



BRUNO BOZZETTO BIOGRAPHY

Bruno Bozzetto was born in Milan on the 3rd of March 1938.

With a 60-year career behind him he is esteemed as one of the most eclectic and influential cartoonists of yesterday and of today.

As a young child he promptly showed keen interest in the movie world acting as a screen-player and a director in live-action short films of different kinds. Amongst them the documentary genre explains his early curiosity towards the world of animals under the influence of Desmond Morris. "Piccolo mondo amico", "I gatti che furbacchioni", "A filo d'erba" are just a few of his 8 mm amateur films.

The first time Bruno saw Ward Kimball's animated short "Tooth, Whistle, Plunk and Boom" he was literally amazed at the art of pioneer animation achieved through cel drawing. Undoubtedly helped by the artistic skills inherited by his maternal grandfather, painter Girolamo Poloni, Bruno's peculiar style stood out at once for its simplicity and smoothness in the strokes and, above all, for the depth of the message always conveyed with irony and sarcasm. The dream of making cartoons also came true thanks to the support of his perhaps most precious collaborator of a lifetime, his father Umberto, who encouraged him all the way from the start by turning an ironing board into a shooting board for him.

Every single animated short is classified into universal themes that have no age: history, science, nature, evolution of mankind with all its psychosocial implications. The purpose is always educational with a certain amount of raw realism and pessimism that mark the cartoonist's production as nonconformist compared to the commercial movie industry addressed to a young audience. Not by chance in the 80's Bruno got hired by scientific journalist Piero Angela to make science more accessible through about 100 animated episodes of "Quark" and "Superquark".

The first animated short "Tapum the history of Weapons", awarded at Cannes in 1958, kickstarted his career and also marked the start of cooperations and friendships with some of the big names of the time like John Halas or Norman McLaren.

The esteem felt for the big ones soon becomes mutual. Among the most sincere and self-declaring fans of Bruno we find some of Disney's Nice Old Men such as Ward Kimball, Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas, (also known as the animators of "Bambi"), not to forget other major representatives of the golden epoch such as Frederick Back, Osamu Tezuka, Yoji Kuri and many others.

The growth of the animated production was growing relentlessly with more than 30 classic animated shorts on top of which stand both the most noteworthy "Grasshoppers", Oscar nominated in 1990, and Mr Tao, winner of the Golden Bear in 1991. The production also extended to TV series created for RAI and for the Swiss TV RTSI ("Lilliput-put, Mr Hiccup," "Stripy").



We are in the 60's/70's. Bruno's pencil gives shape to the icon of the average Italian, Mr Rossi, a simple man constantly on edge coming to terms with the degrading society he lives in. A three films' saga based on the relentless quest for happiness is thus built around the character ("Mr Rossi looks for Happiness", "Mr Rossi's dreams", "Mr Rossi's Vacations"). Seven animated shorts are released in the meantime and more than one publishing and music editions re-launch Franco Godi's tune-theme "Viva Happiness!", still tributed today in English and German. Also a recent Vintage clothing Merchandising line gained good success proving that the character has never really sunk. For more than twenty years the national newspaper Corriere della Sera weekly published the scratchy and satirical evergreen comics of Mr Rossi.

Between the 70's and the 80's the Bozzetto Film Studio was well structured counting on excellent artists amongst whom Guido Manuli, Maurizio Nichetti, Giuseppe Laganà, Giovanni Mulazzani, Antonio Dall' Osso. It was time to embrace the advertising branch offering the Italians memorable Carousels like the unforgettable "Kuku", "Unca Dunca", "Pildo Poldo e Baffoblu". The genius of Guido Manuli created the historical animated Tv themes introducing Pippo Baudo and Mike Bongiorno's Tv shows ("Johnny Bassotto", "Portobello", "La Tartaruga", "Isotta", "Cavallino Michele") watched by millions of Italians. The income was then being employed into self-financing for the making of the animated long feature films.

That's when "West&Soda" (1965), the first animated Spaghetti Western, was made to be soon followed by "Vip my brother Superman" (1968) and "Allegro non Troppo" (1976), the latter known to the international critique, above all American, as a Cult film often compared to Fantasia or better to its brave Italian parody. The three feature films have been screened around Festivals worldwide and aired on Tv in several languages for more than 40 years.

On the "live action" front, Bozzetto directed the feature film "Under the Chinese Restaurant" starring Amanda Sandrelli, Bernard Blier, Nancy Brilly and Claudio Botosso. He also directed hilarious gags in "Sandwich", "Spider" and of "The Cabin" where a young Maurizio Nichetti debuted.

In addition to the Oscar Nomination and to the Golden Bear, the number of Awards earned today counts up to 130 international acknowledgments among which 5 Silver Ribbons, the Winsor McCay Award, a Honorary Degree and more than 15 Awards to the career among which the De Sica Award handed over by the President of the Republic. There are also many degree thesis written over the Cartoonist.

The contribution the Cartoonist has given to the art of animation is so much praised that in 2012 John Lasseter, declaring himself a big fan of him, personally invited him to the Emeryville PIXAR Studios and shortly after, Diane, Walt Disney's daughter, aware of the affinities between her dad and Bruno, decided to host a cels-based exhibition on Allegro non Troppo entitled "Animation, Maestro!" set up within her Walt Disney Family Museum.

Since 2000 Bruno continues to enthusiastically take parts to new projects together with different entities and animation Studios for either Tv series such as "The Spaghetti Family", "Things", "Psicovip" or "Bruno the Great" commissioned by Disney Channel. At the same time he exploits his free time to create new short films made in 2D Computer animation. The first of which, "Europe vs Italy", gained considerable success in the web triggering new ideas for more shorts.



Bruno's cooperation with Third Parties is also carried out through his role in the production Studio Bozzetto&Co. of which Bruno's son, Andrea, and his associate, Pietro Pinetti, are founding members to carry on the legacy begun in 1960 in the same Milan-based Studio. Well prepared in different film-making techniques above which 3D animation, their Studio today actively operates in the advertising, in the educational and in the production of Tv series, boasting a remarkable curriculum of productions and co-productions such as "Tip the Mouse" made for RAI Fiction.

A new script created by Bruno Bozzetto that goes by the title "ViaVai" and points the finger against the problem of earthly pollution in a surreal and science-fictional environment sees the light through a graphic novel under a French publishing editor. All drawings are cured by Gregory Panaccione.

An important tribute that shows the human and personal side of Bruno is the docu-film "Bozzetto non Troppo" directed by Marco Bonfanti, produced by Zagora and Luce-Cinecittà Institute in cooperation with Sky Arte Hd.

Bruno Bozzetto's web-site is www.bozzetto.com

Studio Bozzetto's web-site is www.studiobozzetto.com