

# ARRIL JOHNSON

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Born 19/12/46 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Canadian/UK citizen residing in England.

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art and Theatre, Wittenberg University, Ohio, U.S.A. (1968)  
PGCE, University of the West of England, Bristol (2009)

## PROFESSIONAL

Member of BECTU, British Actors' Equity and ACTRA (affiliated with American Equity), and the Artists Guild of The Dinosaur Society UK.

1968 - 1973

Employed at Potterton Productions in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Worked on layouts, backgrounds, scripts, special effects, sound design, character animation, model construction and animation, acting and directing.

Projects were commercials, feature films, television specials, world fair pavilion films, television comedy inserts, and children's television, including pixilation for Sesame Street.

1973 - Present time

Self-employed as a freelance animator, model maker, actor, and writer.

2008 - Present time

Employed as a Senior Lecturer in animation at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

## CATEGORIES OF WORK

### Commercials

Design and graphic animation on nineteen commercials including those for HTV, Harrison Cowley Advertising, and Stylus Television. Sculpting of three characters on Mita Fax 'Dinosaurs' and research, storyboarding, and sculpting on presentation for Weetabix 'Dino Theory' commercial at Aardman Animations. Sculpting of a comic T'rex on 'Dairyalea Dunkers - Dinotime' for the Puppet Factory, Bermuda shorts and the J. Walter Thompson Agency resulting in a BAA Public Award and a nomination for the BTACA Craft Award (1998). Additional modelling, animatics, or lip sync on various commercials or short projects at Aardman Animations.

## Television Titles or Featured Inserts

Animation direction and execution of titles or inserts for over one hundred BBC programmes, including the design of a modular character animation system for sixteen episodes of 'Doodle'; the building and model animation of a talking chameleon for 'Colour TV: Blue'; macro-photography and effects for eighteen episodes of the children's science series, 'Knowhow'; the construction, model animation and invention of special lighting effects for the 'Pterodactyl: Alive?' episode of the 'Wildlife on One' series (Aardman Animations and the BBC). Dimorphodon model was featured on the cover of the BBC Radio Times and additional illustrations were produced for inclusion in the programme.

Design, construction, and operation of animatronic animals for 'Paradise Regained' episode of 'The Natural World' series (BBC) and 'Triumph of Life' series (Green Umbrella). Research and construction of model skulls for computer animation on 'The Velvet Claw' series (4:2:2 Videographics and the BBC). Graphic character animation on eighteen inserts for 'Growing Up Wild' (BBC Wildvision). In addition, two hundred and eighty-six inserts have been executed for the BBC Children's Tony Hart programmes, 'VisionOn', 'Take Hart', and 'Hartbeat'. The style, technique, and content of these films varied considerably and involved a mixture of cel, cut-out, model, and pixilated animation as well as live action, macro-photography, and special effects.

## Television Specials

Graphic animation on Harold Pinter 'Pinter People' special for NBC and storyboarding, layout, and effects animation on 'The Selfish Giant' and layout, character animation, effects animation, and modelmaking on 'The Little Mermaid' for Readers' Digest while at Potterton Productions in Montreal. Drawn character animation on 'Pere Noel' for Siriol Productions, Cardiff. Preparation of cut-outs, modelmaking, and both cut-out and model animation on 'The Wrong Trousers' for Aardman Animations and the BBC. Uncredited consultation on BBC Science series 'Walking With Dinosaurs'.

## Feature Films

Character animation, effects animation, and modelmaking on 'Tiki Tiki' at Potterton Productions. Character key animation and effects animation on 'The Princess and the Goblin' for Siriol Productions. Cleanups and inbetweening on 'FRO7' for A for Animation and Hollywood Road Films. Character key animation on 'Beauty and the Beast' for Bevanfield Films. Miscellaneous title animation or effects on other projects.

## Animated Series

Drawn animation on 'Beastly Behaviour' for Honeycomb Animation and on 'Ric', 'Zippy & Zac', 'Pond Life', and three series of 'Amazing Animals' for A for Animation. Cut-out animation on 'Bump' children's series for CMTB Animation. Concept art for 'Creature Comforts' series at Aardman Animations.

## Corporate Training and Public Display Films

Design and animation on twenty-one films, including three fifteen minute cut-out animation films about computer systems for Video Arts, London. Two films on biological evolution for Aardman Animations, Oxford Scientific Films and Oxford University. Animation for Professor E. T. Hall's Royal Society Lecture on carbon-14 dating. A series of films on feedheating systems for the CEBG and South West

Pictures. 'The Cold Chain' film on vaccine transport for The World Health Organisation and Richard Keefe Productions. Party political broadcast for the SDP and Antelope Films. Design and direction at Potterton Productions of both a film within a film for The New York Stock Exchange and a pavilion film about the Pacific coast indians' Potlach ceremony and layout and sound design contributions on 'Légendes du Québec' pavilion film for 'Man and His World' exhibition, Montreal.

## Music Videos

Modelmaking, rotoscoping, character and effects animation, and artwork for Madonna's 'Dear Jessie' and drawn character animation for Elton John's 'The Club At The End Of The Street' at A for Animation. Choice of music, track breakdown, storyboard, character design, animation, model set construction, and photography on 'The Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture' in the 'Animators in Concert' presentation video for Right Angle Productions and S4C.

## Short Films

'Insight' (2004), 'Tidy' (2004), 'Starry Sky' (2004), 'Considered Response' (2005). 'Tidy' and 'Starry Sky' were shown at the Halloween Festival (now the London Short Film Festival) at the ICA, London (2005). 'Tidy' was shown at the Commonwealth Film Festival in Manchester (2005). 'Starry Sky' was shown at the My Eyes, My Eyes Festival in London (2005). 'Considered Response' was shown at the Halloween Festival at the ICA, London (2006) and a shorter version of the film was included on the Watershed 90 Second Challenge website. Direction and animation of 'Change the World - Hug' for A Productions (2005). 'In The Eye Of', 'Field Blues' and 'Physical Effects' (2007). Short promotional film donated to Wick Road Library, Bristol (2011). Animated logo for SWAN (Southwest Animation Network) website (2014). Sound design contributed to 'Indirect Dating' project for Rumpus Animation (2015). Sound design and voice acting on 'Moby Dick' interstitial for Rumpus Animation (2015).

## Illustrations

Graphics, models, or photographs have appeared in fourteen publications and several television programmes, including a four part audio-visual on 'Evolution' for Focal Point Audiovisuals, Portsmouth. This last project also involved the production of numerous effects shots, as well as the researching and writing of the script. Other images have appeared in publications for Browntrout Publishers in San Francisco, Nature Production in Tokyo, and Earthwatch Expeditions in Watertown, Massachusetts. In certain cases new techniques have been invented, including bas-relief/pencil/wash hybrids for Boxtree Publications in conjunction with the Granada television series, 'Dinosaur!'.

## Museum Work

Six painted diorama backgrounds, five drawings, and twenty models of animals have been prepared for Bristol City Museum. Most of these were of prehistoric subjects and several involved working with original fossil material. Two illustrations of Thecodontosaurus were prepared to raise funds for the Bristol Dinosaur Project, University of Bristol. Both are displayed in the Bristol City Museum and one was reproduced for display in the Museum of Bristol, M Shed. An illustration of Rhynchosaurus was donated to the Sidmouth Museum.

## Writing

Five technical scripts for CEEB training films (Southwest Pictures); eighteen narrations for 'Details' inserts on the children's science programme, 'Knowhow' (BBC); a party political broadcast for the SDP (Antelope Films); and eighty texts for a four part slide programme on 'Evolution' (Focal Point Audiovisuals). Article on modelmaking and animation in Geological Curator. Text and illustrations for two chapters on walk cycles and dope sheets for inclusion in 'Fundamentals of Animation' book (Paul Wells/AVA Publishing - first and second editions).

## Teaching and Related Activities

Part-time animation tutor at Birmingham Polytechnic (1975 -1979), at Bristol Polytechnic (1976 -1985), Bath University College (2000), and at the University of the West of England (2000 to the present). Lectures or workshops also have been organised for Siriol Productions in Cardiff (1997) and for both Unst Animation in the Shetland Islands and for the Multi A charity in Bristol (2001). Workshops about animation, sculpting, cartoon storytelling, and dinosaurs also have been arranged for various primary and junior school groups. Animation and dinosaur workshops have been held at Explore and Wildwalk in the At Bristol complex.

Text, images and films have been planned and prepared for the Leonardo Project's 'Teaching With Animation' DVD (2006-7) and 'Animated Science' (2008-10) in conjunction with the Animation Workshop, Viborg, Denmark. Storyboard/Animatic course for MSc computing students run at the University of Bristol (2008). Supervision of films for the Sharp Shotz community project organised by the IDEAL charity, Bristol (2009 - 2012). Senior Lecturer in animation at the University of the West of England (2008 - present). Additional workshops at UWE in illustration, photographic, sound design and performance/storyboarding techniques. UWE representative on judging panel for Animafest, Cyprus (2012).

## Acting

Have appeared in or done voice work for three corporate videos, two television commercials, four radio commercials, nine BBC radio plays, two stage plays, thirty-seven television programmes, and performed in several productions for the Playwrights' Workshop, Montreal. Voice and character acting in self-produced festival films and for other independent productions, including those for Wolf Matzl in Vienna (2009 - 2015) and Hibiki Films in Bristol (2008 - 2013). Multiple voice acting on 'Moby Dick' interstitial film for Rumpus Animation (2015). Voice acting on 'Animal Alphabet' for Sophie Marsh and Calling the Shots Ltd. (2016).

## Art and Exhibitions

Animation artwork exhibited and auctioned by Sotheby's in the 'Lots of Ink' joint fundraiser for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (2001). Joint exhibitions including sculptures, installations, paintings, photographs and photograms have been mounted at The Bristol Guild (1999), the Bristol Old Vic (2000, 2001, 2002), at Westec (2001), the Tobacco Factory Theatre (2005), the Tobacco Factory Cafe/Bar (2006), Clevedon Pier (2007), and at the Glass Room, Colston Hall, Bristol (2012).

Photographic restorations of prehistoric animals included in 'Monster Art', a touring exhibition organised by York Museum and linked with the Dinosaur Society U.K. (1999 - 2005). 'Phoenix' audio/visual installation for the Southville Arts Trail (2005) and the Watershed 90 Second Challenge website

(2006). Artwork donated to raise funds for the national Star College Charity (2006). Solo show of book illustrations prepared for scheduled exhibition at Wildwalk (2007). Production of a twenty-five minute soundscape for a planned 'Purgatory' installation. Drawings have been exhibited at the F Block Gallery, UWE, Bower Ashton and in the Big Draw at Centrespace, Bristol (2010).

Contribution to 'Flick-Flip-Flick' project with Centre for Fine Print Research at UWE (2010). Solo photographic exhibition for Save the Children at the F Block Gallery, UWE (2012). Sculpture sold at Centrespace Gallery in aid of the Bristol Autism Project (2012). Illustrations produced for 'Pass the Sketchbook' charity project (2015). Joint photographic exhibition at Paper Gallery, Bristol (2016).

#### CURRENT WEBSITE

[arril-johnson-sidesalad.weebly.com](http://arril-johnson-sidesalad.weebly.com)