



The FOX and the CHICKADEE

"THE FOX & THE CHICKADEE" KATHY PHILSON PAUL ASPLAND
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY BRAM GIELEN ART DIRECTOR WINSTON HACKING PUPPETS BY GRAHAM READ VISUAL EFFECTS BY PHILIP EDDOLLS
STORY BY EVAN DERUSHIE & ZAZU MYERS CO-WRITER DANIEL WARTH DIRECTED BY EVAN DERUSHIE

THE FOX AND THE CHICKADEE

Short Film. 7 minutes 35 seconds.

Aspect: 1.85, DCP or Digital file

5.1 Surround Sound

French language version available

CONTACT:

Evan DeRushie - WRITER / DIRECTOR

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TRAILER:

www.vimeo.com/41787486



FESTIVALS AND OTHER SCREENINGS

- Montreal World Film Festival 2012
- Telefilm Canada's *Not Short on Talent*, France. 2012
- Bristol *Encounters* 2012
- Ottawa Intl. Animation Film Festival 2012
- Burlington Animation Festival 2012
- SoDak Animation Festival 2012
- Montreal Stop Motion Film Festival 2012
- Austin Film Festival 2012
- Telefilm Canada's *Perspective Canada* in Tokyo 2012
- Festival du court metrage Clermont-Ferrand 2013
- Madeira Film Festival 2013
- New York International Children's Film Festival 2013
- Vancouver *Real 2 Reel* 2013
- *Viewfinders* Atlantic Film Festival for Youth 2013
- TIFF Kids International Film Festival 2013
- *Flatpack* Film Festival, Birmingham UK 2013
- Milwaukee Film Festival 2013
- Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia 2013
- LUCAS 36th International Children's Film Festival 2013
- Aye Aye Film Festival, Nancy 2013
- Melbourne International Animation Festival 2013
- Curtas Vila do Conde International Film Festival 2013
- Waterfront Film Festival 2013
- Seoul Cartoon & Animation Festival (SICAF) 2013
- Australian International Animation Festival 2013
- Toronto Animated Film Festival International (TAAFI) 2013
- Boston International Children's Film Festival 2013
- Northwest Animation Festival 2013
- Anney International Animation Film Festival 2013



The filmmakers'-panel at Ottawa International Animation Festival (DeRushie, second-to-left)



Evan and the Fox at TIFF Kids, 2013

SYNOPSIS



illustration Winston Hacking

When a lone chickadee finds himself caught in a trap by a hungry fox, he bargains for his life by proposing a plan.

This charming stop-motion animated fable tells the story of a starving fox and a cunning chickadee, and their standoff in the woods. When the fox comes across the chickadee caught in a trap, with a bell ringing at his side, he sees an easy meal. But the chickadee warns him that the bell is a signal to the farmer who set this trap, and that if he doesn't cut the bell down quickly, the farmer's dog will find them and catch them both. The fox concedes and cuts down the bell, but holds the chickadee captive for himself.

Just about to be eaten, the chickadee turns the tables. He catches the fox's attention with a plan involving the crooked farmer who set the trap, and his chicken coop. The chickadee promises a feast for the fox, but there's a catch: he'll need the chickadee's help to get there.

Told in the style of Aesop's original fables, this short film by emerging director Evan DeRushie features a mix of classic puppet animation and layered paper cut-outs. It's a clever battle of wits between two wild animals, which asks the question: can either of them be trusted when their lives are at stake?



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



For my first film as a director, I wanted to create the kind of classic animated film that inspired me in the first place. So I turned to some of the oldest and simplest stories for inspiration: Aesop's Fables- many of which are still relevant today. My story borrows some common elements from the original fables (the sly fox, a moral debate, etc.) but with a personal touch of my own- the chickadee. Not only a common sight to me growing up in southern Ontario, Canada, but as I've learned, also greatly underappreciated for its intelligence. A worthy match for the fox in my opinion.

Stop-motion animation is a technique that I've loved and practiced for the better part of my life. As a child, I remember being mesmerized by the textures and characters on the BBC's *The Wind and the Willows*. There was a very real

and direct connection that I felt, and it wasn't long before I was trying to bring inanimate objects to life; to make that same tangible connection with an audience.



While the animation process might seem tedious to some, the patience that I've learned over the years has shaped me as an artist. Working on mere seconds each day allows me to really dive in to the world of the film, and get to know the characters from the inside out.

PRODUCTION STORY

PRODUCTION



This is DeRushie's first short film, although it has been in development for many years. The studio and workshop space for the production were provided by **Cuppa Coffee Studios** in Toronto, Ontario- one of the largest full service stop-motion facilities in the world. The small but specialized crew had all previously worked at Cuppa in broadcast television animation. Shooting began in a heat-wave in July 2011, and ended in late December.

MAKING-OF VIDEOS

A series of video featurettes about the puppets, forest set, and animation process can be seen here:

www.evanderushie.com/thefoxandthechickadee.php

FUNDRAISING

Partial funding was generated by an IndieGoGo internet crowd-funding campaign. By selling advance copies of the DVD, animation classes, and other perks (including an aerial-circus lesson), the campaign was able to raise over \$2,000.

The film also received financial help from the National Film Board of Canada, in the form of their "Filmmaker's Assistance Program."



top: Beneath fur and feathers, the puppets are delicately machined.

above: A frame from the IndieGoGo pitch video for the film- a single choreographed shot with paper puppetry and an aerial-circus silks performer. To see the video, go to: www.vimeo.com/24851766

left: Animator Michael DeCrook at work animating the fox.

BIOGRAPHIES

EVAN DERUSHIE *writer/director/ animator*

After graduating from the film and television program at Sheridan Collage, Evan has been consistently creating new and original work. He has worked as a professional animator at Cuppa Coffee Studios on multiple TV series, and with the National Film Board of Canada on a stereoscopic short film called *The Circling Sea Turtle*. His involvement in the animation scene has extended to running workshops with TIFF, The Toronto Animated Images Society, StoryPlanet and Sheridan College.

Outside of stop-motion, he continues to experiment with music videos and inventive filmmaking techniques of all kinds. Whether it's a crowd-based paper rotoscope project, or a ride through a model railroad from the perspective of a miniature train, Evan is continually trying to push his craft into uncharted territory- and have fun doing it.

While growing up as an animator in a professional TV studio environment, he was developing his own short film on the side- a fable titled *The Fox and the Chickadee*. In 2011 he produced, directed and animated the film, with the help of Cuppa Coffee and the NFB.

All of this work can be seen on his website: www.evanderushie.com



KATHY PHILSON *Chickadee*

This is Kathy's animation debut as well as her first time playing a bird. Her television and film credits include *Man Overboard*, *Horse Talkers*, *The Devil's Condo* and *Brandon*. Kathy has played the role of Laura in fifteen different productions of *The Glass Menagerie*.

PAUL ASPLAND *Fox*

Paul Aspland has worked in the entertainment industry for three decades. He has acted extensively in Canada, the UK and the US enjoying everything immensely, but retaining a special fondness for the animation characters he has played. While he enjoys acting, his time for the past twenty years has been devoted in the main to writing, directing, and producing a variety of projects in most genres.

CREDITS

Writer/Director/Lead Animator Evan DeRushie

Co-writer Daniel Warth

Additional story Zazu Myers

Chickadee Kathy Philson

Fox Paul Aspland

Character design Nataly Kim

Puppets/armatures Graham Read

Feathers/fur Bonnie Burns

Flocking Karen Valleau

Lighting technician Andrew Sneyd

Additional animation Mike DeCroock, Philip Eddolls

2D animation Jeremy Murphy

Sets Winston Hacking

Props Martin MacPherson

Paper design & build Zazu Myers

Paper assistance Kailee Clayton

Compositing Philip Eddolls, Evan DeRushie

Sound Mix/Master Mike Rowland

Additional sound Kevin Munro

Composer Bram Gielen

Cello Hunter Coblentz

Clarinet Caitlin Derosenroll

Violin Stefanie Hutka, Emma Vachon-Tweney

FRENCH LANGUAGE VERSION:

Script translator Emilie Begin

Chickadee Emilie Begin

Fox Stanley Begin



Nataly Kim

