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# The Soloists

PRESSKIT



Mehrnaz ABDOLLAHINIA

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Celeste JAMNECK

YI LIU

# SYNOPSIS

In a small village ruled by a lot of ridiculous laws, three old ladies live together with their dog. In this village, women are not allowed to sing unless they are three, nor are they allowed to own a dog. As the three old ladies are rehearsing for their utmost performance, one has an untimely death and the two remaining ladies and their forbidden dog need to find a third singer in time to be able to perform without breaking the law.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This story seems like a fantasy, but even in today's world these ridiculous laws still exist in many countries, and are especially used in the oppression of women. This story is about three ladies living in this type of world, who only have simple dreams - to live in peace with their dog, to sing, and to live a normal life. They do their best to get by but in the end it becomes too much, and the two remaining women choose freedom over oppression. They are the heroes of their own story, and they represent all of our wants and dreams.

We all need to break free from what is oppressing us, see the truth and find a better way. Many are not able to escape this world as our ladies do, and hopefully this story can be one of the beauty, hope and laughter for anyone who needs it. The story also serves to remind us that our grandmothers were young and fabulous once, and that they are still fierce, beautiful and strong, and this film is a love letter to them.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## How could you come up with this original music?

So from the beginning, we considered the music as an important character in our film and we wanted it to have its own personality. Since the story is about three old ladies who just want to sing, music was extremely important for us and we intended to create both the sound and the visuals together to form a complete piece. We also did a lot of exploration for our sound effects as well as dialogue to help put emphasis on the importance of sound in the film.

## How could you manage the artistic choices as a team?

This is an 8 minute Dark Comedy short film created in the medium of 3D/CG animation blended cleverly with 2D elements. The story is character focused and driven, and we intended to push some technical boundaries within this film. By reducing cuts between cameras and using flipping animation techniques for the environments, we wanted to increase the storytelling mood and popup book styles even more to engage the audience with the story. We wanted to give a theatrical feeling by choosing flat camera angles and focus more on the story and acting.

## What was your intention by using this 2D&3D Style?

We intended to push our style by using 2d and 3d techniques at the same time and instead of just making a full 3D film, all the objects and the environments are flat like 2D cutout cardboard. After we drew the objects and environments and painted them in photoshop, we modeled them in 3d to give a fake feeling of 3d. At the same time, by flipping the environment we wanted to bring the feeling of pop-up books which would help the film to feel like a theatrical story.



# CREDITS

Directed&Created by **Mehrnaz ABDOLLAHINIA**  
**Feben ELIAS WOLDEHAWARIAT**  
**Razahk ISSAKA**  
**Celeste JAMNECK**  
**Yi LIU**

With the help of **Rudolf JANSEN VAN VUUREN**  
**James RAY COCK**  
**Samy FECIH**  
**Aïda DEL SOLAR**

Music by **Antoine DUCHENE**  
**Valentin HADJADJ**

Sound designer **Mathieu TIGER**

Foley **Marie MAZIERE**

Sound mix **Mathieu TIGER**

Main voices    Ava    **Marjane SATRAPI**  
                      Zema    **Johanna WHITE PALACIOAND**  
                      Sorna    **Cécile BLONDEL**  
                      Dog    **Celeste JAMNECK**

# TECHNICAL DETAILS

title **The Soloists**  
year of production **2021**  
genre **Dark Comedy**  
country of origin **France**  
running time **7'57"**  
language **English**  
animation technique **3D animation**  
speed **25 fps**  
aspect ratio **21:9**  
format **5.1/stereo**





# DIRECTORS



## Mehrnaz ABDOLLAHINIA

I am an experienced 3d animator with lots of fantastic stories to tell. I am passionate about bringing my stories to the animation world.

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## Feben ELIAS WOLDEHAWARIAT

I am inspired and determined to fulfill my dreams of becoming a storyteller and a visual artist.

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## Razahk ISSAKA

Intrinsically motivated & dedicated to my work, I have an eye for details, a spine for out of the box problem-solving and a drive to see things through to completion.

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## Celeste JAMNECK

I am an aspiring Director and experienced Character Artist in both 2D and 3D, and my main goal is to create characters with story and stories with character.

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## Yi LIU

I love painting and design. I enjoy capturing unique moments and translating them to my paintings.

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THANK YOU!