Animated working

The Mill focuses on creating world-class visual effects – and Aidan Gibbons is proud to be a part of their team. Working as a 3D supervisor and Director at Mill+, the business’ production arm, his role is creative and varied, focusing on directing commercials, and supervising and undertaking 3D artwork.

Prior to his current role, Aidan was based in Singapore, where he focused on expanding The Mill’s visual effects work in the TV, film, advertising, gaming and music industries and well as acting as Head of 3D.

‘Working and living out in Singapore was a great experience, giving me the opportunity to travel internationally to meet directors and producers. As a 3D generalist, my role was also extremely varied: I could be lighting and rendering a UFO one day and the next modelling and texturing a realistic head for a CG double, interspersed with plenty of meetings about future work and new talent.’

Getting into the industry

Aidan got his first taste of working in the creative sector before starting his degree, working with his uncle who owns graphic design company Dynamo in Dublin. It was here that Aidan decided he wanted to work in design. He used his first summer holiday to extend his experience, working as a junior 3D operator at Windmill Lane, a small post-production company in Dublin.

Aidan got his break with The Mill during the second year of his degree when he was offered an internship; during this he learnt the basics of working in a studio, finding out how commercials are produced and how a creative team works together. ‘After completing my degree, The Mill asked me to come back as a junior 3D operator. And to be honest, I never looked back.’

To get into animation, Aidan recommends lots of hard work and persistence, bit if you do persist, it’s definitely worth it. ‘I think it’s very important to remember that the industry, as daunting as it seems, is actually a very friendly place. If you are good at what you do, and you enjoy doing it, then you should not have a problem finding work and being happy. Be nice, and be yourself; half of the job is just getting on with the team and clients.’

Future FX

Even though he uses the knowledge from his degree every day, Aidan is an advocate for never sitting back. ‘Keep up your training, both artistically and technically. Keep drawing, keep writing stories, and keep observing what everyone else is doing. Stay in touch with all of your University mates, they will also be your colleagues in the future!’

And his own plans for the future? ‘I am very happy at The Mill and have the opportunity to work on some of the best commercials out there. My main focus now is on directing the most creative work I can with the best artists in the business.’

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