



HouseSpecial's Stop-Motion Short Takes 'Best Animated Film' at Oregon Independent Film Festival

[September 27, 2016: Portland, Ore.] Aaron Sorenson, a Director at Portland animation studio HouseSpecial, received the award for Best Animated Film for the stop-motion short *Jailbreak* during the award ceremony at The Oregon Independent Film Festival (OIFF) held on September 24, 2016 in Portland's Clinton Street Theater.

Jailbreak, shot in black and white, follows the daring escape of a desperate prisoner fleeing his nightmarish cell in pursuit of sweet punishment. Written and directed by Sorenson, this short is a German Expressionist-inspired design mash-up of stop motion with a 2D design sensibility ... and a decidedly adult twist.

"I am thrilled *Jailbreak* was recognized by OIFF. The award show was truly an event of fascination, hilarity, emotion and general oddness ... I was happy to attend. It captured the spirit of the festival perfectly," Sorenson said. "It was inspiring to see so many dedicated filmmakers following their own artistic path of self-expression."

The production participated in the state of Oregon's Indigenous Oregon Production Investment Fund ([iOPIF](#)) incentive program, and was created through HouseSpecial's Short Stuff™ program.

"I wanted to create a unique, funny short that pushed the look and style into something unlike anything the studio had done before. Our CG short *A Tale of Momentum & Inertia* was such a success, so we wanted to flip the process and create something tangible with an entirely different aesthetic and a strong narrative," Sorenson said. He was inspired most directly by the silent German Expressionist films such as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *The Golem* and prison break films such as *Escape from Alcatraz*, *I Was a Prisoner on a Chain Gang*, and *Papillon*. The main character, Klaus, was inspired by Cubism (mostly Picasso) with a flattened skewed aesthetic.

"Stop motion just seemed right for the story in terms of atmosphere and capturing an intentional theatrical feel. The textures and tangibility of practical sets and characters are really arresting and doing it in black and white makes the viewer focus on those details."

As part of our studio, Sorenson has worked with They Might Be Giants to create the music video *Bastard Wants to Hit Me* and directed work for Nike®, Starbucks®, Shaw Cable, Honey Nut Cheerios®, Target®, Orville Redenbacher® and Dole®.

He garnered big honors at many environmental and animation festivals for his work on The Surfrider Foundation's PSA *Rise Above Plastics* and for his animation direction on credit sequences for LAIKA's animated features *ParaNorman* and *The Boxtrolls*.

"There are an amazing amount of details throughout the short that the crew added. In the opening shot there is the most wonderfully disgusting toilet way down in the bowels of that awful prison cell. Originally we had spikes coming out of the bowl, but it was a little hard to read at such a small scale. There's also this weird cage torture thing I love that is a prop in the end shot. There are treasures like that all over, especially at the end of the short. I love how great model builders will bring such enthusiasm and creative little details to everything they touch."

Upcoming Screenings:

[Savannah Film Festival](#) on October 22-29, 2016.

[Anima Mundi](#) (Brazil) in Rio on October 25, 2016 and São Paulo - November 2-6, 2016.

Past Screenings:

[KROK International Animated Films Festival](#)
(Moscow) -
September 20-28, 2016

[Festival Stop Motion Montreal](#)
(Canada) -
September 16-18, 2016

[Burbank International Film Festival](#)
September 7-11, 2016

[Montreal International Animation Film Festival](#)
(Canada) -
August 18, 2016

[Animation Block Party](#)
(Brooklyn) -
July 29, 2016

[Drunken Film Festival](#)
(Bradford, UK) -
July 28, 2016

[Neum Animated Film Festival](#)
(Bosnia and Herzegovina) -
June 28, 2016

[Fear No Film - The Utah Arts Festival](#)
June 23, 2016

[Annecy International Animation Film Festival](#)
(France)
June 13-17, 2016

Blue Plum Animation Festival
(Tennessee)
June 3, 2016

About HouseSpecial

"Animation isn't just a storytelling medium – it's our life force and our passion."

HouseSpecial, formerly LAIKA/house, can make anything move. We are animation experts. Our Portland creative team is globally known for our ability to develop characters in narrative environments for iconic brands like M&M'S, Supercell's Boom Beach, Planters, Apple, ESPN, Target and Honey Nut Cheerios. We have collaborated with advertising agencies Barton F. Graf, Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, Wieden+Kennedy, TBWA\CHIAT\DAY, Leo Burnett and BBDO on hundreds of spots – many of which earned big awards and are part of advertising lore.

The studio, under the leadership of President.EP Lourri Hammack, Chief Creative Office and Creative Director Kirk Kelley and Chief Operating Officer Alvaro Cubillas, specializes in short to mid-form animated content in 2D, CG and stop motion mediums. Watch all the latest work at <http://www.housepecial.com/>

Twitter: @housepecialpdx

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HOUSEspecialPDX>

Instagram: @housepecialpdx

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Crew Credits

Conceived & Directed by Aaron Sorenson
From HouseSpecial - a Short Stuff™ production
Creative Director: Kirk Kelley
Executive Producer: Lourri Hammack
Production Designer: Alan Cook
DP: John Nolan
Editor: Steve Miller, Cam Williams
Line Producer: Nicole Fitzhugh
Production Assistant: Alex Webster

DESIGN

Character Designer: Aaron Sorenson, Alan Cook
Background/Environment Design: Craig Bowers, Don Flores, Sharon Huang, Kristy Kay, Phillip Spehar, Tod Polson

FABRICATION

Character Fabrication: Katie Mello, Margaret Meyer, Chris Ohlgren
Set/Prop Fabrication Lead: Greg Fosmire
Set/Prop Fabrication: Gary Logue, Katie Mello, Margaret Meyer, Josh Pearce, Emma Van Halsema

STAGE

Animator: Suzanne Twining
Swing/Electric/Grip: Jake Hauswirth
Wrangler: Rob Melchior

Art Dept/Stage Manager: Erica Johnson

CG & POST PRODUCTION

FX: Patrick Van Pelt

Opening Titles: José Díaz, Stephen Bodin

Matte Painting: Stephen Bodin

Flame Artist: Rex Carter

Editorial Assistant: Dino Coons

MUSIC & SOUND

Original Music Produced By: Mophonics

Original Music By: Roberto Murguia and Róisín Malone

Creative Producer: Kristoffer Roggemann

Creative Director: Stephan Altman

Sound Design & Mix By: Lance Limbocker, Limbocker Studios

A special thanks to the Oregon Film Board