

Pedagogical benefits of discontinued animation methodology

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Pedagogical benefits of discontinued animation methodology

An LTA 'thunderstorm' presentation by
Melvyn Ternan
- Senior Lecturer in animation -

With student Demonstrators:

Students have it too good*

***When the method they use to create work is the latest and greatest**

I embedded a discontinued method for shooting Stop Motion Animation in one of my L4 modules

For 6 weeks, the students could use no other method to shoot their animation

I wanted the students to both experience this 'other way' so they understood where the existing modern method came from

and

to see if any benefits would be evident with using such an 'antiquated' method.

What method am I talking about?

Super brief history of stop motion animation methodology



Method 1: Shooting Blind: ~1898-1970



Method 2: Surface gauge: ~1970-1987



Method 3: Video Assist: ~1987-1999



Method 4: Onion Skinning: ~1999-present



Why do we no longer 'Shoot Blind'



Actually seeing how much the puppet has moved by using 'Onion Skinning' means there is less room for error and finer control of the final movement

Essentially, it's safer and faster especially when animating multiple complex puppets

Shooting blind
&
Onion Skinning

Demonstration

SHOOTING BLIND

Initial 'patience' curve

Increased preparation

Increased focus and concentration

Increased lack of distraction

Builds anticipation for outcome

Builds appreciation for 'onion skinning'

ONION SKINNING

Instant gratification

Fix problems in movement as you shoot

Increased distraction of 'perfection'

Safety when animating multiple items

Safety when animating more complex movements

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