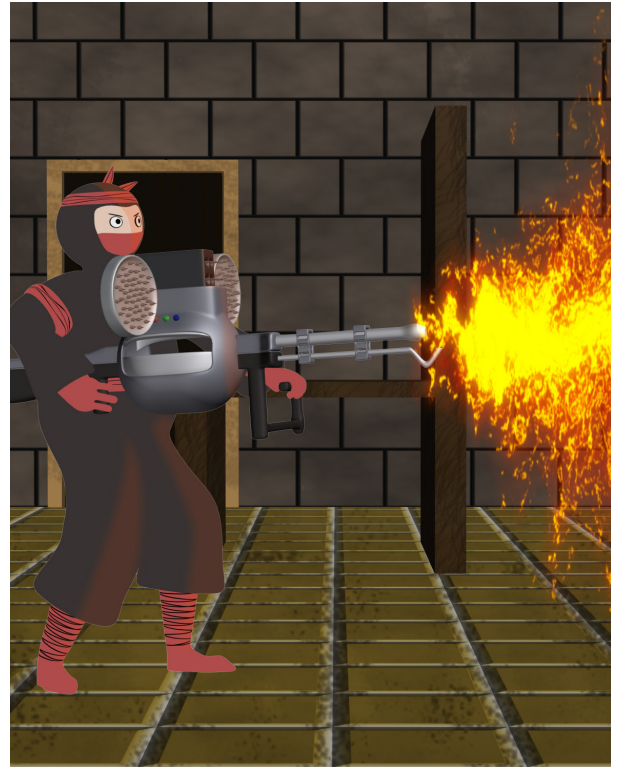
Quick Stab accidentally dousing himself with knockout gas... again.

Quick Stab might be the clan's second-in-command, but if he had his way, he would be its leader. He'd operate the Super Stealth Clan much differently... at least that's what he says – he never seems to go into any detail when asked. Despite his not-so-secret desires to supplant Cold Steel, Quick Stab is unable to follow through on his ambitions because his ADD keeps getting in the way. Besides, even though he won't admit it, he needs Cold Steel around to keep him at least slightly focused.

It's probably best Quick Stab doesn't take over as leader since he's also incredibly clumsy. Not very proficient with the clan's weapons, many of his numerous emergency room visits are self-induced. A penchant for being at the wrong place at the wrong time, Quick Stab learned the hard way why ninjas wear protective cups... compliments of a malfunctioning grappling hook. It's just another reason why his insurance premiums are the highest among the group.

Walrus

Walrus is Super Stealth's overzealous weapon specialist. Always on the lookout for that next great weapon, he'll ignore safety concerns if it provides the clan with a little extra power... or looks cool. But don't let his appearance fool you – Walrus' skillful aim with throwing stars and his ability to wield daggers easily makes him the most adept ninja out of the bunch – although that doesn't really say all that much.



We're not sure if Walrus is showing off a new weapon or preparing his dinner.

Walrus' abilities are underappreciated by the clan, having to routinely put up with fat jokes. He often considers leaving Super Stealth for a more successful clan. Although there is truth to the group's heckling – food is his one true weakness. Rather than just trusting his gut, Walrus tends to let it lead him. Without thinking it through, he'll eat a Mexican dinner before a stakeout mission in a confined space. His focus gets particularly shattered when pizza or fried chicken gets mentioned.

New Guy



New Guy using a smoke bomb for his escape, possibly from this job.

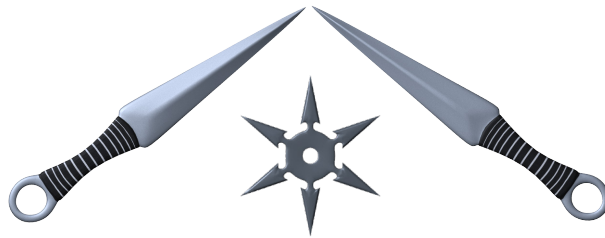
New Guy is a rotating character that fills the often vacant position within the Super Stealth Clan. Whether it's due to resignation, termination, or death; this position has a high turnover rate. As such, the other three ninjas simply call him New Guy. They won't bother learning his real name – at least until he reaches the elusive two week mark of employment... something that hasn't happened in years.

New Guy will maintain different personalities (and voices) from episode to episode. However, each version will possess a level of apprehensiveness due to the history of their role. Whether forced to scale a building despite a fear of heights or lead the charge to attack a group of skilled samurai, New Guy's uneasiness is warranted; and it's clear why each one ends up losing their confidence... and all end up sharing a similar fate.

Episodes

Below are examples of potential episode storylines:

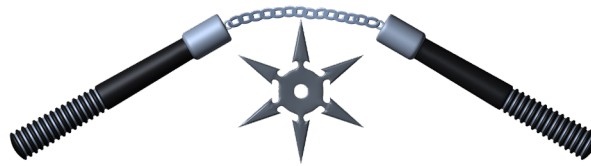
- When Cold Steel arrives at the mission's rendezvous point to find nobody else there, he calls each member of the team to determine their whereabouts. With the mission's location inconvenient and directive not very exciting, they each give a fake (and rather weak) excuse. Needing the money, Cold Steel decides to complete it himself... with less than successful results.
- When their car breaks down en route to a mission, the group visits a dealership for a new company vehicle. The pushy salesman informs them that their poor credit will only allow them to purchase an obvious lemon. As a result, the clan devises a plan to steal their desired car... with less than ideal results.



- After hearing one too many fat jokes, an unappreciated Walrus contacts a recruiter and lands a new job with one of the top ninja clans in the area. His old co-workers quickly realize Walrus' value and obtains a better appreciation for him. Meanwhile, Walrus struggles to fit in with his new surroundings and begins to miss his old team.
- The group faces legal action over several recent incidents – including being sued for damages arising from a failed mission, a suit for discrimination, and a sexual harassment claim. To cover the expected legal costs, they fire New Guy. The clan is unsurprisingly hit with a wrongful termination lawsuit and must try to get out of it.
- When Cold Steel takes a shining to the newly hired New Guy, Quick Stab worries his role as Second-In-Command is in jeopardy. Jealous of this new relationship, Quick Stab tries to sabotage his new adversary's efforts within the group. Unfortunately, the results unintentionally paint New Guy in an even better light than before.

Episodes

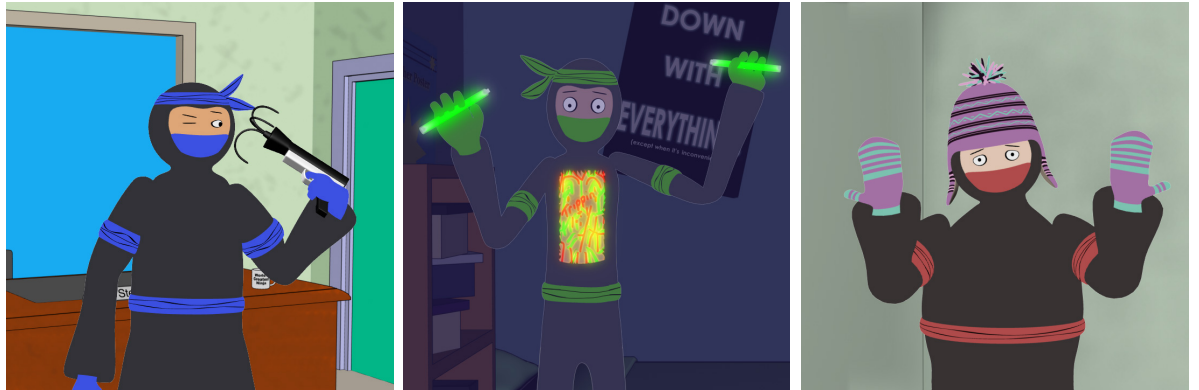
- While trying to steal a priceless artifact, the group runs into their rivals – a much more successful ninja clan – also vying for the relic. Before either can claim the prize, it gets taken by their sworn enemy... a group of samurai. As a result, the two clans agree to join forces to take down a common foe.
- Fearing for his safety when the new arsenal of weapons arrives, New Guy transfers to Human Resources. In addition to being a hit with everybody in his new department, he enacts several company-wide administrative and policy changes. These alterations to Operations impact and irk his previous co-workers.



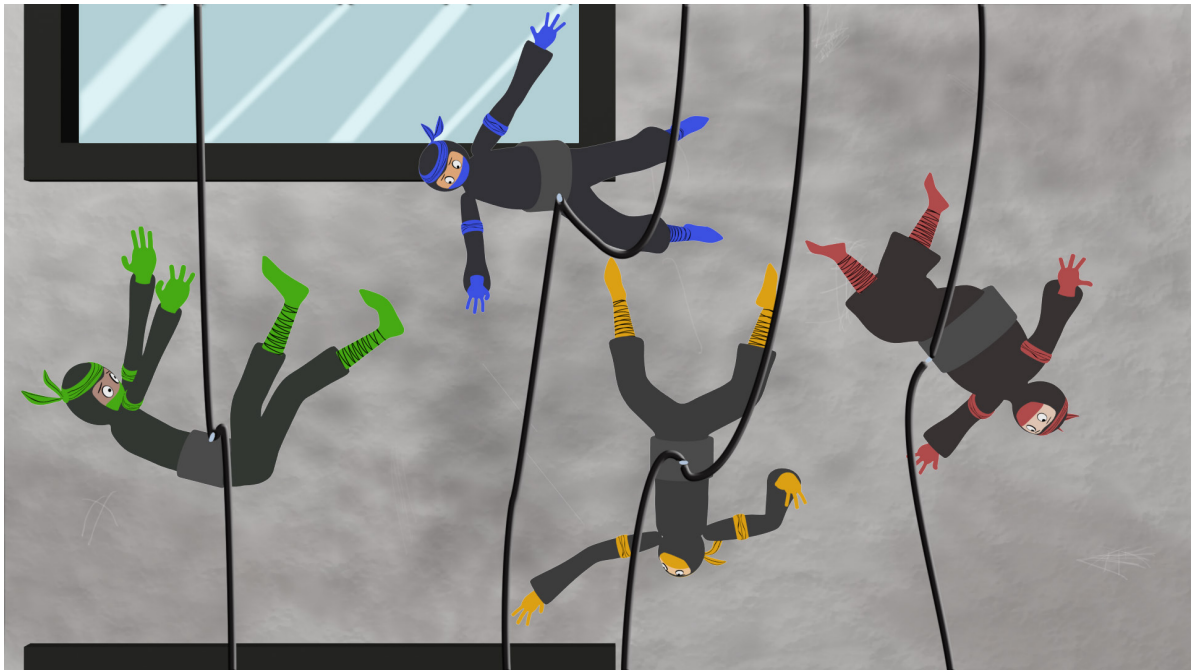
- When a consultant is brought in to perform an internal audit of the clan's operations, everyone questions their job security but also becomes infatuated with her beauty. As a result, the group tries their best to make a lasting impression on the auditor – both professionally and personally – failing in each aspect.
- After financial cuts significantly reduce the weapon's budget, a fuming Walrus successfully gets accounting to reallocate funds. Unfortunately he finds out the source of this new money is the food allowance. When he cannot reconcile the funding for both, Walrus must decide what he values more: weapons or food.
- During a reconnaissance mission – in which Cold Steel suspiciously stays back at the office but remains in contact – Quick Stab recognizes the target as an ex-girlfriend of Cold Steel's. Upset at the misuse of company resources for personal reasons, Quick Stab feeds false information to make Cold Steel jealous. This invokes an impulsive response from Cold Steel.

Artwork

How about a little more sample artwork? Oh... well it's below in case you change your mind.

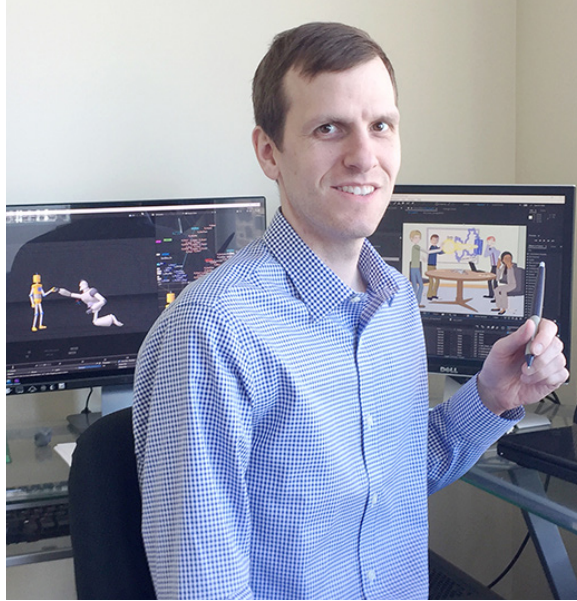


So you would totally hire these guys, right?



Yeah, we didn't think so either.

About Jason



Jason trying to look busy... and a little sexy (but mostly busy).

Jason Spizzo works as a freelance motion graphics artist and animator in Chicago. He has experience with both 2D and 3D animation. Jason also spends his time writing. In addition to having studied writing at The Second City, Jason co-wrote several sketch shows that have been produced and mildly enjoyed around Chicago. He also plays guitar, piano, and drums.

Jason hopes to someday conquer his fear of granulated sugar. In the meantime, he continues to avoid bakeries at all costs. He can be reached via email or phone:

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