

ANIMATION

STOP MOTION

ROTHERHAM
CREATIVE LEARNING



STOP MOTION ANIMATION IS A WELL KNOWN METHOD OF BRINGING ANY STILL OBJECTS TO LIFE IN FILM. SIMPLY PUT, AN OBJECT IS MOVED BY SMALL INCREMENTS AND AN IMAGE EACH TIME A MOVE IS COMPLETED. WHEN YOU HAVE ALL YOUR IMAGES, THEY ARE PLAYED BACK IN SEQUENCE AT SPEED, TO GIVE THE ILLUSION OF MOVEMENT (ANIMATION).

YOU DON'T NEED AN EXPENSIVE CAMERA, A MOBILE PHONE OR TABLET WITH SOFTWARE, SUCH AS I CAN ANIMATE INSTALLED (FREE VERSION AVAILABLE) IS ALL THE TECHNOLOGY YOU NEED.

COMING UP WITH IDEAS

KEEP IT REALLY SIMPLE, A SHORT STORY OR SOMETHING FUNNY, TRY GETTING YOUR CHARACTERS TO TELL A JOKE?

GETTING STARTED

MAKE A BACKGROUND.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MAKE A 2D ANIMATION USING PAPER CUTOUT CHARACTERS TRY USING A LARGE SHEET OF PAPER FOR THE BACKGROUND OF YOUR SCENES. A2 A3 OR A4 WILL BE GREAT BUT REMEMBER THE SIZE OF YOUR CHARACTERS OR OBJECTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO FIT THE BACKGROUND SIZE YOU ARE USING.

IF YOU ARE ANIMATING IN 3D THE BACKGROUND CAN BE MADE IN THE SAME WAY BUT YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE A FLOOR TOO. MAKE ALL OTHER STATIC PARTS TO BE USED IN THE SCENE (TREES, CARS, BUILDINGS) THIN CARD OR PAPER. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO BE MOVED IF NEEDED USING BLU-TACK WHEN FILMING.

ANIMATING

DOWNLOAD A SIMPLE STOP MOTION APP TO YOUR PHONE OR TABLET. HERE AT ROTHERHAM CREATIVE WE USE 'I CAN ANIMATE' AS IT'S SIMPLE TO USE AND NO CLUTTER ON YOUR SCREEN THERE'S A FREE VERSION TOO.

TIME TO START ANIMATING YOUR CHARACTERS. MOVE THE PUPPETS IN SMALL AMOUNTS (NO MORE THAN HALF A CENTIMETRE) BEFORE TAKING EACH PICTURE WITH THE APP.

AUDIO CAN BE ADDED TO THE ANIMATION IN OTHER APPS, SUCH AS MOVIE MAKER OR I MOVIE, BOTH OF WHICH ARE FREE AND SIMPLE TO GET STARTED.

TIPS

WATCH OUT FOR SHADOWS, NATURAL LIGHT FROM WINDOWS CAN CREATE SHADOWS THAT CHANGE AS YOU MOVE AROUND YOUR SCENE.

I KNOW WE HAVE SAID IT ALREADY BUT MOVE YOUR CHARACTERS A TINY AMOUNT PER PICTURE, HALF A CENTIMETRE AT THE MOST.

TO MAKE CHARACTERS APPEAR TO MOVE SLOWER OR FASTER, INCREASE OR DECREASE THE AMOUNT THEY ARE MOVED PER SHOT.

KEEP EVERYONES HANDS OUT OF THE SCENE WHEN THE PICTURES ARE BEING TAKEN. THESE CAN BE DELETED IN THE APP IF A MISTAKE IS MADE.

FILM YOUR ANIMATION IN ORDER OF SCENE, THIS MAKES IT MUCH EASIER TO KEEP TRACK OF WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR STORY.

AT THE START OF EACH NEW SCENE TAKE 10 SHOTS TO CREATE A PAUSE, THIS WILL HELP SEPARATE SCENES DURING PLAYBACK.

ONCE YOU HAVE MASTERED PAPER AND CARDBOARD TRY LEGO, IT GIVES AWESOME PROFESSIONAL RESULTS, JUST ASK THE GUYS THAT MADE THE LEGO MOVIE!

FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR MORE IDEAS ON HOW TO TACKLE YOUR NEXT ANIMATION PROJECT TRY PLACES SUCH AS MUSEUMS, GALLERIES OR WATCHING PROFESSIONALS LIKE AARDMAN ANIMATION (WALLACE AND GROMIT CREATORS) AND HOW THEY BRING THEIR STORIES TO LIFE.