



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

The UK's largest rural film festival

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Up! (U)

Director: Pete Docter

With the voices of: Ed Asner, Jordan Nagai, Christopher Plummer
USA, 2009.

1 hour 36 minutes

One of the most prominent creative forces in the Pixar-led animation renaissance that swept through Hollywood in the 1990s and early- to mid-2000s, Pete Docter first gravitated to animation at the age of eight by creating his own animated flip-books. He then attended the character animation college program at Valencia-based CalArts. Docter excelled in that venue and attracted attention for his widely praised student shorts, including *Next Door* (for which he won the student equivalent of an Academy Award). Then went to work for Disney, the Minneapolis-based Reelworks, Bajus-Jones Film Corporation, and Bob Rogers & Company. He served as animator and screenwriter on Pixar's 1995's *Toy Story*, served as storyboard artist on the 1998 *A Bug's Life*, and authored the screen story for the 1999 *Toy Story 2*, before authoring the story and co-directing the 2001 *Monsters, Inc.*, for which he also authored the story. In 2009, Docter directed the Pixar feature *Up!*, and his work on the screenplay earned him an Academy Award nomination, and the film itself became the first to be nominated in the same year for Best Animated Feature and Best Picture.

'The initial kernel was based on that desire that I feel a lot to escape the world. There are plenty of days when you hate humanity, you're so sick to death of everybody and you want to get away – and then at the end, you realize well, that's what really makes the world go 'round, is human connection. So just kind of exploring that theme, and the idea of floating away, was kind of the genesis of the whole discovery of the movie.'

"I think to me that was the most fun of the film and in a way a really powerful and hopeful kind of theme. Similar to Rick in *Casablanca* or Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* for that matter, it's finding characters that have lost their sense of purpose and really coming back to life. There's something really powerful about that, and we hoped that early on, once he starts caring about this kid that he becomes kind of an action hero and then we got to play with all of the conventions of what comes with those type of films but with the opportunities for doing something that we'd never explored before."

Pete Docter

Sources: www.allmovie.com/artist/pete-docter-201589/bio and
www.cinematical.com/2009/05/27/interview-up-director-pete-docter/

Winner of BAFTA for Best Animated Film 2010

Notes compiled by Jennifer Booton

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