

Objective

Making memorable character animation to entertain the young at heart.



Experience

Character Animator – SpeakeasyFX, Westfield, NJ (www.SpeakeasyFX.com)

- *September 2008-present*
- Provided animation for "Abby's Flying Fairy School," a series of thirteen eight-minute, fully cg-animated television episodes for Sesame Street's 40th anniversary celebration season
- Generated endearing, loveable, muppet-like performance using XSI throughout the year of production
- Significantly contributed to the composition, scene layout, and shot assignment for later episodes
- Completed character animation for spec projects such as "Hot Dog & Hamburger"
- Worked directly with Sesame Workshop's Digital Media Department on creative direction, game logic, scene layout, task management, and animation production for the "AFFS" online interactive games

Art Director – CVC Communications, Fort Wayne, IN (www.TheBusinessStorytellers.com)

- *September 2006-December 2008* (staff through March 2007; contractually through December 2008)
- Worked directly with major corporate clients to satisfy a variety of visual media needs
- Animated screensavers, designed internal corporate electronic letterheads and graphics
- Created logos, video motion graphics, websites, conference materials, and complete package design
- *May 2006-September 2006* (freelance graphic designer, promoted to full-time art director)
- Created Flash graphics for the CVC Communications website and aided in branding development

Visiting Lecturer – Purdue University, Summer 2004 CG Workshops in Rzeszow and Poznan, Poland

- One of eight students interviewed and selected to teach beginning and advanced 2d/3d computer graphics (raster/vector art, animation) as well as design principals & theory at two foreign universities

Education

Animation Mentor – Character Animation Diploma, January 12, 2008 (18-month online program)

- Improved sense of timing, acting choices, interaction (multi-character shots), and refining techniques
- Adjusted to a fast-paced, studio-like environment involving careful planning, iterative improvement, and critical feedback among peers and direct from mentors, who are currently professionals in the animation industry (my mentors: Don Kim, BlueSky; Steve Gagnon-Cady, Weta Digital; Raquel Coelho, GKR; Brett Coderre, Pixar; Ricardo Curtis, Pixar; Ethan Hurd, Imageworks; Greg Whittaker, DreamWorks)

Purdue University – West Lafayette, IN – Bachelor of Science, May 14, 2005 (four-year degree)

- GPA 3.23/4.00 – Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) – Animation Specialization
- 2005 Outstanding CGT Senior of the Year, Outstanding Professional Project Award (shared)
- SIGGRAPH Chapter Secretary 2002-2005, Student Volunteer in 2004 Los Angeles Conference
- Inducted in 2003 into Epsilon Pi Tau, International Honorary of Leadership in Technology
- Interests: Women In Technology; CG Student Council; Music, Theater, and Fine Arts programs

Software Knowledge

- XSI, Maya – 3D Character Animation
- Photoshop, Illustrator – Graphic Design
- Flash, HTML – Website Creation

References Available Upon Request

References & Recommendations

"Laura is an amazing animator and a fabulous team player. She has fantastic leadership skills and is able to encourage those around her to give their best. As an animator, she is very talented. She is responsible, takes her job seriously and is an asset to our company."

Julie Stewart, *Managing Director, SpeakeasyFX*
julie@speakeasyfx.com – 908.228.2557

"Laura Skowronski Nattam and I have worked together on a 3D animated production for Sesame Street at SpeakeasyFX. She is one of the most talented animators I have had the opportunity to work with and know on a professional and personal basis. Laura has a nearly palpable energy and enthusiasm in both her personality and her work. She has shown incredible dedication to the project. Laura approaches every obstacle as an opportunity to learn, and her positive 'can-do' attitude has clearly been an inspiration to her co-workers. I hope to have the chance to work together soon and will continue to stay connected to Laura for a long time to come."

JoEllyn Marlow, *producer, SpeakeasyFX*
MarlowJem@aol.com – 718.768.8412

"Laura is an ideal employee and colleague. Besides being an excellent animator, she is "morale glue" when it comes to building a team. Terrific (repeat) attitude, exemplary worker, smart, funny, flexible, good-humored and multi-talented. She is precisely what you hope to hire and are seldom fortunate enough to actually have on a winning team."

Sally Anne Syberg, *Executive Producer, Speakeasy FX*
salux@earthlink.net – 212.924.0945

"Aside from being a superb designer, Laura has the ability to size up a client's or project's needs and respond with spot-on creative. She is a pleasure to work with."

Paul Chapman, *Exec VP, CVC Communications*
paulc@com-pel.com – 877.577.8333

"Laura is a quality person who is always ready to contribute to the greater good of an organization. She served as the student lab coordinator for computer graphics at Purdue. I am proud that she is one of our outstanding program alumni."

Marvin Sarapin, *Professor & Head Computer Graphics Technology, Purdue University*
msarapin@purdue.edu – 765.494.7505

"I have known Laura since 2004 when she accompanied me to Poland to teach Computer Graphics Animation at the Resovia Technical Institute. Laura is an extremely mature and capable animator – able to communicate complex, technical processes clearly and at a level that beginners can understand. She was prepared on a daily basis with presentations, handouts and tasks for the students to accomplish. Professionally, Laura has gone on in the animation field, most recently working for an animation company that did the work for The Sesame Street Workshop presentation, "Abby's Flying Fairy School". I am quite impressed with Laura's abilities, her openness and willingness to share and collaborate. I would recommend Laura without reservations."

John Finnegan, *Associate Professor, Purdue University*
jcfinnegan@pusb.iusb.edu – 812.206.8386

"Laura is hard working and dependable and kind. She impressed me with her enthusiasm for her chosen profession and her ability to handle responsibility. She has remained the same way since I was first lucky enough to have her in my teaching group, and it will carry her far."

Mike Flaherty, *Visiting Lecturer in Rzeszow, Poland (WSIZ), Purdue University*
flaherty.mike@gmail.com – 765.409.0583

"Laura is a talented artist and an extremely hard worker. In addition to being passionate about the job, she is easy to get along with and works well with other artists. She adds insights, takes feedback well, and brightens the entire group dynamic with her personality. I'd happily work with Laura again."

Will Kistler, *Student, Purdue University*
wkistler@gmail.com – 859.361.3402