

We made *Down with the Ship* in 2021, during the pandemic. That meant we had to get creative about how to keep everyone healthy and safe while shooting a film about two men fighting over the last life vest on a doomed ocean liner. With social distancing, the two men couldn't fight. And with our budget, they couldn't be on an ocean liner.

But we said, damn the torpedoes—and the virus!

Everyone involved with the film worked from home, even though our homes are thousands of miles apart. No one came into contact with anyone who didn't live with them. Costumes and props were delivered, and the actors set up their own green screens and lights.

We coordinated and blocked each shot on Zoom, but the footage was recorded by the actors on iPhones. Though they could hear each other through their laptops, the actors couldn't see each other while performing. When they appear to be looking at one another, they're actually looking at their living room walls.

Getting two characters together when the actors were miles apart wasn't easy, but it was possible with a few cinematic tricks and clever editing. Whenever the characters physically interact, it's a family member lending a hand, literally.

A combination of puppetry and animation techniques bring the quilled paper artwork to life. Quilling involves rolling thin strips of paper into various shapes, in this case, waves and a ship. The actual ship measures only seven inches from bow to stern, and our actors were able to be aboard thanks to a shrink ray. That, or extreme close-up shots.

The lively score captures the adventure of the high seas. Accentuating the comedy in a call and response with the dialogue, the music plays a third character, one who needs no life vest.

We invite you to see for yourself how all this was accomplished, in the [behind-the-scenes featurette](#) on our website, which is linked on our FilmFreeway page.

The making of this film was a triumph over the pandemic. From our homes to yours, we're thrilled to present *Down with the Ship*.

Bon voyage!

Danielle Weinberg
Writer & Producer