

Behind The Bars

An Animated Short Film Directed Neely Goniodsky

An African-American man struggles for self-expression in a world dead-set on oppressing him. Based on a poem by Edward Smyth Jones.

Synopsis

Short

Based on the poem by Edward Smyth Jones, "Behind the Bars" tells the story of Jones' life of oppression, moving from his early childhood, when he began writing, through the prejudice he faced as an African-American intellectual, through to the end of his life, when his writing became instrumental to depicting the life of his community, previously ignored.

Long

Throughout the course of his life, poet Edward Smyth Jones faces an uphill battle through the oppression that the institutions of the world hold against men of his race. As the obstacles surmount and things begin to seem hopeless, he turns to the written word to find solace in his experience - finding meaning in his struggle and passing down the story of his life in order to teach future generations how to find comfort in a life hindered by inexplicable prejudices.

Director – Neely Goniodosky



Neely Goniodosky has directed and animated over twenty short films including productions at the National Film Board of Canada, and Seattle University. She has received numerous Canada Council and CALQ production grants for my work, many of which have been touring the world and have been screened in many international film festivals including the Ottawa International Animation Film Festival, and Animafest, Zagreb. She earned her BA at Concordia University, Montreal, and her MA at the Royal College of Art in London. She is interested in abstract narrative and visual experimentation, attempting to translate obscure reality into visual poetry throughout her work. she explores a combination of traditional animation techniques including ink and paint on paper, cut-out collage, under the camera animation, 2D computer animation and compositing.

Composer – Omar Rojas Ruíz



Omar began his studies in music composition in the year 2000 and hasn't looked back since, spending the past 15 years teaching and mastering various facets of the compositional process, including through extensive studies such as "Music and Mathematics - Focusing on Numerical Systems of pre-Colombian Middle America," and "Different Applications of the Fibonacci Sequence through Music Composition." In 2011 he was awarded the top prize of the VII Concurso de Composición Musical Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain), and since 2010 has performed as a guitarist, composer and arranger in the Traditional Latin American Music Ensemble "Vámonos!" in the Czech Republic.

In 2014 he was named President of the Jury during the Song Festival of the prestigious Mexican university "Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey Campus Queretaro and as musical director of the theater play "Cada quien su Lara." Last year, his works "Terra" and "Ignis" were commissioned and premiered by the Hong Kong Guitar Ensemble at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre; He successfully performed at the Hong Kong University Museum and the Octavio Paz Gallery of the Mexican Consulate in Hong Kong, and his music has been performed all around Europe as well as the United States.

Narrator - Brian Capshaw



Brian has 15 years of experience as a character voice actor, working with clients such as Paramount, Nickelodeon, 20th Century Fox, and NBC/Jerry Bruckheimer Productions. His voice work tends to convey likability in a conversational, intelligent, and down-to-earth tone, expressing smooth and boyish mischievousness without any hint of coldness. In his spare time, Brian is an acting and voiceover coach.

Producer - Max Rothman



Right out of the University of Miami, Max worked in the post-production department of NBC News as part of the editing team for the Today Show and Dateline. After a year and half there, he took his talents to the freelance world, producing and editing content for musicians, emerging talents in the New York comedy scene, and some of today's brightest up-and-coming filmmakers, all under his Monticello Park Productions banner. He also writes and directs his own short films which have shown at the New York International Film Festival, and the Seattle Shorts Festival - among others.

Director's Statement

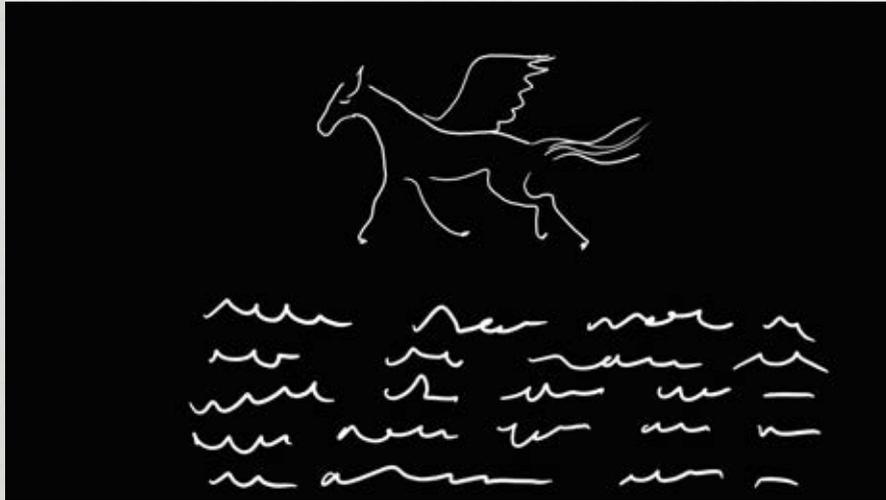
I wanted the film to illustrate the poet's autobiography and his struggle with racial discrimination. The further I went into my research I was appalled to realize how little has changed in the span of a century. In the film, I made a point to tie Jones' autobiography to current events, because his plea for justice and equality has yet to be answered and is at the forefront of the American conversation right now.

To visually represent Jones' struggle, I used a combination of 2D computer, hand drawn and under the camera animation techniques. I incorporate textures, fabric, and earth, objects that would have been accessible to the poet during his lifetime. I combined those tangible elements with frame-by-frame hand drawn line to create dynamic scenes, freely morphing from one image to the next. The freedom of the line drawing expresses Jones' abundant imagination, and intense inspiration to write even during his most difficult moments.

Stills



Stills



Technical Specifications

Running time | 4 minutes, 7 seconds

Animation Technique | 2D Computer, frame by frame hand-drawings on a digital platform and under the camera animation

Software | TV Paint, Dragonframe, Adobe After Effects

Language | English, no subtitles

Country of origin | USA

Color/B&W | Color

Screening formats | JPEG-2000, H.264

Aspect Ratio: | 16:9

Sound | Stereo 2.0

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