

# **Stop Motion**

**A guided tour of past and  
present**

## Stop motion:

- an animation technique which makes a physically manipulated object appear to move.

# Claymation:

- It is the form where each animated piece (character or background) is a malleable substance, usually plasticine clay.
- trademarked by Will Vinton

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A398VraSBwY>

# Object animation:

- a form of stop motion animation that involves the animated movements of any non-drawn objects such as toys, blocks, dolls, etc. which are not fully malleable, such as clay or wax, and not designed to look like a recognizable human or animal character.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop\\_motion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_motion)

# Time lapse animation:

- Possibly the most passive form of stop motion, in which a camera is clicked (either manually or via an intermittent control device called an intervalometer) to take a frame as each period of time elapses, as natural objects of nature and humankind move of their own accord, without the assistance of an animator.
- Often seen in moving clouds, the speeding up of the growth of plants.

Koyaanisqatsi, Baraka

# Cutout animation:

- Use of cutout paper/other materials, manipulated by hand, shot frame by frame.

Tale of Tales: Yuri Norstein (1979)

South Park: need I say more?

# Ladyslaw Starewicz

- great Russian stop motion pioneer (1892-1965) who animated *The Beautiful Lukanida* (1910), *The Ant and the Grasshopper* (1911), *In the Land of Vampires* (1935) and the feature film *The Tale of the Fox* (1937), but a few of his over fifty animated films.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls2WtJakgo0>

- first filmmaker to use stop motion and puppets to tell coherent stories.
- began by producing insect documentaries, which led to experiments with stop motion animation of insects (he wired the legs to the insects bodies)
- later created leather and felt-covered puppets and eventually advanced ball and socket armatures.

# Jan Svankmajer

- Czech surrealist artist (born 1934)
- gained a reputation over several decades for his ability to make surreal, nightmarish and yet funny, films.
- Trademarks include exaggerated sounds, sped up sequences when people walk and interact, inanimate objects coming alive and using food as a favourite medium for animation.

Film: A game with stones (1965)



# Jiri Barta

- Born in 1948, he continued the aesthetic tradition of puppet film
- often used wood for animation
- worked in the studio founded by another pioneer, Jiri Trinka.

Film: The Pied Piper of Hamelin (1985)

# Willis O'Brien

- Pioneer of American Stop Motion (1886 - 1963).
- Animated his early creations by covering wooden armatures with clay, later perfecting ball & socket armatures covered with foam, hair and fur.
- Best known for animation on original KING KONG (1933), his 1916 film Nippy's Nightmare was the first to combine live actors with stop motion characters.
- Has inspired generations of film greats such as Ray Harryhausen, George Lucas, Peter Jackson, Tim Burton and Steven Spielberg.

Clip: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J44VO1S\\_PYA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J44VO1S_PYA)

# Ray Harryhausen

- American Film producer, special effects creator
- almost single handedly kept technique alive for three decades.
- film: *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, first used a technique that split the background and foreground of pre-shot live action footage into two separate pieces of film.
- created the effect that the animated model was “sandwiched” between two live action elements - later called it DynaMation.
- *Monsters Inc.* (2001) - restaurant called “Harryhausen’s”

# Stop Motion Today

South Park: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k97bZPfEjmg&feature=related>

Aardman:

- Creature Comforts
- Angry Kid: <http://www.angrykid.com/>
- Wallace and Grommit
- Purple and Brown: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6URtMH6qyQ>

Tim Burton

- Nightmare Before Christmas
- Corpse Bride

# Stop Motion Today

Cuppa Coffee - Toronto Studio

LAIKA - Portland

Tippett Studio - California

[www.stopmotionanimation.com](http://www.stopmotionanimation.com)