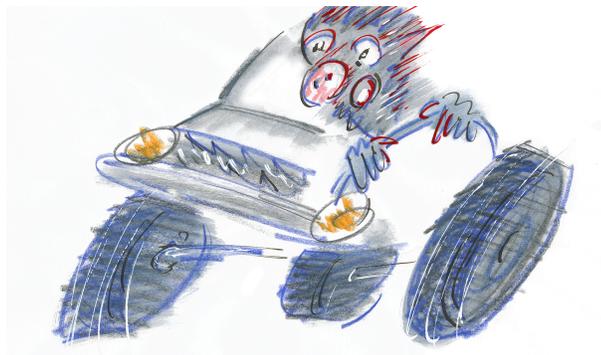


ROCHESTER, NY — Premieres January 20 at **The Little Theatre** *before all presentations* of the feature film "The Artist."

*New animated cartoon short "Car Crash Opera" By Rochester Animator/RIT Prof. **Skip Battaglia***

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Death by car crash — an American movie's art form in animation.

A new animated film combines opera with a great American movie tragic-comedy — the car crash. Internationally acclaimed Rochester animator/RIT professor, **Skip Battaglia**, brings it all together in a wild 8-minute sight-and-sound filled ride called "Car Crash Opera." And it's a cartoon!

Battaglia graphically critiques the Hollywood car-crash art form by showcasing four animated scenarios: a mother/daughter delivering cake; cigar-chomping trucker of pigs and chickens; an over-amorous couple at 60 mph; and two teenagers angry at being cut off.

The orchestral score, composed by recent Eastman Ph.D. (music composition) graduates **Jairo DuArte-Lopez** and **Michaela Eremiasova**, intertwines the beat of tangos, the din of dinner theater musicals, and the thrills of commercial film suspense effects with its 'cabaret-opera' sound.

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The visual elements are treated via graphic moving edges where the action, not the object, is hand-drawn within a jittery or “nervous” background. This creates Battaglia’s signature style, a middle ground between each character and the flattened field drawing.

Much like in his previous animated films “Boccioni’s Bike” (1981) and “Second Nature” (2000), a montage of sound provides emotion and context in these energetic, changeable environments.

“I hope the audience will find “*Car Crash Opera*” to be musical, humorous, explosive, and finally sorrowful,” Battaglia commented. “And funny,” he adds.

This is the 5th worldwide premiere of Battaglia’s animated short films at The Little Theatre since 1987..

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