

CTAN 522 SEMINAR FALL 2009

Professor: Sheila M. Sofian

Student Assistant: Thomas Huang

Wednesday 6:30-8:30 PM SCA 108

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The John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Art (Hench-DADA) Seminar serves as a weekly academic forum in which guest animators, visual artists and filmmakers discuss their work and ideas. Distinguished special guests, as well as USC faculty and alumni, will engage the class on various aspects of animation, new media, and the moving image. It is hoped that exposure to a diversity of careers, ideas and creative output will inspire the students and facilitate a clearer vision of their own career goals.

Seminar also provides an opportunity for the DADA program to gather as a community once a week to discuss specific issues that pertain to classes, productions, and events; and to make announcements of general interest.

Some classes will take place in **SCA 112**, and others in **SCA 108**. Please be mindful of the room changes.

The class will sometimes run as late as 9pm. Please be prepared to stay on those occasions.

Participation and Attendance

This is a credit/no credit class based on attendance, class projects, and the presentation senior BA and MFA 3rd Years' animatics. Participation and attendance is mandatory.

Students will be participating in individual research projects supervised by Annenberg Fellow group leaders. Students are assigned to groups with no particular preference. You may not change groups once you have been assigned.

There are no final exams, however, the last two Seminar classes are held during exam week and are designated for Hench-DADA student critiques and the presentation of the seminar group projects. On **November 18** undergraduate seniors will be presenting animatics of their senior projects for a group critique. On **Dec. 9th** 3rd Year MFA students will be required to screen their animatics for a group critique. All Hench-DADA students are expected to attend these critiques.

Students will sign in when they enter. Cell phone calls or stepping out to make a call is not acceptable while seminar is in session. Please turn off all cell phones. No food, drink, water, or gum will be allowed in the theater.

Grading

This is a credit/no credit class based on weekly attendance and completion of a class project supervised by an Annenberg Fellow. There are 17 class meetings. To pass the class, you must attend at least 15 classes and participate in a group project.

Aug 26 **SCA 108:** Welcome and Introductions. Remarks by Eric Furie and Brad Kean. Introduction of group projects by Annenberg fellows: Juan Gonzalez, Diana Reichenbach, Laura Yilmaz, Tianran Duan, and Burak Kurt. Presentations of work from Production 1 and BA Freshmen. Spring Party! Located on the first floor of the Marcia Lucas Post Production building.

Sept 2 **SCA 108: Suzan Pitt**

At the forefront of independent animation, Suzan Pitt is an animation artist whose works have won many prizes in film festivals around the world. Her films "ASPARAGUS", "JOY STREET" and "EL DOCTOR" were featured at the Sundance Film Festival, New York Film Festival,

Ottawa International Animation Festival, London Film Festival, and theatrical runs in New York and Los Angeles. She has had major exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of Art, the Holly Solomon Gallery in New York, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. She has designed two operas in Germany which were the first operas to include animated images for the stage (Damnation of Faust, and The Magic Flute). In addition, Pitt has created two large multi-media shows at the Venice Biennale and Harvard University. She created the first animated shorts for television which featured Spanish-speaking characters for PBS ("COLORS/COLORES) and also directed one of the first Latino animation series for the Cartoon Network ("Troubles the Cat"). A former Associate Professor at Harvard University, Pitt is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Rockefeller Fellowship, and three production grants from the National Endowment of the Arts. The Museum of Modern Art in New York recently presented a retrospective of her work, and a new DVD compilation of her films including a documentary about her work is currently available from First Run Features, www.firstrunfeatures.com

Sept 9 **SCA 108: PUBLIC SCREENING-** Walt Disney Family Foundation film screening and panel discussion: "**WALT AND EL GRUPO**"- a fascinating documentary that tells the story of a trip Walt Disney and a group of animators took to South America in 1941 to persuade the people and countries to ally with America during World War II. From this journey two of Walt's most culturally significant films were produced. They are "Saludos Amigos" and "The Three Caballeros." It is a film that touches on the historical relationship of the Americas and the history of animation. The inherent relationship between politics and art coats the film. Through exclusive archive footage, rare documents, and interviews Walt comes alive in a way that audiences have never experienced before.

Moderated by Maureen Furness, panel discussion with the filmmakers, Ted Thomas and Kuniko Okubo. Maureen Furness, Ph.D., is founding editor of Animation Journal, author of Art in Motion: Animation Aesthetics and The Animation Bible, and President of the Society for Animation Studies. She is on the animation faculty at California Institute of the Arts. She earned her doctorate in Critical Studies from the University of Southern California.

PLEASE RSVP: http://cinema.usc.edu/about/events/event_2009081779077.htm

USE RSVP CODE "DA-DA"

If you bring a guest, they can use the RSVP code "**Disney Grupo**"

Sept 16 **SCA 112 Advocacy animation:** using animation as a means of advocacy and community outreach through education, nonprofit partnerships, and PSA production. (*Presented by Annenberg fellow Laura Yilmaz*)

Laura's group will be creating a PSA for Rob Dietz, director of the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE). The mission of CASSE is to advance the steady state economy, with stabilized population and consumption, as a policy goal with widespread public support. The point of this effort is to help the U.S. and other nations of the world achieve sustainable economies that provide prosperous lives for citizens in this and future generations (see more information at www.steadystate.org).

Sept 23 **SCA 112: Sky David** Experimental animation/ science visualization. The dominance of verbal mind over intuitive direct perception not mediated by known language formatting. Non verbal, yet narrative content. Screening of rarely seen works such as microscope work with polaroid dark field original done in 35mm and other "gems". (*Presented by Annenberg fellow Diana Reichenbach*)

Sept 30 SCA 112: John Van Vliet

John began as a 2D character animator, transitioned into 3D visual effects and is now a top Visual Effects Supervisor. John's early work includes *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Dragonslayer* and *Tron*. In April of 1983, he opened Available Light Ltd. with fellow animator, Katherine Kean. Credits include *GhostBusters*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Willow*, *Ghost*, *Tales From The Crypt*, *Mortal Kombat*, *Stargate*, *My Favorite Martian*, and *Miss Congeniality*. In 2000, he began working as an independent effects supervisor and designer. Projects have included *X-Men*, and *Hart's War*.

Oct 7 SCA 108: PUBLIC EVENT- The 11th Annual Animation Show of Shows!

Presented by ACME Filmworks founder Ron Diamond, the 2008 program features cutting-edge animation in a variety of styles from all over the world.

Oct 14 SCA 112: Casey Reas associate professor and chair of the C.E.B. REAS (b. 1972 in Troy, OH) REAS focuses on defining processes and translating them into images. He is an associate professor and chair of the department of Design | Media Arts at the University of California, Los Angeles. With Ben Fry, REAS initiated Processing.org in 2001. Processing is an open source programming language and environment for creating images, animation, and interaction. *(Presented by Annenberg fellow Juan Gonzalez)*

Oct 21 SCA 112: Daryl Van Citters, Renegade Animation, Inc

Darrell Van Citters began his career at the Disney Studios, where he quickly worked his way up through production to the position of director. After eight years at Disney, Van Citters went independent for three years until wooed back to the corporate sector by Warner Bros. Classic Animation. There he was asked to direct the first new Bugs Bunny short in over 26 years, and after bringing in a full animation staff, *Box Office Bunny* was produced and released with the Warner Bros. feature film, *The Never-ending Story, II*. During his tenure at Warner Bros., Van Citters directed many acclaimed commercials for such clients as Brach's Candies, Tyson Foods, Six Flags Theme Parks, McDonalds and Nike.

In July of 1992, Van Citters left Warner Bros. to form Renegade Animation, Inc. In the short time since incorporation, the company has produced commercials for clients such as Mattel, General Mills, Atari, General Foods, Dow, Pepsi, Apple, and the highly acclaimed "Aerospace Jordan" for Nike. Renegade also produces computer game animation for clients such as Disney Computer Software, Humongous Entertainment, Mission Control and DreamWorks. Possessing an impressive recall of vintage cartoons and characters, Darrell has worked for years with Ruth creating pristine recreations of original animation. He has written a book about UPA's *Magoo's Christmas Carol*.

Oct 28 SCA 108: Steve Hickner Director, Dreamworks PUBLIC EVENT

Director of *Bee Movie*, *Father of the Pride* TV series, and *The Prince of Egypt*. With credits too numerous to mention (check him out on IMDB <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0382769/>) Steve Hickner is a very experienced animator, director, storyboard artist, and story director. Steve will give a "films that animators should know about" presentation which includes clips and comments on what the filmmaker was doing and why it is relevant to animation. Steve has worked on both the production and artistic areas of the industry. He is currently writing a book about the animation industry.

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Nov 4 **SCA 108: "Imagine the World in 2050"** Brought to you by SCA and IBM.
6-7pm Reception, 7-9pm panel discussion.

Nov 11 **SCA 108: Alumni Screening**
Screening MFA-3 thesis student films followed by a Q & A with the directors.

Nov 18 **SCA 112: Senior undergraduate work-in-progress critiques.**
Instructor: Everett Lewis. All Hensch-DADA students are expected to attend.

Nov 25 **NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Dec 2 **SCA 108: TBD: NOT YET CONFIRMED: SCA 112: Chris Meledandri**
Producer, Illumination Entertainment.
Chris is a producer of numerous films including *Ice Age*. He will explore the creative process behind the development of their new movie 'Despicable Me'.

Dec 9 **SCA 112: 3rd year critiques.** All Hensch-DADA students are expected to attend.

Dec 16 **SCA 112: Presentation of all seminar group projects, as well as a screening of CTAN 301 films.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to the Professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The School of Cinema-Television expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from USC students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, submitting a paper to more than one instructor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. If you have any doubts or questions about these policies, consult "SCAMPUS" and/or confer with the professor or teaching assistant.