

# Karen Knighton

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## Education

**California Institute of the Arts**, Valencia, CA (2003 - 2006)  
Masters of Fine Arts in Experimental Animation

**University of Kansas**, Lawrence, KS (1995 - 1999)  
Bachelors of Arts in Film & Video Studies

## Work Experience

**RingTales Animation**, Santa Monica, CA  
**Producer & Director**  
January 2007 - Present

Produced and directed three acclaimed animated web series; *Dilbert Animated Cartoons*, *Cul de Sac Animated Cartoons* and *Lio Animated Cartoons*. Interpreted prominent print comic strips into short animations with tight budget and deadline considerations (produced over 400 animations in less than four years). Worked closely with original comic artist to faithfully translate their print comic world to animation.

Responsible for all aspects of pre-production and production including selecting work to be animated, designing character style sheets and color palate, casting and directing voice actors and working with animation house on animation and revision process. Performed post-production editing, color correction, special effects and transcoding. Responsible for creating intro titles and all promotional graphics for distribution partners.

**California Institute of the Arts**, Valencia, CA,  
**Experimental Animation Adjunct Professor**  
Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008

Instructed all first year Undergraduate and Graduate Experimental Animation students in digital animation production and editing.

Taught principles of animated filmmaking with emphasis on incorporating Digital SLR cameras in to animation workflow. Demonstrated fundamentals of exposure, depth of field and lighting for both 2-d and 3-d (puppet, stop-motion, cut-out and multi-plane) animation. Developed curriculum for this course and helped plan how animation technology was incorporated into first year Experimental Animation curriculum.

Taught basics of Final Cut Pro editing for animators including basic editing theory, online/offline workflow, effects, compositing, color correction and audio.

**Pitzer College**, Claremont, CA,  
**Media Studies Technical Assistant**  
September 2001 - August 2003

Taught weekly workshops in various topics such as Final Cut Pro editing, Photoshop basics, DVD Studio Pro authoring and basic techniques of Animation. Monitored editing and animation suites and maintained computers, cameras and production equipment. Provided students instruction on film and video cameras, digital audio and lighting equipment.

## Skills

**Animation:** Stop-Motion (puppet animation, puppet design and fabrication, set design and construction, small scale lighting), character Flash 2-d animation, traditional hand-drawn 2-d animation, cut-out animation, multi-plane rigging and animation

**Art:** Painting, Illustration, Life Drawing, Bookbinding

**Software:** Final Cut Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash, After Effects, DVD Studio Pro, Compressor, Sorenson Squeeze, iWeb, Microsoft Office

## Independently Produced Films

***Things Lost and Found***, currently in production, stop-motion animation

***It Snowed***, 2005, stop-motion animation

***Birds***, 2004, stop-motion animation

***December***, 2003, multi-media drawn animation composited over photographs

***Afraid of the Dark***, 2000, stop-motion animation

## Awards

**Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Science Internship Grant**, 2006

**Fotokem 35mm Finishing Grant**, 2006

**Ahmanson Foundation Scholarship Recipient**, 2004, 2005

**Lulu May Von Hagen Scholarship Recipient**, 2003, 2004

**Grand Prize, Best of Festival, Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee**, 2001

## Select Exhibitions & Screenings

**Stuff This IV at Rivet Gallery**, Columbus, OH, 2010

**Renegade Handmade**, Los Angeles, CA, 2010

**Alternative Press Expo**, San Francisco, CA, 2010

**Unique O.C.**, Costa Mesa, CA, 2010

**Comic-Con**, San Diego, CA, 2010

**Unique L.A.**, Los Angeles, CA, 2010

**Alternative Press Expo**, San Francisco, CA, 2009

**Simple Pleasures at Studio Number One**, Los Angeles, CA, 2008

**Alternative Press Expo**, San Francisco, CA, 2008

**Los Angeles Animation Festival**, Los Angeles, CA, 2007

**Philadelphia Film Festival**, Philadelphia, PA, 2007

**Ask the Robot: Robot Revival @ The Frying Pan**, New York, NY, 2006

**Budi Animation Festival**, Busan, Korea, 2006

**Ion Animation Festival**, Los Angeles, CA, 2005

**CalArts Student Showcase**, Los Angeles, CA, 2005, 2006

**Antimatter Underground Film Festival**, Victoria, British Columbia, 2002