

LOG IN | SIGN UP

Google Custom Search SEARCH



**classmates.com**  
**I graduated in:**  
 State:  Year:

**S** Springfield High (1084)  
**MLK** Martin Luther King High (676)  
**T** Trinity High School (328)  
**HS** NEW YORK High School (820)

- HOME | POLITICS | MEDIA | BUSINESS | ENTERTAINMENT | LIVING | STYLE | GREEN | WORLD | COMEDY 23/6
- NEW YORK | CHICAGO | VIDEO | BLOGGER INDEX | ARCHIVE
- 



FAKE! Jon & Kate Divorce Papers: Lived 'Separate And Apart' TWO YEARS



PHOTOS: Miley Cyrus Photo Uproar: Innocent Or Too Sexy? (POLL)



Phil Spector In 'Sensitive Needs' Area Of Prison



**Michael Giltz**

Freelance writer and raconteur

Posted: May 13, 2009 03:07 PM

- BIO
- Get Email Alerts
- Become a Fan
- Bloggers' Index

# Cannes 2009 Day One: "Up" Review



Read More: [Animation](#), [Cannes Film Festival](#), [Disney](#), [Pixar](#), [Up](#), [Entertainment News](#)

Google Custom Search

Be the First to Submit  
 This Story to Digg

Get Breaking News Alerts  
 never spam

Share  Print  
 Comments

Cannes kicked off with a gentle, sweet even sublime film: Pixar's *Up*. As I've written before, Pixar is on a streak of critical and commercial successes (10 and counting) that is simply unparalleled in Hollywood history. No star, no director, no studio has ever accomplished what Pixar has wrought with its first ten movies. They range from pretty good to good to great to classic. And every single one has been a major commercial success. Just listing them is impressive:

- Toy Story*
- A Bug's Life*
- Toy Story 2*
- Monsters Inc.*
- Finding Nemo*
- The Incredibles*
- Cars*
- Ratatouille* (now THAT should have opened Cannes!)
- WALL-E*
- and now

**People.com**

Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick Reveal Twins' Names

Robert Pattinson Films by Day, Prowls by Night

Gosselins Go Their Separate Ways

[More Celebrity News at People.com](#)

**Don't Miss HuffPost Bloggers**

Gavin Newsom  
 The Nation's Most Ambitious Recycling Law

T. Boone Pickens  
 Propane and the Pickens Plan

**Popular Stories on HuffPost**

Johnny Depp As Mad Hatter, Helena Bonham Carter's Red



*Up*. It has some fine action scenes and witty banter involving dogs equipped with hi-tech collars that let us hear their thoughts. ("Squirrel!" is a big favorite.) But the lasting impression of this gem is gentle and sweet. No wonder the filmmakers genuflected at the altar of Hiyaoy Miyazaki, the great Japanese animation genius. His sensibility suffuses everything they do.

The story is simple enough: Carl, a grumpy old man (Ed Asner) tries to get away from it all by tying a ton of helium balloons to his home and floating off to South America. But there's a stowaway: a genial 8 year old kid desperate to earn his final merit badge by "assisting the elderly." Adventures ensue.

Director Pete Docter (whose long face and jug ears make him look pleasingly cartoonish himself) mentioned the Pixar concept of "Simplexity" at the film's press conference. That's the idea that something -- a character, a storyline, an image -- should be easy to grasp at first but have enough depth and texture that you keep discovering new things every time you return to it.

But even on first viewing you'll be caught up short by the serene opening. They break your heart in the first ten minutes...twice. In those ten minutes, we see Carl as a shy, almost mute little boy happily overwhelmed by Ellie (voiced by Elie Docter). Her love for famed explorer Charles Muntz (Christopher Plummer) is even greater than his own. In a brilliant, nearly silent sequence, we see them grow up, get married, share their dreams, suffer the pain of their inability to have children, grow old together and then sadly say goodbye when Ellie dies. It's a master class in storytelling and the movie proper hasn't even begun.

But of course it has, because in a great film nothing is extraneous. Those first few minutes set up the driving desire to see the wilds of South America, cannily explain why explorer Muntz might still be there decades later trying to clear his name, prepare us for an oddball bird nicknamed Kevin that is boisterously antic and sweet (they don't make movies to sell toys but boy could Disney sell a ton of "Kevins"), and a dark, dangerous finale.

I haven't even mentioned yet the fact that the film is in 3-D, something that should please Pixar to no end. This is a landmark year for 3-D: *Up* and *Coraline* will be remembered for being the movies that turned 3-D from a gimmick into simply another tool, like sound and color. Their use of 3-D is so deft, so organic to the story that it seems perfectly natural. That's something 3-D has never seemed before.

I'm not convinced that 3-D will become standard for live action films. Mostly, it seems like an excuse by studios to raise ticket prices. But in animation, 3-D will probably become the standard. People will still make 2-D animation and they'll still do hand-drawn animation as well, just like people sometimes make movies in black and white. But 3-D is already becoming so common that no one thinks it notable or special or strange. If the movie's good, it uses 3-D well. If it's bad, 3-D won't help it. With *Up*, the 3-D is so essential to the emotional effect of the film, I'd hate to watch it in 2-D, at least for the first time. You'd certainly enjoy it. But you wouldn't know what you were missing. And *Up* in 3-D should not be missed.

Related News On Huffington Post:



**CANNES: Festival Opens With Glamour, Stars And 3-D (PHOTOS)**  
 (SCROLL FOR PHOTOS) CANNES, France — The evening gowns glittered, the red carpet was unfurled \_ and the 3-D glasses were at

**Queen And Anne Hathaway's White Queen: FIRST LOOK (PHOTOS)**

The Tim Burton...

**Mark Sanford: Where Is He? "Hiking" COLUMBIA, S.C. —**  
 South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has been hiking along the Appalachian Trail,...

**Bruno In Berlin: Dons Pink Bodysuit With Nipples And A Penis (PHOTOS)**  
 Sacha Baron Cohen's Bruno continued his ridiculous...

**Bernard-Henri Lévy The Swan Song of the Islamic Republic**  
 Whatever happens from this point on, nothing will ever be the same in...

**Dr. Mark Hyman The 7 Keys to UltraWellness: Discover Why You are Sick and How You Can Heal**  
 "I didn't know how bad I was feeling until..."

**Frank Serpico NYPD in Black and White**  
 "What did you think of the shooting in the city the other day?" my friend on the other end of the line asked....

**The Sexiest PETA Ads Of All Time! You Choose The Winner! (SLIDESHOW) (POLL)**  
 In the wake of Lydia Guevara, Che's Granddaughter,...

**McCain Hits Obama On Iran Again, Joe Klein Tells Him "Be Quiet" (VIDEO)**  
 Sen. John McCain continued to rap President Barack...

**Obama Father's Day Treat: The Dairy Godmother Visited By Sasha, Malia And Obama For Treats (PHOTOS)**  
 \*\*\*SCROLL DOWN FOR PHOTOS\*\*\*  
 ALEXANDRIA,

**Perez Hilton Called Will.i.am A "F\*gg\*t" Pre-Fight**  
 TORONTO — Police have charged the tour manager of the Black Eyed Peas with...

hand as the...

Related Blogs On Huffington Post:



Michael Giltz: Cannes 2009 Preview: Things Are Looking "Up?"

While starlets may be in short supply, the number of promising films from major talent is exceptionally strong. On paper, this looks like the most tantalizing fest in years.

More in Entertainment...

- Johnny Depp As Mad Hatter, Helena Bonham...
Perez Hilton Called Will.i.am A "F\*gg\*t" Pre-Fight
Connor Cruise And Dad Tom Spend Fathers...
Jon & Kate Gosselin DIVORCE: Couple Confirms...

digg HuffPost Stories Surging Right Now

- 40 diggs World Of Warcraft FREAKOUT: Boy Films Brother Going Insane After Parents Cancel His Online
17 diggs Bruce Wilson: Defense Department-Certified Agency Newsletter Suggests Killing Democrats
65 diggs McCain Hits Obama On Iran Again, Joe Klein Tells Him "Be Quiet" (VIDEO)
32 diggs Chris Weigant: Barney Frank Introduces Marijuana Legislation

Sponsored Links

Colon Cleanse Exposed Warning! Do Not Get A Free Colon Cleanse Trial Before You Read This ColonReview.com

Mortgage rates dropped! Fixed loan as low as 4.73% APR. \$200k for \$1029/mo Fixed. LendingTree.com

Top Colon Cleansers Rated WARNING:Read Objective Reviews of Top 3 Colon Cleanses Before You Buy www.TopCleansersReview.com

Buy a link here

Comments 1 Pending Comments 0
FAQ: Comments & Moderation
FAQ: HuffPost Accounts



Want to reply to a comment? Hint: Click "Reply" at the bottom of the comment; after being approved your comment will appear directly underneath the comment you replied to

View Comments: Newest First Expand All

MAragon I'm a Fan of MAragon permalink
At first, I wasn't sure if I'd get into this film until I saw the latest trailer. I've had that reaction half the time I've seen trailers for upcoming Pixar films, but then I see them and I've always been surprised and delighted by them. I hope Pixar can keep their golden touch as

Unemployment: The Hardest-Hit States (CHART)

Michigan has the highest unemployment rate of any state at 14.1 percent,...

Top Ten Things You Don't Want To Hear From Your Kids On Father's Day (VIDEO)

Letterman explained this week that Father's Day is the superbowl...

Elisabeth Hasselbeck Sued For Plagiarism Over G-Free Diet Book

BOSTON — Elisabeth Hasselbeck, a co-host of ABC's "The View," has been...

Sarkozy: Burqas Are 'Not Welcome' In France

PARIS — President Nicolas Sarkozy declared Monday that the Islamic burqa is not welcome in...

Here's To You, Dad: HuffPost Readers Share Their Father's Day Stories

On Thursday, we asked for your stories about your dads affected...

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES

- The Inner Life
Barack Obama
Video
Iran
Sports
HIV/AIDS
Dick Cheney
Jon & Kate Plus 8
Photo Galleries

MORE BIG NEWS PAGES

storytellers. I am looking forward to seeing Up when it comes out here.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 08:33 PM on 05/14/2009

Comments are closed for this entry

You must be **logged in** to reply to this comment. [Log in](#) or



Ads by Google

## Make 3D Animation

Learn How to Make Hollywood Style 3D Animation at LA Film School.

[www.LAFilm.edu](http://www.LAFilm.edu)



[HOME](#) [POLITICS](#) [MEDIA](#) [BUSINESS](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [LIVING](#) [GREEN](#) [STYLE](#) [WORLD](#) [CHICAGO](#) [COMEDY](#) [FUNDRACE](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Jobs](#) | [FAQ: Comments & Moderation](#) | [FAQ: Huffpost Accounts](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2009 HuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | [Archive](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)