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If you want to start eyes rolling and blood boiling in the creative world just drop the subject of pitching into converstion. In fact, you often don't even have to bring it up: On a recent trip to LA, an executive at a revered bicoastal studio suddenly looked up at me and sighed, "Pitching is killing this industry."

The client/agency/studio dynamic is storied and complex and beyond the breadth of this space, so let's just agree on a few things:

- 1. Pitches cost money.
- 2. The average number of pitchers per project is rising beyond reason.
- 3. 90% of pitches die an ugly death at the hands of unappreciative pitchees.

I don't have a cure for all your pitching blues but I can offer a balm of sorts. This August Stash will publish the premier edition of a design annual called STYLE FRAMES to showcase outstanding presentation art and video.

Every year STYLE FRAMES will give you the chance to rescue all those daring and brilliant visual treatments hiding in the studio drawer and showcase them in a beautifully printed, full-size design book complete with a DVD and insights and tips from top creatives on the art and science of pitching.

STYLE FRAMES won't solve the pitching crisis but it will raise the profile of those who do it for a living and fuel discussion of the issues involved.

And yes, it will provide a modicum of revenge against the heathens yet to recognize your genius.

Stephen Price Editor New York, April, 2010 sp@stashmedia.tv MERCEDES-BENZ
"SCULPTURE"
Event film 2:00 (director's cut)

Client: DAIMLER AG

Agency: OLIVER SCHROTT KOMMUNIKATION GMBH

Production: THE MARMALADE

Director: ANDREAS SCHIMMELPFENNIG

Animation/VFX: ELASTIQUE DEINE FREUNDE

www.elastique.de www.deine-freunde.tv

A sleek and sensual film for the unveiling of the Mercedes-Benz Sculpture at the North American International Auto Show 2010. Andreas Schimmelpfennig, director at Elastique (Köln, Germany): "We had the idea of having the elements water, fire and air somehow interacting with the object, shaping it and thereby showing the evolution, but in a very abstract way.

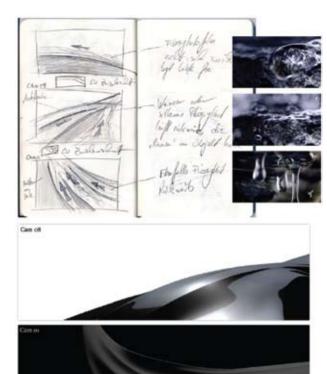
"We called our friends at The Marmalade and found filming these things in live action, but at high speed, a very appealing approach. But planning a very abstract shoot

like this was not easy. Luckily we got a 3D model of the sculpture, so we could really search digitally for interesting close-up views on the object. And we were also very lucky Mercedes-Benz had already built a 1:4 scale model of the sculpture, which was perfect for this shoot.

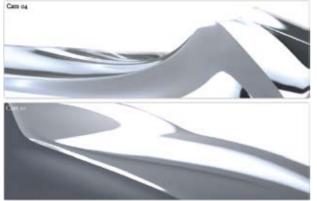
"The challenge was the timing: We had about two weeks to develop the look and feel, and the story. The special effects experts at The Marmalade had then just one week to prepare the three-day high-speed shoot. This is not much time if you think of all the rigs they needed to build – like shooting little water drops into the air so that they collide precisely in one spot. After the shoot there were just 10 working days left to finish all the post production.

"Since in the past we did a lot of full CG projects for Mercedes-Benz, it was great to work with real film footage again. We like CG, but most of the time we do not like the feel of CG. We think there are just a few projects out there that use CG in a very organic, sensual way. So we'll keep trying to produce work somewhere in between."

Schedule: six weeks.











For Oliver Schrott Kommunikation GmbH

EP: Claudius Nowak

For Elastique

Schultheiss

Director/CD/editor: Andreas Schimmelpfennig AD: Betty Schimmelpfennig Designer: Thomas von den Driesch Storyboard: Hans-Christoph

For The Marmalade

Producer: Niels Thomsen DOP: Eike Rieche Phantom operator: Marcus Hambsch DIT operator: Jan Tiedemann Motion control: Christian Fritz SFX: Daniel Feuerhake Jan Gwiasda, Boris Frey Gaffer: Claus Mielke Best boy: Jan Peter Helms

Super digital artist/colorist:

For Deine Freunde

Swen Linde AD/digital artist: Peter Pannes Digital artists: Axel Hamacher, Min Tesch Movematcher: Tim Mendler

Making of: Tobias Mönninger

For Shake up Music

Composer: Volker Pannes

Color grading: WeFadeToGrey

Toolkit

Cinema 4D, After Effects, Scratch, Final Cut. Pro Tools. Photoshop

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AUDI "BEAUTY IN ENGINEERING" TVC :30 (spec) Director: ALADINO DEBERT

Animation: RADIUM REEL FX ENTERTAINMENT

www.radium.com www.reelfx.com

Radium and Reel FX hit a spectacular yet transcendent note as they stretch their photo-real CG and directing chops.

Katherine Harper at Reel FX fills us in: "From a conceptual standpoint it was important to push the envelope and create a piece that had no counterpart in our past work. With that in mind, director/designer Aladino Debert created detailed storyboards, board-omatics and style guides to make sure the team had a rule book of sorts.

"Debert wanted to treat the spot as photographically as possible, and in doing so, he wanted to design the lighting and choreography to mimic what could have been shot in live action if resources had been available. The plan was not to set out to do a CG car spot but to create a heautiful: 30 film







in the order of one to 1.5 million polygons and some frames took up to 60 or more hours to complete. Luckily, since the lighting was very accurate, we were confident of the outcome and could make do with low-resolution proxies until the very end.

that we were generating full HD floating-point frames, in some instances with up to 25 channels embedded on the .EXR's."

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.

Lead CG: Jerry Weil Producer: Matt Thunell Compositors: Rob Nederhorst, Dag Ivarsoy, Joe Censoplano CG: Dariush Derakhshani. Hatem Ben Abdallah, Steve Cummings, Dave Damant, Mark Thielen 2D: Dustin d'Arnault. Ronnie Bates, James Tobias

Editors: Alan Chimenti. Sarah Cole

Sound designers: Frank Pittenger, TJ Callaway

Music "Suna" by Radicalfashion

Toolkit

Maya, V-Ray, Nuke, Inferno, Photoshop, After Effects

"PORSCHE PANAMERA" TVC:60

Agency: CRAMER-KRASSELT

Director: JEFF ZWART

Production: @RADICAL MEDIA

www.asylumfx.com

VFX: ASYLUM VISUAL EFFECTS

Here's the thing: With a few well-placed phone calls you can round up 50 antique Porsches (Jerry Seinfeld alone might lend you 14 for instance) but you will never ever convince Jerry et al to send their babies into battle across any rockstrewn, paint-dinging California desert.

Enter Asylum Visual Effects and VFX super/lead compositor Tim Davies and CG super Zac Tucker: "We shot this spot over three days at an air base in California. The entire live action environment was replaced through CG.

"The main concept was for the cars to peel off from their initial formation one by one to ultimately create the image of a tree that was etched into the landscape and

revealed from an overhead shot at the end of the commercial.

"After editing was completed, the agency felt the performance of the cars was not strong enough to support the concept, so we added many additional cars and created new cars that would jostle for position and peel off to form the trees branches along the way.

"We used every trick in the book to achieve this: cars were rotoscoped from alternate takes and re-tracked into our shots; still photos were taken and reanimated to populate scenes; and many full CG cars were created from scratch where we needed strong

performance and perspective changes.

"Every car, whether from the original plate, still photo or CG needed to be match moved by our tracking department to give us accurate wheel base that could be used to generate the tracks that were left on the desert floor.

"These tracks ended up being a character unto themselves as they could help tell the story of where cars had been or could give us the impression of how the cars swerved in and out of each other to add energy to the spot or simply serve as additional branches allowing us to incrementally introduce the image of the 'family

tree'. Once we had these wheel bases as digital assets we were able to use them to generate CG dust from the tires of the cars which also helped glue the cars into our new environment.

"We used photographs taken at Black Rock Desert in Nevada as elements for matte paintings and textures that we generated to create our environment. All came together in the compositing stage which required countless hours to finesse all 57 shots."

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.









For Cramer-Krasselt, Chicago

CCO: Marshall Ross Associate CD: Rick Hamann Copy: Gary Doyle, Rick Hamann AD: Matt Spett, Luke Partridge VP/director of broadcast production: Sergio Lopez

For @Radical Media Director: Jeff Zwart

For Asylum

VFX super: Tim Davies FP: Michael Pardee Producer: Mark Kurtz Coordinator: Jennie Burnett Bidding producer: Michael Hanley CG super: Zach Tucker Compositors: Jonathan Hicks, Tim Bird Lead technical designer: Jeff Willette Lead modeler: Greg Stuhl Modelers: Toshihiro Sakamaki. Josh Robinson, Lersak Bunuparadah, Chad Fehmie Animators: Samir Lyons. Michael Warner, Michael Shelton Texture/tracker: Ryan Reeb Texture: John Hart

Trackers: Eddie Offermann. Michael Lori, Lauren Van Houten. Michael Maker, Tom Stanton, lan Doss, Danny Garcia, Apirak Kamian Lighters: Aaron Vest, Austin Das, Sean Durnan Effects: Jens Zalzala Lead roto: Elissa Bello Rotos: Hugo Dominuez, Laura Murillo, Daniel Linger, Jason Bidwell, Stephanie Ide, Scott Baxter, Midori Witsken, Mark Duckworth, Zac Chowdhury, Huev Carroll, Chris Cortese, Bethany Pederson Onstad



Inferno, Houdini, Maya

Matte painter: Tim Clark







GUINNESS "AREA 22"

Agency:

Director: RORY KELLEHER

Production: COMPANY FILMS BELIEVE MEDIA

VFX:

GLASSWORKS LONDON

www.glassworks.co.uk

Director Rory Kelleher's latest Guinness epic calls on Hollywood creature designer Wayne Barlowe (Hellboy, Harry Potter, Avatar) and London post powerhouse Glassworks to create a futuristic rugby training facility worthy of a Michael Bay film. All but one of the 42 shots in the :30 second spot needed CG and comping work.

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.

For IIBBDO

CD: Mal Stevenson Copy: Bernie Martin AD: Paddy Geraghty Producer: Noel Byrne

For Company Films / Believe Media

Director: Rory Kelleher Producer: Nick Fewtrell DoP: Jake Polonsky



For Glassworks

Producer: Misha Stanford-Harris 3D: Alastair Hearsum, Andreas Bystrom, Adrian Russell, Vincent Thomas, Ruediger Kaltenhauser, Nick Smalley, Jon Park, Stephen New Flame lead: Duncan Horn, Duncan Malcolm Flame assist/Flint: lain Murray, Warren Gebhardt, Ruben Llusia TK colorist: Ben Rogers

For Screenscene

Editor: Jake Walse

Toolkit

XSI. Flame, Flint, Spirit 2K



OLD SPICE "THE MAN YOUR MAN COULD SMELL LIKE" TVC :30

Agency: WIEDEN + KENNEDY PORTLAND

Director: TOM KUNTZ

Production:

VFX: THE MILL LOS ANGELES

www.the-mill.com

Phil Crowe, shoot supervisor for The Mill Los Angeles: "We produced a pre-vis which was essential in working out the mechanics of capturing all the action in a single take. The idea was to minimize the amount of post work and pre-empt any difficulties we would likely face. It took three days to shoot the 30 second and 15 second version with the winning take shot on the last day.

"The plastic replicas of the falling diamonds were shot against a black background using a cast hand for positioning. This element was then composited into the final shot along with the bottle which needed a label tracked on to it each time it appears.





"Clean up included removing wires, tracks, horse wranglers and stabilizing the camera move. The ocean was extended into the foreground to make the boat look as if it was at sea and the palm tree was added in to the final framing."

For Wieden + Kennedy

Creatives: Eric Kallman, Craig Allen, Jason Bagley, Eric Baldwin Producer: Erin Goodsell

For MJZ

Director: Tom Kuntz DP: Neil Shapiro Producer: Scott Kaplan

For The Mill

EP: Sue Troyan Producer: Ari Davis Shoot super: Phil Crowe Lead flame: Ant Walsham Flame: Phil Crowe, Tara Demarco Assist: Gavin Camp, Becky Porter, Shane Zinkhon, Steve Cokonis

For Final Cut LA

Editor: Carlos Arias

Toolkit

Flame, Flare, Combustion

NUROFEN "CORE" TVC:30

Agency: MOTHER LONDON

Director:

Animation/VFX: PSYOP

www.psyop.tv

Nurofen is a pain medication whose reputation for robust effectiveness has weakening its appeal to the public who perceive it as too powerful for everyday use. Psyop EP Lucia Grillo: "Our task was to help the brand by creating a world that would send a user friendly message based on Mother London's character lineup and story sketches.

"Our design research led us to Muppets which are friendly without overloading the audience with being too cute. Referencing the texture of a wet tennis ball, our team helped transform pain into a fuzzy nuisance and the relief characters as pompoms with googlie eyes.

"Nuro's personality was largely inspired by superhero actions and gestures, the pains had to be menacing and mischievous but not evil."



CDs: Marco Spier, Marie Hyon EP: Lucia Grillo Producers: Nathan Jew, Carol Collins Designers: Lauren Indovina, Jon Saunders, Pete Sickbert-Bennett Storyboard: Ben Chan Lead TD: Tony Barbieri Lead compositor: Molly Schwartz Previz: Jason Goodman Modeling: Lee Wolland, Zed Bennett Rigging: Lee Wolland, Zed Bennett Animation: Pat Porter, Jordan Harvey, Michael Shin

VFX: Jonah Friedman Texture: Szymon Weglarski, Tony Barbieri, Adam Flynn Light: Szymon Weglarski, Tony Barbieri, Adam Flynn Compositing: Molly Schwartz, Jason Conradt, Manu Gaulot

Music/sound design: Q Department

For Sound Lounge: Mixer: Rob Sayers

Toolkit

Maya, After Effects





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SEAT S.A. "GOOD STUFF"

Agency: ATLETICO INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING S.L.

Directors: NINA PFEIFENBERGER ALEX TURVEY CLAYTON MCDERMOTT

Production: SUPERFAD

Animation/VFX: SUPERFAD www.superfad.com

Superfad whips up a big batch of

Superfact whilps up a big batch of glitzy-cute kitsch to punch home the fact Shakira's European tour is sponsored by Spanish car maker SEAT.

Superfad CD Adam Parry: "This job encompasses every bit of animation and live action knowledge we have amassed over the years: 2D motion graphics and graffiti design; live action with dancers and glitter explosions; 8-bit pixel style animation; full 3D city build and animation; and a stop frame animation shoot mixed with 3D characters." Schedule: eight weeks.

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.



For SEAT S.A.

Advertising: Silvia Balart, Ana Sánchez Sponsoring: Friedo van Gelder, Anahí Stoll

For Atletico International Advertising S.L.

ECD: Arndt Dallmann MD: Paul Gross CDs: Jason Bramley, Jonny Biggins AD: Steven Hanson Copy: Ben Carson Designer: Daniel Mascarenhas Producer: Christian Santiago Métrailler

Alex Turvey, Clayton McDermott

For Superfad Directors: Nina Pfeifenberger.

CD: Adam Parry
EP: Stuart Robinson
Producer: Josephine Gallagher
Assistant producer: Samantha
O'Keefe
Live action producer: Amelia Wise
AD: Clayton McDermott
Designers: Chris Thompson,
Adam Willis , Jimi Crayon, Gillian
O'Connor, Carlos Nieto
2D animation: Bethan Algieri,
Chris Thompson, Joe Philips
Head of 3D: Jérôme Haupert

Toolkit

Maya, 3ds Max, After Effects, Photoshop, Nuke, Flame, Final Cut Pro

MOTHERSHIP LAUNCH FILMS Transmedia advertising x 7

Client: MOTHERSHIP

Directors:
PIERRE MICHEL
BRENT BONACORSO
NATHAN LOVE
ANDRÉS ROSAS HOTT
DAVID ROSENBAUM
SIL VAN DER WOERD

http://mothership.net/

Digital Domain beams up a corral of international talent for the maiden flight of Mothership, a new sister company built to "develop core creative, build concepts and drive and execute productions from beginning to end for advertising agencies and brands."

The launch roster includes Robert Hales, Dael Oates, David Rosenbaum, Sil Van Der Woerd, Brent Bonacorso, Pierre Michel, Matthew Santoro, Happycamper and NY studio Nathan Love.

Digital Domain commercials division president and EP Ed Ulbrich: "Consumer demand for compelling content on connected devices creates an enormous opportunity for advertisers. To capture it, agencies need

integrated cross-platform strategies and creative services, and they're turning to companies who can execute a brand vision from concept to completion.

"A new breed of digitally literate directors and designers has emerged to meet this need. Mothership collects these talents and lets them tap into our wealth of resources, technology and expertise, so they can always produce what they envision. This structure enables Mothership to offer its clients the confidence of knowing that every project receives total backing and support."

"Memento Mori"

Director: Brent Bonacorso VFX super: James Atkinson Lighting: Tim Jones, David Liu, Chris Norpchen Compositing: Sven Dreesbach, Rafael Colon Animation: Marc Perrera

Rigging: Adrian Dimond



Director: Nathan Love CD: Joe Burrascano Character designs: Morgan Schweitzer Concept art: Denis Kozyrev, Anca Risca

Character models: Ylli Orana Character textures: Ylli Orana, Anca Risca

Character TD: Francisco Naranjo Animators: Ryan Moran, Dave Han, Kyle Mohr, John Velazquez Lighting: Joe Burrascano Compositing/effects: Hopr Editing: Joe Burrascano Technical directors: Mats



"Chase"

Director: David Rosenbaum
CG super: Richard Morton
VFX super: Vernon Wilbert
Lead 3D: David Liu
3D: Anthony Ramirez, Daisukue
Nagae, John Lima, Meg Ryan
Sr. compositors: Sven Dreesbach,
Rafael Colon
Compositors: Chia-chi Hu,
Ted Andre, Jackie Cooper
Sr. TD: Adrian Graham
Digital production administrator:
Andrea Flores



"Sound of Feldman"

Director: Andrés Rosas Hott 3D production: Robert Karlsson 3D modeler: Robert Södergren Producer: Manne Sjögren Sound design: Istvan



"Sensation White"

Director: Sil van der Woerd



"West of the Moon Trailer"
Director/animator:
Brent Bonacorso
Producer: Thom Fennessey
Cinematographer: Tarin Anderson
Actors: Jacob Witkin, Michael
Garbe, Amber Noelle
Music: Devotchka



"Crescendo"

Director: Pierre Michel VFX: Ron Herbst Lighting: Casey Benn Modeling/lookdev: Tim Jones Animation: Marc Perrera Lighting/effects: John Lima Compositing: Rafael Colon Rigging: Adrian Dimond Graphics: Trisha Mcnamara Additional lookdev: Chris Norpchen



ESPN/NASCAR - THE NATIONWIDE SERIES "DOMINOES" TVC:30

Agency:

WIEDEN+KENNEDY NEW YORK

Director:

LONI PERISTERE

Production: ZOIC STUDIOS

Animation: ZOIC STUDIOS

www.zoicstudios.com

The first spot in ESPN's new campaign for the NASCAR Nationwide Series blasts out of Zoic Studios in Culver City. "Through a combination of CGI animation and cutting edge facial capture technology, we were able to create a hyper-real environment containing expressive human characters."

For Wieden+Kennedy

CD: Stuart Jennings
Copy: Luke Behrends,
Heather Larimer
AD: Cyrus Coulter
Producer: Dan Blaney
ECDs: Todd Waterbury,
Kevin Proudfoot
Head of content production:
Gary Krieg



For Zoic Studios Director: Loni Peristere

EPs: Steve Schofield, Erik Press Editor: Dmitri Gueer Producers: SeanTompkins, Michael Crapser VFX super: Chris Jones FX directors: Kevin Struckman, Mike Rhone Flame: Steve Meyer Pre-viz/layout: Chris Desantis Lighting director: Michael Cliett 3-D super: Andy Wilkoff VFX producers: Michael Crapser, Sean Tompkins CG super: Brad Hayes Animators: Brian White, Teague Christie, John Lima, Michael Davidson, Geoffrey Mark, Brad Mullinuex, Trevor Adams, Peter Nye Composite super: Nate Overstrom Compositors: Dayna Mauer, Renaud Talon, Ken Littleton, Dan Weber, Chris Irving, Chris Jones

Song: Metallica "Master of Puppets"

For Trinitite Inc.

Sound designer: Brian Emrich

Toolkit

Maya, Nuke, LightWave, After Effects, Flame

MTVNHD "SPEAKER" Broadcast design :20

Client: MTV NETWORKS POLAND

Director: RIMANTAS LUKAVICIUS

Production: STRICTLY PRODUCTION

Animation: KORB

Working with MTV Networks Poland, Rimantas Lukavicius director at KORB in Vilnius, Lithuania, built this 3D HD ident

with the objective of connecting nature with the pulse of a stereo speaker. "As always the main challenge is to make it believable, realistic. Working in HD was a challenge by itself as we had much longer render times. Also it was crucial to have as sharp and clear details as possible so we had to deal with huge textures and polygon counts." Schedule: two months from idea to delivery.

For Warsaw Design Studio PM: Agnieszka Klys

For KORB

Director/animation/rendering/ compositing: Rimantas Lukavicius Modeling/texturing/rendering: Evaldas Cesnavicius

For Echolab

Composer/sound designer: Gavin Little

Toolkit

3ds Max, Maya, Real Flow, Adobe CS POCKO LONDON AND MAGMA BOOKSTORES "TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE" Title sequence 2:29

Directors: OLIVER DURANT BRUNA GUERREIRO

Animation: CAPTIVE

www.wearecaptive.com

Oliver Durant, director and animator at Captive in Lisboa, Portugal: "Illustration agency and publisher Pocko approached us to create an animation to accompany and promote their touring 'Pockoshko' exhibition featuring Russian matryoshka dolls customized by Pocko illustrators.

"Originally our dilemma was how best to represent all of the different artists in one cohesive piece, the solution we found was to focus on the common theme which ran through all of the artwork: the creation of a new doll and the ability for that doll to carry the idea of the artist.

"Because it seemed quite an unconventional idea to have a title sequence for a physical exhibition we really wanted to draw attention to the fact by making the opening







30 seconds a pastiche to Maurice Binder's iconic titles for Dr. No... It also helped inject our cat character with a bit of Bond suave.

"Shervin Shaeri and Jamie Masters composed and performed the soundtrack after seeing the animation. The animation was then tinkered with further to strengthen the play between sound and image."

For Captive

Bruna Guerreiro Illustrations: Chisato Shinya (AKA 'Kinpro')

For Adelphoi Music

Sound produced: Leon Dixon-Goulden Soundtrack composed/performed: Shervin Shaeri, Jamie Masters

Toolkit

Illustrator, Cinema 4D, After Effect

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ABC3
Broadcast design x 5

Client: ABC TV

Director: TACTIC

Animation/VFX: TACTIC

www.tactic.com.au

ABC3, Australia's brand new children's channel, gets an eclectic kid pop-vox treatment from Sydney studio Tactic who won the bid over 14 other contenders then handled all the design and production for the campaign including logo designs, 24 unscripted channel idents, 400 branding elements, off-air ads, music composition and marketing. Whew.

For ABC TV

Head of marketing/promotions Sue Lester

For Tactic

CD: Diana Costantin





FITC AMSTERDAM 2010 Opening titles 1:22

Director: SOULBASE

Animation: SOULBASE

www.soulbase.nl

Soulbase (in Utrecht, The Netherlands) proves event titles are still the venue of choice to gather some of your favorite collaborators, chuck the rules and let loose. Floris Vos, AD at Soulbase: "If you tickle us in the right place and give us all this freedom we can move mountains in two weeks.

"Our inspiration came from the conference itself: design and technology, with a lot of attention paid to action scripters, mathematical experiments, and freaks playing with code. We tried to translate this into a sequence about a data DJ creating new digital experiments. Because of the deadline we weren't able to have a preproduction phase. Just start creating and improvise along the way."





Toolkit

3Ds Max, Cinema 4D, After Effects, Illustrator



THE HOURS "ALI IN THE JUNGLE"

Music video 4:02

Record label: POLYDOR

Director: JONAS ODELL

Production: NEXUS PRODUCTIONS

Animation: FILMTECKNARNA

www.filmtecknarna.se

FilmTecknarna director Jonas Odell: "The brief was quite loose; the band couldn't appear and they had artwork by Damien Hirst that we were allowed to use if we wanted to. We ended up not using the actual artwork, but there were a few visual themes from the album cover that we incorporated such as the skulls and the clocks. We also discussed doing it as a stage performance of sorts in our initial talks.

"The main challenge was to create the sense that it was one long unbroken stage show. We ended up collecting everything into one single After Effects project to be able to control it organically."

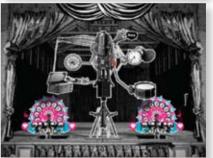
For Nexus Productions

Producer: Isobel Conroy









For FilmTecknarna

Director: Jonas Odell Producer: Linda Hamback

Toolkit

After Effects, Maya

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NOBODY BEATS THE DRUM "GRINDIN"

Music video 2:50

Director: ROGIER VAN DER ZWAAG

VFX: 100% HALAL

www.100procenthalal.nl

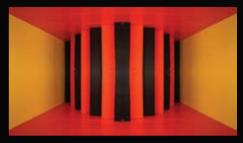
Rogier van der Zwaag, director at Amsterdam production company 100% Halal: "Since I'm a part of the band I had carte blanche. The only brief was that it had to look good.

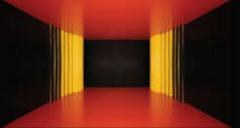
"The hardest part was there were no human elements in the video. I had to think in rhythm, time, motion and color. This led to the fact that most of my original sketches proved not to work. Every day I had to re-invent at least three wheels. I also had to ensure that it would stay interesting to watch the video for three minutes. The gradual buildup of tension was very important.

Technical challenges? "What can I say, stop motion is a bitch." Schedule: four months.

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.









For 100% Halal

Director: Rogier van der Zwaag Stopmotion animator: Rogier van der Zwaag Stopmotion animation assistant: Susie Oosting Editing/postproduction: Rogier van der Zwaag Making of: Susie Oosting

Toolkit

Dragon Stop Motion, After Effects, Canon EOS 20D

"BOX ANIMATION" Viral 1:29

School: VANCOUVER FILM SCHOOL

Director: JORDAN CLARKE

Animation: JORDAN CLARKE

http://cargocollective.com/jvc

Jordan Clarke, director/animator, Victoria, British Columbia: "This project was done for a class at the Vancouver Film School. I basically had to propose any project I wanted to do and complete it, so this was a very experimental piece.

"My main technical challenge was learning match moving and 3D compositing. I had never used these techniques and because of the length, camera movement, and the drummer in front of the camera I had to spend a lot of time doing many manual tracks to base my auto tracks on.

"For the textures in the boxes, I painted and drew on paper then scanned it into the computer. Some of the textures are animated in After Effects as well. I then keyframed the luminance channel of the textures to the music so it would appear that the boxes



created the sound. I decided to shoot the video with a lot of backlight so I would be able to extract an alpha channel from the drummer so I wouldn't have to rotoscope him too much. Using multi-pass exports from the 3D I was able to composite the shadows, reflections and floor into the scene.

"I didn't have my own computer so I had to work on the computers at school. About a week before the project was due I slept at school for five days straight. We're not allowed to do this so I had to

sneak around at night to find spots to sleep where the security guards and teachers wouldn't catch me.

"I slept in the audio lab, the back corners of classrooms, the school theatre and under desks. Finally one of the program managers found out, came in to my classroom, took my sleeping bag and pillow and walked out of the room. I never got any of my stuff back and so I went home to sleep that night." Schedule: two months.

Actors: Mike Edel, Jorge R.
Canedo Estrada, Roger Dario
Special thanks: Brett Forsyth,
Bienvenido Cruz, Josh Carpenter,
Jorge Feres Jr, Mike Edel, Danny
Chan, Jorge Canedo Estrada,
Roger Dario

Toolkit

PFTrack, Cinema 4D, After Effects, Premier Pro, Photoshop, Red Giant Magic Bullet Looks stash 67 17

"PIU" Short film :60

Director: PLEIX

Production: WARM&FUZZY

Animation/VFX: WARM&FUZZY

www.warmandfuzzy.tv

French directing collective
Pleix: "The idea came from a
Christmas card we designed for
our French production company
warm&fuzzy. The card showed
one of warm&fuzzy's logo
characters, a bird, looking out a
Christmas stocking. To expand on
this concept, we thought it would
be fun to do a simple and playful
film with birds popping out of
socks, cups, boots, etc... whistling
at each other and gradually
composing a complex track."

For Pleix

Music: Jean-Philippe Deslandes

Toolkit

Illustrator, Photoshop, After Effects, Vegas



SCION MAGAZINE 15 "DAVE SARDY" Branded content 3:49

Agency: MALBON BROS. FARMS

Director: EVELYN LEE

Animation: EVELYN LEE

www.iamevelynlee.com

Audio bites recorded during a Scion Magazine interview with legendary punk rocker and music producer Dave Sardy lurch to life in the hands of Los Angeles director and animator Evelyn Lee.

"The creative challenge was to figure out the best way to visually tell Dave Sardy's story within the time constraints. After the animatic was approved, I adjusted my process of animation, where I first blocked out the main scenes that were necessary, and then continued to add and tweak other scenes."

The biggest technical challenge throughout Lee's very hands-on process was shooting the paper folding and tearing off, "mainly because it was an experiment and I wasn't sure if it would work." Schedule: two and a half months.



"HOW YOUR MONEY WORKS" Viral 3:52

Client: GREEN CITY ENERGY

Director: TOBIAS KNIPF ANDREAS KRONBECK

Animation/VFX: MUSCLEBEAVER

www.mslbvr.com

The Munich design team of Tobias Knipf and Andreas Kronbeck, aka Musclebeaver, make their Stash premier by proving that explanations of even mundane topics (e.g. financial investments) can be make chromatically rich and visceral entertainment. Schedule: two months.

For Musclebeaver

Directors: Tobias Knipf, Andreas Kronbeck

Toolkit

Illustrator, After Effects



stash 67.20

"STRESS"
TVC (spec):59

Director: ALBERTO MIELGO

Animation: ALBERTO MIELGO

www.albertomielgo.com

Alberto Mielgo (Málaga, Spain): "The first idea and challenge was to represent stress and chaos. I wanted to physically represent noise with typology and onomatopoeia. The look of a newspaper journal gave it a commuter look, which I think was a good idea.

"It's not rotoscope! I've been working as an animator for a long time and I don't like rotoscope. The technique is very traditional: 2D animation, and black ink pens cleaned up frame by frame. For the slow motion parts I just add more in betweens. That means a lot of work, but I like the final result.

"Composting is done in After Effects. The action shots are done with four different cameras so I can combine them together zooming in and zooming out."

Director/writer/animation/ compositing/editing: Alberto Mielgo Sound: Luis Iruela

Track: "Under Pressure" Joachim Spieth

Toolkit

After Effects, Photoshop





THE NEW YORK TIMES: TURKISH EDITION TVC/cinema:60

Agency: MARKOM LEO BURNETT ISTANBUL

Director: QUBA MICHALSKI

Animation: IMAGO NEW MEDIA

www.imagonewmedia.com

The centerpiece of a media campaign from Leo Burnett Istanbul introducing the premier issue of the Turkish edition of the NY Times, Quba Michalski, director at Imago New Media in Istanbul: "The main creative challenge of the project was to create a highly stylized and compact version of Manhattan and to keep the audience interested and entertained throughout a minute-long video using only monochrome typography and a few photographs.

"We had 21 days to complete the project. From the moment we exited the briefing at the agency to the delivery of the 2K master it was hectic and sleep-deprived, pure insanity for the entire team."







For Imago New Media

Directed by: Quba Michalski 3D/compositing lead: Alvaro Rego 3D/compositing facility: Dreambox

Toolkit

3ds Max, Illustrator, Photoshop, Acrobat, After Effects

stash 67.22

ABSOLUT VODKA LOOPS Virals :30 x 2

Agency: WORKSHOP

Directors: DANIEL SKOGLUND LINNÉA BERGMAN SJÖSTRAND

Production: ACNE FILM

Animation: IMPORTANT LOOKING PIRATES

www.ilpvfx.com

Acne Film directors Daniel Skoglund and Linnéa Bergman Sjöstrand team up with Stockholm animation/ VFX studio Important Looking Pirates to celebrate the creative side of the Absolut brand.

"The challenge was to make the idea into two films that would feature only non-moving objects in a clean space, and by using just some simple camera movements be able to tell a purely visual and cinematic story.

"So we decided to do the entire film in photo-realistic

3D but to edit it like it was shot on a camera. The challenges have mostly been to create a cinematic feel to the scenes including work with depth of field, color, re-creating the feeling of broken objects, things crashing onto the floor (a chair, vinyl-records, porcelain plates, etc.) Objects made in 3D often have a feel that's too perfect and flawless. We spent a lot of time trying to make things look less perfect." Schedule: two months.

Watch Behind the Scenes on the DVD.

For Workshop

AD: Mikael Lundin Producer: Ann Ålund

For Ensrettet

Directors: Daniel Skoglund, Linnéa Bergman Sjöstrand

For Acne Film

Producer: Pål Åsberg Line producer: Alexander Blidner PMs: Marcus Henricsson, Karolina Sjöborg

For Important Looking Pirates

Producer: Frida Färlin Super: Niklas Jakobsson Animators: Daniel Rådén, Niklas Ström, Sigurd Fernström, Niklas Nyqvist

For Pluxus

Composer: Sebastian Tesch

Toolkit

Maya, Nuke, RenderMan, Photoshop

AU "IDA WALKED AWAY" Music video 5:41

Record label: AAGOO RECORDS

Director:

Animation/VFX: TAKCOM

www.takafumitsuchiya.com

Tokyo director Takafumi Tsuchiya: "The client, Alec from Aagoo records said, 'Please make the video to follow your inspiration from the song.' So there were no limitations on the creative but I thought I have to give the band AU a new look. Something colorful and something with a 'modern psychedelic' feeling.

"I don't want to limit the impression of the song so I choose walking for the subject instead of a character or specific situation like the band playing. It is very universal, everyone sees his/her feet when thinking or walking with music.





"I rotoscoped some real footage, added some hand-drawn animation and key framed one scene. I also used sound driven particles. It was a very hard process for me to composite everything smoothly."

Schedule: four weeks

Toolkit

After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator, Panasonic GH1

NOISIA "MACHINEGUN" Music video 3:52

Director: HENK LOORBACH

Production: WEAREWILL TAX-VIDEOCLIPFONDS

Animation: SUPERELECTRIC

www.superelectric.nl

Henk Loorbach, director at Superelectric in Amsterdam: "Noisia asked if Loculd come up with an idea for the track 'Machinegun', so I made some visual tests and wrote a loose script. They pretty much let me do my own thing, which is how I work with most clients.

"The creative challenge was mostly in trying to get and keep some form of narrative/linear storytelling in there. I usually work with a lot of images but I hardly ever have a real start-to-finish storyline. I forced myself to stick to my storyboard which consisted of only about nine drawings.

"Another challenge was I usually work with lots of color, this time I tried to get a more grimy atmosphere, which was still supposed to have a clean feel to it.



the band.

"I mostly do everything alone, this time I asked people to do parts of the animation for me. I find it hard to let go of my stuff and even harder to receive stuff sometimes. but I'm slowly learning to see the importance of it." Schedule: "14 hours a day for seven weeks."

Producer: William Griffioen Additional animation: Jasper Kuipers, Peter Leeuwerink, Justin Magness, Stell Siu Lie Yang

Additional post: Sjoerd Overbeek

Toolkit

After Effects, Canon EOS 7D

OK GO "THIS TOO SHALL PASS" (RGM VERSION) Music video 3:53

Record label: EMI/CAPITOL RECORDS

Directors: OK GO PARTNERSHIP JAMES FROST SYYN LABS

Production: SYYN LABS ZOO FILMS

http://syynlabs.com www.zoofilm.net

Zoo Films director James Frost: "It wasn't until late November 2009, when the machines started to take shape, that I could physically go to the space with a video camera and work out the basic choreography. The goal was to keep the visual interesting, with the camera constantly moving, but not missing any of the actions of the machines.

"We were revising our approach right up until the shoot when certain machines were proving more unreliable than others and were changed. Dermott Downs, who shot it, was constantly readjusting and re-configuring lighting in this two-storey warehouse in Echo Park [Los Angeles].





"This was a truly collaborative effort of the highest order, an accumulation of several months of extreme dedication and hard work, most notably by the band and Syyn labs who built the machines. The shoot was a surreal experience, a collective team spirit led by Damian Kulash of OK Go and his amazing skill to keep everyone energized and on their

toes. Two days and close to 60 takes later, we made it to the other side, tired and weary but proud."

For Zoo Films
Director: James Frost

For Syyn Labs/OK Go Partnership

Producer: Shirley Moyers DOP: Dermott Downs

"1923", "1925" Short films 1:50, 1:36

Director: MAX HATTLER

Production: MAX HATTLER THE ANIMATION WORKSHOP

Animation: CASPER MICHELSEN MIKKEL VEDEL THORVALDUR GUNNARSSON BLAKE OVERGAARD ARNOLD BAGASHA

UK animator/director Max Hattler was one of six directors invited to make films with animation and CGA students during Film Jam Week at The Animation Workshop - Center for Animation in Viborg, Denmark.

The brief was to direct films based on the theme The Outsider. Hattler chose the work of French outsider artist Augustin Lesage as a starting point for creating two animation loops. 1923 (aka Heaven) is based on Lesage's painting "A symbolic Composition of the Spiritual World" from 1923, and 1925 (aka Hell) is based on a Lesage painting of the same name from that year.



Max Hattler: "The idea was to create two different interpretations of Lesage's spiritualist view, bringing his paintings to life and updating them through the lens of pop-cultural and art-historic references ranging from the Whitney Brothers to LSD, and from Tron to Metropolis. The idea of loops came during the making process and made sense both in terms of a 'moving painting', and the aspects of eternity implicit in the spiritual."

TD: David René Christensen Animation: Casper Michelsen, Mikkel Vedel, Thorvaldur Gunnarsson, Blake Overgaard, Arnold Bagasha Sound: Blake Overgaard Previs/layout: Thorvaldur Gunnarsson Modelling: Thorvaldur Gunnarsson, Arnold Bagasha, Blake Overgaard

Toolkit

Maya, After Effects, Photoshop

"THE HEAD" Short film 2:17

Directors: MATIAS VIGLIANO DANTE ZABALLA

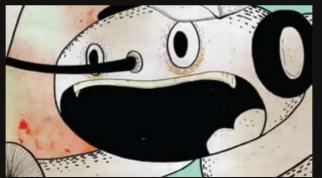
Animation: MATIAS VIGLIANO DANTE ZABALLA

www.parquerama.com www.podoboo.com.ar

Buenos Aires director/designer Matias Vigliano: "The only thing we were sure of is we wanted to create old school cartoons, but we didn't know how. We were learning through the process, resolving things as we went along.

"We found a great challenge when we had to become screenwriters. First, we wanted to make just a couple of animated loops, but at one point we decided to put everything together and make it into a short. It wasn't easy to turn it into a logical story when nothing was supposed to make sense. We finally agreed that everything was going to become a giant loop. We made around 2,500 drawings – pencils plus black ink drawings."









Directors: Matias Vigliano, Dante Zaballa Characters/art/composition: Matias Vigliano Traditional animation: Dante Zaballa Sound design: Ariel Gandolfo

Toolkit

After Effects, Photoshop

"SUSHIEXPRESS" Short film 4:40

Directors: RÉMI LARROQUE VINCENT CUBELLS

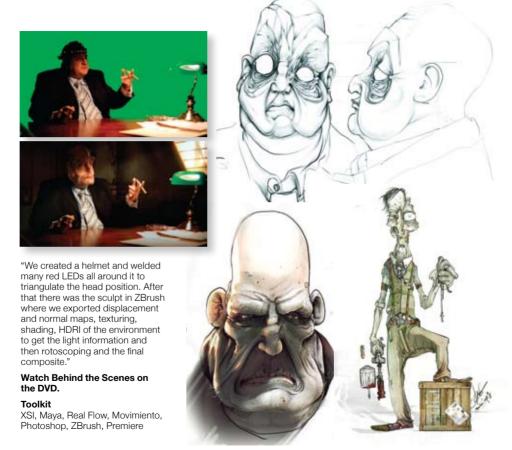
Animation/VFX: RÉMI LARROQUE VINCENT CUBELLS

http://sushiexpress.free.fr

Co-directors Rémi Larroque and Vincent Cubells began Sushiexpress as their graduation film at ArtFx, the visual effects and 3D animation school based in Montpellier, France.

"The biggest challenge was the head tracking workflow and insertion of the head with rotoscoping. We wanted to shoot with the Canon 5D Mark II, but we discovered we couldn't track the video directly because of the rolling shutter – but we took a chance.

"We only used the 5D for the calibration. By that I mean we had three HDV cams around Carlos to track his head movement and we did the calibration to recreate a 3D space.



THE HYLOZOISTS
"BRAS D'OR LAKES"
Music video 4:42



Record label: OUTSIDE MUSIC INC.

Director:
JULIA DEAKIN

Production: MAGNET FILM AND DIGITAL

www.juliadeakin.com

Julia Deakin, director, Toronto: "I wanted the piece to retain a certain element of mystery, to give people enough to feel emotionally connected but not so much that I would be giving it all away."

For Magnet Film and Digital Producer: Nick Sorbara

Animation: Julia Deakin, Peg Serena, Nick Fairhead, Kim Leow, Emmanuel Mauriès-Rinfret Composer: Paul Aucoin Funding from: BravoFACT!

Toolkit

Photoshop, After Effects, Flame

EXTRAWELT "WAS ÜBRIG BLEIBT" Music video 3:52



Director: HARRY MARTIS Animation/vfx: D-OS

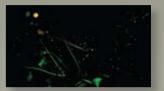
www.d-os.org

Harry Martis, director, Moscow: "First. I had to clean up and 'gate' the audio and then extract filtered parts based on the frequency ranges I wanted to use for reaction. Afterwards, I had to link my particle emitters and collision objects to the audio parts (mainly via simple scripting). The simulations were then solved in FumeEX within 3ds Max and the particle and velocity data exported. Then they were passed on to PFlow (via birth and follow operators), recalculated and reexported as Krakatoa particle data and then, re-imported, lit and eventually rendered.

"For the final part of the video generated height fields from noise in 3ds Max, shaded them and rendered via V-Ray with heavy AO. For the crystal-like bits. I brought both audio and video inside Ableton Live and used MaxMSP/litter in order to make the crystal extrusions dance based on luminosity and low frequency amplitude. I used MAX2AE to bring all the camera and CG light data from 3ds Max inside After Effects and added more (lit and shaded) 3D particles with Particular 2. All parts were eventually composited, re-lit where necessary (via the Normality plug-in), color corrected, edited and rendered in After Effects

Toolkit

After Effects, Trapcode, ReVision, Smart Blur Pro, Boomer Labs THE NORTH FACE. NANAMICA. "NIGHT CANOPY"
Short film 2:36



Agency: DAGR NOTT & ASSOCIATES

Director: GARY BRESLIN

Animation/VFX: PANOPTIC.

www.panoptic.org

Gary Breslin, director and principal at Panoptic in New York created this video art piece for a limited edition book/DVD published by The North Face themed around the color green where layers of city lights become "some kind of living, breathing ecosystem."

For Panoptic.

Director: Gary Breslin DP: Saul Metnick Music: Bix Sigurdsson

Toolkit

After Effects, Photoshop

"FIELD" Short film 2:30



Director: NICK LUCHKIV

Animation: SELFBURNING

www.selfburning.com

Nick Luchkiv, director, Moscow: "I wanted to express narrative movement with abstract forms. It was the first time I faced many of the technical things in the production, for example, simulation of water and smoke. I had to redo the simulation many times to get rid of the artifacts and to achieve the desired result."

For Selfburning

Director: Nick Luchkiv

Toolkit

3ds Max, Real Flow

"PLANET LOVE" Music video 2:17



Client: ORIFLAME

Director: PAVEL LUZIN

VFX: AC PRODUCTION

www.acproduction.ru

Maxim Slyusarev, an art director at AC Production in Moscow, says he had one goal for this ode to planetary love: "Make it look fantastic."

For AC Production

Director: Pavel Luzin AD: Maxim Slyusarev 3D: Alexey Devyanin, Roman Chevozerov, Alexey Mihalko, Maxim Slyusarev Storyboard: Ivan Govyazin Music: Alexey Devyanin

Toolkit

Maya, Houdini, After Effects, Nuke

"LIGHT FORMS" Short film 4:00



Director: MALCOLM SUTHERLAND

Animation/VFX: MALCOLM SUTHERLAND

www.animalcolm.com

"The film was mainly an experiment in combining sound and animation in an evolving way. It was a very different creative process than a commercial project or narrative film. I made the clip for my own enjoyment so there was not some place that I needed to end up, other than my own satisfaction with it."

Toolkit

Toon Boom, Sony Vegas

"VANISHING POINT" Short film 1:40



Client: CUBESATO+MEINE MEINUNG

Agency: BOW

Director: TAKUYA HOSOGANE

Animation/VFX: TAKUYA HOSOGANE

www.hsgn.tk

Director Takuya Hosogane says the biggest challenges of this four-week project built on a musical collaboration by Japanese artists Cubesanto and Meine Meinung were, "Making the images correspond to the sound and assembling a continuous animation from non-sequential images."

Toolkit

After Effects, Cinema 4D

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