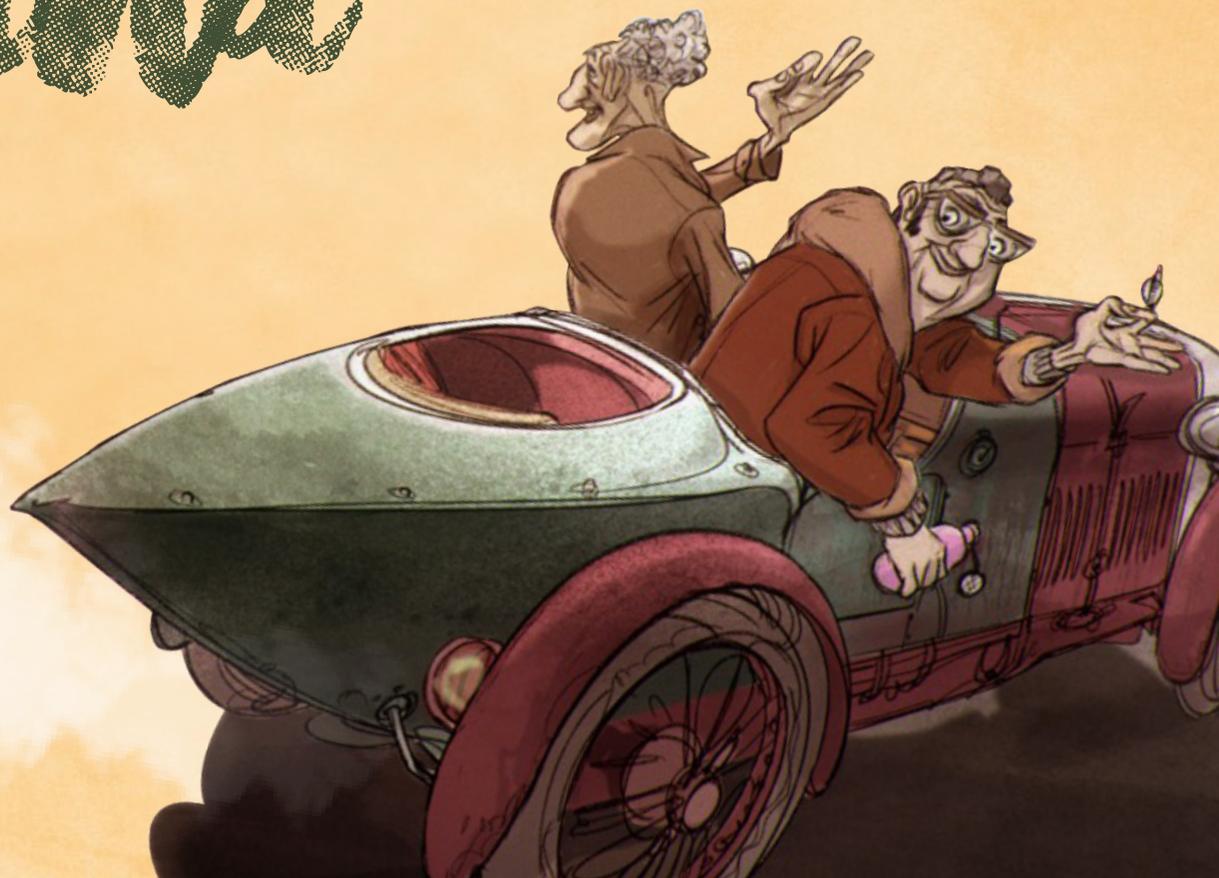


# the thousand miles

An animation film by Sylvain Chomet



The Thousand Miles story has been developed into an animation film script by contemporary animation auteur Sylvain Chomet, who will design and direct the movie.

It is an homage to classic Italian cinema with specific references to Federico Fellini, who was a huge inspiration to Sylvain's work.

# director's notes



The Thousand Miles is a road movie comedy based in Italy in the early nineteen eighties.

The story tells the journey of two old men, two brothers, separated by life's events but reunited by an old dream - of taking part of the world famous car race, The Thousand Miles.

Adelmo is the talented and successful older brother. He used to be an acclaimed movie director - chatty, flamboyant, and gregarious. Umberto, known fondly as 'Beppino' as a child, is the quiet one. He's a dreamer, a stargazer. According to modern standards, his life has been less successful – especially the last two decades which we learn he has spent in jail.

As the duo head towards the start line in Brescia in their old Amilcar, the audience re-lives some major episodes of their past through a series of flashbacks. The flashbacks visit key moments in their mutual journey, from their happy childhood, when life was sumptuous - full of laughter and colours, to the wretched battlefields of World War II and through to the 'dolce vita' of Rome in the nineteen sixties. We discover the events that turned these two happy and inseparable brothers into estranged and grumpy old men. We start to understand why their bond appears to have been irredeemably shattered. But is it really the case?

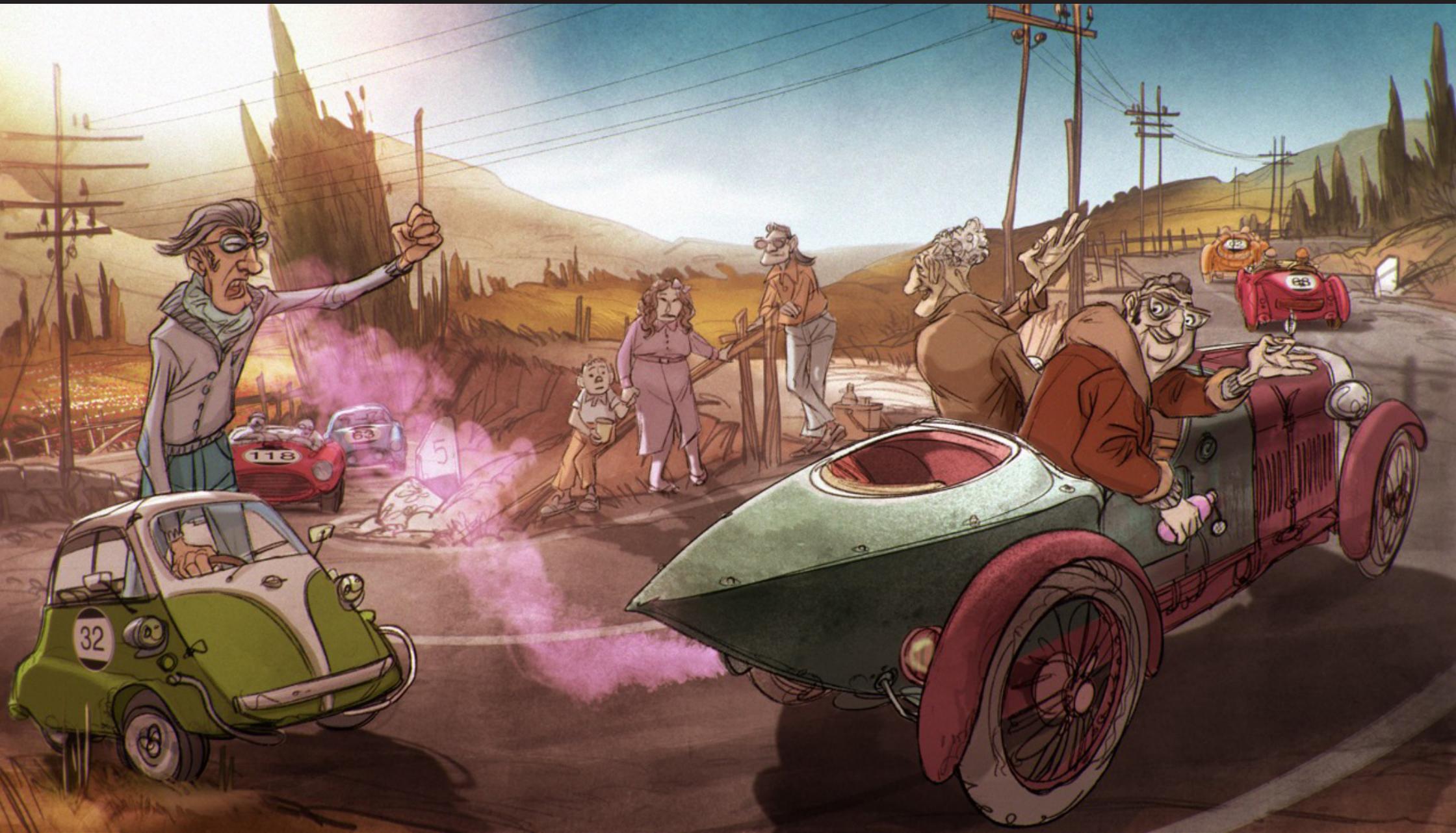
I intend to make a film which will push the boundaries of character acting, story telling and emotion - and this with an ultimate ambition that I believe only the art of animation can achieve. The quality of the actors lending their voices to the characters of the two brothers are crucial to the success of the storytelling. My picture will feature many different graphic styles; from black and white quirky cartoons from the twenties to the hallucinogenic pop art of the sixties. The graphic diversity is designed to delight and enthrall all ages. It will evoke memories from our own childhoods making Adelmo and Beppino's journey all the more touching. Younger generations will discover an array of arresting visual styles and will identify with the idiotic dialogues of squabbling siblings. The key to telling their story will be humour – once again appealing to all audiences.

But the Thousand Miles is also a tribute to Italian cinema, and especially to the work of Fellini. Some scenes of the film will be directly inspired by some of his dreams, which he used to write down and illustrate for therapeutic reasons. I was lucky enough to be passed a copy of Fellini's 'book of dreams' and have allowed its contents inspire me for certain sequences in the film. Let's not forget either that Fellini started his career as a press cartoonist and that drawing was his first means of expressing himself artistically. That would probably explain why his work has been so influential to me and why I owe him my most wonderful movie experiences.

The film will run approximately 85 minutes. The Thousand Miles will use a hybrid of both 2D hand-drawn animation and 3D technology', bringing together the expressiveness of my drawings, immersed with the stability and dimensionality of CG.

The soundtrack of the film, which I intend to write, will feature a lovely Josephine Baker track which she sings in Italian, Serenada Celesta (translating as 'Celestial Serenade' – or 'Serenade to the Stars'). Its jaunty tempo echoes the rhythm of the engine of a classic car, while the lyrics speak of the stars – also a very pertinent and enduring theme in my story.

The Thousand Miles is a race to the heavens - and that's precisely where our film is planning to take us.







## *sylvain chomet - director*

Sylvain Chomet is the most prolific and awarded independent animation director in the world.

His unique style of work has seen him gain 4 Academy Award Nominations, a BAFTA, Cesar and countless other awards for his animation films: *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, *The Triplets of Belleville* and *the Illusionist*.

He is a prolific director and artist in the true Renaissance spirit - directing, designing, illustrating, writing and composing.



*further information*

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