

JESSICA ASHMAN

Animation, Illustration and New Media

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PROFILE

I am an animator/illustrator with experience in new media and multiplatform productions. Having recently finished an animator apprenticeship scheme with Scottish Screen/Skillset, I am keen to bring my conscientious attitude and eye for detail across animation, film and new media productions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Oct 2009 - Nov 2009 - Post Production/Edit Assistant

A production assistant role for the DigiCult funded, stop-motion animated short, 'Battenberg'. As well as helping the producer to co-ordinate and schedule time for post-production clean up and edit organisation, I also provided post-production clean up of rigs and lighting defects in After Effects.

Sep 2008 - January 2010 - Scottish Screen/Skillset, Glasgow. **G.A.S.P: Generating Animation Skills Programme**

This Skillset funded course allowed me to get my foot in the door of the animation industry. Spanning 10 months, the scheme provided me with two five month placements in Scottish animation studios. As G.A.S.P is based on apprenticeship style training, I was given animation, post-production and pre-production experience on live briefs. The scheme was further extended for two months in November 2009, focussing on multi-platform and new media productions.

Fourth Placement

January 2010 - Central Station - Production and Community Assistant for Central Station

The final part of my G.A.S.P traineeships saw me assisting on the creative social networking website, Central Station. Here I helped maintain the communities friendly, approachable ethos by welcoming new members to the site and promoting Central Station events. I also assisted in research regarding arts events organised by the site and gained real insight into the possibilities of artistic collaboration and communication social networking can offer.

Third Placement

Nov 2009 - Dec 2009 - Me and the Giants - Designer and Production Assistant

For 7 weeks, I assisted Dave Sapien and Will Adams of Me and the Giants in designing and researching a new range of iPhone based toys. Aimed at 0-18 month year olds, it gave me a chance to experience working in a micro studio set up as teaching me ways of combining education, art and gaming.

Second Placement

March 2009 - July 2009 - CBBC Ooglies - Animator and Design/Post-Production Assistant

Working on CBBC'S children's animated sketch show, I assisted across all departments on set. This included prop-making in design and paint work in post-production, eventually working my way to animate. I was given responsibility of a set of sixteen sketches to bring to life as well as acting as a stand-in animator for others on set.

First Placement

October 2008 - March 2008 - ISO Design - Production Assistant

Whilst at ISO, I worked as a production assistant across many projects doing such tasks as rotoscoping, preparing stills for further work in After Effects, motion graphics, moodboard creation and storyboarding for title sequences.

Sep 2007 – Sep 2008: Cyfle, Cardiff

Multi-Platform Production Assistant Trainee Scheme

A year's paid work experience placement in design and production companies with three two-month periods at BBC Wales New Media, BBC Wales Graphics & Post-Production and Sequence Digital Design.

Third Placement

July 2008 – September 2008: BBC Wales Graphics, Cardiff - Junior Designer

A junior designer, working across such projects as brand and title design, as well as regular in programme graphics for the Welsh soap 'Pobol Y Cwm'. Having multiple projects on the go has required me to use my multi-tasking and time management skills effectively.

Second Placement

April 2008 – July 2008: Sequence Digital Design, Cardiff - Junior Designer

My time at Sequence gave me insight into working as part of a small, creative design team. I utilised my illustration skills to the fullest on my main brief of re-designing the studio's show reel and brand, as well as working in Flash to create animated assets.

First Placement

November 2007 – March 2008: BBC Wales New Media, Cardiff - Web Assistant.

My roles and briefs included the design and creation of downloadable Torchwood assets (wallpapers, case files etc), the design and storyboarding of Torchwood Flash mini- games and editing of footage for trailers and games.

KEY SKILLS

Knowledge: Animation (Stop-motion, motion-graphics), post production (rotoscoping, image adjustment, editing) illustration, digital SLR photography, web-design.

Technical: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, Final Cut Pro & After Effects. HTML and CSS. Windows and Mac navigation. I am currently working on improving my skills in Flash, Quark and InDesign.

Communication: Script and treatment creation, storyboarding and pre-production planning.

Additional Skills

A variety of illustration commissions including album design for singer/songwriter Sam Blackledge (<http://www.myspace.com/samblackledge>) and t-shirt design for Cadence Design (<http://www.cadenceuk.com>) have extended my experience in creating work for a client. These, along with my design, illustration and animated works can be seen at my personal portfolio site, <http://www.jessla.co.uk> and blog site, www.jesscreates.co.uk.

'The Seeds of Change' – my graduate animated short has been successful in selection for the 2007 Canary Wharf Film Festival and the 2007 Portobello Film Festival.

Various part-time jobs has taught me the importance of punctuality, friendliness and the need for efficiency when dealing with the public.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2007 – 2008: City and Guilds

Level 2 NVQ for Health and Safety within Audio Visual Industry

2004 – 2007: The University of Lincoln, Hull Campus

BA (Hons) Animation – 1st Class Honours

A course focussing on both the practical and theoretical aspects to animation. Upon graduation, I was thrilled to receive the award for Best Animation Student of my year.

2002 – 2004: Halesowen College, Birmingham

Three A Levels in Art (A), Media Studies (A), Graphic Design (B) and an AS in English Literature (C)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST