

Animation Explosion

On Friday, students display their artistry with live-action and stop-motion films

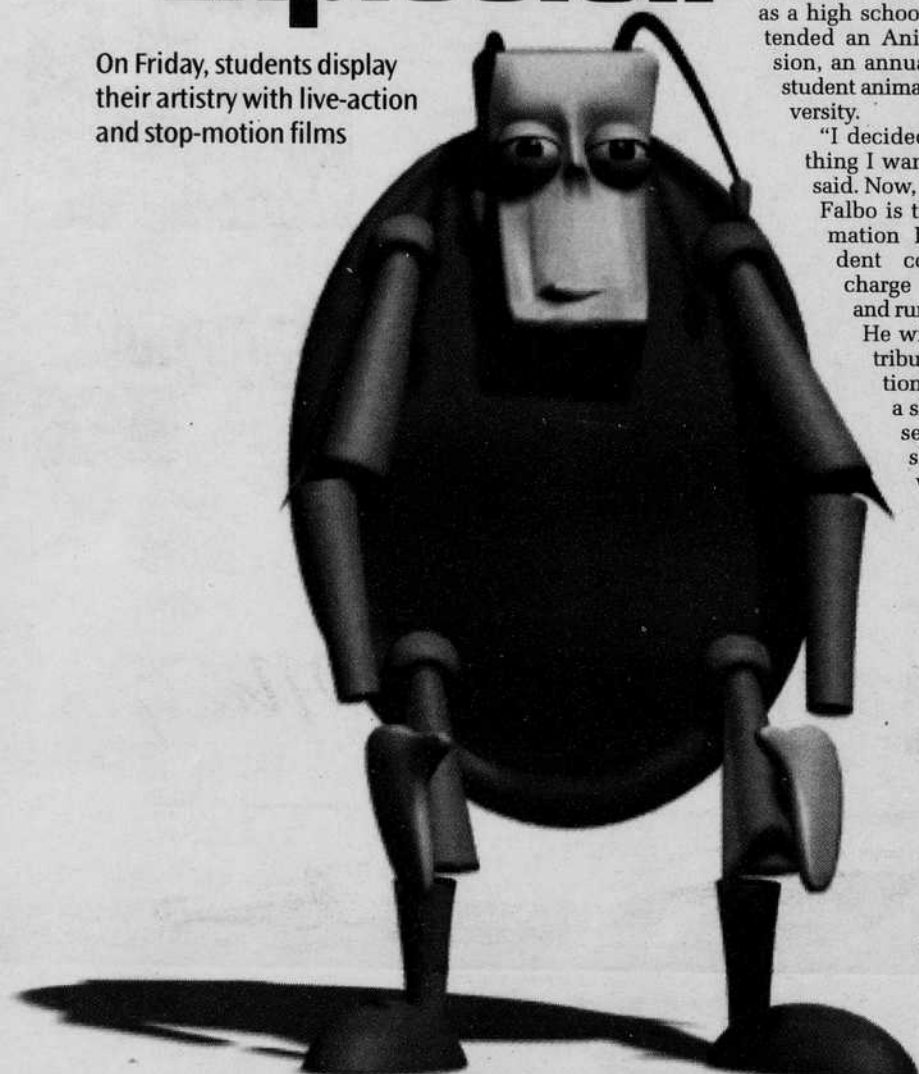


illustration by Giovanni Salimena

By Jessica Blanchard
Oregon Daily Emerald

Fine arts and business major Nick Falbo said he first became interested in animation when, as a high school senior, he attended an Animation Explosion, an annual showcase of student animation at the University.

"I decided it was something I wanted to do," he said. Now, two years later, Falbo is this year's Animation Explosion student coordinator, in charge of organizing and running the show.

He will also be contributing a stop-motion animation and a short live-action sequence to the show, which will display work from more than 60 student artists in several University animation classes.

Their work ranges from simple drawings on index cards that are filmed, to complex 3-D computer animation done with the software called 3-D Studio Max. Clay, cut-outs and

fabricated puppets are also filmed in stop motion.

In addition to the animation tape, the presentation Friday will include a short animated film from 1957 by animation pioneer David Foster. There is also an exhibit in the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall that displays artwork from the animated films that will be shown on Friday.

"There's some pretty amazing stop-motion animation in the show," said Ken O'Connell, a fine and applied arts professor who teaches several of the animation classes. "The results are pretty spectacular. Also, the computer animation gets more sophisticated every year."

Falbo agreed that the quality of work is improving each year. "Each year, the standards have gotten higher and higher," he said.

Animation is a time-consuming process, and many of the projects on display Friday night are the product of hours upon hours of work. When animating something like a person walking, a person would have to study the movement and break it down into pieces, O'Connell said. The average walk cycle, for example, has 12 phases, and people move at about one stride per second.

When people see the finished product, they have no idea of the hours of work that went into making the animation move smoothly on the screen, O'Connell said.

"Basically, animation is shooting one frame of film at a

time," O'Connell said. While a regular movie camera could shoot around 24 frames a second, one second in an animated movie can take almost an hour to film. And when the animation is drawn, it can take up to 350 drawings to make one smoothly-animated film that runs three minutes, Ken said.

For another one of the films that will be shown at the Animation Explosion, a student spent 50 hours working on his three-minute animated film, O'Connell said.

Senior fine arts major Paul Kuck is also contributing work to the show. His work, which he completed as part of his animation class, is an abstract visual music piece, uses mostly geometric shapes set to music.

"I'm basically taking an African-driven percussion piece and putting visuals to it," he said.

The Animation Explosion has been held for the past three years, though O'Connell said the department put on a similar show before it got its official title. Donations and grants from corporations such as Sony Disc Manufacturing, Intel Corp. and Eugene Print help fund the event each year.

O'Connell said that since the University began teaching animation and motion graphics more than 42 years ago, graduates have gone on to work for companies like Disney, Dreamworks, Apple Computer, Adobe Software, Broderbund, Microsoft and Netscape.

The week in Entertainment

Thursday, June 1

- 2 p.m. — The Groove Juice Special, EMU Amphitheater. Free. All ages.
- 7 p.m. — Cynthia Beal w/ Bleu Tie Affair (torch ballads), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 8 p.m. — UO Ensemble Concert, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. Tickets \$5 general, \$3 students and senior citizens.
- 8 p.m. — Johnny Wilde and the Blue Yonder (rock), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar, 4740 Main St., Springfield. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Fritz and the Poor Boys, Black Forest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Soloist (jazz), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 10 p.m. — 80s Night (dance), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. Free.

Friday, June 2

- 5 p.m. — Walker T. Ryan (blues), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 6 p.m. — Opening Reception, Maude Kerns Art Center, 1910 E. 15th Ave. Until 8 p.m. Suggested \$2 donation. Local artists Nancy Pobanz and Keiko Yanamouchi will display their works through June 29.
- 7 p.m. — Simply Jazz with Cynthia Rae, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 7 p.m. — Animation Explosion 2000, Room 177 Lawrence Hall. Showcases student-created multimedia, animation and visual design work. Free.
- 7 p.m. — "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas

Nickelby, Part 2," Robinson Theater, Villard Hall. Tickets are \$10 general; \$8 senior citizens, UO faculty and staff; and \$5 students. Part 1 also runs at 1 p.m. June 3.

7:30 p.m. — Oregon Ballroom Dance, Room 220 Gerlinger Hall. \$4 general, \$3 students and staff. No partner needed.

7:30 p.m. — Dance Theater of Oregon, Swine Dive #9, Soreng Theater, One Eugene Center. \$16 general admission, \$12 youth.

8 p.m. — "Cross the Map," featuring the Tiffany Mills Dance Company, Dougherty Dance Theater, Gerlinger Annex. \$6 general, \$3 students and senior citizens.

9 p.m. — Moth with Blyss, WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

9 p.m. — Eclectic Open Mic, The Buzz Coffeehouse, EMU. Free.

9:30 p.m. — 3-D movie "Revenge of the Creature" (sequel to "The Creature from the Black Lagoon"), featuring Clint Eastwood in his first-ever film role. EMU Amphitheater. \$2 for students, \$3 general admission.

9:30 p.m. — Flying Colours (rock), Black Forest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Mr. Wizard (rock), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar, 4740 Main St., Springfield. Two-drink minimum.

9:30 p.m. — Stone Cold Jazz, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Rally Boy, Welsh Rabbit, Gabriel Blue, and The Messengers (alt. rock), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. \$3 cover.

Saturday, June 3

- 5 p.m. — Eileen Hemphill-Haley (folk artist), Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette St. Until 7 p.m. Free.
- 6 p.m. — Summer Send Off, EMU amphitheater. End-of-the-year party includes a dance competition, DJ Dan Craig, refreshments and prizes. Free.
- 7 p.m. — Jamie Maderas (flamenco), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 8 p.m. — The Man Without a World, Room 180 PLC. The After Quartet will perform a live score. \$5 for students, \$6 for general public.
- 9:30 p.m. — Honey Bucket (bluegrass), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Jubal (jazz-rock), Black Forest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Watermelon Head (rock), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar, 4740 Main St., Springfield. Two-drink minimum.
- 10 p.m. — Courtesy Clerks, Naysayers, The Bakery (alt. rock), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. Free.

Sunday, June 4

- 3 p.m. — Vaudeville for the family, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 5:30 p.m. — Karaoke, Foxfire Restaurant and Bar, 4740 Main St., Springfield. Two-drink minimum.
- 6 p.m. — Vaudeville for the family, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 7:30 p.m. — Sandy Silva (percussive dancer), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth. Tickets are \$11.50 in advance, \$13 at the door.
- 9 p.m. — Blues Jam, Taylor's Bar and Grill, 894 E 13th. Free.
- 9 p.m. — Open Mic, Black Forest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.

9 p.m. — Nobody's Business with One Up Two Down (rock), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. Free.

Monday, June 5

- 7 p.m. — Allen Ginsburg Birthday Celebration, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Until 7 p.m. Festivities will include a reading of "Howl," a Ginsburg classic, by Izzy Whetstone.
- 10 p.m. — DJ dance, Taylor's Bar and Grill, 894 E 13th. \$1 cover.
- 10 p.m. — Mixology 101 (house, jungle, trip-hop), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. Free.

Tuesday, June 6

- 7 p.m. — Scotty Perey (sing-along), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Carmizin (folk fusion), Black Forest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — Grateful Dead Appreciation Night, Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 10 p.m. — JLA Night at the House (house), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. Free.

Wednesday, June 7

- 8 p.m. — Theurgic Seed (multimedia show), Soreng Theater, Hult Center, One Eugene Center. Includes animation, lights, art, Raging Family and a string orchestra. Tickets are \$12 for students, \$15 general admission.
- 8 p.m. — Dick Dale (surf guitar) with Los Mex Pistols Del Norte (Latino rock), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth. Tickets are \$10.
- 7 p.m. — Skip Jones (Louisiana folk), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 9:30 p.m. — John Barley (guitar), Chez Ray's, 44 W. 10th Ave. Free.
- 10 p.m. — Justice League of America (dance), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. No cover for women; men \$2.