

Thomas D. Gasek  
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### Professional Experience:

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**2005 to Present:** School of Film & Animation, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, *Associate Professor, (Director of Graduate Studies 2012 to present)*

#### Highlights include:

- Second **Fulbright** Specialist Grant – 39-day animation workshop and film production at the Jilin Animation Institute in Changchun, China, directed a student film called “*Love Returned*”, [May-June 2018](#)
- Completed a **second edition of my book “Frame by Frame Stop Motion”** for Focal/CRC Press, [2017](#), ISBN# 9781498780612
- **Fulbright** Specialist Grant – 18-day animation workshop at The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima Peru, [March 2016](#)
- Winner of the **Eisenhart** Outstanding Teaching Award (RIT) [2015](#)
- **Animation faculty** with a specialty in Stop Motion, Acting for Animation and Business of Animation, Pre-Production (including individual undergraduate and graduate thesis students and occasional independent studies)
- **Graduate directorship** overseeing and advising approximately 55 graduate students in live action and animation disciplines ([2012 to present](#))
- **P.I.** on a **CEC Artslink Grant** to host animator Kolja Saksida (Slovenia) for 5 weeks at RIT (10/2008 to 11/2008) and a second 5-week CEC Artlink Grant to host artist, Ghenadie Popescu (Moldova) (10/2014 – 11/2014)
- **Created several new courses** including *Acting for Animation, Alternative Frame by Frame* (non-puppet stop motion techniques) and *Stop Motion Puppet Building*.
- **Created two special one-quarter programs** for undergraduate and graduate students based out of New York City for 9 weeks in the spring quarter called “**Big Apple Animation.**” This is a transitional program from academia to the marketplace that exposes students to professional animators and studios like John Canemaker and Blue Sky Studios. Students experience life in a major urban center, learn interview, research and career enhancing techniques and often find internships. (executed in spring **2010 and 2012** with 12 students each session.)
- Won two student mentorship awards: **Alpha Sigma Lambda Honorary Society** (Tanya Gizzarelli ) April 2009 and the **Irene Pfizenmaier Award** for Excellence in Teaching (Lindsay Berkebile ) March 2010 and consistently rate above a 4.5 out of 5 for student evaluations over thirteen years.
- **Took 12 students for three weeks in the summer to Bristol and London England** touring studios from Aardman Animation to the set of *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* (Wes Anderson) (6/2008)
- **Chaired 2 SOFA searches** (2011 & [2016](#)) and **served on 2 other search committees** including the Search Committee for the CIAS Dean. (2010 & 2018-19)
- Member of the **College of Science Tenure Committee**, ([2018-19](#))
- **Continue to work in the field** including contributing animation to the feature film “*Coraline*” (Laika), a Sony Bravia commercial (Passion Pictures), Creature Comforts USA (Aardman Animations), Hallmark Christmas TV special, “*Jingle All the Way*” (Bent Lab Images), “Amazon Prime” campaign (Hornet Inc.) [2017](#) and many more.
- Completed a **book for Focal Press** based on one of the classes I created for SOFA. “**Frame by Frame Stop Motion**” (ISBN-10: 0240817281). 2011

- Produced two **independent animated films** “**Offline**” 2010 (18 festivals including awards) and “**Ain’t No Fish**” 2013, (70 festivals including awards) – In production on an animated self-portrait called “**4 @ 60**” including “**Train**”

**1998-2010:** “OOH Inc.” (Great Barrington MA)

*Creative Director and Owner*

- Directed, Produced and Animated commercials for Hallmark, The Japanese Red Cross, The Michigan Lottery and Powerkeg.
- Acted as a consultant and technical advisor for Halifax Films and their Gemini award winning pre-school television series “Poko” for the CBC.
- Co-directed an animated direct-to-video series for Mattel / Fisher Price called “Little People” subcontracted by Wreckless Abandon Studios.

**1997-1998:** Mass Illusion (Lenox MA)

*Director / Animator*

- Directed and animated commercials for Burger King, Louis Kemp Seafood, The State of Mississippi (anti-smoking campaign) GTE Pager, and Wizard Spray products (Y&R –NYC)
- Won two National Addy Awards for Burger King Campaign
- Won Golden Marble Award for children’s advertising for “Toy Soldiers” anti-smoking PSA for the State of Mississippi.

**1995-1997:** Olive Jar Studios (Boston MA)

*Director / Animator / Supervisor 3-D Animation*

- Directed and animated commercials for Levis, PBS, Nestles, Britannia Insurance, ESPN and Betty Crocker Foods
- Upgraded the stop motion department and re-established an internship program with RISD
- Won a Broadcast Design Award for Levi’s Jeans for Women commercial for Foot Cone and Belding (SF)

**1993-1995:** Aardman Animations (Bristol England)

*Director / Animator*

- Spent over 20 months animating and directing commercials for Aardman including Heat Electric (SWEB), Weetos and Weetabix cereal, Cadbury “Crunchie”, The UK Office of Energy Conservation, Honey Bunches of Oats (Post / Canada), and Chevron
- Contributed additional animation for the Academy Award winning Nick Park film, “The Wrong Trousers.”
- Won 1996 “Public Choice Screenings” along with Peter Lord for co-directing and animating Cadbury Crunchie’s “Roller Coaster” commercial

**1987-1992:** Sculptoons Inc. (San Francisco CA)

*Director / Producer / Animator / Partner*

- Clients included Nickelodeon, The Oakland Athletics Baseball Company, Leo Burnett (Chicago), Colossal Pictures (SF), The California Raisin Commission (Foote Cone & Belding) and Aardman Animations
- Won several Broadcast Design Awards for work on “The Inside-Out Boy” for Nickelodeon including an AICP Best Animation Award that placed one of the IOB

interstitials (“Bank Job”) in the Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collection (NYC) 1992

**1986-1987: Freelance**

*Director / Animator*

- Clients include Premavision, San Francisco (Gumby), CBS’s Pee Wee’s Playhouse, Los Angeles (“The Penny Cartoon”), Colossal Pictures, San Francisco (Geo cars and trucks / Fisher Price ), Limelite Studios, Miami, Florida (Gloria Estefan music video)

**1981 -1986: Will Vinton Productions (Portland, Oregon)**

*Key Animator / Sculptor / Team Leader*

- Projects include “The Adventures of Mark Twain”, “Return to Oz” and numerous commercials for Kentucky Fried Chicken, The California Raisin Commission, KOMO Radio, Dallas Times Herald, Aim Toothpaste and the Oregon Lottery.

**1979-1981: Video Base of Florida (Hollywood Florida)**

*Animator / Fabricator*

- Clients include Oldsmobile, Holiday Bug Spray and Gulfstream Park

**Additional Teaching Experience:**

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**9/2003 – 1/2004:** Artist-in-residence, teacher at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University, Boston, Massachusetts

**Lectures, Training and Workshops:**

- Maine Media Workshops College, Rockport ME, 7/7/19 – 7/13/19
- Imagine RIT, Lighting Painting Workshop, 4/27/19
- Digifest, George Brown University, Toronto, ON, 4/26/19
- Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY 9/5-12-26/18
- Jilin Animation Institute, Changchun China, 5/9/18 – 6/16/18
- Toronto Camera Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 10/12/17
- New Orleans Film Society’s Children’s Film Festival, New Orleans LA, 3/2015
- Lima Peru Film Festival (PUCP) (Lima Peru) 8/2014 & 3/2016
- National Museum of Play, (Rochester, NY) 11/2014
- Savannah College of Art & Design (Atlanta, Georgia) 3/2013
- Rhode Island School of Design, Film / Animation / Video Department Providence, Rhode Island, 1/2013, 2/2009, 3/2008, 4/2005
- School Of Visual Arts, New York, New York, 5/2012, 4/2010,
- Huntington University, Huntington Indiana, 3/2012, 4/2008,
- Villa Maria, Buffalo, New York, 10/2011
- Siggraph Festival (siggraphstudio.org)- “A Life in Stop Motion”, Los Angeles, California, 8/2010
- Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, Georgia 10/2010

- Berkshire Film Festival (Images Theater), Williamstown, Massachusetts 9/2010
- Se-Ma-For Studios, Lodz, Poland 8/2013, 6/2010 (animation training)
- Art Institute of Boston, Boston Massachusetts, 4/2010, 3/2009, 3/2003
- MVCC, Utica, New York (hometown), 3/2009
- Good Question Gallery, Milford, Pennsylvania 10/2009
- New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, New York, 3/2006
- Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, 2/2005
- Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts, 3/2005
- Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs New York, 3/2005
- Harvard, Carpenter Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 4/2003
- University of Rhode Island, Kingston Rhode Island, 4/2002
- Pratt Institute, New York, New York, 2/2001

### **Education:**

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June 2006, M.F.A., Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University  
*Studio Arts with a concentration on Animation Pre-Production*

May 1979, B.F.A., Rochester Institute of Technology, School of Design  
*Majored in Communication Design with Honors*

### **Awards:**

*Tom Gasek, Director / Animator*

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Barbados Independent Film Festival, “Best Short on the Beach,” “Ain’t No Fish,” [2017](#)  
 (juried)

Devour Film Festival, “Best Short Animation”, “Ain’t No Fish”, Nova Scotia, Canada,  
[2015](#) (juried)

Fast Forward Film Festival (Rochester, NY), Most “Inspiring & Compelling” Award &  
 The Audience Award, “Ain’t No Fish” [2015](#) (juried)

San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival “Director’s Award”, “Ain’t No Fish”  
[2014](#) (juried)

ASIFA East “Excellence in Animation”, “Off-Line” 2010 (juried)

Black Maria Film Festival “Jury Selection 1<sup>st</sup>”, “Off-Line” 2010 (juried)

Golden Marble Award (Best PSA for Children)  
 The State of Mississippi, “Toy Soldier”, 1999 (juried)

National Addy Award (1 Gold, 1 Silver)  
Burger King, "Maestro" "Conga", 1998 (juried)

Broadcast Design Award (Bronze)  
Levi's Jeans for Women, "Mirror Mirror" 1995 (juried)

Worked on the Academy Award Winning Film;  
"The Wrong Trousers" (Aardman Animation)  
(Team Animator), 1994 (juried)

Broadcast Design Award (2 Gold, 1 Silver)  
Inside-Out Boy, Boogerman, (Nickelodeon), 1992 (juried)

A.I.C.P. / Museum of Modern Art (NYC) Award, "Inside-Out Boy"  
Best Animated Commercial (Nickelodeon), 1992 (juried)

CINE Eagle, "The Walrus & the Carpenter", 1979 (juried)

Student Academy Award, "The Walrus and the Carpenter", 1979 (juried)

### **Film and Television Credits:**

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#### **Theatrical Film Credits:**

Director / Animator, "TRAIN", "WALK", ("4 @ 60" segments) (1 festival to-date) 5/2019

Co-Director / Co-Creator/ Co-Producer / Animator, "AIN'T NO FISH" - Music  
performed by Hoagy Carmichael, 2013, Director's Award SFIOFF (70 festivals)

Director / Creator / Producer / Animator, "OFFLINE", premiered at SXSW and was in 15  
other festivals, "Excellence in Animation" from ASIFA East, 2011

Additional Animator, "CORALINE", Laika Studios, Henry Selick (Director)  
nominated for an Academy Award, won BAFTA award 2010

Additional Key Animator, "CHICKEN RUN", Aardman Animations, Nick Park & Peter  
Lord (Directors) won British Animation Award, 2000

Director / Animator / Co-Creator, "LOVE ON THE LINE", Nickelodeon (producer)  
participant in the New York International Children's Film Festival, 2000

Additional Animator, "THE WRONG TROUSERS", Nick Park (Director),  
Aardman Animations, won an Academy Award (Oscar), 1994

Co-Director / Co-Animator, "CANDYJAM", Joan Gratz & Joanna Priestly (Producers),  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize Chicago International Film Festival, 1988

Claymation Animator, “RETURN TO OZ”, Walter Murch (Director), The Walt Disney Co., nominated for a Visual Effects Academy Award, 1985

Key Animator, “THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN”, Will Vinton (Director / Producer), Claymation Studios, 1984

Co-Creator / Animator, “THE WALRUS AND THE CARPENTER” Malcolm Spaul (partner), Student Academy Award, 1979

### **Broadcast and Television Programming Credits:**

Key Animator, “JINGLE ALL THE WAY”, Hallmark / Bend Images Lab (Producers), Film Index Award Winner, Annecy France, 2011

Director, “THE WONDERPETS: SAVE THE HOUNDDOG”, Little Airplane (Producer), Daytime Emmy winning series, 2009

Animator / Voice Interviewer, “CREATURE COMFORTS AMERICA”, Aardman Animations / CBS (producers) Annie Award, nominated for Primetime Emmy, 2007

Additional Animator, “CREATURE COMFORTS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL” (UK), Aardman Animations / ITV (Producers), 2005

Co-Director, “THE LITTLE PEOPLE” animated series, Wreckless Abandon / Mattel / Fisher Price (Producers), 2004

Series Consultant, “POKO”, Halifax Films (Producer), CBC, Gemini Award winning Pre-school animated series, 2003

Animation Director, “THE NEW ADVENTURES OF GUMBY”, Art Clokey / Premavision / Lorimar (Producers), 1988

Co-director / Co-Animator, “PEE WEE’S PLAYHOUSE; PENNY CARTOON”, CBS (producer) 15 Emmy Award winning series, 1987-88

### **Professional Activities:**

Panelist (peer reviewed panel & presentation) UFVA conference, Minneapolis MN, [8/1/19](#). *“Hybridity and Mixed Media in Animation”*

Presenter, Eastman Dryden Theater, film series on Jiri Trnka, Rochester, NY [9/2018](#)

Presenter, RIT Faculty Film Series, Little Theater, Rochester, New York, 1/ 2011 & 2/2015

Interviewer & co-host, “Megunica” by Lorenzo Fonda, ROCO / Little Theater, 11/2011

Co-hosted, Bill Plympton with Eastman House, “Idiots and Angels”, Dryden Theater, 10/2011

Guest Speaker, Berkshire Film Festival, (Aardman Retrospective) Williamstown, MA, 9/2010

Special invitation to create a “studio” workshop and film at Siggraph 2010, Los Angeles 8/2010

### **Writing and Publication Credits:**

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Author, “ANIMATION AT THE JILIN INSTITUTE; article for ASIFA East, 6/2019  
<https://www.asifaeast.com/tom-gasek-animation-at-the-jilin-animation-institute/>

Author, “FRAME BY FRAME STOP MOTION; THE GUIDE TO NON-PUPPET PHOTOGRAPHIC ANIMATION” *Second edition*, Taylor and Francis / CRC Press, ISBN# 9781498780612, published 6/2017

Author, “MOVING IN TO ANIMATION”, Indian Student Guide to American Higher Education (indianstudentguide.in) 12/2012

Author, “FRAME BY FRAME STOP MOTION: THE GUIDE TO NON-TRADITIONAL ANIMATION TECHNIQUES” Focal Press / Elsevier, ISBN-10 # 0240817281, published 10/2011

Author, “Tom Gasek GUEST POST”, scribblejunkies.com (the animation blog of Patrick Smith and Bill Plympton), 10/2011

Author, “FLYING THE FLAG AT SE-MA-FOR”, Anymator, asifaeast.com, 9/2010

Author, “TRIBUTE TO DEREK LAMB” [www.awn.com](http://www.awn.com) December 22, 2005

Author, “THE ORIGINS OF IMAGE”, indiantelevision.com (Animation ‘xpress) July 21, 2004

Author, “THE NEXT STEP”, indiantelevision.com (Animation ‘xpress) May 31, 2004

Author, “IMPERFECTION IN ANIMATION”, indiantelevision.com (Animation ‘xpress) April 26, 2004

### **Published Online Interviews:**

PURPOSE Magazine, "Interview with Tom Gasek", North America, May 2013

Animation Career Review, Bonnie Boglioli (interviewer), re: RIT's School of Film & Animation, May 2012

Scribblejunkies.blogspot.com, (Bill Plympton / Patrick Smith) October 2011

**Articles referring to Tom Gasek:**

Reporter Online, "RIT's Stop Motion Mogul - Tom Gasek", (Nick Bovee), February 2012

Berkshire Week (Berkshire Eagle), "Animating Electronics"  
Tom Gasek, Director/Animator, August 7, 2008

Shoot Magazine – Spotlight – "Curt & Claudia", DDB Needham, Chicago  
Tom Gasek, Director / Animator, February 1999

Post Magazine, "Animating Mr. Potato Head for the King"  
Tom Gasek, Director/Animator, February 17, 1998

Shoot Magazine, Top Spot of the Week, "Mirror Mirror"  
Tom Gasek, Director/Animator, August 18, 1995

Shoot Magazine, "Aardman Signs Sculptoons Duo"  
Tom Gasek, Partner/director/animator, March 1994

Shoot Magazine, Top Spot of the Week " Penny PSA"  
Partnership for a Drug Free America, Leo Burnett Chicago  
Tom Gasek, Director/ Animator, October 1993

Millimeter Magazine - Hot Spots "Manager", California Raisin Advisory Board  
Tom Gasek, Director / Animator, May 1991

Millimeter Magazine – Spotlight Commercials, "Rebus"  
Nickelodeon, September 1990

**Book Reviews:**

*Frame by Frame Stop Motion*; reviewed by Jerry Beck (cartoonbrew.com)  
March 2012 , <http://www.cartoonbrew.com/tag/tom-gasek>

*Frame by Frame Stop Motion*; reviewed by John Ikuma (stopmotionmagazine.com)  
November 2012 (issue 18) <http://stopmotionmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/SMM-Issue-18-web.pdf>

*Frame by Frame Stop Motion*; reviewed by Lionel Orozco (stopmotionworks.com)  
November 2011, <http://www.stopmotionworks.com/news/index.php/449/frame-by-frame-stop-motion-tom-gasek>



*Frame by Frame Stop Motion*: Amazon.com (reviewed by 45 customer reviewers with a 4.6 out of 5) <http://www.amazon.com/Frame-Frame-Stop-Motion-Non-Traditional/dp/0240817281>

**Exhibitions:** (all juried festivals)

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- **Martha's Vineyard Film Festival** (curated by Bill Plympton), "Train" 9/7/19
- **We Like Em Short Film Festival, Baker City Oregon**, "Train", 8/15/19
- **Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta GA**, "Ain't No Fish", 1/21/15
- **Blue Ocean Film Festival, St Petersburg FL**, "Ain't No Fish" 11/9/14
- **Provincetown International Film Festival**, "Ain't No Fish", 6/2014
- **Toronto Animation Arts Festival International**, "Ain't No Fish", 6/2014
- **San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival**, "Ain't No Fish", 3/2014
- **Bernal Heights Film Festival**; San Francisco, CA, "Off-Line", 9/2012
- **Big Easy International Film Festival**; New Orleans, LA, "Off-Line", 12/2010
- **Big Cartoon Festival**, Moscow, Russia, "Off-Line", 11/2010
- **Savannah Film Festival**, Savannah GA, "Off-Line", 11/2010
- **Imagine Science Films**; Brooklyn, NY, "Off-Line", 10/2010
- **Montreal Stop Motion Film Festival**, Montreal QU, "Off-Line", 10/2010
- **Williamstown Film Festival**, Williamstown, MA, "Off-Line", 10/2010
- **Animation Block Party**, Brooklyn, NY, "Off-Line", 7/2010
- **Wood Hole Film Festival**, Woods Hole, MA, "Off-Line", 7/2010
- **ASIFA East**, New York, NY, "Off-Line", 5/2010
- **360/365 Film Festival**, Rochester, NY, "Off-Line", 4/2010
- **SXSW**, Austin TX, premiere "Off Line" 3 /2010
- **Black Maria Film Festival**, Jersey City, NJ, "Off-Line" 2/2010
- **MVCC**, one man show ("Tom Gasek"), Utica, NY (hometown) 3/2009
- **Ottawa International Animation Festival**, Ottawa ON, "Play-Doh", 9/2008
- **New York International Children's Film Festival**, "Love on the Line", 3/2002
- **The Norman Rockwell Museum**, Stockbridge MA, "Build a Better Doghouse", juried exhibit of contemporary sculpture, 4/2002
- **Museum of Modern Art / AICP** (New York), "The Technique of the American Television Commercial" (permanent collection) "Inside Out Boy", 6/1992
- **Northwest Film and Video Festival**, Portland OR, "Candyjam", 1988
- **Chicago International Children's Film Festival**, "The Walrus and the Carpenter", 1980
- **Student Academy Awards**, Los Angeles, CA, "The Walrus and the Carpenter" 5/1979

**Associations:**

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ASIFA East (member)  
The Little Theater (member)  
George Eastman Museum (member)  
WGMC (member)  
UFVA (University Film & Video Association) (member)

