

MIKE SMITH

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Nationality: British and US Citizen

BAFTA nominated director, experienced in directing, designing and animating, with innovative use of mixed media techniques that include 2D, 3D, puppetry, cut-out, live action and CG.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

In-house Creative Director/Consultant at a number of animation studios including **Colossal Pictures, Wild Brain, Vinton Studios/Laika** and **ReelFX**. Providing strong creative leadership to a rosta of directors and other creatives, while contributing to these studios during their transitions from short to long-form production.

Design, direction, story and project development with major motion picture studios including **Walt Disney, Paramount Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros, Turner Pictures, Nickelodeon, Sony, United Artists, EMI Films** and **Gaumont Studios**.

Collaborating both in development and production with directors and producers such as **Francis Ford Coppola, Oliver Stone, Zack Snyder, Paul McCartney, Curtis Hanson, Gary Winick, Matt Groening, Harvey Weinstein, Henry Selick**. and **Bill Joyce**.

Director and Producer for '1001 Nights', a 23 minute **BAFTA** nominated theatrical release, screened with live performance from **The Los Angeles Philharmonic**.

Designed and Directed hundreds of Commercials, Pop Promos and Idents in the UK, Europe and the USA.

HISTORY

2005 – 2009 Reel FX

Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator
In-house Director in Development

Creative Consultant involved in restructuring studio, helping to guide ReelFX into feature film production

Feature Production:

Warner Bros.

'The Tales of the Black Freighter'

(20 minute animated film, working with **Zack Snyder**)

Walt Disney

'The Wild'

(CG animated theatrical release feature)

2 minute opening sequence

Co-Director, Art Director and Designer

(working with director **Steve Williams**)

Paramount Pictures

'Charlotte's Web' (2006)

(CG animated theatrical release feature)

Storyboards and Animatics for web writing sequences

(working with director **Gary Winick**)

Feature Development:

'The Mischieviants' – proposed feature

Story Development

(working with creator/writer **Bill Joyce**)

'Dinosaur Bob' – proposed feature

Story Development and Written Treatment

(working with creator **Bill Joyce**)

'A Cricket in Times Square' – proposed feature

Designs, Story Development and Written Treatment

Producer: **Harvey Weinstien**

'Opus' – proposed feature

Designer and Story Development

Producer: **Harvey Weinstein**

'Pink' – proposed feature

(Self, with permission from Laika Studios)

Director, Story Development, Designer

and Written Treatment

'The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay'
5 min trailer for proposed feature for
Paramount Pictures

2004 Matchframe

'Buddha' (8 min)

Storyboard

Part of a permanent installation on Lantau Island, Hong Kong,
site of the Giant Buddha

2001-2004 Laika Studios / Vinton Studios

Director, Designer, Animator and Storyboard

Creative Consultant/Creative Director:

Helped to create a roster for shorts and feature film development
(working with **Will Vinton** and **Phil Knight**)

Contributed to the creative reshaping of the studio
(also coming up with their new name, Laika Studios)

Commercials:

Honey Nut Cheerios

Wonder Loaf

Honda

Minute Maid 'Popeye' (featured on the **Daily Show**)

Development:

'Pink' (proposed short and feature)

Director, Designer, Writer

Written feature treatment

'Moon Girl'

(CGI short)

Design work and Written Treatment

Short film:

Sony

'Ananda' (5 min)

(multi-media short, produced to promote Sony's Hi Def cameras)

Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator

1999– 2000 Wild Brain Studios

Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator

Creative Consultant in Development

Commercials:

Wrigleys, Minute Maid Hi-C, Coca-Cola 'Super Mom' (winner of 1998 **Clio** Award)

Film:

'**8 Mile**' (2002)
Designer and Storyboard
4 proposed animated sequences
(working with director **Curtis Hanson**)

Development:

'**The Windyrider**' –television
(Self)

1999 **Rough Draft Studios**

Futurama
Gracie Films/20th Century Fox
Title sequence
Director, Storyboard
(working with creator **Matt Groening**)

1999 **Francis Ford Coppola**

'**Pinocchio**'
Storyboarding on proposed theatrical feature

1998-1999 **Nickelodeon**

Director in Development
'**Dreams**' –Designs and Written Treatment
'**Ghosts**' –Written Treatment

1998 **Hyperion Studio / BS24**

'**1001 Nights**' (23 mins)
Producer and Director
BAFTA nominated, selected for **Sundance Film Festival**
Screened as a series of live performances with the
LA Philharmonic Orchestra
Dorothy Chandler
Hollywood Bowl
Music composed by **David Newman**
Conducted by **Esa-Pekka Salonen**
(working with **Yoshitaka Amano**)

1997-1998 Warner Bros

Director in Development
'The Spectre'
Designer and Written Treatment
(working with **DC Comics**)

1997 Rob Bottin Productions

'Deep Rising' (1998)
2D Animation design and movement test for creature

1996 Turner Pictures

Development
'The Red Shoes'
Designer and Written Treatment
(working with director/script writer **Caroline Thompson**)

1996 Walt Disney

'James and the Giant Peach'
Storyboard (titles) and 2D animation character effects
(working with director **Henry Selick**)

1991-1996 Colossal Pictures

In-house Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator

Ixtlan Corporation / Warner Bros.

'Natural Born Killers' (1994)
Animated Sequences
Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator
(working with **Oliver Stone**)

United Artists

'Tank Girl' (1995)
Animated Sequences
Director, Designer, Storyboard and Animator
(working with director **Rachel Talalay**
and creator **Jamie Hewlett**)

Commercials:

Nike 'Charles Barkley'; winner of the **Silver Hugo** at the Chicago
Film Festival

ESPN - ident

Pepsi - series campaign

Cheerios – series campaign

1987 – 1991 Felix Films

Owner, Creative Director, Director, Designer and Animator.

First London based animation studio to represent Individual directors reels

Studio became known for its creativity and eclectic use of animation

Commercials:

Weetabix, Carling Black Label ‘Cajun’ (winner of **Best Irish Commercial**), **Bowyers, Levis ‘Roger’** (winner of **Clio Award**), **Ribena**

Pop Promos:

Eddie Grant, David Byrne, Grace Jones, Himuro, Bob Marley

‘Beleza Tropical’ Jorge Ben (working with **David Byrne**)
(winner **Best Animation – Holland Animation Awards**)

Television:

‘Grim Tales’ with Rik Mayall

Animation for 3 episodes

Creative Director, Director, Designer, Animator

Idents:

BBC, BBC 2 and MTV

1986 EMI Films / 20th Century Fox

‘Highlander’

Theatrical release feature

Director, Designer and Animator

(working with **Russell Mulcahy**)

1985 MGMM

Animation Director, Designer and Animator

Pop Promos:

Daryl Hall

Queen

Art of Noise

Paul Hardcastle

- 1984** **Gaumont Studios**
'**Asterix and Ceasar's Surprise**'
Theatrical release feature
Lead Animator
- 1982** **Cucumber Studios**
Animator for Pop Promo
Donald Fagen
- 1981-1983** **Shootsey Ltd**
Director, Designer and Lead Animator
Commercials and Pop Promos
(working with **Len Lewis**)
- 1981** **Grand Slamm**
'**Rupert the Frog Song**' (13 mins)
Designer, Storyboarding and Animator
(working with **Geoff Dunbar** and **Paul McCartney**)
- 1980** **Bob Godfrey Films**
'**Bio-Woman**' (10 mins)
nominated BAFTA Film Award
Designer, Lead Animator
- 1980** **First Independent Commercial**
Forbidden Planet Book Shop
(for theatrical release)
- 1980** **Dragon Films**
Animator
(working with **Oscar Grillo** and **Sergio Simonetti**)
- 1977-1980** **West Surrey College of Art**
three year animation course
- 1976** **St. Martin's School of Art**
foundation course in art