

SPRING
2021

USC School of
Cinematic Arts

John C. Hench

Division of Animation +

Digital Arts 336 Lab

Syllabus

JOSH STAUB AND NIC WEST - 2 UNITS - MONDAYS - 6:30-9:30PM

CTAN 336 Lab

Overview and Goals

Creating a senior film can be an overwhelming undertaking, it is difficult to know where to start. This lab will support you in creating a clear concept for your film and how to successfully approach the creation process. Along the way we will explore different animation techniques, planning tools, pitching skills, approaches to design and story and much more. Several of our sessions will feature relevant animation industry professionals as guest speakers.

OVERVIEW This lab is aimed at digging into the important questions and topics before you commit to your senior film. We will incorporate activities and discussions to think deeply about what makes a senior film successful and how best to approach your own senior film. We will explore story and art styles and mediums, we will discuss duration and content. Each week will build on the previous week, with the intention of setting you up for success in your senior film and beyond.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES At the completion of the lab, you will have a clear idea for your senior film, will know what you will be creating and the process by which you will approach your film. Additionally, you will feel prepared and ready for your senior film pitch.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS The format of the lab each week will be similar. We will start with one hour to an hour and a half of lecture, discussions and/or activities. During this time, the expectation is that you will be actively engaged in the discussions and activities. Following that period of time, we will have a short break and transition into active work on your senior film prep during which Josh and Nic will also have scheduled 1:1 time with students to review, brainstorm and provide feedback.

CTAN 336 LAB SCHEDULE

Week Number	Date	Class Topic(s)	Guest Speaker(s)
Week 1 - 1/18/2021 - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday			
2	1/25/2021	- Overview - Goal Setting	N/A
3	2/1/2021	- Story	Kris Pearn
4	2/8/2021	- Production Planning - Pipeline Overview	N/A
Week 5 - 2/15/2021 - President's Day			
6	2/22/2021	- Reference and Research	N/A
7	3/1/2021	- Visual Development	To Be Announced
8	3/8/2021	- Scope and Complexity	N/A
9	3/15/2021	- Tools Supporting Art and Story	N/A
10	3/22/2021	- How to Pitch Class	To Be Announced
11	3/29/2021	- Hindsight Learnings from USC Students - Quick Sound Discussion	To Be Announced
12	4/5/2021	- Production Tools - Quick Budget Discussion	To Be Announced
13	4/12/2021	- Live 1 Minute Pitches	N/A
14	4/19/2021	- Live 3 Minute Pitches	N/A
15	4/26/2021	- Live 5 Minute Pitches	N/A
Week 16 - 5/3/2021 - Study Day			
Week 17 - 5/10/2021 - Exams			
Classes End - 5/12/2021			

JOSH STAUB

jstaub@usc.edu



Josh Staub is an award-winning artist and filmmaker for Netflix Animation (formerly of Walt Disney Animation Studios) where he has spent the last 13 years contributing to multiple Academy Award winning films including *Frozen* and the animated short films *Paperman* and *Feast*.

In addition to helping create some of the most successful and popular animated feature films ever made, Josh is also an accomplished independent filmmaker and sole-creator of the animated short film *The Mantis Parable*, which screened in over 100 film festivals around the world (Annecy, Tribeca), graced the screens of the nation's top art museums (National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, MoMA), and twice qualified for consideration of an Academy Award nomination.

In 2018, Josh was inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (Oscars) for "exceptional accomplishments in the field of theatrical motion pictures."



NIC WEST

nw_094@usc.edu

Nic West is USC alumnus and an experienced entertainment professional passionate about curating and developing inspired teams to create quality content. She is the Co-Founder and Head of Operations at West Studio. Her professional path has led her to a career in creative production and studio management in a myriad of entertainment industries, including: Television Animation, Feature Animation and Video Games. She has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside some of the most talented, passionate and creative individuals at DreamWorks Television Animation and Feature Animation, Electronic Arts, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences, Keywords Studios (formerly Babel Media) and Brash Entertainment.

Nic currently runs the Pipeline Coalition for the BRIC Foundation (Break, Reinvent, Impact and Change). The BRIC Foundation's mission is to create new access points for women and people from underrepresented groups so they can excel at creative leadership and to enable culture change through engaging and empowering talent.

In 2012 she developed the concept and co-curated "Painting in Pixels: An Exhibition of Concept Art" at the Riverside Art Museum.

She was integral in the strategic planning of the Into the Pixel exhibit from 2004 to 2007. Into the Pixel is an exhibit at the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) that brings together experts from the traditional fine art world and the interactive entertainment industry to display and discuss the art of video games.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems Academic Conduct: Plagiarism - presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Counseling and Mental Health: (213) 740-9355 - 24/7 on call - studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling - Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Student Health Leave Coordinator: (213) 821-4710 - Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed - <https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call - suicidepreventionlifeline.org - Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP): (213) 740-9355 (WELL), press "0" after hours - 24/7 on call - studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault - Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED): (213) 740-5086 | Title IX - (213) 821-8298 - equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu - Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems Continued

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment: (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298 - usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report - Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and micro-aggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs: (213) 740-0776 - dsp.usc.edu - Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

Campus Support & Intervention: (213) 821-4710 - campussupport.usc.edu - Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC: (213) 740-2101 - diversity.usc.edu - Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency: UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 - 24/7 on call - dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu - Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety: UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 - 24/7 on call - dps.usc.edu - Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds: (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC) - ombuds.usc.edu - A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX