

David Daniels at Anima Mundi --

I did a three hour master class in both Rio De Janerio and Sao Paulo teaching strata cut to a group of 150 and 80 people respectively. I showed the simple ideas behind time sculpting, and then went into advanced blocks with complicated motion that showed walk cycles, and spinning heads, etc. I showed clips of Buzz Box, and Journey through a melting Brain. Also Freaked, and other strata clips. We cut up strata blocks in real time (live with a dragon) on one side of the stage, while I showed how they are built on the other. My lovely wife Colombe went with me, and was a great help.

I also did a second event, that was a career retrospective of both my strata cut work, and my extensive commercial and other stop motion and CG/Live action work for several hours in both cities. People are surprised that I invented both motion sculpting 'time blocks' and developed and directed the original M and M characters and TV spots. This retrospective was called 'animated chat' and had 130 people attend in Rio, and over 200 people show up in Sao Paulo.

The audiences were very receptive, interested and found the work compelling. They had a high animation I.Q. and lot of very interesting questions, and it was a blast to see their faces when they started to catch on about how the animation was created as sculpture, and revealed as shapes moving over time, etc. A group of young and especially energetic Brazilian animators stayed up drinking and trying strata cut out on their own after taking my class. They sent me tapes and photos of their work. It was great to inspire others.

The festival organizers were wonderful people. Lea, Marcos, Cesar, and Aida. And the crews and staff organizers were well prepared and hard working as well. I met other wonderful artists at this festival among them Miwa Matreyek and Shinichiro Watanabe. I also met Kevin Geiger and Becky Bristow are fellow Cal Arts Alums who are making a great business in animation in china, and back home with Mattel.

I did several interviews with papers and TV, and hope to perhaps post some of those interviews when they are published ... perhaps in Portuguese, but we'll see what they sounds like through google translation.

I was gone for over two weeks, and got back to work Aug 1st. Glad to be back home, but I will never forget this festival, or the inspiration I now feel to make new animation. It was such a special place with people I will always remember. And oh yes, just as you would expect, Rio and Sao Paulo were spectacular and fun on the days off when I went around as just a happy tourist.