

Gina is delicious!



the TOAST trip

A tale about working, cooking, numbers, big dreams, and toast

a film by GEORGE MAESTRI



A film about mind-numbing jobs, delicious food, absurd numbers, big dreams, death, and toast.

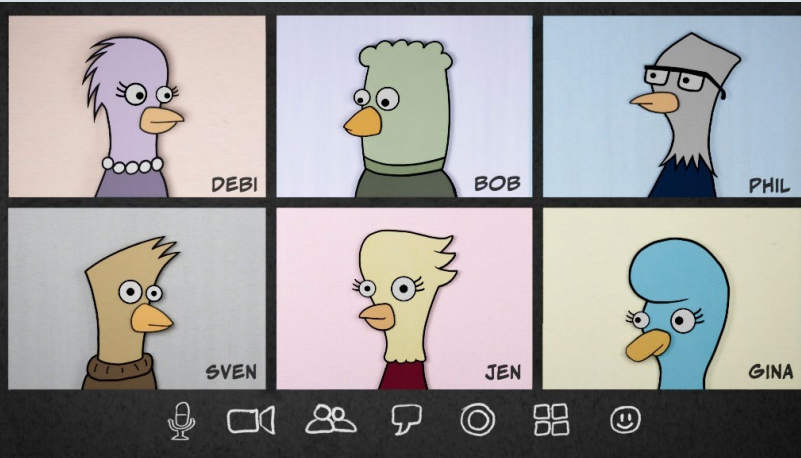
SYNOPSIS

Gina is an aspiring chef who supports her brothers working a mind-numbing corporate job filled with baffling zoom calls and absurd numbers.

After a very late night of work and a remote meeting from hell, Gina is caught in the middle of a toaster battle, causing a near death experience that leaves her with an epiphany.



Genre: Animation, Comedy
Country: US
Production Year: 2026
Language: English
Subtitles: Spanish, French (.SRT available)
Duration: 10:45
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1
Frame Rate: 24fps
Formats: DCP, ProRes, H.264



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Toast Trip was inspired by a career detour I took from animation to a small internet startup, which eventually became part of a huge tech conglomerate. I quickly found myself immersed in an environment filled with pointless meetings, absurd numbers, and confusing jargon. After one too many team building events, I left that world to return to animation and making short films.

This film is for anyone wanting to take a risk on something more fulfilling.

For production, *The Toast Trip* explores a unique area that exists between 2D and 3D. The world and characters are built and animated in 3D (Maya) but with a strong nod to both 2D and stop motion techniques



A film by : **George Maestri**

Written and directed by : **George Maestri**

Music and sound effects : **Ben Bavonese**

Produced by :

David Niles White, George Maestri

Voices:

Keaton Talmadge - Gina

Jesse Fister - Barnaby

Jennifer L. Hughes - Debi

George Maestri - Otis, Phil, Sven

Rob Garrott - Bob

Story consultants:

Jackie Watson, David Niles White, Rob Garrott

Colorist: **Preston Maestri**

Environment Consultant: **Danny Foran**

Audio Post: **Advantage Post Sound Services**

Re-recording mixer : **Brittany Ellis**

Sound Effects Editor: **Gabriel Gelbrecht**



About the Filmmaker



George Maestri is a Los Angeles based director, writer, producer, and animator with experience at studios such as Nickelodeon, Warner Bros, Disney, Film Roman, and Comedy Central. His credits include writing on Rocko's Modern Life and producing on South Park. He is the founder of Rubber Bug, an independent animation studio. George has written nine books on animation and has taught as faculty at schools such as CalArts and Otis College of Art, as well as online.

George started his professional life as an engineer, working in Silicon Valley with early computer graphics. He aspired for something creative and managed to make the leap to animation, helping to develop the series "Rocko's Modern Life." That opened the door to a career as a writer, director, producer, and studio owner. Much later, he found himself back in the tech world as an early employee of Lynda.com, an internet startup that later sold to LinkedIn, which then became a division of Microsoft. Once again, he wanted something more creative and left tech a second time to pursue life as an independent filmmaker.

Notable Credits:

Rocko's Modern Life (Nickelodeon) : Staff writer -- 38 episodes

South Park (Comedy Central) : Animation Producer – first season

Karen and Kirby (Warner Bros) : Creator, director, writer, producer -- 13 episodes

The Forgotten Ones (Disney) : Creator, director, writer – Series pilot

Olivia (Nickelodeon/Brown Bag) : Animator

After You (Brown Bag) : Animator

Hershey's Really Big 3D Show (Threshold) : Lead animator

Ferd (Rubber Bug/Comchoice) : Director, Writer, Producer – 100 episodes

Website : georgemaestri.com

Instagram : [@geomaestri](https://www.instagram.com/geomaestri)

LinkedIn : [linkedin.com/in/georgemaestri/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/georgemaestri/)

YouTube : [@geomaestri](https://www.youtube.com/@geomaestri)

Vimeo : vimeo.com/georgemaestri

Ben Bavonese – Composer
(limesandcherries.com)

Ben is passionate about sound design, composing original music to fit any aesthetic, and switching between third and first person writing. He spends a lot of time playing jazz or wandering around Chicago with a microphone, hunting down sounds.

David Niles White (DGA) – Producer

David is a creative producer and production executive. His experience includes content in animation, live-action, and themed entertainment. His credits include work for Disney, Twentieth Century Fox, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Time Warner, Universal, and Comedy Central. He was the inaugural Supervising Producer on South Park for Comedy Central and the Vice President of Production for Digital Animation at Film Roman. In an effort to give back to the community, he has been part of the trauma team at the UCLA Emergency Department for over 18 years.

Voices

Keaton Talmadge (Gina) - A trained actress and singer with a BFA from CalArts, Keaton has over 20 years of experience as a voice talent for animation, interactive, and media. She is also the great granddaughter of silent screen icon Buster Keaton.

Jesse Fister (Barnaby) – Is a St. Louis based voice talent specializing in animation, commercials, and radio.

Jennifer L Hughes (Debi) - Studied acting at CalArts as well as with The Groundlings, and MK Lewis. In addition to acting, she has done animation voice work for shows such as Phineas and Ferb, Tarzan, and Rocko's Modern Life.

