

Battle for Terra

**USA – SPECIAL EVENT**

Animation, Aristomenis Tsirbas, 2008, 80 min

In English

**Q&A with director Meni Tsirbas following the film!**

Recommended ages 7 to adult

SYMPH – Sat, Feb 28, 4:30pm

Director Aristomenis “Meni” Tsirbas follows up his short film *The Freak* with a dazzling feature debut—an exquisitely animated sci-fi epic that plays like a cross between *WALL-E* and *Star Wars*. The film takes place on the beautiful planet of Terra, a richly imagined, flowing world where flying whales emerge from clouds and float slowly and serenely through pink-hued skies, while below towering mushroom trees with sea-urchin tentacle roots make homes for the planet’s inhabitants. Terra is home to a race of peaceful, tadpole-like people who have seemingly evolved beyond conflict, war and greed. One day a darkness covers the sky and a fleet of terrifying ships arrive—an invasion of humans. Earth has long-ago been destroyed by war and environmental devastation, and the last remaining Earthlings are isolated on a dilapidated spaceship called the Ark, desperately seeking a new planet to colonize before their oxygen runs out. So while the Terrians celebrate their Festival of Life, the humans attack and the peaceful planet is plunged into chaos. During the upheaval, a young Terrian girl Mala befriends an injured human pilot, Lt. James Stanton, and as the battle rages, the two struggle to find a solution that will allow both races to live. This Oscar-caliber film is a drop-dead gorgeous visual treat and delivers a powerful and timely message: given an “us or them” choice, the true heroes are those who seek a third way.