

## WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING—

“Thomas Comma is one of those rare delights, a film that both entertains and educates. It’s a gem.”

—**DAN BENNETT**, *Festival Director,*  
*Los Angeles International Children’s Film Festival*

“Filmmaker Kimmelman...brings Martha Baird’s (1921-81)...surprisingly pithy allegory to animated life. Originally a radio play, the story was inspired by the phrase, “As lonely as a comma without a sentence,” by Eli Siegel, founder, Aesthetic Realism, and tells the tale of a...likable comma named Thomas, who seeks a purpose in life. The charming...animation gives this sweet and simple film a retro feel that is easy to enjoy; the narrative is compelling, clever, and humorous enough to keep the story moving forward to its satisfying and somewhat surprising conclusion. A witty joke about ee cummings is especially funny and illustrates how this is as much a film for older viewers familiar with literature and the art of writing as it is for younger viewers who can benefit from its life-affirming lessons on confidence and perseverance. Recommended for animation fans and composition students of all ages.”

—*LIBRARY JOURNAL*, July 2010

“I just screened your newest film. It’s great. Applies to commas and people like me. It appears to be right for both adults and children. Hope it’s being used world- wide like your other work.”

—**RICHARD BREYER**, *Co-Director,*  
*The Documentary Film & History Program,*  
*Syracuse University*

“I love this charming short film! THOMAS COMMA is a smart, heartfelt literary adventure that speaks to audiences of all ages.”

—**JERRY RUDES**, *Founder of the*  
*Avignon Film Festival & Cinémond Film Series*

**KEN KIMMELMAN**, an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, is president of Imagery Film, Ltd., and a consultant on the faculty of the Aesthetic Realism Foundation (AestheticRealism.org). In 1945 he



received an Emmy Award for his anti-prejudice public service film *The Heart Knows Better*. He produced films for the United Nations against prejudice and apartheid: *Brushstrokes*, and *Asimbonanga*, which won the Newark Black Film Festival’s *Paul Robeson Award*. He received a 1997-98 Emmy Award for his contributions to *Sesame Street*; 1992 & 1993 Emmy nominations, and an Ace nomination as a director on the animated TV series *Doug*. *Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana* (2005), based on Eli Siegel’s *Nation* magazine prize poem, won numerous awards and currently airs on PBS.

• In 1968 he directed *People Are Trying to Put Opposites Together*, the historic documentary of Eli Siegel teaching an Aesthetic Realism class, televised on WNET-TV, Channel 13. He also produced political films, theatricals, motion picture trailers, TV commercials. He was a director on many animated TV series—*Clifford’s Puppy Days*, *Daria*, *The Wild Thornberries*, and produced films for the Children’s Museum of Manhattan. He is currently producing several documentaries.

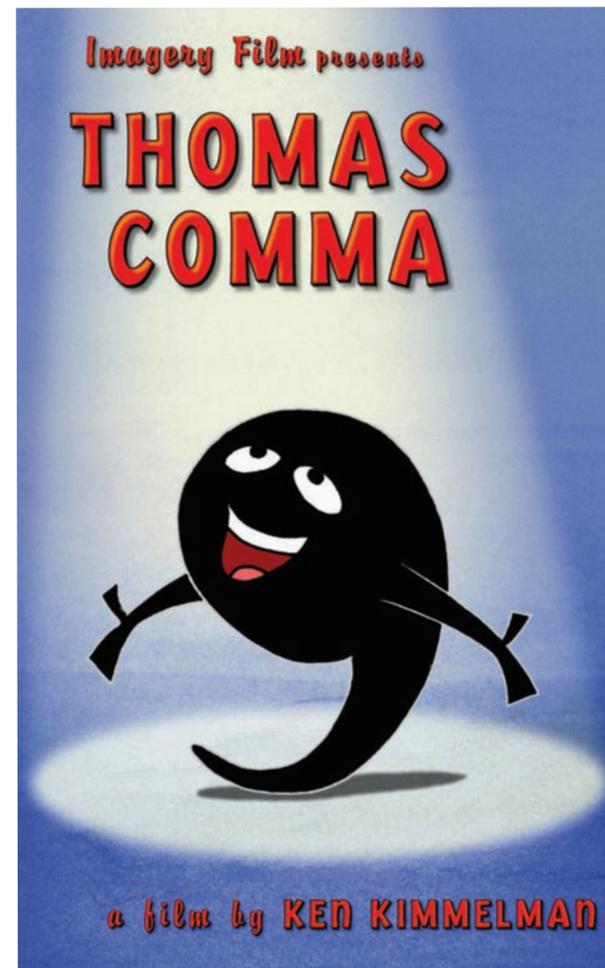
• Mr. Kimmelman taught film and animation at NYU and the School of Visual Arts. At the Modern Language Association’s 2011 National Conference he presented “Aesthetic Realism and the Literary Cinema of Ken Kimmelman.” He was also a guest lecturer in the *Artists Talk on Art* series at SVA. He presented film talks at Syracuse University, CUNY, Wilfrid Laurier University, to mention a few, and papers on D.W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, Ingmar Bergman, and others. His work was part of the 2006 Whitney Biennial Peace Tower.

• As a lecturer on the answer to racism he has spoken at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, the Queens Borough Public Library’s Tributes to Martin Luther King, Jr., and at schools, colleges, and community organizations. A founder of Housing: A Basic Human Right (housingaright.org), he presented a Keynote speech at Boston University, and spoke at Vassar; NYU; Pace; the Public Policy Institute, Lynn, MA; and in national conferences at the AIA, the University of Maryland, and Harvard University.

To schedule a talk, contact:

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**PLATINUM REMI AWARD**

Worldfest Houston International Film Festival

**BEST ANIMATION**

New York International Film Festival

**GRAND FESTIVAL ANIMATION AWARD**

Berkeley Video and Film Festival

**BEST ANIMATED SHORT**

Kidzflix International Children’s Film Festival

**GOLD PIXIE AWARD**

American Pixel Academy

**ACCOLADE AWARD**

Accolade Competition

**AWARD OF MERIT**

The Indie Fest Competition

**AIRING ON PBS**

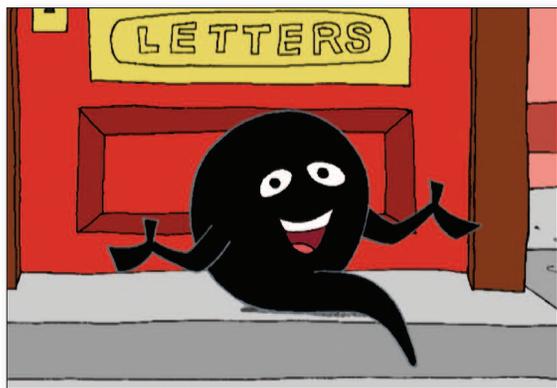
“As lonely as a comma without a sentence.”

—ELI SIEGEL, Founder, Aesthetic Realism

# THOMAS COMMA

DIRECTED BY **KEN KIMMELMAN**

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker

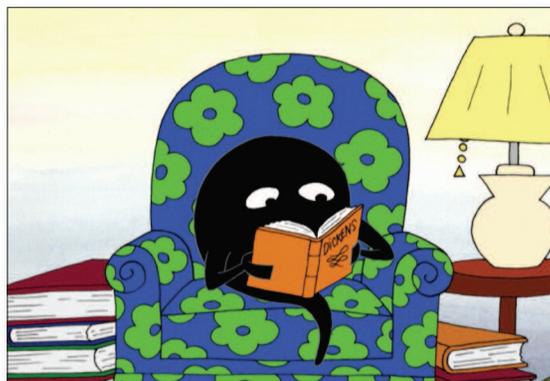


**THOMAS COMMA** [24-min], based on a story by poet Martha Baird, is the charming, humorous, and



sophisticated adventure of a lonely comma looking for the right sentence—what truly represents him in the world. This 2D animated film will not only

delight and inspire children and adults alike—but also encourage and educate them! “We’re all of us like commas,” wrote Ms. Baird, “looking for the right sentence.”



**KEN KIMMELMAN** gives exciting talks for children and adults on the making of the film and the meaning of *Thomas Comma*. He says:

*“When I first heard a dramatic reading of poet Martha Baird’s story Thomas Comma, I was delighted and also deeply moved. It’s the story of a small punctuation mark—a comma—a story that has wide, universal meaning. The author shows in a beautiful literary style—with humor, insight, and subtlety—the trials and tribulations of Thomas.*

*“With surprising imagination, she makes vivid the largest fight in every person, which Aesthetic Realism explains. It’s the fight between respect for the world—the hope to see meaning and beauty in it, be in a good relation with it, which is our deepest desire—and contempt, the hope to be superior, look down on things. Contempt is what makes a person mean, unfeeling, and also deeply ashamed. Through Thomas I felt my own life described. He shows the best thing in us can win!”*



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**—Martha Baird (1921-81), poet and critic of music, author of *Nice Deity*, was born in Kansas. She moved to New York in 1943, and began to study Aesthetic Realism, the philosophy founded by poet and critic Eli Siegel. Ms. Baird wrote *Thomas Comma* originally as a radio play with the title *The Comma That Didn’t Belong Anywhere*.

**INTENDED AUDIENCE**—From 8 to 80 and beyond—for the- atres, television, schools, universities, and libraries.



**CREDITS**—Produced & Directed by Ken Kimmelman; Executive Producer: Robert Murphy; Voices: Anne Fielding and Timothy Lynch; Computer Imagery: Cha-Pow!; Sound: Vertigo Power; Original Music: Edward Green; Titles: Jennifer Basnyat. An Imagery Film, Ltd. production. (thomascomma.com). Distributor: Chip Taylor Communications 800.876.2447 www.chiptaylor.com