

## curriculum vitae

## CÉU D'ELLIA

### personal information

site: [ailhadoceu.com.br](http://ailhadoceu.com.br)

profession: animation film director & filmmaker

specialization: producer, director, animation visual development artist, animator, storyboard artist, screenplay-writer & animation teacher.  
+ awarded environmentalist

born: February 1<sup>st</sup> 1963

citizenship: Italian & Brazilian

usa work permit visa: O-1 Extraordinary Ability

### overview

Céu D'Ellia is an Italian Brazilian, fluent in English, Portuguese and French, with experience in all areas of animation production: as an animator, designer, director, story artist, writer and producer. He began his professional career animating commercials for Brazil's largest agencies, for which he earned prestigious awards. The *PLOC MONSTERS*, 128 characters created for a bubble gum campaign in 1988, won the Top Award in Marketing for its success. In the same year he released his first experimental short film, *FAREWELL*, which received many awards. It was chosen by the Clermont-Ferrand Festival, in 2004, as one of the most outstanding Brazilian short films, ever. He began his international career in 1989, working in London on the animated feature *FIEVEL GOES WEST*, produced by *Steven Spielberg*. Céu is passionately involved in environmentalism, portrayed throughout his work. Financed by the *Rockefeller Foundation's Vitae Art Grants*, he started researching environmental issues in the 1990's. Céu D'Ellia won the *Hopes for The Future for a Sustainable World*, from *IUAPPA/IAS*, for a set of proposed ethical principles on the relationships between mass media, culture, and the environment. From 2009 to 2012, with the support of *São Paulo's Municipal Department of Culture*, Céu created and directed *NUPA*, a center that fostered Brazilian animation cinema, with film content based on this urban area's social-environmental issues. Céu's most recent comic book, *ZU KINKAJÚ* (2013), resumes works initially published in *Super Eco magazine*, from 1998 to 2000. His most recent independent animated short is *LOVE WILL RESCUE YOU* (2015), a film about child trafficking. Other highlights are the animation supervision for *A GOOFY MOVIE* (Disney, Paris, 1994-95) and the recent art direction and episode direction for *P. KING DUCKLING* (LAP & UYoung, NYC, 2015-17). This last one was aired for the first time at Disney Jr in November 2016 and in December was already among the ten most popular shows for kids in the US.

#### 2015-2017 / little airplane

##### **episode director, art director & advisor for direction and animation of animated series**

From 2015 to 2017 Céu worked as Episode Director & Art Director in New York City, at *Little Airplane Productions*. He also gave advice for animation and direction, fully participating in the first season of the TV animated series for children, *P. King Duckling*. The series, 52 x 13, was released in November 2016 at *Disney Jr.* According to *Eurodata TV*, in December 2016 the show was already among the ten most popular programs for children in the USA television.

#### 2014 / anima mundi

##### **honored artist**

In 2014, the *International Animation Festival* in Rio, *Anima Mundi*, chose Céu D'Ellia to be one of the 2014 Honored Artists. The others were *Bob Balsler (Yellow Submarine)*, *Eric Goldberg (Aladdin)* and the *Guillaume Brothers (Max & Co)*.

#### 2009-2012 / nupa

##### **creator & director**

*NUPA*, a Brazilian animation cinema fostering a free school-studio center, was created and directed by Céu for almost four years. The center was at *CCJ Youth Cultural Center*, in the suburbs of São Paulo. It provided an opportunity for students without money to become animation professionals. Its production was quite successful, with all film content discussing and developing awareness of social-environmental issues in São Paulo.

#### 1996 / hopes

##### **paper received award**

Motivated by concern for children and environment issues, as well as his experience of how consumer habits are influenced by advertising and film entertainment, Céu wrote a paper with a proposal for ethical principles for mass media communication. In 1996 it won the *Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World* award, from *IUAPPA/IAS*. Initially with ten principles, after tests were conducted, Céu summarized it to only three: Eco Efficiency, Biophilia & Key Question.

#### 1993-2012 / education

##### **teacher**

At the time Céu started to work, there were no animation schools in Brazil. Even the English Bibliography was quite short. He is a self-taught artist who learned mainly from frame-by-frame observation of old super-8 films. In 2008, Céu received a Bachelor's degree from *Braz Cubas Brazilian University*, with recognized merits for knowledge. But even before that he was working as a Guest University Instructor in *Santa Maria* (design, 1993), the *University of São Paulo* (cinema, 2002) and *PUC, the Catholic University in São Paulo* (for post graduates in 2007, 2011 and 2012)

1992-2017 / vitae

#### story artist

Céu's interest in ecological subjects, children and cultural patterns motivated him, starting in 1992, to create stories with ethical ideas and characters for young audiences. In 1994 Céu obtained his first research funds, the *Rockefeller Foundation's VITAE Grant*. Over the years, inspired by his travels in the wild regions of South America and experiences with Indigenous Peoples, Céu created characters such as *MãmMãmbuge Yandu*, *Bu Banana* and *Zu Kinkaju*, presented in animation film pilots, comic books and documentaries.

1989-2017 / worldwide

#### international animation moviemaker

Céu moved to London from 1989 to 1991, where he worked as designer and animator in commercials for *UK TV* and music videos for *MTV Japan*. He joined *Spielberg's* animation studio as animation supervisor working for *Amblimation*, a company that would be renamed *Dreamworks* a couple of features later. Since then, Céu has worked with other studios and artists in international productions: *Disney*, *Matthew Kelly*, *Uli Meyer*, and Oscar awarded *Joanna Quinn*, among others. Céu has already lived in London, Paris, São Paulo, Rio and New York.

1988 / farewell

#### experimental moviemaker

In 1988 Céu finished his first experimental short film, *Adeus (Farewell)*. Aimed at adult audiences, the film generated some controversy, but also received national and international awards. Sixteen years post production, it was chosen by the acclaimed *Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival* as one of the best 25 short films ever produced in Brazil. As in other hand drawn films Céu would produce, the experiments in *Farewell* were about content, edition and graphic style.

1985-2014 / ngo

#### volunteer work

Since 1985 Céu has dedicated part of his time to volunteer in social causes. Besides personal aspects involved, Céu believes that such activities contribute to his experience improving the application of human values and emotions in his work. Céu started working with health care activities for poor families in rural areas of Brazil. From 1994 to 2003, he participated in an ecological NGO, and from 2001 to 2014, in an NGO that develops activities to stimulate self-esteem and the positive potential of children at social risk.

1979-2017 / brazil

#### advertising artist

Céu's professional career began in Brazil in 1979, directing and animating films for the Brazilian advertising industry. He also created characters and illustrations for different publicity campaigns. Since then he has produced awarded materials for clients like *Carrefour*, *General Motors*, *Gessy Lever*, *Kraft Foods*, *Nestlé*, *Fuji-Film*, *Coca Cola*, *Cinemark*, among many others.

## basic chronology

- 2015-2017** **Art Director, Consultant of Direction and Animation & Episode Director of Animated Series** at Little Airplane Productions
- 2014** **Honored artist** at Anima Mundi Festival
- 2009-2012** **NUPA** (Brazilian animation cinema fostering free school) director at CCJ Youth Cultural Center, São Paulo city.
- 2004** Céu begins to adapt his own **stories and characters** to **animation films**.
- 1998** Céu's own **stories and characters** on **comic books** first release.
- 1994** **Animation Supervisor** at Disney Paris
- 1991** First **environmentalist** actions, with national and international scientific congresses participations and publications, as well as media communication tools production.
- 1988** **International** career begins in London, UK, directing and animating commercials, video promos and as Animation Supervisor at Steven Spielberg's feature crew.
- 1979** **Professional** career begins in Brazil, directing and animating commercials as well as experimental short films.

## main awards

- **PAULICÉIA SING, TY-ETÊ! (direction & production)**, animated short film, choice of the audience as best film, Brafftv/ UP to 3 Brazilian Short Animation Exhibition of Toronto, Canada, 2013.
- **ZÚ KINKAJÚ (story & art)**, comic book for children, São Paulo State Culture Department edition award, Brazil, 2011.
- **MÃMMÃBUGES (screenplay, direction & design)**, animated series TV pilot, São Paulo City Culture Department development award, Brazil, 2008.
- **CHICA BANANA (screenplay, design & production bible)**, feature animated film animatic, São Paulo State Culture Department development award, Brazil, 2005.
- **D DAY (screenplay, direction & design)**, Suvaca di Prata music video, CINEMARK/ ABD award, best short film, Brazil, 2004.
- **THE CIVIL SERVANTS THAT WERE HEARING VOICES CASE (screenplay, direction & design)**, animated short film, UNESCO environment educational award category, Brazil, 2002.

- **YANDÚ AND THE YAUARETÊ (story & art)**, comic book, IX International Press Art Hall award, best comic book, Brazil, 2001.
- **WATER-BIODIVERSITY-EQUILIBRIUM (story & art)**, comic books collection, Fernando Pini award, best children's book graphic design, Brazil, 1999.
- **SUPER ECO COMMUNICATION & ENVIRONMENT (paper author)**, IUAPPA/IAS "Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World" award, Brazil/ South Africa/ Switzerland/ United Kingdom, 1996.
- **MÃMÃBUGÉ YANDÚ (story plot & design)**, content research, Rockefeller Foundation Vitae Grant, animation content research grant, Brazil, 1994.
- **FAREWELL (screenplay, direction & animation)**, animated experimental short film, Havana Festival White Coral award, best short film, 1991. Los Angeles, Utrecht, Tampere, Annecy and Bologna Festivals finalist, 1989-1991, among many others. Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, 2004, considered it as one of the best 25 Brazilian short films ever.
- **PLOC MONSTERS (creation & art)**, illustrations collection, Marketing Top award, Brazil, 1988. In a single month, 78 million units were sold
- **TOVEX DUPONT (creation & art)**, cartoon series, Golden Columnists award, best advertising illustration, Brazil, 1985.
- **MONTERREY LIGHTS NEON (screenplay, direction & design)**, advertising films, Golden Columnists award, best advertising film, Brazil, 1985.

### other motion highlights

#### tv series

- **P. KING DUCKLING season 1 (art director, consultant of direction and animation & episode director)**, TV animated series, 52 x 11. Little Airplane + UYoung. USA/ China, 2016
- **ANIMATED KABARET (screenplay, production, design & direction)**, TV animated series pilot. NUPA + Second Sun. Brazil, 2012-2014

#### short and feature films

- **LOVE WILL RESCUE YOU (screenplay, production, direction, animation, design & editing)**, documentary poem. Amicus Foundation + Second Sun. USA/ Thailand/ Brazil, 2015
- **PAULICÉIA (production & direction)**, animated film series.

NUPA. Brazil, 2010-2012

- **ANIMA MUNDI 2005 (direction & animation)**, festival vignette film with Joanna Quinn's character design. Brazil, 2005.
- **LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY (animation)**, short film. First full dome (360°) traditionally animated movie, for AV-Imagineering. Guest Animator. Directed by Eddie Pittman. USA, 2003.
- **THE GOOFY MOVIE (supervising animation)**, feature film. Walt Disney Pictures. France, 1994.
- **FIEVEL GOES WEST, AMERICAN TAIL II (senior animation & sequence supervising)**, feature film. Universal Pictures/Amblimation. UK, 1991.
- **EARTH PLANET (animation & creation coordination)**, short film to United Nations, Peace International Year. Embrafilme. Brazil, 1986.

#### pop promo

- **EXPANSION (production, direction & editing)**, O Jardim das Horas music video. NUPA + Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2014
- **HIMURO (character development design and animation)**, MTV Japan music video. Felix Films. UK/ Japan, 1989

#### educational

- **ROYAL CHAPEL (production, direction, design & animation)**, animation film projection in a historical Brazilian church. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2008
- **YANDÚ EXPEDITION (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation)**, Amazon Rainforest television documentary with animated scenes. Seecord Sun. Brazil prime time first exhibition, 1996.

#### institutional

- **RABBIT & WOMAN ITAÚ BANK (screenplay, production & direction)**, training short film. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2012
- **WEBTOONS ITAÚ BANK (screenplay, production & direction)**, training films. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2009-2012

#### advertising

- **CINEMARK & FLIX (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation)**, advertising films. Seecord Sun + Tonica Mix. Brazil, 2011-2014
- **GRADIENTE CREATURE (production, direction, design & animation)**, animation insertion in live action. Seecord Sun + Margarida Filmes. Brazil, 2006.

- **RAID EAT AT SPIKES (international co-production & animation)**, SC-JOHNSON, animation + live action. Directed by Uli Meyer. Seecord Sun + Uli Meyer Films. Brazil/ UK, 2005.
- **LIGHTS (production, direction, design & animation)**, digital effects animation to FUJI FILMS. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2002.
- **DONALD DUCK (production, direction & animation)**, approved by Disney, for Ploc bubble gum. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 1991.
- **LEGENDS (character design & animation)**. Felix Films. UK, 1989.
- **Screenplay, production, direction, design & animation** of many advertising films for such clients as **CARREFOUR, ELKA, GELATTO, GENERAL MOTORS, GESSY-LEVER, KIBON, KRAFT- SUCHARD, LACTA, MERCK & SHARP, NESTLÉ**, among others. Seecord Sun, Brazil, 1979-2003.

## graphic highlights

### visual arts

- **AMERICA IN THE EYES OF AN ALIEN O-1**, individual exhibition of drawings, working project.
- **SIDE B PROJECT**, Drawings Exposition at Central Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2007.
- **PRESCIOUS CANVAS**, Lithographies Exposition at Brasiliana Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2006.
- **FROM CLAY TO CLAY**, Adobe & Ceramics History Drawings exposition at Sesc Pompéia. Brazil, São Paulo, 2003.
- **NATURE SPIRITS**, book and lithography series, working project. Writer and Illustrator.
- **BRAZILIAN FOLK TALES**, children's book. Illustrator and Researcher. Empresa das Artes. Brazil, 1990

## teaching & graduation

- **Animation Faculty Director**. NUPA Animation Center at CCJ Youth Cultural Center SP, Brazil, 2009-2012
- **Animation Film Technology, graduated with recognized merits for knowledge**, Braz Cubas University, Brazil, 2008.
- **Guest Semiotic Teacher**: PUC University (PUC), Brazil,

2007/2011/2012

- **Guest Animation Cinema Teacher:** São Paulo University (USP), Cinema College, Communication and Arts School. Brazil, 2002.
- **Guest Teacher:** Santa Maria University, special workshop THE SIGHT, to free-condition. Brazil, 1993.
- **Teacher:** CLASSICAL ANIMATION and SHORT FILM PRE-PRODUCTION workshops. Oswald de Andrade Cultural Workshops. Brazil, 1991.
- **Director** of the II Animation Cinema Brazilian Meeting and **Teacher** in the ANIMATION DESIGN workshop. Três Rios Cultural Workshops. Brazil, 1988.

### third sector

- Volunteer of **ARK OF LOVE HARIHARANANDA SÃO PAULO**, non-profit humanitarian organization that develops activities to stimulate the self-esteem and positive potential of children under social risk. Brazil, 2001-2014.
- Volunteer of **NEW ENCHANTMENT ASSOCIATION**, voluntary organization that develops activities of nature conservation with rubber tappers and other communities. Brazil, 1992-1994. Voluntary consultant from 1994 to 2003.

### testimonials

#### **JOSH SELIG, NY, USA, *Little Airplane***

Céu's design and animation work is among the very best I've ever seen.

#### **LÉA ZAGURY, Rio, BR, *Anima Mundi***

Céu is an artist of many facets and among few he is a painter, an animator and a documentary filmmaker. His creations are precise, powerful, intense and deep. It amazes me how he easily can produce a beautiful detailed work or a series of astonishing fast drawings that brilliantly comes to life in suspended or projected animation.

#### **ULI MEYER, London, UK**

I have known Céu D'Ellia for almost twenty five years since we first met on the production of *An American Tail 2* for Universal Pictures. Céu is not only an outstanding artist and designer, he has also been working successfully as a producer, running his own company. In both capacities he has worked with me over the years and has always delivered sterling work, professional and reliable. Céu has that rare gift of understanding both the needs of the artist and the demands of a production. I hope to be able to work with Céu again in the not too distant future.



#### **other interests and skills**

- Awarded environmentalist
- Biology and Botany scholar
- Fluent in Portuguese, French and English (TOEFL 2013: 108)
- Mythologies and Folk Tales scholar
- Trekking practitioner
- Yoga meditation practitioner and teacher (Yogacharya)

#### **Céu D'Ellia**

June, 2017