

# “The Flying Sailor”, A Glimpse Inside a Momentary Death

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## How a Halifax Explosion Inspired a Mesmerizing Journey Between Life and Death

by Mona Khorsandi

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“Flying Sailor” and showing what you would expect from the inside of a temporary death  
The creators of “When the Day Breaks” took another step closer to winning the Oscar

Wendy Tilby and Amanda Forbis, the directors of the two animated short films “When the Day Breaks” (1999) and “Wild Life”(2011), both of which were nominated for Oscars, talk about the Halifax explosion in their latest work, The Flying Sailor. The explosion of Halifax, which took place in 1917 due to the collision of the French ship Mont Blanc, contained explosives with a Norwegian ship. The Flying Sailor, which was nominated for the 95th Academy Award for Short Animation, tells the story of a sailor who is thrown into the sky a long distance due to an explosion and lands injured and naked at a far distance. This animation shows what happened to the sailor during this short trip interestingly and entertainingly. This animation was produced by combining 2D and 3D techniques and animated film. The backgrounds are inspired by old hand-painted postcards. The story begins with the movement of white circles on a black screen, which then turns into bubbles underwater. We see a view of the ships then the accident happens. The sailor of the story sits on the pier and indifferently lights his cigarette. At the same time as the cigarette is lit, the fire explodes, and by extinguishing the match under the sailor's feet, the explosion takes place, then he jumps into another world.

At the beginning of this flight trip caused by an explosion, the sailor becomes naked and loses his clothes. His naked body looks like a fetus inside a mother's womb. Then we see the passing of memories from birth, childhood, youth, and love. The flight begins among the clouds and the quiet music of the world between the living and the dead begins to play. The sailor ascends to the space of the stars, and we see his presence in inter-vital space. The circular shape of his body shows that he is slowly becoming a star. It means he goes to the world of death. Again, like at the beginning of the movie, we see the movement of white dots on a black background, and we have a starburst. The rapid rhythm and rotating movement together with the display of moments of life, including hits and breaks, show well the rejoining with worldly life and, finally, the sailor will have a free fall into life again. Then we cut to a view of a half-dead fish, and we see the sailor, who is also half-dead on the ground, while he still has the cigarette he had lit in the corner of his mouth. Everything you can expect from a show inside a temporary death is well represented in this work. It can be said that the success of expressing emotions and describing situations, as in the previous two

works of the director, can also be seen in this animation. Tilby and Forbis came one step closer to winning the Oscar with this exciting and different animation.