

Role Profile

Job Title: Puppet Team Leader

Level: Senior, Dept Supervisor

Department: Puppets

Contract: Project-based

Main purpose of the role

Leading a team to produce puppets for a stop motion feature under the supervision of the Head of Puppets

Duties & Responsibilities

This is a summary of main tasks and responsibilities and is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Exceptionally competent in performing most aspects of the puppet build, expertise in a specialist area useful but not essential.
 - Leading a team of puppet makers in terms of setting realistic tasks and deadlines for team members. Supervising, planning and varying their workload where schedule allows for diversity.
 - Involved in the physical building of puppets themselves to a greater or lesser degree depending on the size of team & time available.
 - Responsible for translating the character design into a successful stop motion puppet.
 - Working with the directors to achieve the desired look & performance for each new puppet.
 - Ensuring that puppets are produced on time to agreed deadlines from the Head of Puppets and production.
 - Responsible for the quality of work produced by their team members.
 - Making decisions on the technical design and build of prototype puppets in conjunction with Head of Puppets.
 - Attendance at PPMs & thorough knowledge of the animatic is necessary to understand what the puppets are required to do, solve any problems & advise production of any issues arising.
 - Working with senior animators to ensure that puppets are easy to use & do what is required for animation.
 - Liaising with key department personnel to solve any potential challenges within the project.
 - Research & trial of new materials & techniques.
 - Responsible for following all COSHH guidelines & the production risk assessment, observing the provision of the Health and Safety at work policy.
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Responsible to: Head of Puppets, Puppet Production Manager

Functional Contacts: Supervising Rigger, Supervising Animator, Assistant Animators, Production team

Responsible for: Puppets Makers

Personal Specification:

- At least 5 years relevant professional experience required in building stop motion puppets, ideally on previous Aardman long form projects.

- Capable of working to an exceptional level of professionalism.
- Able to co-ordinate a team to deliver work of an exceptionally high standard within tight deadlines & manage a work schedule with a minimum of support or guidance.
- Good people skills, with an understanding of how to get the best out of the team.
- Able to act on own initiative & prioritize effectively.
- Generally very knowledgeable about all aspects of the design and build of an animation puppet.
- Strong interest in film making / animation techniques
- Strong listening & communication skills.
- Flexible & proactive team player with the ability to work calmly.
- Good IT skills including Photoshop, Excel, Solidworks & other Cad programmes useful.