

MARTYN PICK: DIRECTOR.

LONGFORM:

DIRECTING ON TV/STREAMING.

“KITTI KATZ” NETFLIX KIDS CGI SUPERHERO SERIES. 2020-2021: DIRECTOR

On 20 half hour episodes of a Netflix CGI Kids superhero show I co-directed all Episodes. The first 10 will go out in 2022. For KidsCave Studios London. Animation was produced at L'Atelier in Montreal.

From script through to colour render I was involved in steering the show to create a vivid engaging cinematic experience.

I worked on making sure the scripts had enough visual comedy and action to avoid straight exposition. With design and location it was important to create a fun, detailed world that clicked with the young audience but which also had dramatic contrast and scale.

With the boarding team I made sure that angles, character blocking and composition all gave the right superhero cinematic punch and entertainingly drove the story along. Action scenes were designed to be singular set pieces that continually changed gear for the audiences. Personal scenes always had visual comedy touches amongst the characters to keep the sense of momentum. The energy and dynamism of the storyboards were designed to give a graphic novel push to the series.

In the look we went for a bold cyber-noir look with striking jewel colours and high contrast lighting. We devised a strong contrast from a warm look for the characters home life to the dark but vibrant urban landscape that their superhero fights take place in.

“ROBOZUNA” 2017-2018: HEAD OF STORY. VOICE DIRECTOR.

On this high end sci-fi cgi kids series I was Head of Story for 40 half hour Episodes and Voice Director on 30 Episodes. Robozuna is a Netflix Original Show co produced with ITV and has been streamed/broadcast on both platforms since September 2018. A writing team wrote the scripts in Los Angeles, while the animation was done in Montreal. Pre and post production was run through a central London studio where I was based. 2 seasons of 20 Eps have been completed to date.

I took the scripts and broke them down into concepts for staging, acting and cinematography. With the LA writing team, I would workshop the feasibility of the scenes in terms of script logic and with the pipeline demands of the asset creation and art direction in London. My break down would be a document discussed with the storyboard artist and the Montreal team. I would continue to liaise with the storyboard artist as they built up sequences throughout production of the board.

My priority was to give the show cinematic scale in keeping with it's iconic action movie feel and maintain clarity of storytelling with clean stylish shot construction. This direction was given to the team of board artists, all selected for their filmic visual storytelling.

At the outset of production I gave overall notes to the Montreal studio on how the concept art would be translated into lighting and camera for the series.

My script breakdowns also worked as a strong base for my voice directing. On 30 Episodes of Robozuna I directed the ensemble cast at Soho Square Studios including Hannah Arterton, Morwenna Banks, Danny John Jules, Rufus Jones, Richard Brake and Alex Kingston.

From breaking down the scripts visually I had the key story beats for the voice actors to hit in each Episode. I conducted castings for the voice acting talent and established the characters voices in the sessions.

For the exec producer on Robozuna I have directed a 3 minute pilot for a kids franchise based on a successful series of children's books aimed at streaming platforms. It has a Stranger Things/Harry Potter tone in the cinematography/art direction and combines a facial capture cgi creature with live action shot on location.

DIRECTED FEATURE FILMS:

AN UNANNOUNCED CGI SUPERHERO FILM (FOR 12 YEARS +) 2021 ONWARDS.

In pre-production and development on a dynamic superhero feature set in a dystopian future.

"HECKLE" 2019

I directed this UK live action horror feature which will be completed in 2019. It stars Toyah Wilcox, Dani Dyer, Nicholas Burnham Vince, Clark Gable III and Steve Guttenberg. It combines strong character acting with a lush use of neon colour in the art direction and cinematography to tell the story of a comedian stalked by his own psychotic heckler. Rusty Egan (UK pioneer of electronic dance music) is the music supervisor. I storyboarded the film, workshoped the cast and directed the three blocks of location shooting in Suffolk and St. Albans. "Heckle" premiered at UK's top horror festival "Frightfest" in 2020. It was picked up for distribution by Evolutionary Films and a deal struck with Sky.

"ULTRAMARINES: A WARHAMMER 40,000 MOVIE" 2010

A tense science fantasy action thriller using CGI animation and facial capture. It is the first-ever feature length movie interpretation of the internationally successful Warhammer 40,000 universe from Games Workshop. The film stars the voices and facial acting of Terence Stamp, Sean Pertwee, and John Hurt. The film has a dark painterly look in keeping with Games Workshop's aesthetic.

It was majority funded by a consortium of private investors, in tandem with Canadian Tax Credits and the Welsh IP fund. The pipeline was international with pre and post production in Cardiff, animation in Montreal, live action capture in London and facial animation in LA. It runs at 76 minutes and was completed in 14 months. It was initially marketed directed to

the Warhammer fan base with a collectors edition box set and cinema screenings across America and in the UK.

Anchor Bay Entertainment released it on blu-ray/dvd in the US on March 5th 2013 and it was released in the UK on June 17th 2013.

"EVIL NEVER DIES" 2013

A dark live action supernatural thriller (75 minutes) shot on location in Norfolk (Originally titled "The Haunting of Harry Payne"). Released through 4Digital media on August 12th 2013 with limited theatrical and dvd. International sales agent Taylor and Dodge, Los Angeles. Broadcast (25 times) on UK TV on Sony Channels from Sept 2014 onwards.

"SHUDAN 12 GUARDIANS" 2014-15

This UK/Chinese Fantasy Franchise is high-end CG TV animation aimed at 8 to 14 year olds and I have directed pilot episodes, trailers and development material. This includes directing voice acting, storyboarding the animation, creating concept art and overseeing the stages of character design, location design and full cg animation production.

ANIMATION DIRECTOR ON FEATURE FILMS:

"COUP 53" 2019

I created the painterly animation sequences in this feature documentary about the US/UK subversion of Iranian democracy in 1953. From voice over testimony I storyboarded sequences showing the build up and street violence of the insurrection. These sequences were dramatised in a greenscreen shoot of actors which were then composited with background. Along with other sequences drawn from archive footage, they were digitally painted into frame by frame. This gave the sequences a rich expressionistic intensity with a very distinctive textured look. The fusion of painterly with kinetic action sequences was a great use of the strands in my work of genre filming and art animation. I worked with the films editor, the legendary Walter Murch (of Apocalypse Now, Godfather fame) who gave the animated riot scenes a dynamic energy. The film was released to widespread acclaim across the globe in 2020.

"WOMEN OF 1915" 2016

I am animation director of sequences on this US feature documentary about the Armenian Genocide of 1915, directed by Bared Maronian. One specific sequence uses a rich development of my digital painting technique to show the creation myth in Armenian mythology with its goddess and then transitions to the ordinary Armenian women in the early 20th century and how her life was ravaged by the Ottoman oppression. The animation sequence I directed was nominated for a Regional Emmy Award 2016.

"THE AGE OF STUPID" 2009

I was animation director on this climate change documentary feature (director Franny Armstrong). It starred Pete Postlethwaite looking back at the causes of global warming in a cataclysmic future of 2055. I created the apocalyptic environment that surrounds him with a painterly mix of cgi, matte paintings and live action. The film was executive produced by Passion Pictures and was the first film to use the crowd funding model. It was widely distributed, theatrically, around the globe.

CONCEPT ART FOR LONGFORM:

"Rise of the Witches" 2021 to 2022.

I did all the initial world building concept art for this epic live action fantasy franchise which is Saudi Arabia's highest budget TV series to date. A particularly strong use of my style.

SHORT FORM:

Tata Steel campaign 2022

I directed this mixed media (live action, cgi and 2d painterly) through my own company Meat and Electricity and via my illustration agent Artist Partners. For the well established Indian Steel company. A singular use of my "painting into pixels" style.

Commercials Director/Director represented at Three Wise Monkeys 2015 (Soho, London). Representation for commercials.

Animation director on "Fantastique": A branded art animation short film. Commissioned by Sinai and Sons and first exhibited at the Masterpiece Fair at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Commercials director at Prime Focus and The Unit 2010-13

Director of the Thatchers Cider Commercial. It uses a distinctive combination of live action and digital painting and has been screened in the UK annually since 2013 on Sky, Channel 4, Channel 5 and ITV.

Director of Zip Firefighter, Turner National Gallery and Imodium "Body Paint" commercials which use my directorial style applied to cgi, digital painting and artworked animation.

Director of Commercials, Idents and Promos at Bermuda Shorts and Th1ng 1991-2009

During this time I moved from hand art worked animation to directing straight live action and 3d animation.

Notable commercials using my signature painterly mix of photographic and art worked include the BBC trailers for the Euro 2004 soccer tournament (Silver Promax Award), six mixed media commercials for blue chip corporation ADM (Gold Plaque Chicago) and Budweiser NBA Energised.

Direction of commercials, indents and pop promos for many clients (including Mick Jagger, Gillette, Aquafresh, American Express, STV, UK Gold, Tennents Lager, Gallo Wines).

SHORT FILMS:

“Out of the Ashes” 2022: A short warning of the climate catastrophe starring ecological philosopher/professor Rupert Read (UEA. Co-written by Rupert and Franny Armstrong (The Age of Stupid). The film was launched on social media to coincide with the COP27 summit and within two days had 100,000 views and 2000 shares.

“Blue Moon” 2015: Quantum Film Production. A short black comedy/horror, filmed in April 2015. LA premiere at Graumans Chinese Theater at Screampfestla (Americas biggest horror festival). Also screened at Dragon Con Atlanta, Horror On Sea, Horrorvision, Bram Stoker Fest and Dracula Fest. Distributed by Hewes pictures for TV and streaming sales. Also incorporated as part of the “Blood Clots” feature anthology.

“London” 2008: Film London and the London Development Agency commissioned this short film for the run up to the 2012 Olympics. Digital painting is combined with live action to celebrate the capitals identity. The film was premiered at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and used by UK government agencies.

“Plaza” 2001: A short film with an intense fusion of live action and animation commissioned by Channel 4 animation and then broadcast on Channel 4, Film Four and Canal+ . Screened at London Film Festival, Raindance, Annecy and Edinburgh Film Festival. Process Award for Visual Excellence at CIFF Film Festival. In Top 10 International Short of the Year in Campaign Magazine.

“Green” 2003: A short film (8 mins) which was my first pure live action drama. It was commissioned as part of the Digital Tales scheme through FilmFour and FilmLondon. It was broadcast on Film Four and Canal+.

“Gridlock /Play To Win” 1995/98: Two short experimental 3d/2d animated films made with grants from the Arts Council and the London Film Development Agency. Both were purchased for broadcast by Channel 4.

“Signature” 1990: A charcoal animated short film. It was made as part of the British Film

Institutes New Directors scheme and was distributed theatrically and screened on Channel 4. Screened in cinemas around the UK and at the Annecy, Edinburgh and Berlin Film Festivals. Certificate of Merit from the Cork Film Festival.

“Beat Poem” 1988: An animated music film for Rough Trade records screened on MTV and in competition at the Annecy Film Festival.

“Taboo of Dirt” 1988: A charcoal animated short film made with completion funds from Greater London Arts and the Arts Council. Screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival, the Bristol Animation Festival and the Scala Cinema. It was purchased for broadcast by Channel 4.

FREELANCE ANIMATION DIRECTOR AND ANIMATOR: 1985-92

I animated sequences in my hand art worked style on promos for artists such as Siouxsie and the Banshees and David Byrne and directed and animated short films and idents for MTV, Sky and Rough Trade records.

ILLUSTRATION/ARTWORK

The full colour Illustrations for the Ladybird Expert Book: “Boewulf”.Written by Dr Janina Ramirez. 2019. For Penguin/Random House.

The full colour Illustrations for the Ladybird Expert Book: “Witchcraft”.Written by Suzannah Lipscomb. 2018. For Penguin/Random House.

Representation through Artist Partners for illustration from 2006 onwards. Including Book and Magazine covers for Orion Books Sci-fi Masterworks and the Swiss Magazine Die Weltwoche.

“Fulci/Funhaus” exhibited in The Age of Anxiety exhibition at the Venice Biennale 2017 and in the Void exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2019. The group show has travelled to Berlin, Brussels and Oaxaca.

“Martyn Pick” exhibition of hand and digital artwork at Prime Focus 67 Dean street 2012.

4high res digital paintings of London created as a gift to the Chinese people as part of the handover from the Beijing to London Olympics...

LECTURING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING 1985-2016

Since the 1990's I have frequently done lectures on my work and film practice in colleges and venues in the UK and abroad. My lectures take the form of a narrative following my career development. From starting as a painter at art college. Then evolving from that into time based media with animation. How I established an identity as a fine art filmmaker using animation. And with larger projects in commercial studios how I learnt to delegate and work with crews. With this work I incorporated live action acting and CGI into a mixed media style which was developed with further short films (Plaza) and commercials. This then lead to my move into features, with my sequence directing on The Age of Stupid and my feature directing debut on the CGI sci-fi film

Ultramarines:A Warhammer 40,00 Movie. Once established as a genre director with a visual style I directed the purely live action horror Evil Never Dies and the UK/Chinese CGI kids franchise: Shudan:12 Guardians. And within my lectures it is emphasised that this development into narrative is based on visual storytelling informed by storyboarding and pre-visualisation.

I have lectured at Central St.Martins, Farham (Animation Course), Ravensbourne, New York University, City of Westminster College, London Metropolitan University, Edinburgh College of Art, Birmingham City University, Brighton Film School, University of the West of England and Columbia College, Chicago.

I have done public talks on my work and film at the BFI Future Film Festival, the Pencil to Pixel festival in Prague, the Advertising Producers Association, for Liz Laine reps in Chicago Ad Agencies, at the Dresden Film Festival and at London House Beijing during the Olympics.

I have done Q and A's on my films at the Odeon Panton Street, the Tricycle cinema and the London MCM Expo.

FILM/FINE ART BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) ST.MARTINS SCHOOL OF ART 1982-85

A specialised course that approached film making from a fine art perspective.

RELEVANT LINKS:

PERSONAL WEBSITE:

www.martynpick.com

IMDB PAGE:

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2398433/>

WIKIPEDIA BIOGRAPHY:

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