

David Bunting

Story Artist & Animator

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Personal Profile

Making my first animation aged 9 with a super-8 camera, I began my career as a junior animator at King Rollo Films, home of Spot the Dog. An internship at Walt Disney Feature Animation, France, led to feature-film credits as a drawn effects animator. My drawn animation background, cinematic knowledge, understanding of dramatic narrative structure, coupled with a love of acting makes me a well-rounded story artist and filmmaker.

Key Storyboarding Experience

Bob the Builder, (Series 19 & 20) HiT Entertainment

July 2014-February 2016

Interpreting the script and working closely with the director to create detailed 3D storyboards in Redboard and Photoshop. A strong emphasis on detailed character posing, acting and building humor. My Christmas episode, Pass the Parcel, was Radio Times Children's choice on Christmas Eve 2015.

Chuggington (series 5), Ludorum

Oct 2013-June 2014

Visualising the script, creating floor plans, blocking, detailed CG layouts and drawn acting boards. Working closely with the director, handling re-takes and suggesting story solutions.

Shaun the Sheep, (Series 2&4) Aardman Animations

July – Sept 2013 & July-Aug 2008

Interpreting the script from rough sketches to final digital boards, reporting and pitching to the story supervisor in house. Visualizing the story, adding humour, characterization, suggesting story solutions and handling corrections on the BAFTA winning series.

Drawn Visual Effects

- Cartoon Network Pilot, "100 Head Eddy", Designed and animated hand drawn effects for Hot Head Films, directed by Danny Capozzi.
- "Thunderbirds Movie" Title sequence, Nexus Productions. Animated key effects scenes - fire, water and explosions. The combined effects were described by Variety magazine as "goose bump inducing". Devised registration solution for hand drawn elements on CG animation back in the pre-paperless days.
- "The Tigger Movie", Tandem Films for Walt Disney Co. Animated the majority of effects in the 'Round my family tree' song sequence, directed by Chris Butler (1999).
- Effects art published in the "Christmas Carol- The Movie" story book.

Producing & Directing

I have years of experience working with a diverse range of clients to produce animation for on-line, broadcast and theatre. My directional debut, sequence directing *Strange Meeting* for cinema short **Wilfred** while still at animation College, premiered at Cannes International Film Festival and won awards worldwide.

Highlights include co-producing 4mations Digital Short **The Astronomers Sun** for Channel 4, UK Film Council and Screen Yorkshire. I supported first time writer/directors through the production process, with a particular emphasis on story, helping to interpret feedback from script editors and executive producers. I also brought together a small group comprising DOP, drama editor, sound designer, and compositor to support the young team and secured permanent exhibition of the set at the National Media Museum. With 16 Awards including *Best Animation* at Comic Con, it is one of 4mations most talked about shorts, and Screen Yorkshires most successful Animated film.

I have a passion for character rich children's programming, co-creating, directing and producing development of pre-school TV series, **Boy and the Dinosaur** for 1461 Ltd, the 3rd most viewed show at MIP Junior 2013.

The promotional short, **Lego-Heist – Barnsley**, which I produced and directed, was nominated for *Best Commissioned Animation* by Bradford Animation Festival.

Teaching, Talks & Judging

I have taught animation to hundreds of children, young people, students, industry and teachers nationally.

I have given talks and workshops to the next generation of filmmakers at the BFI Film Academy and recently entertained family audiences with the official Bob the Builder children's talk at Leeds Young Film Festival with director, Stuart Evans.

I have judged both young peoples and professional films at film festivals including Leeds International Film Festival and the Institute of American Indian Arts.

I deliver CPD training to school-teachers and museum educators, have taught ToonBoom Storyboard to story interns at Lupus Films and was recently invited by ToonBoom to create a series of video tutorials on hand drawn effects animation in Harmony.

For Easter 2016 I helped launch an animation strand, Animation Central at Leeds Young Film Festival, the countries biggest family film event.

Software

MacOX and PC experienced in: ToonBoom Storyboard Pro (beta tester), ToonBoom Harmony, Redboard, PhotoShop, Sketchbook Pro, Premiere Pro, Microsoft Office.

Professional Training

- Animation Bridge: storyboarding from start to finish: 8 weeks feature-film storyboard training at *Aardman Animations*, tutored by Frank Gladstone (DreamWorks SKG, Walt Disney Feature Animation), with master classes by Bruce Block (visual language) and Steve Kaplan (comedy workshop). (2008)
- Scriptwriting training for emerging directors by Simon van der Borgh, Lithuania & Yorkshire, Screen Yorkshire, (Genre & character). (2005)
- Internship in Visual Effects at Walt Disney Feature Animation, France. (1999)
- Trained in classical animation at *Senior College Ballyfermot*, Dublin, Ireland. (1997-99)
- MA in 3D Computer Animation at *NCCA, Bournemouth University* (2004)
- PETLS People Exploring Teaching and Learning Styles, Hull College. (2011)
- BTEC HND in Animation at the *Arts Institute at Bournemouth* (1997)

References

Stuart Evans, Series Director, HiT Entertainment

Email: Stuart.Evans@mattel.com

I have had the pleasure of working with David on two series of the all new version of Bob the Builder. He is the consummate professional storyboard artist, bringing his visualising skill and artistry to the script and interpreting it in such a way that the story really evolves. He brings new ideas and suggestions during briefings and throughout the process, and makes that process an enjoyable one by producing boards which are both visually impressive but above all entertaining. I would be pleased and proud to have him as part of a creative team, and recommend him without hesitation.

Frank Gladstone, (Aardman/DreamWorks, Disney)

Email: fgladstone@pacbell.net

David is a talented, creative, responsible individual, with an inventive sense of humor and a good grasp of narrative structure and cinematic storytelling. Further, David is a self-starter with a facility for teaching and leadership, which makes him an invaluable addition to any project. I cannot recommend him strongly enough.

Peter Kershaw, Producer/Director, Duchy Parade Films

Email: duchyfilms@googlemail.com

It is hard to write about David under one title - he is indeed an animator both at home on full blown Feature films, independent short films, commercials, television commissions or working with youngsters of all ages to create animation regardless of the budget. I've seen him do them all. David is probably the most creative person I've met. His enthusiasm is contagious, his energy and positive frame of mind a blessing. He understands deadlines, process, schedules, collaboration and self motivation he is 100% a professional in his approach at all times and packed full of ideas, solutions, now how and fun. David still hasn't met his challenge and until he's running a major animation studio I doubt he will. Hire him, try him and enjoy the benefit of so much talent in one person.

Further references available on request.