

❖ Newsletter for Summer, 2019 ❖



"Webster U is a great host - film at 11"

Welcome to ASIFA Central! We are the midwest chapter of ASIFA, the oldest organization of animators in the world. Our chapter was established in 1975. While our community is separated by our far-flung geography, we are united by our love of animation. Our diverse membership is made of independent animators, animation artists, professors, seasoned pros, students, and fans of the art of animation. We have a robust board working on a number of initiatives for 2019 including Ani-Jam's, Bi-monthly get-togethers, and an annual midwest retreat.



W. Brad Yarhouse, for IAD 2019 AniJam

R. Brad Yarhouse President ASIFA Central USA

ASIFA Central Board (but never bored)



President and IAD World Traveler -
Brad Yarhouse

Secretary of Confused Distractions
and Cracked Fonts - *Jim Middleton*

Coordinator for Membership and
Technological Phenomena - *Charles Wilson*

Treasurer and International ASIFA
Star of Stage, Screen, and Free
Range Chickens - *Deanna Morse*

Social Media, Analog Conversions,
and Ink Tester - *Christopher Sagovac*

Interlocutor of Projects and Public
Works - *Gretchen Vinedge*

Award Winning, Best-Dressed Film
Director and ASIFA Central
Website Commando - *Julie Goldstein*

Molder of Youthful Minds and
Keeper of Esoteric Knowledge -
Steve Leeper

Tallest Human Ever to Animate -
Robert Swieringa

Stopped Motionator and Tripod
Convergence Coordinator - *Gary Schwartz*

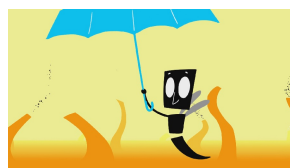
Update on the ASIFA Central IAD AniJam!



Andrew Zesiger



Robert Swieringa

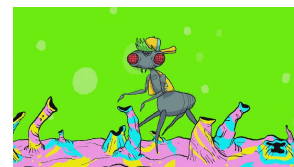


Alexis Kole

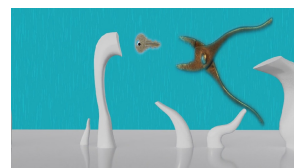


Chuck Wilson

Through the spring of this year, ASIFA Central members contributed to a buggy sequential series of clips based on the 2019 IAD poster by graphic artist Giannis Koutsouris, with support from Anastasia Dimitra and *ASIFA Hellas*. Animators included Brad Yarhouse, Jim Middleton, Andrew Zesiger, Dylan Shay, Robert Swieringa, Julie Goldstein, Alexis Kole, Chuck Wilson, and Joshua Harrell. Brad Yarhouse provided the templates for each three-second piece and assembled the whole project, introducing a sound design layered atop a unique rendition of "Flight of the Bumblebee" discovered by Julie Goldstein. The final production incorporated multiple techniques, using antiquated Flash programs and more contemporary 2D and 3D software, stop-motion cutouts, watercolor techniques, and a few well-placed paper cuts.



Dylan Shay



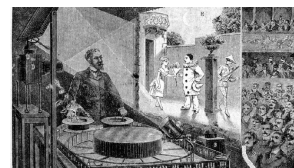
Julie Goldstein



Joshua Harrell

(The IAD commemorates the premiere of Emile Reynaud's "Theatre Optique" in Paris, on the 28th of October 1892. His projected hand-drawn image performances predated the filmed "actualities" of the Lumiere brothers by three years.)

*For more information on the Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA) visit:
ASIFA.net*



Emile Reynaud at work 1892



Meet Me In St. Louis, Louie....

Intrepid - inspired - and with the weather approaching 115 degrees, perhaps somewhat insane!

They flew, they drove, they drew, they strove, they sat in the stove of Webster University for a summer retreat, these seekers of techniques, styles, and some non-sticky BBQ and delicious Mexican food..

Because of host with the most Chris Sagovac, the ASIFA cake was not upended, nobody's eyes were put out in the inking of raw celluloid, and everyone did animation yoga with a 7th hour stretch. Steve Leeper conducted two workshops using his abstract film creation techniques in Photoshop. No puppets were harmed in the meat-puppetry exercise, and only one wizard was lost, last seen heading toward Kansas in his hot-air balloon.



Draw on memory, draw on film...draw! Draw! DRAW, dawgunya!



Excerpt from the Blog of Sir Charles of Wilson

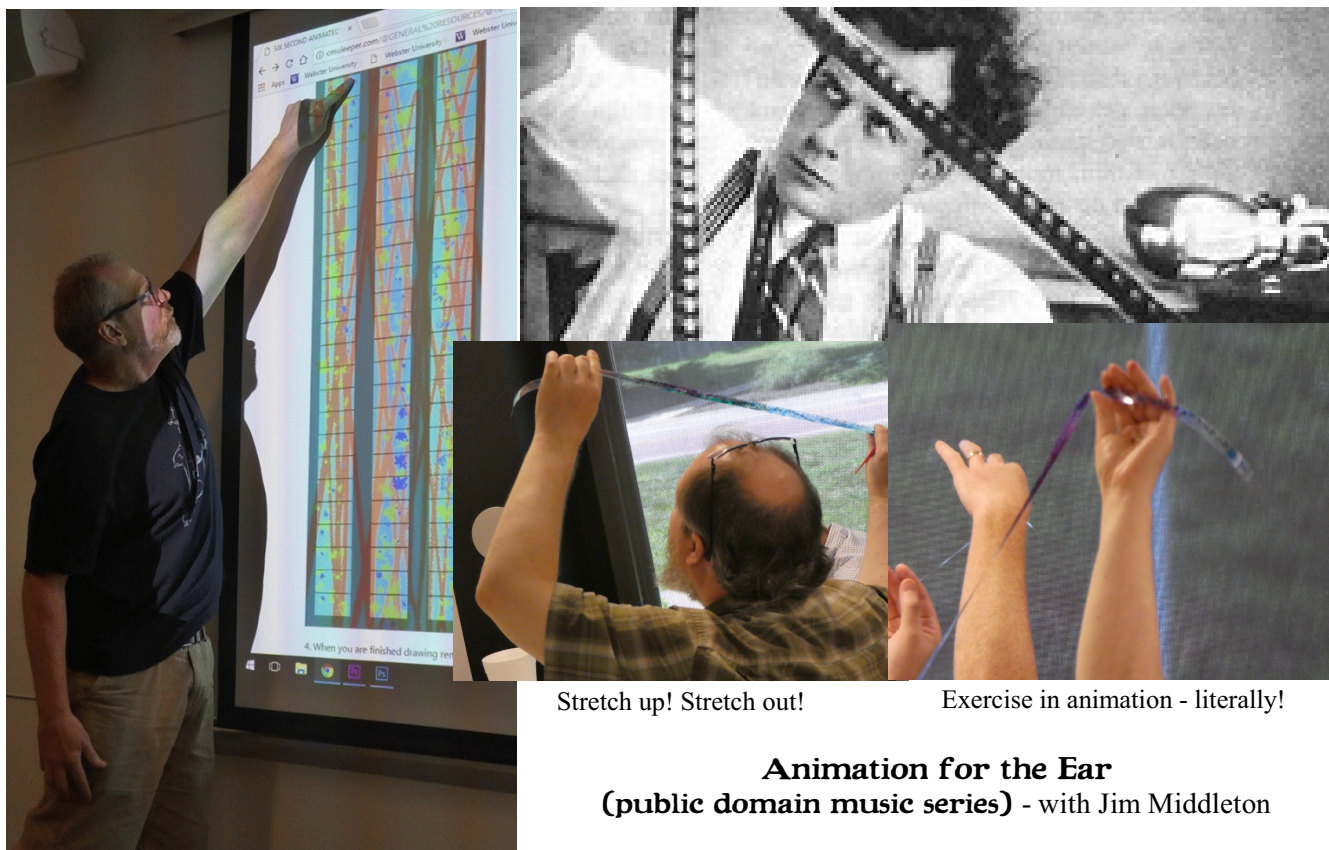
Remembering Suzan Pitt - As you longtime readers of my blog know, every March I post interviews and little tidbits of history about women animators. Well, it pains me to report this, but I have just learned that veteran animator and instructor Suzan Pitt passed away this weekend at her home in New Mexico. For those who are unfamiliar with Suzan's work, I recommend watching the video, 'Persistence of Vision,' created by Blue and Laura Kraning.

Four of Suzan's films can be viewed on the streaming service Fandor via - https://www.fandor.com/cast_and_crew_members/suzan_pitt.

The musings of Sir Charles (Chuck) about animation can be reached at - www.smudge.biz - bookmark and reference often!



Webster College opened its air-conditioned portals to midwest ASIFA animators, students, and faculty in July.



Steve removes a smudge the old fashioned way.

Stretch up! Stretch out!

Exercise in animation - literally!

Animation for the Ear (public domain music series) - with Jim Middleton

A rich musical resource, featuring Leopold Stokowski and his acoustic recordings between 1917 and 1923 (public domain by material, public domain by performance) is available for review and download from:
https://www.stokowski.org/1917-1924_Stokowski_Acoustic_Recordings.htm

For acoustic performances (recorded through a horn to the wax blank, and not with a microphone), these are quite sophisticated and well engineered. I suspect that the unusual, comparative roundness of the sound from the strings in these selections is due to the large size of the orchestra, with the additional violins working in close synchrony. The engineers were giving it all for their attention as well, squeezing as much as possible onto the 12 inch matrices without sacrificing groove width and flexibility.

On the down side, they are all acoustic, with increased surface noise and muted fidelity.

On the plus side, they're public domain, and of the available examples, are among the best. Using some creativity with filters and speed adjustment, and you have some impressive sound beds. The selections come as mp3s, along with the date of recording, just to smear the info into the faces of youtube or FB monitors.

I have many of these 78s in my shellac-and-wax-based archive, but these already-converted recordings are a remarkable collection of some very familiar selections waiting to join your digital library. Through 1923, they include some familiar selections:

Hungarian Dances #1, 5, 6, Brahms
Dance of the Blessed Spirits, from Orpheus and Eurydice, Gluck
Anitra's Dance from Peer Gynt, Greig
Midsummer Night's Dream, Scherzo, Mendelssohn
Symphony #40, 3rd movement, Mozart
Carmen, Prelude to Act 1, Changing of the Guard, The Smugglers, Bizet
Blue Danube Waltz, Strauss
Hungarian Rhapsody #2, Liszt
Largo from the New World Symphony, Dvorak
Finlandia, Sibelius
Faust, Waltz from Act II, Gounod
Dance of the Tumblers, Rimsky-Korsakov



Remember, if the recording's in these books, it's fair game!

Next year, when 1924 opens its public domain vaults, Rachmaninoff's *Piano concerto #2*, performed by Rachmaninoff, is at your service. Like the acoustic version of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (which is another 1924 release), this first recording provides what some (including your humble typist) consider the better piano performance of the piece.

The website is of the nice, old fashioned html variety, and the links were all still connecting to mp3 versions of these recordings as of 30 July 2019. I had no problem downloading the files for my thumb drive (*formerly called*, according to my students, as a “memory stick”) of road tripping material. The site also has in-depth information on early recordings, the evolution of Stokowski’s style, and his influence throughout the acoustic and early electric era of recorded sound. Someone spent hundreds of hours putting this all together, and you can easily spend a couple of hours here, too.



Jim Middleton, for IAD 2019 Anijam

Deanna Morse Reports....We Have Jewel-Worthy ANNIVERSARIES

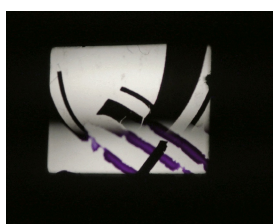


“And back to you, Jimbie!”

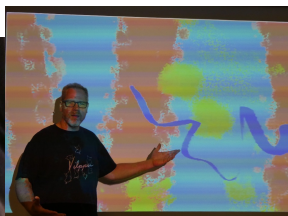
2020 is ASIFA’s 60th Anniversary
 2020 is also the 60th anniversary of the Annecy International Animation Festival,
and
 2020 will be the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations
 ASIFA/Central, founded in 1975, will be 45 years old next year!!! Wow! We persist!
 The 45th is *Sapphire*, the 60th and 75th are both *Diamonds*!

And More Rare Photos from St. Louis! Because We CAN!

Chris Sagovac and his magic Dr. Ph. Martin’s Bombay India Ink (now available without a prescription) along with his audio-visual mastery of 16mm brought him into the out-of-body, 11th hour experience, of electron-free projection. True prestiDIGITATION!



Genuine projection



So shy...



PFAS free!



“WE want to be WEBSTER UNIVERSITY students!”



Dazzling photography by Gary Schwartz



Mike Long and Chris Aaron, also hidden among the smiling faces at the retreat above, were deeply involved in sending the event at Webster University to lofty heights heretofore unknown by mere mortals. Clear 16mm stock available at <https://www.christys.net/film-editing-supplies>

ASIFA Central Summer Newsletter (cc) September 2019

As usual, send any suggestions, comments, or recipes for zucchini bread, along with the usual castigations to yr hmbt typist, at jim.middletonry@gmail.com ... This is a Summer 2019 bit of printage, even if it's at the end of it. The next issue will include prattle and pix about IAD, Retreats in Grand Rapids, and the OIAF. Stay Tooned!