

## HANDS-ON CLASSICAL ANIMATION WORKSHOP

AnimAction was formed in 1989 with a single purpose in mind: to create a unique and innovative environment for young people – one where they could experience the spirit of collaboration, develop new skills, and exercise freedom of expression, all with the ultimate goal of articulating a powerful message through the medium of animation. Since then, AnimAction has trained thousands of students on development and production of classical and computer animation in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Europe.

AnimActions' methodology is successful because the "language" of animation is universal, and it transcends cultural barriers. AnimAction has worked with children in programs at: The World Animation Celebration USA, COMICON International, 3rd World Summit on Media for Children (Greece), International Ottawa Animation Festival, The Chicago International Children's Film Festival, UNCEF, The Los Angeles Unified School District, LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program, LA Children's Hospital, New York School Board, The Office of Criminal Justice Planning USA, YWCA, YMCA, The Gene Autry Museum, The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, The Solicitor General of Canada, The Teachers Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Education (TACADE) (UK), and The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation (UK).

The graphic arts and animation industries have grown in leaps and bounds since AnimAction was founded. Today more than ever, the animation industry is crying out for artists to work in classical style and computer-generated animation. Now that the Internet is available to the general populace, the world's communication system is becoming easier to traverse, and the need for technicians is growing. Indeed, the whole media production world has opened up to provide more employment opportunities for a variety of careers within the rapidly expanding fields of animation and digital production. However, there seems to be a deep crevasse between the educational world and the industry. Should we teach our kids how to work, live, and breathe computers first, but not seriously take into account a solid foundation in art and use of the pencil and paper? Of course, the animation industry looks primarily for experienced artists who have acquired these artistic skills for a number of reasons. They are interested in working with people who can draw and understand the flow of a line. Animation studios will then train artists in the necessary digital technology.

## WORKSHOP GOALS

- Introduce the classical animation process, stressing how a solid foundation in the art of animation will help in digital production.
- Demonstrate and involve all participants in a hands-on experiential workshop, and give them the opportunity to take home their own product on video.
- To de-mystify classical animation production in the classroom (grades 5-12).

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*The Workshop*

- Three-hour workshop for 40 people.
- Ages 8-80.
- Participants are arranged in small production teams. Each team works together throughout the workshop. This introduces and builds teamwork from the very beginning.
- Each team works through every stage of animation production to produce up to 10 seconds of animation on the theme: a whimsical look at a digital animation artist compared to a classical animation artist.

*The Animation Stages*

- Story concept
- Character development
- Timing
- Storyboarding
- Production
- Color
- Filming

*Follow Up Panel Discussion*

After the workshop, a panel of workshop participants and carefully selected industry representatives discussed the importance of a classical foundation and how it is linked to digital animation. The panel showed some of the animations produced in the workshop and critiques.



Artwork produced by High School Students,  
 San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts,  
 San Diego City Schools.



Artwork produced by Middle School Students,  
 Sun Valley Middle School, Los Angeles Unified  
 School District.