



the **CURIOUS CHILD** ANIMATED SHORT

AVAILABLE FOR FESTIVAL SCREENINGS FROM JUNE 2019

the **CURIOUS**

ABOUT A **SHORT** FILM BY HOWARD VAUSE

PRESS KIT

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Cartoon Animator **4**

[FB.ME/CURIOUS.CHILD.MOVIE](https://fb.me/curious.child.movie)

[WWW.HOWARDVAUSEFILMS.COM](http://www.howardvausefilms.com)



HOWARD VAUSE FILMS

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NOTE: Clicking images in this document will allow user access a Dropbox folder for downloads.



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FILM TYPE ANIMATED SHORT
GENRE NARRATIVE FANTASY
RUNTIME 3 MINS 16 SECS
COMPLETION DATE MAY 2019
PRODUCTION BUDGET £1600
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UK
COUNTRY OF FILMING: UK
FILM LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
SHOOTING FORMAT: DIGITAL
ASPECT RATIO: 16:9
FILM COLOUR: COLOUR

WRITER • DIRECTOR • ANIMATOR

HOWARD VAUSE

BEST COMIC ANIMATION | REALLUSION 2018*

NARRATED BY

BETHAN DIXON BATE

BEST FEMALE VOICE PERFORMANCE • VOX AWARDS 2018

ORIGINAL MUSIC

PJ LEONARD



SYNOPSIS AND LOGLINE

Entirely accessible and entertaining, *The Curious Child* is addressed to the child in us all. Philosophy and social satire are woven into a joyful reflection on life, death and the feminine principle. The film is most of all about our ability to live in peace and balance on this earth.

LOGLINE For anyone who's ever asked - why?

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A quizzical child asks a question so big - it will take a lifetime - to forget.

MEDIUM SYNOPSIS

A small girl asks a big question. But who can answer? The Travelling Carnival perhaps? Or the tiny caterpillar? Can the wise old woman even remember the question?

LONG SYNOPSIS

A small girl with a very big question! But who can answer? The Carnival folk perhaps. Surely the Man-who-seems-to-be-in-charge must know. The curious child becomes a wise old woman with a very old question. Until one night an unexpected visitor may at last have an answer. But can she even remember what the question is?

AWARDS PRAISE & REVIEWS



“...a thing of great beauty, fearlessly and eloquently capturing the innocence of childhood, whilst simultaneously sloshing knee deep in the dark and shadowy trenches of the human psyche.”

Kate Maryon

Children's Author & Speaker

“Its essential beauty and dreamlike quality give the feeling of depth while keeping the story simple. A profound little film and I was left hungry for more.”

Bill Palmer ADPT M.Sc. MRSST

Course Director

School for Experiential Education

“An extraordinary, truly stunning film. Visually beautiful- vivid, bold and whimsical. Nightmarish in places and consistently thought provoking - like the telling of a folk tale complemented by evocative - almost invisible music.

Teresa Cotterell

Chief Librarian

“Ominous and beautiful to look at, it has an hypnotic quality, layer upon layer upon layer of imagery and meaning. Utterly absorbing.”

Tracey Ashford

Creative Arts & Media Management

“...achieves the essential yet difficult feat of conveying a huge amount in a small space with a lightness of touch that sweetens the issues at hand without dampening their philosophical clout.”

Sally Roberts

FRAME LIGHT Short Focus Film Festival

“The Curious Child is a marvellous mechanical picture book of shadows... visually stunning: an animated photorealistic graphic novel bursting into twitching life.”

Eddie Young

Children's Author

THE CURIOUS CHILD – ACT ONE (AN EARLY VERSION OF FIRST 60 SECONDS)
BEST COMIC ANIMATION (FIRST) | REALLUSION 2018

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

This award-winning entry stands as a prime example of what can be achieved with creativity and passion. This film is both phenomenal and artistic, employing hand-drawn original characters, complimented with warm colours, tones, outstanding sound and original music.



HOWARD VAUSE

WRITER DIRECTOR ANIMATOR



NOTE: Photos on this page link to downloadable images in Dropbox

Howard is a prolific filmmaker, animator, illustrator, musician and performer. His distinctive films bring together the beautiful and the grotesque; shadow and light; playful live action/animation hybrids telling layered, socially aware tales. Commissioned works include award winning theatrical multimedia, VideoPoetry and multiple collaborations with education, activism, arts and community organisations.

Born Scunthorpe, North Lincs, England, 1962. Now lives and works in Frome, Somerset, UK.

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At school Bethan's two outstanding talents were running very fast and reading out loud. Happily she has found a way of making a living out of reading out loud.

She adores reading out loud and you can hear her doing it on television, on radio, on the internet, in videogames, short films and documentaries, in commercials, in audio-books, museum audio-guides and telephone answering machines and some other places you might not expect (such as the heavy metal rock band Sabaton's next album). She even won two awards for it at VOX 2018.

Better than running for a living.

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BEST FEMALE VOICE PERFORMANCE · VOX AWARDS 20



BETHAN DIXON BATE

VOICE ARTIST

PJ LEONARD

COMPOSER and MUSICIAN

Multi-instrumentalist PJ has created music for audio visual apps (Viking and National Gallery, Oslo), guided meditation, film and his own folkish ensemble "Borrowed Light" <https://borrowedlight.uk/>. He also develops more experimental audio works for project such as *The Breathing Stone* which generates music from the heart beat of those who hold it [funded by REACT <https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/projects/react>]. He is currently experimenting with generative music and developing software that generates music for dancers interactively.



BACKSTORY

In 2018, an early version of the first minute of the film was awarded Best Comic Animation by Reallusion – a software developer seeking outstanding exemplars for their 2D animation product. The \$2K prize money enabled completion by June 2019. Recent awards for *Best Film* and *Best Director* (CKF International Film Festival) have granted a welcome IMDb listing.

Voice actor Bethan Dixon Bate [*VOX Awards Winner 2018*] saw a cut with its original male narration. Bethan loved it - but offered to re-voice with a performance that would elevate the film's feminine-principle driven energy and perspective.

Q: Does the film have a theme or message?

A: Of course - lots! The meaning of life/death for starters. The masculine/feminine principle, Man versus Nature...

Q: Who is the intended audience for the film?

A: It's aimed at adults - their inner child. It has some quite dark moments. It is a very simple story, told from the child's perspective. Anyone who likes a good story with three minutes to spare should see it.

Q: Did you / do you have any funding for the film?

A: I had \$2K prize money from winning an award in 2018 with the first minute of this film. Part One has changed a bit since then! I'm in negotiations at the moment with a potential sponsor.

Q: What inspired the story?

A: I had to come up with a story that would make nice pictures to enter the animation contest (which I eventually won). The little girl character came from a different story idea I'd been hatching. Although in that story, she is Death!

Q: What films or other art has influenced the look of the film?

A: Children's storybooks, vintage BBC children's shorts. There's a bit of Terry Gilliam, David Lynch and Hitchcock in there too I suspect.

Q: How did you find Bethan? Her narration is amazing!

A: The film was developed through to completion with a male narrator. He was great, but it's really a tale told from the universal feminine. Bethan's voice is exactly the one I'd heard in my head. Luckily she loved the film and really wanted to be involved with the project.

Q: How long did it take to make the film?

A: A year and a half. In between bread-and-butter commissions!

Q: What's your plan for the film now it's finished?

A: For people to see it! The more the better. It's frustrating not to be able to put it online straightaway but it will be interesting to see how the film is received at Film Festivals first. I hope *The Curious Child* can somehow help me tell more of the stories waiting to be told.

Q: The music is wonderful? Did you commission it?

A: PJ Leonard is a good friend - we've worked together lots over the years. I briefed him with timings but without visuals. He sent me something the next day. It originally had a middle section but it felt too overwhelming as the visuals are pretty intense at that point!

Q: What did you learn during the making of the film?

A: I did a lot of thinking about things. Researching the characters was illuminating - it's disturbing how frequently images of the "wise old woman" are hideous and frightening.



POSTERS & TRAILER

OFFICIAL TRAILER:
THE CURIOUS CHILD | animated short
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< OFFICIAL MOVIE POSTER (PORTRAIT)

OFFICIAL MOVIE POSTER (LANDSCAPE)



STILLS GALLERY

A selection of additional stills can be downloaded [here](#)

