

CTAN 522 SEMINAR (Spring 2023)

Week 1 | Jan 11



MIKE MITCHELL (Director)

Mike Mitchell is an American Director with over two decades of experience. Mitchell recently created, wrote and directed *The Barbarian and the Troll*, a show on Nickelodeon. Other directing credits include *Lego Movie 2*, *Trolls* and *Shrek Forever After*. Visit his [IMDb](#) for a full list of credits.

Week 2 | Jan 18



KARI KIM (Vice President, Animation Development, Nickelodeon)

Kim is responsible for all aspects of original series and shorts development from concept to pilot, including all creative and production. Prior to Nickelodeon, Kim was a development executive at King Features Syndicate, Inc., where she developed and produced content for many of the company's properties, including *CUPHEAD*, *Popeye* and *Flash Gordon*. Kim also worked as a development executive at *pocket.watch*, Vice President of Program Development at HLN, and was a founding member of the venture capital-funded production company, Worldwide Biggies. She has also held roles and produced content at Nickelodeon, Spike TV and *Saturday Night Live*.

Week 3 | Jan 25



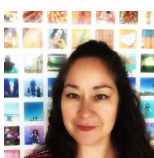
AMANDA ALLAN CLARK (Director, Talent Development Programs, Nickelodeon)

Amanda leads the NICKternship for Nickelodeon. She is currently building a new series of Talent Development Programs launching this year. Previously, Amanda spent five years as an Artist Manager at Disney. Prior to that, she was a creative arts therapist who worked with a variety of populations and programs.



CHRISTINE LUU (Senior Recruiting Manager, Nickelodeon)

After graduating from the Los Angeles Film School, Christine began her career in visual effects and has since gained experience in scheduling, recruitment, and artist management from various studios (The Mill, Kevin VFX, CoSA VFX). Her favorite project that she got to source was Jay-Z's *The Story of OJ* animated music video.



KATHERINE WELLS (Senior Manager, Creative Talent Development & Outreach, Nickelodeon)

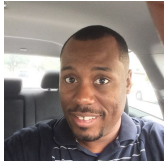
Katherine manages the day-to-day operations of the Nick Artist Program and Nick Writing Program and is responsible for identifying and mentoring new writing and artistic talent with diverse backgrounds and voices. She has worked in live televised events, movie trailer productions, and Kids and Family content.

Week 4 | Feb 1



CHRIS COPELAND (Director)

Chris is a Director at DreamWorks. Prior to that, he was a Storyboard Artist for Warner Bros, Titmouse, Marvel, Cartoon Network, Film Roman and Hasbro Studios. He made his directorial debut on *Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts*. Chris studied at the Illinois Institute of Art Chicago.



JUSTIN COPELAND (Director)

Justin is a Director at DreamWorks. He directed *Batman: Hush* at Warner Bros where he rose up the ranks from Story Artist to Story Supervisor. He has storyboarded at Marvel, Cartoon Network and Film Roman. Justin took Film/Cinema/Video Studies at Columbia College in Chicago.

<https://www.thecopelandbrothers.com/>

Week 5 | Feb 8

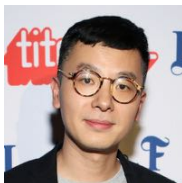


LAWSON DEMING (Owner/VFX Supervisor, Barnstorm VFX)

Emmy Nominated VFX Supervisor of *The Man in High Castle* and creator of the explosive title opening of *The Good Fight*. SCA Production alumnus.

<https://www.barnstormvfx.com>

Week 6 | Feb 15



XI (JAKE) WANG (Previz & Unreal Artist, Digital Domain | MFA 2020)

His real-time animation thesis *Metamorphosis* received the Director's Choice Award for the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film and was selected for the Telluride Film Festival. <https://www.jakexwang.com>

Week 7 | Feb 22



RUBEN HICKMAN (Production Designer/Art Director/Vis Dev Artist)

As a teenager, Ruben illustrated concert posters and album covers for local bands. To help pay for his tuition at Art Center, he designed hundreds of skateboards. Ruben has worked for Disney, DreamWorks and Paramount. He was Production Designer on *SpongeBob* and *Bob's Burgers* feature films. He is currently working on *10 Lives*.

<http://rubenhickman.com/>

Week 8 | Mar 1



BOBBIE OSTEEN (Co-author, *Making the Cut at Pixar*)

Bobbie is a New York-based writer and film historian, dedicated to sharing the editor's invisible art with students. *Making the Cut at Pixar: The Art of Editing Animation* is available in the Hench Animation Library. <https://www.bobbiesteen.com>



KEN SCHRETMANN (Editor)

Ken is best known for his work on *Pinocchio*, *The Willoughbys*, *The Secret Life of Pets*, *The Lorax*, *Toy Story 3* and *Cars*. He was interviewed by Bobbie on the differences between editing on Pixar films vs on live action features.

Week 9 | Mar 8



SANDY RABINS (Producer/Executive)

Sandy is one of the most respected live action and animation executives in the industry. She began her career at Paramount Pictures and moved to Disney where she was responsible for establishing production entities to create and animate *Roger Rabbit*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *James and the Giant Peach*. She helped build DreamWorks Animation from scratch where she also produced *The Prince of Egypt*. She served as Senior Executive Vice President of Sony Pictures Animation where she developed and produced *Open Season*, *Surf's Up* and *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. She produced *Duck Duck Goose* with Original Force in China. She is currently producing *The Tiger's Apprentice* at Paramount starring Henry Golding and Michelle Yeoh.

Week 10 | Mar 22



RACHEL TIEP-DANIELS (Art Director)

With over two decades of experience, Rachel started as an Environment Modeler at Blue Sky. She was a Visual Development Artist and Designer at DreamWorks where she worked on *Trolls 1 & 2*, *Abominable*, *Boss Baby*, *Trollhunters*, *Croods 2* and *Turbo*. She was promoted from Art Director to Production Designer at Paramount on *the SpongeBob Movie* and art directed an all-female team of artists for Netflix/Tonko House's *ONI*. She is currently working as a Production Designer at Warner Bros. She taught a narrative workshop for the Computer Arts Program at the School of Visual Arts. Rachel studied Computer Animation at the Art Institutes and Architecture at the University of Miami. https://www.instagram.com/lobstah_girl/?hl=en

Week 11 | Mar 29



RYAN HARRIS (Producer)

Ryan began his career at DreamWorks as Story Production Supervisor on *Madagascar 1 & 2* and *Shrek Forever After*. He served as Production Manager on *Rise of the Guardians* and *Trolls*. He was Development Producer on *The Book of Life* and Story Co-Producer on Warner Bros' *The Lego Batman Movie* and produced *The SpongeBob Movie* at Paramount. He worked as Pre-Production Producer on Netflix's *The Witch Boy*, an adaptation of Molly Knox Ostertag's queer graphic novels.

Week 12 | Apr 5



BEN WILLIS (Head of Character Animation)

Ben has supervised character animation and animated for almost 17 years at DreamWorks. His credits include: *The Bad Guys*, *Boss Baby 1 & 2*, *Trolls 1 & 2*, *Home*, *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*, *Rise of the Guardians*, *Puss in Boots*, *Kung Fu Panda 1 & 2*, *Shrek Forever After* and *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*. He earned his BFA in Computer Art from Savannah College of Art and Design.

Week 13 | Apr 12



JOHN COVEN (Director, Gobelins & Story Artist)

Currently the director of the department of animated film at the Gobelins School in Paris, John has worked as a storyboard artist since 1990 with over eighty feature films to his credit. Included are *Mufasa: The Lion King*, *Jumanji: The Next Level*, *The Lion King*, *Logan*, *Captain America: Civil War*, *Smallfoot*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *Jurassic World*, *Godzilla*, *The Wolverine*, *The Muppets*, *The Green Hornet*, *3:10 To Yuma*, *Walk the Line*, *X-Men*, *The Usual Suspects*, and *Reality Bites*. He has taught storyboarding, entertainment design, and illustration at the Art Center College of Design, and the Otis College of Art and Design. John is a graduate of Ecole National des Arts Décoratifs de Strasbourg and The College of William and Mary.

<http://www.johncoven.com/>

Week 14 | Apr 19



MIN SHI (3D Design Generalist)

Min has been creating digital art at Elastic.tv since graduating from our MFA program in 2018. Her body of work for clients like Disney, Marvel, Netflix, HBO, Apple, and Microsoft includes title sequences, game cinematics, music videos and commercials. Prior to Elastic, Min was a Visual Design Intern at Sony. Min grew up in Nanjing and studied at the Beijing Film Academy. <https://www.min-shi.com/>

Week 15 | Apr 26



WENDY ROGERS (Director)

Wendy Rogers has a long and prestigious career in animated storytelling. As a leading Visual Effects Supervisor for over 25 years, Wendy has partnered with world famous directors and actors to shape numerous Academy Award-nominated feature films in both live action and animation. Past credits include *Shrek*, *Flushed Away*, *Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, and *Natural Born Killers*. *The Magician's Elephant* is Rogers' directorial debut. Wendy is a member of the Academy, BAFTA and VES.