



***EARTHLIGHT
PICTURES***

Filmmaking Training

Animation & Live-Action Motion Picture Production

- **In-Person Classes**
- **Exclusive TelAnimate^(SM) All-Live
Online Teletraining**

2015-2016 Program Guide

Earthlight Pictures Filmmaking Training guides students at all levels across the landscapes of animated and live-action motion picture production, and prepares them to make their own contributions to the field. Young people and adults—regardless of age or school affiliation—have access to film/video producer John Teton’s comprehensive college-level production training in programs similar to those he has run at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and at San Francisco State University.

Earthlight Trainees in both Animation and Live-Action develop their talents through exercises in a workshop environment, allowing for one-on-one instruction, and receive coaching in the production of projects of their own design, whether designed for portfolio use and exhibition or just for fun.

This college-level program open to secondary and grade school students as well as adults—believed to be the only one of its kind in the world— offers live-action and traditional and digital animation techniques and film history in the pursuit of artistic self-expression and/or a career in filmmaking. Trainees from the Earthlight animation program have achieved stunning success in regional and international student film festivals, with some of their films selected at the post-college, college, high school, junior high, and/or elementary school levels in seven of the last thirteen years, often taking top prizes.

Earthlight trainees’ real-world orientation is enhanced by field trips to major animation studios and guest speakers in person or through videoconference. Guest speakers have included a number of Academy Award winners and directors, producers, and artists who have worked on *The Lego Movie*, *The Simpsons*, *The Incredibles*, *Mulan*, *Legend of the Guardians*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Aladdin*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Shrek 3*, *Rango*, *The Princess and the Frog*, *South Park*, *Spider-Man* and many others.

Earthlight classes are offered to children, teens, and adults at locations in the Portland, Oregon area with additional summer sessions in Santa Barbara, California. Regardless of location, students may participate in **Earthlight Pictures Filmmaking Teletraining**, believed to be the world’s only all-live, college-level, videoconference filmmaking training program for young people and adults direct to the desktop. Private lessons in both on-site and teletraining modes are available by arrangement.

EARTHLIGHT PICTURES FILMMAKING
TRAINING
CURRICULUM

Animation and Live-Action

Concept Development & Screenwriting

Acting, Directing, and Cinematography

Working With Crews

Post-Production: Editing and Sound

Field Trips to Studios & Guest Speaker Visits

The Real World: Budgets, Law, Distribution, Careers

Project Management and Conservation of Energy

Animation

Storyboarding

Motion Design Principles

Key & In-Betweens, Timing, and Pacing

Layering Techniques

Layout, Point of View, and Charting Time & Space

Design and Animation of Characters

Special Visual Effects

2D and 3D Computer Animation

Live-Action

Screenwriting

Pre-Production Planning

Lenses, Lighting, and Sound Recording

What People Are *EARTHLIGHT PICTURES*

"John Teton was well received and thoroughly prepared for the course...in Pixar's internal education program. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of our community..."

Elyse Klaidman, Dean of Art and Film, Pixar Animation Studios

"I strongly recommend John Teton's Earthlight Pictures Animation Training Program for its ability to motivate students of all ages to absorb the underlying principles of such a complex art form. We have been most impressed with their [Earthlight students aged 9-18] knowledge of the industry, and how far advanced they seemed in their artistic ability at such a young age."

Alison Mann, Recruitment, Nickelodeon Animation Studio

"John Teton's animation class put a whole new outlook on my drawings, it brought them to life. Expect to learn something valuable every time you enter the classroom."

J.J. Villard, Storyboard Artist, DreamWorks Animation
1st Prize Winner, Ottawa Int'l Student Animation Festivals, 2003-05

"The Pixar trip was exciting and elegantly produced. John has a wonderful way of speaking and the way he is with the kids is terrific. I have not been so well taken care of in, well, I'm not sure ever. I do this for a living and have very high standards that he exceeded."

Lindsay Skutch, Television Producer

"John Teton's knowledge, patience, and ability to connect with even the youngest students create an effective teaching environment that produces viewable results from day one. Our eleven-year son, who has garnered multiple awards on the international film festival circuit, is just one example..."

Dr. Mark Terry, Father of Earthlight Pictures Trainee Aidan Terry

What We're Saying About *FILMMAKING TRAINING*

"It is hard to put into words the extraordinary opportunity which John is offering to summer school students. John is the consummate artist and technician and a top expert in his field. It was incredible to see students of such a young age learning to organize, strategize, follow complex procedures, make tough decisions, articulate ideas, collaborate, and engage their imaginations to the fullest degree.."

Jamie Meyer, Dean, Summer at Crossroads Upper School, Santa Monica

"I knew that other approaches to helping my son were not as important as finding a way for him to develop his interests. Once he started with the animation class I saw him respond to that better than to any of his regular academic courses, by far."

Thetis Sammons, Network Team Leader/I.T., Applied Magnetics Corp.

"My daughter is extremely fortunate to have the expertise of John Teton to guide her developing interest in the field of animation. John takes a personal interest in each student and develops his curriculum to meet each of their interests."

Fran Setbacken, Computer Graphics Specialist, ACMI Corporation

"John Teton's remarkable Animation Teletraining has so inspired my 12 year-old son that we shall be making the transatlantic trip to the USA for in-person classes this summer. Seeing my son so focused and engaged during his animation teleclasses is very gratifying and a tribute to John's exceptional teaching and cross-cultural communication skills."

Patricia Hunter, Brussels, Belgium

"The training offered by Earthlight Pictures... teaches valuable concepts in filmmaking as well as animation. I started thinking like a producer and not just an animator."

Craig Stalie, Engineer, Applied Magnetics Corp.

Traditional and Digital Animation

It is understood throughout the animation industry that learning to operate computer animation software does not make someone an animation artist any more than learning the buttons on a synthesizer makes someone a music composer. While computer animation technology is introduced in this program as one important tool, used either on its own or in a mix with traditional techniques, greater emphasis is placed on principles of motion design and cinematic storytelling, which are equally applicable and equally essential to all kinds of animation filmmaking.

This perspective has been well expressed by one of the world's foremost computer animators, John Lasseter, Chief Creative Officer for Disney and Pixar Studios and director of ***Cars*** and the first two ***Toy Story*** films:



from *Thunder Head Clearing* © John Teton 2015

“(T)hey said, ‘But it’s so believable. What program did you use?’ and I realized that here was this whole medium of (computer) animation that was being developed where people had no knowledge of basic animation principles - the things that had been developed over the previous 50 years to guide anybody working with a frame-by-frame medium, be it drawings, puppets, clay, sand, you name it... You need to understand animation principles to make a character seem like it’s come alive.”

Film & Video Magazine

About the Instructors

John Teton, Program Director, is a film/video producer and director, writer, and the owner of Earthlight Pictures, a film production and training entity based in the Portland, Oregon area.

Mr. Teton's film training began with Martin Scorsese at New York University. After graduating with honors from Harvard College and working in special visual effects in New York, he earned a Masters of Fine Arts degree in filmmaking at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he directed and produced *B'raesheet*, an international award-winning animated short film (shown in short form nationwide on Showtime and premiered in its complete form at the 2011 Washington, DC Independent Film Festival). Since then he has produced videos for major corporations, worked on feature films, and trained more than one thousand students in animation and live-action Filmmaking, beginning at San Francisco State University, where he designed and led one of the nation's largest animation departments. SFSU Professor Robert Bell, then Chair of the Film Department Hiring Committee, wrote that student evaluations of his courses were among the highest ever received by the department, one of the nation's largest. Mr. Teton was subsequently appointed Senior Lecturer in Communication Arts at Otis College of Art & Design in Los Angeles.

Mr. Teton runs the Earthlight Pictures Filmmaking Training Program at locations in the Portland, Oregon area and, during summers, in Southern California. Mr. Teton has given presentations on animation training at Pixar Animation Studio and many other locations. He is the author of the novels *Appearing Live at The Final Test* (2003), *Upsurge* (2006), and *Elevation* (2015) and is the founding director of the campaign for the International Food Security Treaty (see www.treaty.org), for which he has produced and directed the animated film *Thunder Head Clearing* (2015).

Niran Jacob, Digital Media Instructor, has served as 2D effects animator, graphics artist, and lead colorist on *Thunder Head Clearing*. She introduces Earthlight Pictures animation trainees to the use of Photoshop in animated film production.

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