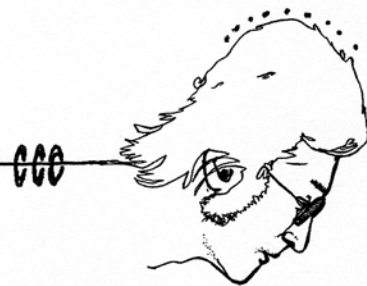


I MET  
THE  
WALRUS

# I MET THE WALRUS



In 1969, a 14-year-old Beatle fanatic named Jerry Levitan, armed with a reel-to-reel tape deck and a head full of questions, snuck into John Lennon's hotel room in Toronto and convinced John to do an interview. This was in the midst of Lennon's "bed-in" phase, during which John and Yoko were staying in hotel beds in an effort to promote peace. 38 years later, Jerry has produced ~~a film~~ *film* about it.

Animated Short  
5 min 10 sec

Written, Directed & Animated by:  
JOSH RASKIN

Produced by:  
JERRY LEVITAN

Pen Illustration by:  
JAMES BRAITHWAITE

Computer Illustration by:  
ALEX KURINA

Starring:  
JOHN LENNON and  
JERRY LEVITAN

Produced with the  
assistance of a Bravo!FACT  
(Foundation to Assist  
Canadian Talent) grant,  
supported by CTV.

Using the original interview recording as the soundtrack, director Josh Raskin has woven a visual narrative which tenderly romances Lennon's every word in a cascading flood of multipronged animation. Raskin marries the terrifyingly brilliant pen work of James Braithwaite with masterful digital illustration by Alex Kurina, resulting in a spell-binding vessel for Lennon's boundless wit, and timeless message.

The young Jerry Levitan is portrayed in simple cell-animated pen lines as he poses his interview questions, and in contrast, Lennon's replies trigger an assail of fast-moving animation, highlighting the particulars of his genius through literal visualization.

This film is not just an historic recording. This film is not just an amusing anecdote, rampant with witty turns of phrase. This film is not just a kaleidoscope of masturbatory nonsense. This film is a vital reminder that ~~the~~ *the* state of the world is not a given. It can be changed.

In John's words...

"Think peace and you'll get it. It's up to the people... If we really wanna change it, we can change it."

→ [www.imetthewalrus.com](http://www.imetthewalrus.com)

# I MET THE WALRUS:



## JOSH RASKIN :: writer/director/ animator

Josh Raskin has been making sounds and pictures for as long as he can remember. After a four year romance with the new media program at Ryerson University in Toronto, Josh appears unwavering in his tendency to keep doing so. With a small number of short films and a growing arsenal of misguided musical forays under his belt, his affinity for appropriating old things, mucking with them, and reupholstering them in terrifying new ways remains persistent throughout his work. When he's not making sounds or pictures, Josh spends his time sharpening his dangerous ping pong skills, taking alarmingly long baths, and avoiding getting a proper job. He also enjoys Indian food, The Beatles, sleep, girls, bicycles, girls on bicycles, wine, cats, three-part harmonies, Super Nintendo, protein, accidents, curse words, tea, Biggie Smalls, and lists of things he enjoys.



## JERRY LEVITAN :: producer

Jerry Levitan is a Toronto musician, actor, writer and lawyer who has recorded two acclaimed children's records under the guise of Sir Jerry. He has been a sought after media expert on the Beatles having given countless interviews around the world on the subject and in particular on John Lennon. His story has recently been the focus of massive interest in the United States where he has appeared on CBS, Fox, ABC and the highest rated syndicated radio shows. England's pre-eminent pop magazine, Mojo, heralded Jerry Levitan's personal story as "the best..." and a "... fascinating study of pop's political ambitions".

# I MET THE WALRUS



## JAMES BRAITHWAITE :: pen illustrator



James Braithwaite is a freelance illustrator who enjoys writing about himself in the third person. James received his degree in English Literature from Concordia University, and he is still trying to figure out what to do with it. (Perhaps an origami hat or boat?) When not cursing quietly at his drafting table, James spends his time attacking galleries with his art gang, the Young People's Foundation and making frightening baubles with his co-conspirator, Fred Casia. James' illustrations have been featured in Seed Magazine, Maisonneuve, Explore, Faesthetic, and many other fine publications. I Met the Walrus is James' first foray into the world of animation, but it certainly won't be his last. James lives in Montreal, Quebec and is currently working on a book of medical inaccuracies. All of ~~this~~ <sup>this</sup> can be seen at his website, [www.thebathwater.com](http://www.thebathwater.com).



## ALEX KURINA :: computer illustrator

Alex Kurina is a designer and new media artist in his mid-twenties. He currently lives and works in Toronto Canada. Alex first became fascinated with graphic design through his involvement with Toronto's electronic music scene. It was there, as a spectator to a blending of music and technology, that he began to develop the aesthetic which would inform his career. Since completing his bachelor's degree in new media at Ryerson University, Alex's work has been showcased throughout both the art and commercial world. His passion for communicating, eye for detail and appreciation for simple forms have inspired a distinctive and elegant body of work... which only continues to grow.

# I MET THE WALRUS



**BEST ANIMATED SHORT**  
AFI Fest 2007



**BEST ANIMATION**  
Middle East International Film Festival 2007



**BEST ANIMATION**  
Manhattan Short Film Festival 2007



**BEST CANADIAN ANIMATION:  
HONORARY MENTION**  
Ottawa International Animation Festival 2007



**BEST ANIMATION**  
Hawaii International Film Festival 2007



**BEST ANIMATION**  
10 Or Less Film Festival 2007



**INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL MENTION**  
Odense Film Festival 2007



**DIRECTOR'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION**  
San Francisco Shorts 2007



**BEST SOUND DESIGN**  
Platform International Animation Festival 2007

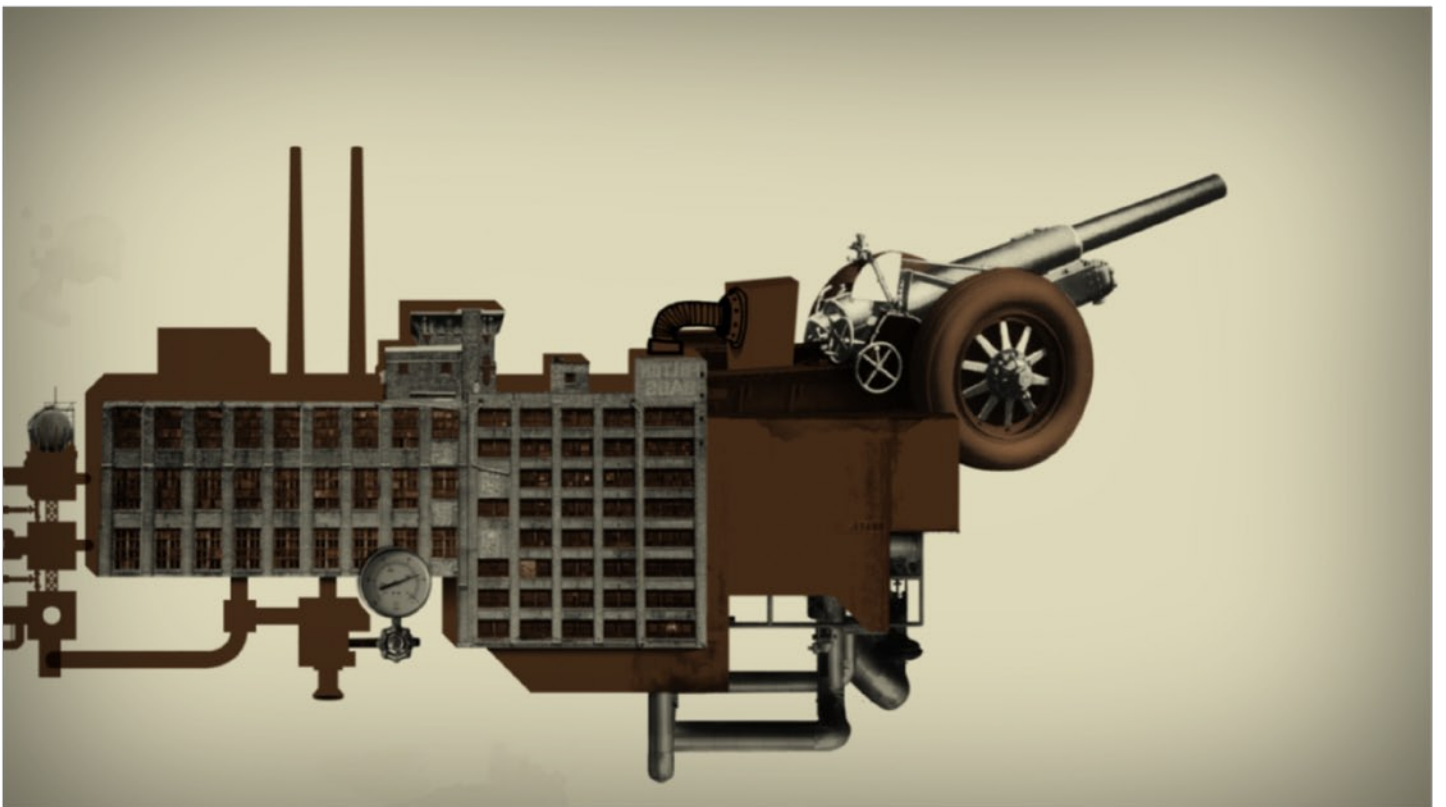


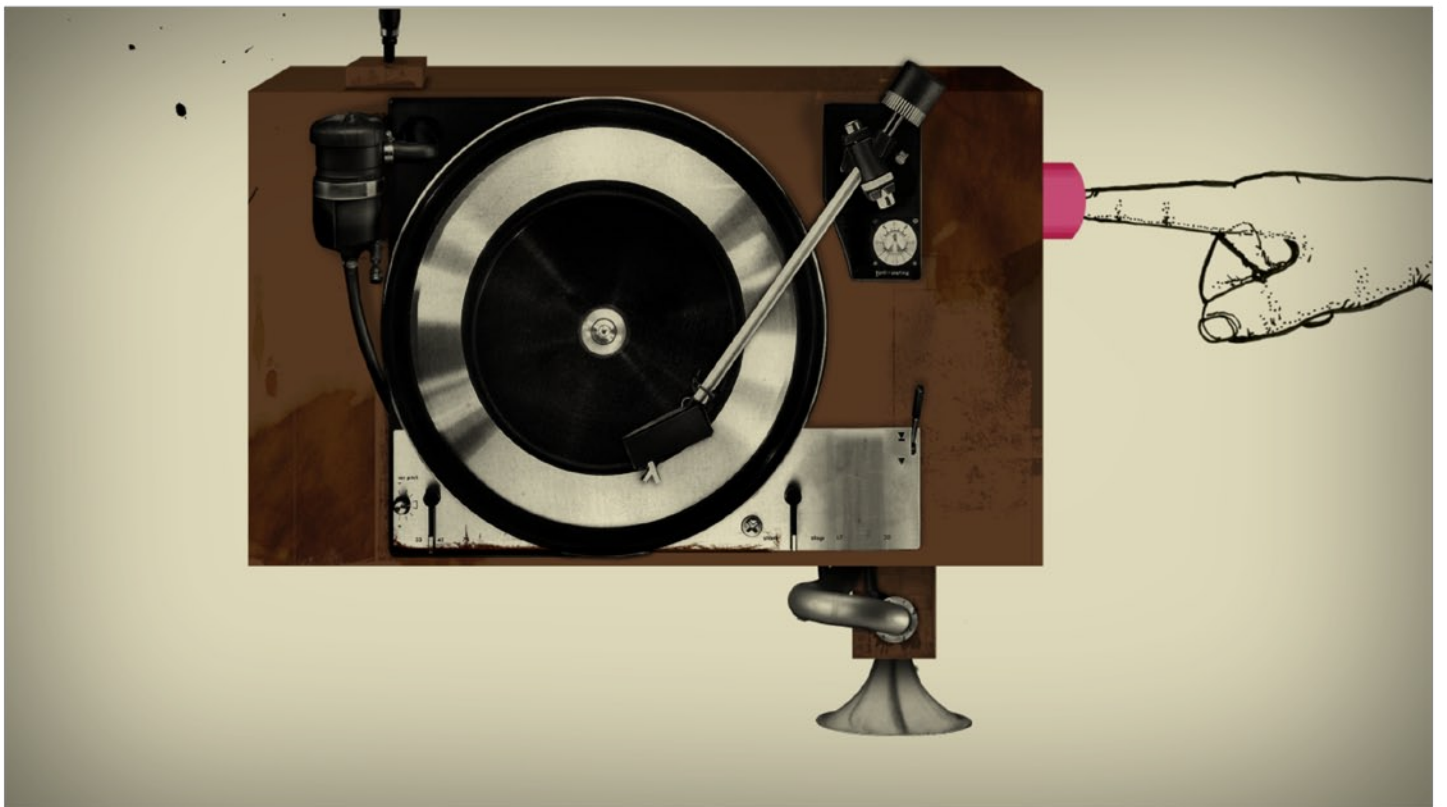
**SPIRIT AWARD**  
Brooklyn International Film Festival 2007



**OUTSTANDING ANIMATION**  
Winnipeg International Film Festival 2007









**JOSH RASKIN**  
(writer/director/ animator)