

MICHAEL MACKIE

Kudos, congrats and big shout-out to Production's Mary Taylor, whose latest animated slice of brilliance just found its way to the 2007 Los Angeles Children's Film Festival! Here's more from Mary ... Ms. Taylor, if you're nasty ... or a fan of animated shorts!



Okay, in your own words, tell me about your animated piece "How to Put a Square Peg into a Round Hole."

Easy synopsis: Gordon has some plans on how to put a square peg into a round hole. But things don't always go according to plan. It's a short 2-D animation that I created with Illustrator and After Effects.

How did it end up in the Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival?

I don't quite remember where I heard about the festival, but I submitted it through a web site called Withoutabox.com where you can submit your work to film festivals for free! I submitted it back in early April and just found out recently it was accepted ... so you can see it takes a lot of patience to see if you get in or not.

How long did you spend on the piece? Was it labor-intensive or a labor of love?

It was definitely a labor of love. Animations take up so much of your time to create that you gotta love it in order to keep with it and actually finish it. I completed this one in about two months in my spare time. I wanted to enter work into the KC Jubilee last year, and I only had two months until the deadline ... pretty tight! Luckily, the idea I had for the animation was pretty simple: one set, a couple of characters and a few props. I was able to submit it to the KC Jubilee in time, but unfortunately wasn't accepted. Oddly, I've been rejected from quite a few of the film festivals I submitted to. My sister accidentally left the DVD at her friend's house, and her friend's 4-year-old had been playing it over and over again all the time ... so I decided to try and submit it to a children's film festival, and - bingo! I guess that ended up being the place for it.

Are you going to the festival? What sort of street cred/publicity does this give you?

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to go to the festival ... but it played at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on October 6th! I'm not sure how much cred/publicity it gives me, but the festival presented more than 150 films from around the world made for children and teens! And L.A. is the #2 market ... so it's pretty cool to be showing there.

What's next?

I've got quite a few projects in the works right now. I'm in the beginning stages of a new animation called "The Letter," a little comedy loosely about global warming. The basic set-up is this: Nick is a big fan of the local weather gal, Wendy Weatherby. Nick is just finishing writing Ms. Weatherby a fan letter while watching her latest weathercast. She says, "It's a beautiful day! So get out there and enjoy the weather!" Nick smiles, licks the envelope and heads out the door. It's a beautiful day, the sun is shining, the birds are singing ... Nick sets off to mail his fan letter. And that's when the fun begins! I'm also working on a couple of music videos for a local band called The Gaslights. So I'm keeping myself out of trouble ... or getting into more of it ... however you want to look at it. You can keep up-to-date with my work at www.maryctaylor.animationblogspot.com

Do you crack yourself up?

Actually, I enjoy seeing other people chuckle at my work more than crackin' myself up. But my stories do have to make me laugh, too ... otherwise, what fun would it be?

