

Celebrate contributions of women to animation

Third annual Womanimation festival is Sunday at Providence Inner City Arts Roots Café

By **MICHAEL JANUSONIS**
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day and so what better day to celebrate the contributions of women to the world of animation?

The third annual Womanimation festival will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Providence Inner City Arts Roots Café with screenings of animated films made by women from around the world, interspersed with sets of music from women both locally and globally.

A preview of several films in the program, which is geared to those 16 and over, turned up some gems.

Norwegian Anita Killi's "Angry Man," a sobering, powerful and eventually uplifting study of a little boy trying to cope with his father's occasional bursts of rage, has already taken awards from Spain to Chicago to Japan. The boy is terrified when his father's inner rage, which he calls the "angry man," comes out. Eventually the boy writes to the king for help and the king comes to take the father away to his palace where he can learn to mellow out.

Who knew that kite flying was such good therapy? Killi has used an impressive, eye-catching blend of two-dimensional drawings and stop-motion animation of cardboard cutout drawings and models that is most effective.

From Scotland, Jiamin Liu's "If We Meet" employs dolls in stop-motion to show the three stages of a woman's life. Now old, the woman remembers what fun it was to play with a balloon, and Liu shows her in younger ages.

Margriet Westerhof's "Soup," from the Netherlands, is also stop-motion, but uses

natural materials — sand,

mud, water — to present the odd universe that can be found if you look hard enough into a bowl of soup.

Traditional hand-drawn animation is the method used by Ines Sedan for her "The Man Who Slept," a French-Canadian co-production. Sedan, originally from Argentina but now living in France, creates a fable without words of a woman who is bored by her constantly sleeping husband. As he snores away, she peers from her window and catches the eye of a passing circus entertainer and vice versa. Their fantasy romance, depicted from both their points of view, comes to fruition in this heartwarming film.

There are more films in the mix as well as performances by the mother-daughter Swedish folk music duo Astrid Drew, spoken word poetry and hip hop by 5th Element and DJ Reza Wreckage of the Rhode Island Women's Art Collective, ISIS Storm and music spun by DJ Madame B.

Tickets are \$7; \$5 each for two or more people. Roots Café is at 276 Westminster St., Providence. For more information visit mergingarts.org or rootscafeprovidence.com.

mjanuson@projo.com / 277-7276