

Stop Motion Animation – Week #1

Wednesday, July 8th @ 12:30-3:30pm

1. Introduction

- a. **What is Stop Motion?** Stop motion is an animation technique to make a physically manipulated object appear to move on its own. The object is moved in small increments between individually photographed frames, creating the illusion of movement when played as a continuous sequence. A lot of companies opt for CGI nowadays, but stop motion is cheaper and better at displaying textures, which is why directors such as Tim Burton like to use this method.

b. **Examples of Stop Motion films**

- i. “Joyful Skeleton” (1897) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNReoA8BV_Y
- ii. “Funny Faces” (1906) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijn4T5LIZpl> (Stop motion with chalk drawings)
- iii. “The Lost World” (1925) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubdH7FQpZ9A> (Fast forward a bit through this)
- iv. “Jason and the Argonauts” (1963) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF_Fi7x93PY (famous skeleton fight scene)
- v. “Star Wars” (1977) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZE_gN4hB44 Claymation in chess scene
- vi. “California Raisins” commercials (1980s) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkbA3E363So>
- vii. “Sledgehammer” music video (1986) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJWJE0x7T4Q>
- viii. “Nightmare Before Christmas” (1993) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpvdAJYvofI> (start at 0:50)
- ix. “Fantastic Mr. Fox” (2009) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2igjYFojUo>
- x. “In Your Arms” music video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOu0DuxFAT0>
- xi. Making of “In Your Arms” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIH4MJAC2Tg>

2. Guidelines

a. What do you need to know?

- i. How to use the Stop Motion iPad App
- ii. Keep your concept simple! Every second of a stop motion film requires 24 individual photos. Therefore, a 10-second film requires 240 photos.
- iii. My movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7Zw1KVjras>
 1. Smaller movements are best, but if you're going to use big movements like I did, you'll have to do more editing after you finish
 2. I had to slow down the film to about half speed
 3. You might want to take 2 or 3 pictures of a particular pose, to stretch it out or give attention to a particular detail
 4. You can copy/paste frames into your movie, but don't do this too much or the film will be jerky
 5. Pay attention to the light, and make sure you don't get your shadow in the picture
 6. Make sure you hold the camera steady and compare each shot to the one before it so they are lined up

3. Split up into groups

- a. Determine roles for each person – 2 or 4 people per group
- b. Decide on a story and create a storyboard
- c. **Figure out props**
 - i. What is your main prop going to be?
 - ii. What is in the background?
- d. **Storyboarding & Shot Lists**
 - i. Use the worksheet to create a storyboard that lays out the general story you are going to tell.
 - ii. Construct a list of 50 main shots you need to tell your story.

****HAVE POSSIBLE MOVIE PROPS AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO CHOOSE****

FILL OUT THE SHEET WITH YOUR GROUP INFORMATION AND TURN IT IN TO ME BEFORE THE END OF THE FIRST CLASS.

Stop Motion Animation – Week #2

Wednesday, July 15th @ 12:30-3:30pm

1. Finish up work from last week
2. Rules for filming in the library, or outside the building
 - Respect other people's space! Don't film people in the library, just film your movie subject.
 - Don't get in each other's way – try to film in different areas, apart from each other.
 - If you're filming outside, don't go further than the sidewalk around the building or the grassy area right next to the building.
 - Don't be too noisy – you'll need to talk to each other in order to make your film, but be aware I might ask you to quiet down.
 - Listen to each other! Make sure everyone in the group has a voice.
 - Be organized! You will have to work quickly, because you are filming so many individual frames, so make sure you have a good plan.
 - Have fun!! This is the most important rule.
3. Film your story!

Stop Motion Animation – Week #3

Wednesday, July 22nd @ 12:30-3:30pm

1. Finish any work from last week
2. Editing and post-production
3. Share your work on the big screen! (Upload to YouTube from the app)