Portfolios & Demo Reels

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Who are we?

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Oyster

Portfolios

What should a portfolio include?

Well that kind of depends.

- Your name and contact information
- Personality
- Information about you
- Your best work
  - Case Studies
  - Mock Ups
  - High Quality Images

Where should a portfolio live?

An online presence is important.

- Websites
    - Squarespace
    - Weebly
    - WordPress
    - Behance
    - Adobe Portfolio

Print portfolios - they should look and feel good.

- Blurb
- commonvision
    - Coil Binding & Saddle Stitching
- Slide-in sheet portfolios

The Big Ideas.

- Quality over Quantity
- Curated
  - Cater to opportunities
- Tell a story
- Show versatility

Technical Tips

- High quality images
  - But not massive
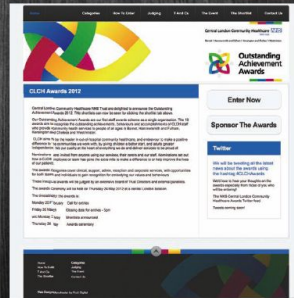- SEO optimized

Mock Ups

- Mock ups are your best friend
  - Professional
  - Gives context to work
- Can be digital or illustrative. Find your style and be consistent!

Case Studies

- Gives context to work
- Client problems & Designer solutions
- Shows Process

Promote your work.
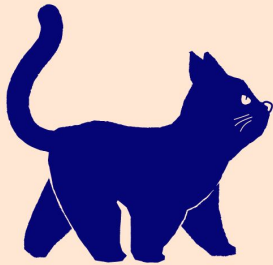
- Dribbble
- Behance (again)
- Deviantart
- Pinterest
- Designspiration

Questions?

Demo Reels

commonvision Demo Reel:

https://vimeo.com/218695189

What is a demo reel?

Snapshot of:

- Work style
- Skill set
- Who you are

What types of demo reels are there?

For anything that moves, including, but not limited to:

- Character Animation
- Game Animation
- Motion Graphics
- Film
- Lighting
- Compositing

- 3D
- 2D
- Stop Motion
- Modeling

It's OK to have different reels

For different skill sets

Can have an online version without certain contact info

Can share a Vimeo URL that's password protected

    - BE SURE TO SHARE THE PASSWORD!!

DO: Put Your Name on EVERYTHING

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Shot List
- CD
- Flash Drive
- SD Card
- Website

Include name & contact in case anything gets separated!

DO: Title Cards

At the beginning AND end of your reel

Include:

- Name
- What you do
  - (Animator, Modeler, Lighter, etc)
- Contact information
- Website/Online Portfolio

DO: Have a shot list

If there is any piece you did not create the entire thing of, be sure to state what you did.

Include:

- Title of piece
- Time stamp of where it is
- What you did
- Can say where model was provided from

Demo Reel Shot List:

Weight Test – 0:10
Short clip focusing on portraying weight through animation.

Tools Used: Maya 7

I only did the animation for this clip. Model and rig thanks to The Academy of Art College.

As Good As It Gets Lip Sync – 0:09
Short lip sync focused on acting and emotion.

Tools Used: Maya 7

I only did the animation for this clip. The audio is from the movie As Good As It Gets. Model and rig thanks to The Academy of Art College.

DO: Note what you did on the shots

Keep it short and simple

LIGHTING & COMPOSITING

LIGHTING & LOOK DEV

DO: Start Strong and Finish Stronger

Start with your one of your strongest pieces

Hook them!

End with your best piece

Studios know within the
first 3 shots if they like you

DO: Include a variety (if you are good at it)

- Broad styles - from toony to hyper real
- Basics
- Performance/Acting
- Action
- Dialogue, conversation between 2 people
- Mid, full body shots
- Emotional - subtle
- Lip sync
- Body mechanics
- Biped, quadrupeds - of different sizes too

DO: Know your audience

Example: Disney character animator

- Include shots with emotion
- Your reel should have appeal!

Showcase that company's style in your reel

DON'T: Only include that one style

Example: Animal Logic

Get so many reels with Lego type shots

...but they also did Peter Rabbit
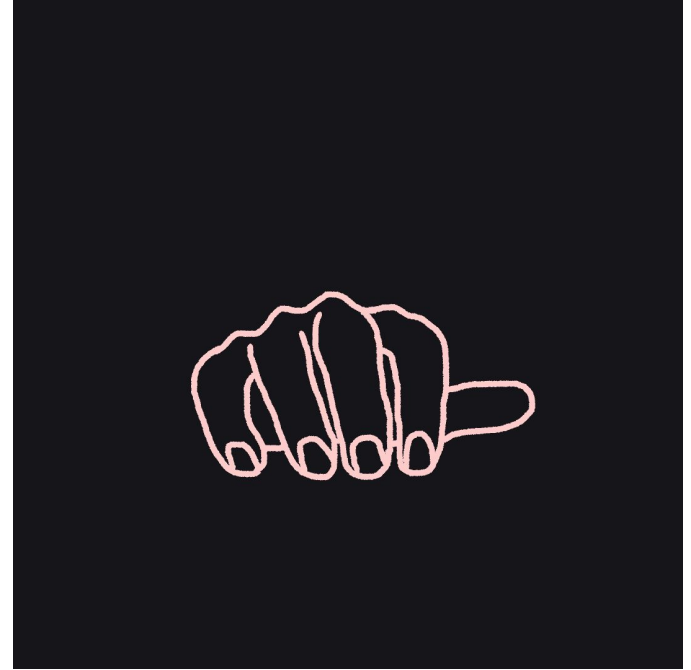

Step 9: Eat a complete breakfast

DON'T: Put full pieces back to back

Creates a long reel

Only show the best parts

This shows you haven't put as much thought into how you want to represent yourself and your work

DO: Make it short and sweet

1 - 2 minutes MAX

DON'T: Include only school assignments

Show you are passionate about what you do!

DO: Include outside projects:

- Freelance
- Internships
- Personal

More DON'Ts:

Have the same exact shot more than once

Make the recruiter skip around

Put shots in that are not yours

Take credit for something you didn't do

DO? DON'T? - Music

There are varying answers

In general: **don't**

- May choose a song a person hates
- Most places mute it anyways

Some people find it easier to edit to music, if you use it be sure your reel works when muted

Other tidbits

Playblasts are perfectly fine to showcase animation alone

You don't need to light/texture if you're an animator

Get feedback!

Start a club! - There is an Animators Club forming

Andy Hsu Demo Reel:

https://www.andyhsu.com

Reel Examples

- Jacqueline Wojcik: https://vimeo.com/214729799

- Jacqueline Piette: https://vimeo.com/161024657

- Leticia Reinaldo (Modeler):
  https://vimeo.com/235689073

- Patrick O'Sullivan (Cinematographer)
  https://vimeo.com/152399455

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- Kellee Roeder : https://kelleeroeder.com/

Resources

http://blog.animationmentor.com/

https://blog.animationmentor.com/?s=demo+reel

We Are Hiring Animators!

Apply via UMBCworks

Preferred start date is Summer 2020.

For best consideration **apply by April 30, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.**

**Please note that the interview process will be done online and

not in-person this semester.**

Other words of wisdom

Have a playful resume

List your soft skills

Show project management experience

Recruiters don't mind updates every 2-3 months with a follow up, especially with new work

Find a mentor

Be sure you fill out the CORRECT application!

> Don't apply for a supervisor when you are fresh out of school

Recruiters look for a T-shaped unicorn

> Broad in skills, but a deep understanding of them

Any Questions?