

Up with Pixar

Emeryville animators' latest picture takes it up a notch—in three dimensions.

BY PETER CROOKS

It seems that the filmmaking wizards at Pixar Animation Studios raise the standards on cutting-edge technology and classic storytelling with each release. Their latest is no exception—just ask the directors of the Cannes Film Festival, who selected *Up* as the first animated feature ever to open the famed fest on May 13.

Up follows the adventures of a 78-year-old man and his eight-year-old sidekick on a King Kong–style adventure through mountaintop jungles in South

America. As Pixar's first 3-D release, *Up* should be the Emeryville studio's most visually stunning film yet—and producers have been consulting with Oakland's Blind Babies Foundation to improve a descriptive narrative audio track so that visually impaired fans can enjoy the film as well.

In October and February, the studio will release 3-D versions of *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2*, before *Toy Story 3* hits theaters next summer. Meanwhile, sci-fi fans were thrilled to hear that Berkeley author Michael Chabon has been hired to write the final screenplay of Pixar's first live-action movie. Planned for a 2012 release, *John Carter of Mars* will be helmed by *WALL-E* director Andrew Stanton.

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