

THE CAT PIANO

PROJECT INFO

The Cat Piano is an 8-minute short film directed by Eddie White and Ari Gibson. The Cat Piano features the voice of iconic Australian artist Nick Cave narrating a poem written by Eddie White. Nick Cave recorded the narration whilst in Melbourne in 2007 while on tour with his band, The Grinderman.

The film was jointly produced by Jessica Brentnall and The People's Republic of Animation.

The film is adapted from a poem written by Co-director Eddie White who envisioned Nick Cave as his first choice for narrating the poem which blends Jack Kerouac inspired beat poetry with the romantic and haunting poems of Edgar Allen Poe.

The film's graphic 2D look is achieved by animating the entire film by hand in Adobe Photoshop, drawing with Wacom tablets directly into the computer. This highly versatile technique of animation is quickly becoming a signature style at The People's Republic of Animation's 2D department headed by Ari Gibson, the film's co-director.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A city of singing cats is preyed upon by a shadowy figure intent on performing a twisted feline symphony.

LONG SYNOPSIS

In a city of singing cats, a lonely beat poet falls for a beautiful siren.

When a mysterious dark figure emerges, kidnapping the town's singers for his twisted musical plans, the poet must save his muse and put an end to a nefarious symphony that threatens to destroy the city.

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Eddie White

As co-founder and Creative Director at The People's Republic of Animation (PRA) Eddie has provided much of the creative spark behind the studio's films, writing, designing and directing.

Eddie co-directed *Fritz Gets Rich* (2005) and *Carnivore Reflux* (2006) with fellow PRA director/DOP, James Calvert. *Carnivore Reflux* was awarded the best animation award at Australia's people's choice of film 'The IF Awards' in 2006.

In 2007, Eddie wrote and directed the short film *Sweet & Sour* a short-film co-production with The Shanghai Animation Film Studio.

Eddie also wrote and co-directed the animated TV series pilot; *I was a Teenage Butterfly* (2007), for Nickelodeon Australia

Ari Gibson

Art Director at the People's Republic of Animation. Ari's visual styles and versatility have been undeniably influential working on films such as *Carnivore Reflux* (2006),

Dust Echoes: Whirlpool (2006), *Sweet & Sour* (2007) and many commercial and television projects at the PRA.

Ari's animation directorial debut came in 2007 when he co-directed the animated TV series pilot; *I was a Teenage Butterfly* (2007), with Eddie White, for Nickelodeon Australia.

PRODUCERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Jessica Brentnall

Jessica began her career in the Fashion Industry as a stills producer at Vogue Australia. Following Vogue, Jessica worked in Public Relations for Louis Vuitton. During this time she also freelanced as a stills producer for publications Vanity Fair and the Italian, I O Donna.

Jessica made the transition to Film in 2000 on the Australian drama, Rabbit-Proof Fence. The following year Jessica founded Magic Films. In its first year Magic Films produced the feature length documentary, The Walk, which had a theatrical and television release. Jessica also developed the special film project, POV (Point Of View). POV was launched in 2002 and was presented by Magic Films in association with Working Title Australia.

During the two years that POV ran in Australia, Jessica commissioned and Executive Produced 14 short dramas and theatrically released (in Australia) both POV 2002 and POV 2003 as anthology feature films. Writers of POV included Australian writer Brendan Cowell and the UK author of Pobby & Dingan/ Opal Dreams, Ben Rice. Directors of POV films included Clayton Jacobson, Nash Edgerton, Andrew Lancaster, Garth Davis, Anthony Hayes, Jeremy Cumpston and Elissa Down. Individual POV films went on to screen in festivals around the world, including Sundance.

In 2007 Jessica initiated, PULSE, a compilation of new Australian short films (9) that screened in Sydney in December 2007 and at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles in January 2008 as part of Australia Week (G'DAY USA). Magic Films presented PULSE with the Film Finance Corporation Australia and United Talent Agency (USA).

Magic Films now develops a slate of feature film and television projects and is busy working towards the international relaunch of POV, which writer Stuart Beattie (Collateral, Pirates of Caribbean) has written the screenplay for.

Projects in development include a film adaptation of the Australian novel Swallow the Air, to be directed by Garth Davis and written by Fiona Seres (Love My Way), and the television series spin off to the critically acclaimed 2005 film, The Magician, with actor/writer/director, Scott Ryan, which is being developed with SBS.

For more information on Jessica Brentnall or Magic Films please contact magicfilms@bigpond.com

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANIMATION

The People's Republic of Animation (PRA) is an award-winning studio creating world class work that gets a reaction.

Our Diverse team of directors, writers, artists and producers all agree on one thing; that when it comes to creating great work, we would rather offend some than impress none.

DIRECTORS' FILMOGRAPHIES

Eddie White

- 2009 - **THE CAT PIANO** (Co-Director)
- 2007 - **I WAS A TEENAGE BUTTERFLY – ‘Battle of the Bug Bands’** -
for Nickelodeon Australia (Writer/Co-Director)
- 2007 - **THE GHASTLY GOURMET COOKING SHOW ‘Meat, Meat, Meat’**
– for Nickelodeon Australia (Writer/Co-director)
- 2007 - **SWEET & SOUR** (Writer/Director)
- 2006 - **DUST ECHOES: WHIRLPOOL** (Character Designer)
DUST ECHOES: MERMAID STORY (Character Designer)
- 2006 - **CARNIVORE REFLUX** (Writer/Co-Director)
- 2005 - **CLOWN PRINCE** (*Music Video*) (Writer/Co-Director)
- 2005 - **ERRORISM: A COMEDY OF TERRORS** (Writer/Director)
- 2005 - **FRITZ GETS RICH** (Writer/Co-Director)
- 2003 - **THE BOMB (SIXXX LEGS)** (*Music Video*) (Writer/Director)

Ari Gibson

- 2009 - **THE CAT PIANO** (Co-Director)
- 2007 - **I WAS A TEENAGE BUTTERFLY – ‘Battle of the Bug Bands’** –
for
Nickelodeon Australia (Co-Director)

- 2007 - **SWEET & SOUR** (Art Director/2D Animation Director)
- 2006 - **DUST ECHOES: WHIRLPOOL** (Art Director)
DUST ECHOES: MERMAID STORY (character designer)
- 2006 - **CARNIVORE REFLUX** (Art Director)