



BFA FILM, VIDEO and ANIMATION DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

Students in this department can earn a degree in film/video or animation. From their first day of study, students are immersed in the aesthetic and technical training of the art of visual storytelling. The curriculum focuses on the essential elements of a well-crafted screenplay; techniques for working with actors and being a part of a professional production set; the visual and psychological choices for cinematography; and the structure and rhythm of editing. Students have access to state of the art facilities and equipment and may choose to specialize in directing, cinematography, editing, screenwriting or sound.

Animation students learn the fundamental skills of drawing, storytelling, character development and the history of animation, all directed toward bringing their creations and inanimate objects to life. The curriculum covers the entire range of animation professions, from traditional animation to stop motion to 3D computer modeling.

In the thesis year, each student develops and produces a project under the individual mentorship of an industry professional. Students also address the business side, learning how to protect their ideas, understand contracts, negotiate rights, promote their work, professionally approach producers and distributors, prepare for festivals, and market their talents.

2011 – 2012 student population

726 matriculated students

Department chair

Reeves Lehmann, director and producer

Some notable faculty members

Howard Beckerman (*Mighty Mouse*), Joan Brooker-Marks (*Larry Flynt: The Right to be Left Alone*, *We Got Us*), Dejan Georgevich (*Gossip Girl*), Biljana Labovic (*Hair High*), Vincent LoBrutto (*Martin Scorsese: A Biography*, *Kubrick*), Chris Newman (*The Godfather*, *The Exorcist*), Deborah Kampmeier (*Hounddog*; *Virgin*), James Strouse (*Grace is Gone*), Patrizia Von Brandenstein (*Amadeus*, *Silkwood*)

Some notable alumni

Anthony Ceglio (Italian American Network, NFL Films), Randall Emmett (*16 Blocks*, *Rambo* [2008]), Yvette Kaplan (*Ice Age*, *Beavis and Butthead*), Alex Kuperschmidt (*Lion King*, *Bolt*), Biljana LoBovic (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), Daniel Minahan (*True Blood*, *Grey's Anatomy*), James Muro (*Crash*, *Southland*), Andrew Rona (*Scary Movie III*, *Brothers Grimm*), Harris Savides (*American Gangster*, *Zodiac*, *Milk*), Bryan Singer (*X-Men*, *Superman*), Tom Sito (*The Lion King*, *Shrek*), Mark Ulano (*Titanic*, *Iron Man*, *Inglourious Basterds*), Ti West (*House of the Devil*, *Cabin Fever 2*)

Student exhibitions

With support from members of the film and animation industry, the BFA Film, Video and Animation Department has sponsored the Dusty Film and Animation Festival for over 20 years. This weeklong showcase includes screenings of thesis projects—from short films and videos to traditional and computer-generated animations—and culminates in an awards ceremony with prominent presenters of their craft recognizing students for outstanding achievements.

For further information, visit our Web site at www.sva.edu.