

= Up ( 2009 film ) =

Up is a 2009 American 3D computer @-@ animated comedy @-@ drama adventure film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures . Directed by Pete Docter , the film centers on an elderly widower named Carl Fredricksen ( Ed Asner ) and an earnest young Wilderness Explorer named Russell ( Jordan Nagai ) . By tying thousands of balloons to his home , 78 @-@ year @-@ old Carl sets out to fulfill his dream to see the wilds of South America and complete a promise made to his late wife , Ellie . The film was co @-@ directed by Bob Peterson , with music composed by Michael Giacchino .

Docter began working on the story in 2004 , which was based on fantasies of escaping from life when it becomes too irritating . He and eleven other Pixar artists spent three days in Venezuela gathering research and inspiration . The designs of the characters were caricatured and stylized considerably , and animators were challenged with creating realistic cloth . The floating house is attached by a varying number between 10 @,@ 000 and 20 @,@ 000 balloons in the film 's sequences . Up was Pixar 's first film to be presented in Disney Digital 3 @-@ D.

Up was released on May 29 , 2009 and opened the 2009 Cannes Film Festival , becoming the first animated and 3D film to do so . The film became a great financial success , accumulating over \$ 731 million in its theatrical release . Up received universal acclaim , with most reviewers commending the humor and heart of the film . Edward Asner was praised for his portrayal of Carl , and a montage of Carl and his wife Ellie aging together was widely lauded . The film received five Academy Award nominations , including Best Picture , making it the second animated film in history to receive such a nomination , following Beauty and the Beast ( 1991 ) .

= = Plot = =

Carl Fredricksen is a young 9 @-@ year @-@ old boy who idolizes famous explorer Charles Muntz . Muntz has been accused of fabricating the skeleton of a giant exotic bird he says he discovered at Paradise Falls , and vows to return there to catch one alive . One day , Carl befriends a girl named Ellie , who is also a fan of Muntz . She confides to Carl her desire to move her " clubhouse " ? an abandoned house in the neighborhood ? to a cliff overlooking Paradise Falls . Carl and Ellie eventually get married and live together in the restored house . Carl sells toy balloons from a cart at a zoo Ellie opens . After suffering a miscarriage and being told they cannot have a child , the two decide to realize their dream of visiting Paradise Falls . They try to save for the trip , but repeatedly end up spending the money on more pressing needs . Finally , an elderly Carl arranges for the trip , but Ellie suddenly becomes ill and dies .

Years later , Carl still lives in the house , stubbornly holding out as the surrounding neighborhood is torn down for new construction , but when he accidentally injures a construction worker over damage to his mailbox , a court orders him to move to a retirement home . However , Carl comes up with a scheme to keep his promise to Ellie , and turns his house into a makeshift airship , using thousands of helium balloons . Russell , a young Wilderness Explorer , becomes an accidental stowaway in his effort to earn his final merit badge for assisting the elderly . After surviving a thunderstorm , the flying house lands on a tepui opposite Paradise Falls . Carl and Russell harness themselves to the still @-@ buoyant house and begin to walk it across the mesa , hoping to reach the falls before the balloons deflate . Russell encounters a tall , colorful flightless bird , whom he names " Kevin " . They then meet a Golden Retriever named Dug , who wears a special collar that allows him to speak , and who vows to take the bird to his master .

The group is set upon by a pack of aggressive dogs led by Alpha , a doberman ( who is also seeking the bird ) , and are taken to their master , who turns out to be an elderly Charles Muntz . Muntz invites Carl and Russell aboard his dirigible , where he explains that he has spent years since his disgrace searching for the giant bird . When Russell notes the bird 's similarity to Kevin , Muntz becomes hostile , believing they have been attempting to steal the bird . The pair flees with Kevin and Dug , but Muntz catches up with them , captures Kevin and starts a fire beneath Carl 's house , forcing him to choose between saving it or Kevin . Carl rushes to put out the fire , allowing Muntz to

take the bird . He and Russell eventually reach the falls , though Russell is disappointed in Carl over his decision to abandon Kevin .

Settling into his home , Carl looks through Ellie 's childhood scrapbook , and is surprised to find that she has filled in the blank pages with photos of their marriage , along with a note thanking him for the " adventure " and encouraging him to go have a new one . Reinvigorated , he goes to find Russell , only to see him sailing off with some balloons to save Kevin on his own . Carl empties the house of furniture and possessions , lightening it , and pursues him . Russell is captured by Muntz , but Carl manages to board the dirigible in flight and free both him and Kevin . Dug accidentally defeats Alpha and becomes the dogs ' new leader . Muntz pursues them around the airship , finally cornering Dug , Kevin , and Russell inside Carl 's tethered house . Carl lures Kevin back onto the airship with Dug and Russell clinging to her back , but when Muntz leaps after them , he snags his foot on some balloon lines and falls to his death . The house then descends out of sight through the clouds .

Carl and Russell reunite Kevin with her chicks , then fly the dirigible back to the city . Carl presents Russell with his final badge : a grape soda cap that Ellie gave to Carl when they first met and made their promise . The two and Dug then enjoy some ice cream together . Meanwhile , Carl 's house has landed on the cliff beside Paradise Falls , fulfilling his promise to Ellie .

= = Voice cast = =

Ed Asner as Carl Fredricksen ( Jeremy Leary voiced Carl as a young boy ) . Docter and Rivera noted Asner 's television alter ego , Lou Grant , had been helpful in writing for Carl , because it guided them in balancing likable and unlikable aspects of the curmudgeonly character . When they met Asner and presented him with a model of his character , he joked , " I don 't look anything like that . " ( The appearance of Carl is meant to resemble Spencer Tracy as he appeared in his final film , Guess Who 's Coming to Dinner . ) They tailored his dialogue for him , with short sentences and more consonants , which " cemented the notion that Carl , post @-@ Ellie , is a disgruntled bear that 's been poked awake during hibernation " . In Colombia , unexpected publicity for the film was generated due to the uncanny similarity of Carl with Colombian ex @-@ president Julio César Turbay Ayala .

Christopher Plummer as Charles F. Muntz , an old explorer looking for the Beast of Paradise Falls , vowing not to return to North America until he had captured the last @-@ living creature , using a group of dogs to aid him in his hunt . The name of his airship , the Spirit of Adventure , may have been inspired by Charles Lindbergh 's airplane , Spirit of St. Louis . In various interviews , Pete Docter has mentioned Howard Hughes and real life adventurers Charles Lindbergh and Percy Fawcett as inspirations for Muntz .

Jordan Nagai as Russell , a young Wilderness Explorer who becomes an accidental passenger in Carl 's floating house in his effort to earn his final merit badge for assisting the elderly . Throughout most of the film , he makes several comments to Carl that suggest that Russell 's father and mother are no longer together . Russell 's design was based on Pixar animator Peter Sohn . Docter auditioned 400 boys in a nationwide casting call for the part . Nagai , who is Japanese American , showed up to an audition with his brother , who was actually the one auditioning . Docter realized Nagai behaved and spoke non @-@ stop like Russell and chose him for the part . Nagai was 8 years old when cast . Docter encouraged Nagai to act physically as well as vocally when recording the role , lifting him upside down and tickling him for the scene where Russell encounters Kevin . Asian Americans have positively noted Pixar 's first casting of an Asian lead character , in contrast to the common practice of casting non @-@ Asians in Asian parts .

Bob Peterson as Dug , the Golden Retriever misfit of Muntz 's pack of dogs that can all communicate with humans through a device on each of their collars . Peterson knew he would voice Dug when he wrote his line " I have just met you , and I love you , " which was based on what a child told him when he was a camp counselor in the 1980s . The DVD release of the film features a short called Dug 's Special Mission , which follows Dug just before his first meeting with Carl and Russell . Dug previously appeared in Ratatouille as a shadow on a wall that barks at Remy.Peterson also

voices Alpha , the Doberman Pinscher leader of Muntz 's pack of dogs . Pete Docter has stated that Alpha " thinks of himself as Clint Eastwood " . Despite his menacing appearance , a frequent malfunction in Alpha 's translating collar causes his voice to sound comically high @-@ pitched and squeaky , as if he had been breathing helium . The normal voice for his translator is a resonant , intimidating bass . With both voices , Alpha has a roundabout speech pattern that causes his sentences to be longer than necessary .

Pete Docter as Kevin , the " Beast of Paradise Falls " , which is actually just a large , colorful prehistoric bird . Docter also voices Campmaster Strauch , Russell 's scout leader , seen at the end of the film .

Elizabeth Docter as Ellie Fredricksen as a younger child . The voice actor is the director 's daughter , who also provided some of the drawings shown by Ellie .

Delroy Lindo as Beta , a Rottweiler and one of Muntz 's dogs .

Jerome Ranft as Gamma , a Bulldog and one of Muntz 's dogs .

John Ratzenberger as Tom , a construction worker who asks if Carl is ready to sell his house .

David Kaye as the newsreel announcer .

Danny Mann as Steve , a construction worker whom Carl injures because he accidentally wrecked his mailbox .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Director Pete Docter first began writing Up in 2004 . The fantasy of a flying house was developed on the idea of escaping from life when it becomes too irritating , which stemmed from his difficulty with social situations growing up . Actor and writer Tom McCarthy aided Docter and Bob Peterson in shaping the story for about three months . Docter selected an old man for the main character after drawing a picture of a grumpy old man with smiling balloons . The two men thought that an old man was a good idea for a protagonist because they felt that their experiences and the way that they affect their view of the world was a rich source of humor . Docter was not concerned with an elderly protagonist , stating that children would relate to Carl in the way that they relate to their grandparents .

Early concepts were very different from the final film . The initial version featured a floating castle with two brothers vying to inherit their father 's kingdom , and when the brothers fell to Earth , they encountered a tall bird who helped them understand each other . Docter 's next idea introduced many of the elements that eventually made their way into the film , but had Carl and Russell landing the house on a Soviet @-@ era spy airship camouflaged as a giant cloud rather than on a tepui . This concept was rewritten due to its similarity to another idea Pixar was developing . Another idea Docter added , then removed , was magic fountain @-@ of @-@ youth eggs laid by the bird , in order to explain the age discrepancy between Muntz and Carl , but it was decided that this subplot was too distracting , and that people would forgive the minor inconsistency .

Docter noted that the film reflects his friendships with Disney veterans Frank Thomas , Ollie Johnston , and Joe Grant ( who all died before the film 's release and thus the film was dedicated to them ) . Grant gave the script his approval as well as some advice before his death in 2005 . Docter recalled that Grant would remind him that the audience needed an " emotional bedrock " because of how wacky the adventure would become ; here it is Carl mourning for his wife . Docter felt that Grant 's personality influenced Carl 's deceased wife Ellie more than the grouchy main character , and Carl was primarily based on Spencer Tracy , Walter Matthau , James Whitmore , and their own grandparents , because there was " something sweet about these grumpy old guys " . Docter and Jonas Rivera noted Carl 's charming nature in spite of his grumpiness derives from the elderly " hav [ ing ] this charm and almost this ' old man license ' to say things that other people couldn 't get away with [ ... ] It 's like how we would go to eat with Joe Grant and he would call the waitresses ' honey ' . I wish I could call a waitress ' honey ' . "

Docter revealed that the filmmakers' first story outline had Carl "just want [ing] to join his wife up in the sky". It was almost a kind of strange suicide mission or something. And obviously that's [a problem]. Once he gets airborne, then what? So we had to have some goal for him to achieve that he had not yet gotten. As a result, they added the plot of going to South America. The location was chosen due to both Docter's love of tropical locations, but also in wanting a location that Carl could be stuck with a kid due to the inability to leave him with an authority such as a police officer or social worker. They implemented a child character as a way to help Carl stop being "stuck in his ways".

Docter created Dug as he felt it would be refreshing to show what a dog thinks, rather than what people assume it thinks. Knowledge of canine communication, body language and pack behaviors for the artists and animators to portray such thoughts came from consultant Dr. Ian Dunbar, veterinarian, dog behaviorist and trainer. The idea for Alpha's voice derived from thinking about what would happen if someone broke a record player and it always played at a high pitch. Russell was added to the story at a later date than Dug and Kevin; his presence, as well as the construction workers, helped to make the story feel less "episodic".

Carl's relationship with Russell reflects how "he's not really ready for the whirlwind that a kid is, as few of us are". Docter added he saw Up as a "coming of age" tale and an "unfinished love story", with Carl still dealing with the loss of his wife. He cited inspiration from Casablanca and A Christmas Carol, which are both "resurrection" stories about men who lose something, and regain purpose during their journey. Docter and Rivera cited inspiration from the Muppets, Hayao Miyazaki, Dumbo, and Peter Pan. They also saw parallels to The Wizard of Oz and tried to make Up not feel too similar. There is a scene where Carl and Russell haul the floating house through the jungle. A Pixar employee compared the scene to Fitzcarraldo, and Docter watched that film and The Mission for further inspiration. The character Charles Muntz comes from Howard Hughes and Errol Flynn.

== Animation ==

Docter made Venezuela the film's setting after Ralph Eggleston gave him a video of the tepui mountains of Canaima National Park; and tepuis were already featured in a previous Disney film, Dinosaur. In 2004, Docter and eleven other Pixar artists spent three days reaching Monte Roraima by airplane, jeep, and helicopter. They spent three nights there painting and sketching, and encountering ants, mosquitoes, scorpions, frogs, and snakes. They also flew to Matawi Tepui and climbed to Angel Falls. Docter felt "we couldn't use [the rocks and plants we saw]. Reality is so far out, if we put it in the movie you wouldn't believe it." The film's creatures were also challenging to design because they had to fit in the surreal environment of the tepuis, but also be realistic because those mountains exist in real life. The filmmakers visited Sacramento Zoo to observe a Himalayan monal for Kevin's animation. The animators designed Russell as an Asian @-@ American, and modeled Russell after similar looking Peter Sohn, a Pixar storyboarder who voiced Emile in Ratatouille and directed the short Partly Cloudy, because of his energetic nature.

While Pixar usually designs their characters to be caricatured, Carl was even more so, being only three heads high. He was not given elderly features such as liver spots or hair in his ears to keep him appealing, yet giving him wrinkles, pockmarks on his nose, a hearing aid, and a cane to make him appear elderly. Docter wanted to push a stylized feel, particularly the way Carl's head is proportioned: he has a squarish appearance to symbolize his containment within his house, while Russell is rounded like a balloon. The challenge on Up was making these stylized characters feel natural, although Docter remarked the effect came across better than animating the realistic humans from Toy Story, who suffered from the "uncanny valley". Cartoonists Al Hirschfeld, Hank Ketcham, and George Booth influenced the human designs. Simulating realistic cloth on caricatured humans was harder than creating the 10 @,@ 000 balloons flying the house. New programs were made to simulate the cloth and for Kevin's iridescent feathers. To animate old people, Pixar animators would study their own parents or grandparents and also watched footage of the Senior Olympics. The directors had various rules for Carl's movements: he could not turn

his head more than 15 ? 20 degrees without turning his torso as well , nor could he raise his arms high . However , they also wanted him to grow more flexible near the end of the film , transforming into an " action hero " .

A technical director worked out that to make Carl 's house fly , he would require 23 million balloons , but Docter realized that number made the balloons look like small dots . Instead , the balloons created were made to be twice Carl 's size . There are 10 @,@ 927 balloons for shots of the house just flying , 20 @,@ 622 balloons for the lift @-@ off sequence , and a varying number in other scenes .

= = = Music = = =

Up is the third Pixar film to be scored by Michael Giacchino , after The Incredibles and Ratatouille . What Pete Docter wanted most importantly out of the music was the emotion , so Giacchino wrote a character theme @-@ based score that producer Jonas Rivera thought enhanced the story . At the beginning of the movie , when young Carl is in the movie theater watching a newsreel about Muntz , the first piece of music heard is " Muntz 's Theme " , which starts out as a celebratory theme , and echoes through the film when Muntz reappears 70 years later . " Ellie 's Theme " is first heard when she is introduced as a little kid and plays several times during the film in different versions ; for instance , during the sequence where Carl lifts his house with the balloons , the theme is changed from a simple piano melody to a full orchestral arrangement . Giacchino has compared the film to opera since each character has a unique theme that changes during a particular moment in the story .

The score was released as a digital download on May 26 , 2009 , three days before the film opened in theaters . It won the Academy Award for Best Original Score , the Grammy Award for Best Score Soundtrack Album , the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score , and the 2010 BAFTA Award for Best Film Music . It is the first score for a Pixar film to win the Oscar ( Randy Newman also won for Monsters , Inc. and Toy Story 3 , but in the category of Best Original Song ) .

= = Release = =

When the film screened at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood , California from May 29 to July 23 , 2009 , it was accompanied by Lighten Up ! , a live show featuring Disney characters . Other tie @-@ ins included children 's books such as My Name is Dug , illustrated by screenwriter Ronnie del Carmen . Despite Pixar 's track record , Target Corporation and Walmart stocked few Up items , while Pixar 's regular collaborator Thinkway Toys did not produce merchandise , claiming its story is unusual and would be hard to promote . Disney acknowledged not every Pixar film would have to become a franchise . Promotional partners include Aflac , NASCAR , and Airship Ventures , while Cluster Balloons promoted the film with a replica of Carl 's couch lifted by hot air balloons for journalists to sit in .

Before the film 's worldwide release date , Pixar granted a wish from 10 @-@ year @-@ old Colby Curtin to see the film before she died . Colby had been diagnosed with cancer and was too sick to go to a theater . A Pixar employee flew to the Curtin 's house with a DVD of the finished film and screened it for her and her family . Curtin died seven hours later at 9 : 20 pm , shortly after seeing the film .

Director Pete Docter intended for audiences to take a specific point from the film , saying :

Basically , the message of the film is that the real adventure of life is the relationship we have with other people , and it 's so easy to lose sight of the things we have and the people that are around us until they are gone . More often than not , I don 't really realize how lucky I was to have known someone until they 're either moved or passed away . So , if you can kind of wake up a little bit and go , " Wow , I 've got some really cool stuff around me every day " , then that 's what the movie 's about .

= = = UPisodes = = =

Before its theatrical release , Disney · Pixar created three small animated vignettes called UPisodes to promote its film UP on the internet . These UPisodes chronicled Carl Fredricksen and Russell 's journey through the jungle , not seen in the movie . Fans were able to view the vignettes on Apple iTunes movie trailer site and YouTube .

UPisode One : Animal Calls - in the first episode , Russell demonstrates his ability to mimic animal calls .

UPisode Two : First Aid - in the second episode , Russell tries to relieve a minor injury that Carl received .

UPisode Three : Snipe Trap - in the third episode , Russell attempts to capture the elusive snipe .

== Home media ==

Up was released on Blu-ray Disc and DVD in North America on November 10 , 2009 , and in the United Kingdom on February 15 , 2010 . It features the film plus the theatrical short Partly Cloudy and the new short Dug 's Special Mission , as well as an audio commentary by director Pete Docter , Adventure is Out There a documentary about the filmmakers ' research journey to South America , The Many Endings of Muntz ( an alternate ending of sorts ) , and a digital copy . The Blu-ray edition has a four-disc pack that adds Cine Explore with BonusView , Global Guardian Badge and Geography games , eight documentaries , and BD-Live to the Deluxe DVD and digital copy platters . A Limited Edition , known as the Luxo Jr . Premium Pack , includes a collectible lamp modeled after Pixar 's bouncy short star that is designed to hold a complete Pixar Blu-ray collection .

In addition , Pixar also created a short film titled George & A.J. , written and directed by storyboard artist Josh Cooley . This shows what the two Shady Oaks retirement home workers did after Carl left with his house . It was initially available for purchase at the iTunes Store , and then was later posted to Disney · Pixar 's Facebook and YouTube pages .

In its first week , it sold 3 ,969 ,792 units ( \$ 66 ,057 ,339 ) and eventually reached 10 ,811 ,453 units ( \$ 182 ,591 ,149 ) , becoming the best-selling DVD among those released in 2009 in units sold . It also became the third in sales revenue behind Transformers : Revenge of the Fallen and Twilight .

The rental release of the film to Netflix , Blockbuster , and Redbox was controversial since it failed to include closed captioning . Disney faced a consumer backlash over this and quickly released a statement that this removal was an unfortunate error and that it was moving to correct the issue .

== Reception ==

== Box office ==

Up earned \$ 293 ,004 ,164 in the United States and Canada and \$ 438 ,338 ,580 in other territories for a worldwide total of \$ 731 ,342 ,744 . Worldwide , it was the sixth highest-grossing film of 2009 , the fourth highest-grossing Pixar film , the 55th highest-grossing film , and the 15th highest-grossing animated film .

In the United States and Canada , Up is the 59th highest-grossing film before inflation , the 10th highest-grossing Disney film , the seventh highest-grossing 3-D film , the sixth highest-grossing animated film , the fifth highest-grossing film of 2009 , and the fourth highest-grossing Pixar film . On its opening weekend , it performed stronger than analysts had been expecting , ranking number one with \$ 68 ,108 ,790 . This is the fourth highest-grossing opening for Pixar and the third largest post-Memorial Day opening . It set a record for opening weekend grosses originating from 3-D showings with \$ 35 .4 million ( first surpassed by Avatar ) . The opening weekend audience was 53 % female and 47 % under 17 years old . The film experienced small drop-offs on subsequent weekends , but lost first place to The

Hangover .

Outside the US and Canada , it is the 43rd highest @-@ grossing film , the 10th highest @-@ grossing animated film , the fifth highest @-@ grossing film of 2009 , and the third highest @-@ grossing Pixar film . It was on top of the overseas box office for three consecutive weekends and four in total . Its highest @-@ grossing opening weekends were recorded in France and the Maghreb region ( \$ 8 @. @ 88 million ) ; the UK , Ireland and Malta , ( \$ 8 @. @ 44 million ) ; and Japan ( \$ 7 @. @ 24 million ) . These three were also its highest @-@ grossing countries in total earnings . Among major countries , it was the highest @-@ grossing animated film of 2009 only in Spain ( \$ 37 @. @ 1 million ) , Australia ( \$ 25 @. @ 3 million ) , and South Korea ( \$ 6 @. @ 32 million ) .

= = = Critical response = = =

Up received universal critical acclaim . Rotten Tomatoes reports that 98 % of critics have given the film a " Certified Fresh " positive review , based on 285 reviews , with an 8 @. @ 7 / 10 review average . The site 's consensus states : " An exciting , funny , and poignant adventure , Up offers an impeccably crafted story told with wit and arranged with depth , as well as yet another visual Pixar treat " . The film also holds a score of 88 on the review aggregator website Metacritic . Audiences gave the film an " A + " CinemaScore .

Film critic Roger Ebert gave the film four out of four stars and called it " a wonderful film . " The Hollywood Reporter lauded the film as " Winsome , touching and arguably the funniest Pixar effort ever , this gorgeously rendered , high @-@ flying adventure is a tidy 90 @-@ minute distillation of all the signature touches that came before it . " Although the San Francisco Chronicle noted that the film " contains many boring stretches of mindless freneticism and bland character interaction , " it also declared that there are scenes in Up of " such beauty , economy and poetic wisdom that they belong in any anthology of great movie moments ... to watch Up with any attention is to be moved and astonished by the economy with which specific visuals are invested with emotion throughout [ the film ] ... " Variety enthused that " Up is an exceptionally refined picture ; unlike so many animated films , it 's not all about sensory bombardment and volume ... Unsurprisingly , no one puts a foot wrong here . Vocal performances ... exude a warm enthusiasm , and tech specifications could not be better . Michel Giacchino 's full @-@ bodied , traditional score is superlative ... " The Globe claimed that Up is " the kind of movie that leaves you asking ' How do people come up with this stuff ? ' " along with an overall positive review on the film , despite it being predictable .

The character of Carl Fredricksen has received mostly positive reception . Bill Capodagli , author of Innovate the Pixar Way , praised Carl for his ability to be a jerk and likable at the same time . Wall Street Journal editor Joe Morgenstern described Carl as gruff , comparing him to Buster Keaton , but adds that this begins to wear thin as the movie progresses . He has been compared with Spencer Tracy , an influence on the character , by The Washington Post editor Ann Hornaday and Empire Online editor Ian Freer , who describes him as similar to a " Guess Who 's Coming to Dinner @-@ era " Tracy . Entertainment Weekly editor Lisa Schwarzbaum described his appearance as a cross between Tracy and an eccentric out of a George Booth cartoon . TIME editor Richard Corliss also makes the comparison , calling him a " trash compacted version " of Tracy . He has also been compared to Walter Matthau , another inspiration for the character 's design , by LA Weekly editor Scott Foundas , suggesting that actor Ed Asner was channeling him while performing the role of Carl . Variety editor Todd McCarthy described Carl as a combination of both Tracy and Matthau .

The relationship between Carl and his wife Ellie has been praised in several media outlets . In his book Disney , Pixar , and the Hidden Message of Children 's Films , author M. Keith Booker described the love between Carl and Ellie as touching . While also describing the scene of the two of them aging as a " masterpiece of its own kind , " he was not sure how much children would appreciate the scene , commenting that his son was squirming in his seat during the scene . Reelviews editor James Berardinelli praised their relationship , stating that it brought a tear to his eye in a way no animated film has done , including anything by famed anime director Hayao Miyazaki . Ann Hornaday praised the prologue , describing it as " worthy of Chaplin in its

heartbreaking poignancy . " Chicago Tribune editor Michael Phillips praised the scene , describing it as an emotional and cinematic powerhouse , and that he also was nearly moved to tears . However , Salon.com editor Stephanie Zacharek criticized the love between Carl and Ellie , describing their marriage as resembling a dental adhesive commercial more than a real relationship .

Edward Asner was praised in several media outlets for his portrayal of Carl . San Francisco Chronicle editor Mick LaSalle praised Asner as a great choice due to having a grumpiness to his voice that is not truly grumpy , but rather coming from a protective stance . Entertainment Weekly editor Lisa Schwarzbaum praised Asner 's acting , stating that he has a " Lou Grant authority " to his voice . Time editor Richard Corliss stated that Asner had the " gruffness and deadpan comic timing to bring Carl to life . " The Boston Globe editor Ty Burr concurred with this , stating that his Lou Grant @-@ like voice had not diminished with time . USA Today editor Claudia Puig praised Asner 's delivery , describing it as superb .

The formulation of Russell as an Asian American character , along with the casting of an Asian American in the role was met positively as well . Both Nagai and the film were awarded by the East West Players for the depiction of Russell . EWP lauded Pixar for the creation of the character , stating , " We are proud to honor a very progressive film company like Pixar who cast an Asian American character alongside an elderly one to play the leads in a feature film . " The character is noted as Pixar 's first lead Asian character , and was further positively received within the added context of historical non @-@ Asian castings for Asian roles in entertainment . Asian American organizations and entertainment websites , such as media watchdog Media Action Network for Asian Americans ( MANAA ) , Racebending.com , and Angry Asian Man praised the character and Pixar for its diverse character depictions , noting the general lack of Asian American lead characters and Asian actors cast in entertainment . In an interview with NPR in 2013 , Angry Asian Man 's Phil Yu reflected on the character 's lack of typical Asian stereotyping , stating , " You know , he just happens to be Asian and he 's , you know , really adorable character . But that kid could 've been of any ethnicity but they made the effort to make him Asian - just a little color , you know , and it 's really wonderful when that kind of thing happens where they don 't have to play that up and make it like a thing or a joke , which happens a lot . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Up won two awards at the 82nd Academy Awards , for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Score . It is the second of three animated features to have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture . Beauty and the Beast and Toy Story 3 were also nominated for Best Picture in their respective years . Up also won Best Original Score and Best Animated Feature Film at the 67th Golden Globe Awards . It was nominated for nine Annie Awards in eight categories , winning two awards for " Best Animated Feature " and " Best Directing in a Feature Production " . Up also received the Golden Tomato from Rotten Tomatoes for highest rating feature in 2009 , and best reviewed animated film , with an approval of 98 percent from film critics , based on 259 reviews . At the 2010 Kids ' Choice Awards the film won Favorite Animated Movie . Jordan Nagai was awarded the Breakout Performance Award at the 44th East West Players 44th Anniversary Visionary Awards and Silent Auction for his role as Russell by the East West Players . The organization also awarded the film with the EWP Visionary Award for its progressive casting of an Asian American lead . Dug , the talking canine , was awarded the Palm Dog Award by the British film critics as the best canine performance at Cannes Film Festival , winning over the fox from Antichrist and the black poodle from Inglourious Basterds .

= = Allegory = =

A running joke involving Dug and the dog pack losing concentration at the mention of " squirrel ! " is now a metaphor for distraction in popular culture , in which paying attention to a figurative squirrel causes loss of focus on important issues .



= = Video games = =

On May 26 , 2009 , a video game by the same name themed around the movie was released for multiple platforms .

A video game , Kinect Rush : A Disney @-@ Pixar Adventure , was also released on March 20 , 2012 , for Xbox 360 . It features characters from five of Pixar 's films : Up , The Incredibles , Cars , Ratatouille , and Toy Story .