



SIGGRAPH 1992

*19th International Conference
On Computer Graphics and
Interactive Techniques*

*McCormick Place, Chicago
July 26 - 31*

COURSE NOTES

40

COMPUTER GRAPHICS IN THE
PRODUCTION OF "FERNGULLY:
THE LAST RAINFOREST"

Organizer

Bill Kroyer
Kroyer Films, Inc.

Lecturers

Brian Schindler
Kroyer Films, Inc.

Mark Pompian
Kroyer Films, Inc.

Steve Wright
Sidley-Wright & Associates

**Siggraph '92
Course 40**

Introduction to the Course Notes

We feel pleased and priveleged to present the information and experiences we accumulated during the making of *FernGully, The Last Rainforest*.

From our initial research trip to the Australian rainforests to the screening of the film on Earth Day '92 in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, the picture was a special, unique, and challenging effort. We were given the task of creating a film that not only showcased the art of animation, but carried a critical and timely message about an issue that will affect our lives and the lives of our children for generations to come.

We felt it fitting that we should present this material at Siggraph because of the critical role of computer graphics in the film. It was our previous efforts at CGI that figured prominently in the decision to award us the contract to make this film, it was computer graphics that gave the movie its most magical and dimensional effects, and it was computer graphics that carried much of the pure physical task of creating tens of thousand of frames of animated imagery.

We hope you enjoyed the film, and that you enjoy this material about how it was made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Kroyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Bill Kroyer
Course Chair**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Bill Kroyer

Bill Kroyer is President of Kroyer Films, Inc. He received an Academy Award nomination in 1988 for the animated short *Technological Threat*. *Tron*, in 1982, marked his introduction to computerized image-making as the "computer image choreographer," directing the production of 15 minutes of high-resolution computer graphics. He has directed the animated title sequences for *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, *Troop Beverly Hills*, and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. Bill Kroyer directed *FernGully*, *The Last Rainforest*, a major theatrical film released by 20th Century Fox, Spring of 1992.

Brian Schindler

Brian completed his B.A. in Theatre Arts at U.C.L.A. while working as a set designer for various television productions, from sitcoms to variety and awards shows. His exposure to computer animation began when Bill Kroyer hired him in 1988 as a draftsman for the 3D modeling process. He has acquired his knowledge as a computer animator by working with talented artists on such projects as *Blooper Bunny*, a Bugs Bunny short; *Computer Warriors*, a 20 minute animated film for Mattel; the animated title sequences for *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*; a sequence from *The Simpsons*; and the animated feature film *FernGully*, *The Last Rainforest*.

Mark Pompian

As Sr. Technical Director, Mark Pompian supervises the creation of Kroyer Films' computer animation, and its integration with hand-drawn art. He is responsible for the output of the company's SGI Graphics Workstations, which utilize Wavefront and Kroyer animation software. Mark has an extensive background in motion picture lighting and cinematography. His career began in Denver, as a production coordinator of television spots for Phelan Productions. Upon moving to Los Angeles, he worked alternately as a lighting technician and assistant cameraman on television commercials and features. For Private Stock Effects, he lit and shot visual effects for feature films such as *Jupiter Menace*, *Strange Invaders*, and coordinated live-action effects elements for *Jaws 3-D*. His fascination with motion-control camera systems and special effects animation led him to study computer animation at West Coast University, where he was, upon graduation, invited to join the faculty. He then held various free-lance and staff positions as technical director of computer-animated industrials, commercials, and technical studies for the *Back to the Future* ride at Universal Studios, Florida, leading directly to his current position at Kroyer Films. Mark holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in design, photography, and film production from the University of Michigan, where he graduated in 1975.

Steve Wright

Steve Wright is co-founder of Sidley Wright & Associates, a computer animation company in Hollywood. A physics major in college, he worked as a technician for IBM, then management for National Semiconductor. At Atari he headed up the home video game development, then moved to Los Angeles to work for Sega/Paramount as VP of the laser disc arcade development division. After three years at Robert Abel and Associates he finally formed his own company to do computer animation for film and television. He heads up the production and technology development areas of the company.

Computer Graphics in the production of

FERNGULLY

THE LAST RAINFOREST™

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