



Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)

By Nancy Beiman

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In *Animated Performance* you will discover the many ways in which a character's movements will vary according to the emotional or narrative context of their situation.

The many tips, examples and exercises will help you harness the flexibility of animation to portray an almost unlimited variety of characters and ensure that no two performances are ever alike. In addition, more than 200 illustrations show how animal and fantasy characters can live and move without losing their non-human qualities and interviews with Disney animators Art Babbitt, Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston and Ellen Woodbury make this a unique insight into bringing a whole world of characters to life.

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Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range) By Nancy Beiman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1626155 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Fairchild Books
- Published on: 2010-09-15
- Released on: 2010-09-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.81" h x 1.00" w x 8.72" l, 2.77 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 232 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Animated Performance demonstrates once again that Nancy Beiman is not only a tremendously talented artist, but also an immensely gifted teacher. The Disney artists of the Golden Age would have loved this book. The New Generation will be thankful to have it.

Didier Ghez, Editor of the *Walt's People* book series

Once again Nancy Beiman has come through for aspiring animators with an inspirational text on what it takes to really be an 'actor with a pencil'! I've known Nancy for many years as a professional colleague in both traditional and contemporary formats of animated production, as well as an exceptional teacher of this medium. Her new book reaches a very underserved area of publications on this subject, and should be on the reference shelf of every student, as well as the current new generation of animator 'pros' in our industry.

Bill Matthews, Training & Recruiting Manager, Walt Disney Feature Animation (Retired)

Veteran animator Nancy Beiman has harvested a lifetime of lessons from her Hollywood mentors, added inspiration from her favorite entertainers, a pinch of her own illustration, and distilled it all down into a wonderfully whimsical yet concise how-to of the animator's art. A must-have for the serious student of animation.

Tom Sito, animator, author of *Drawing the Line: The Untold Story of the Animation Unions from Bosko to Bart Simpson*

This book feels like a seriously helpful companion for animators be they student or professional. As an animator I am a visual thinker so this book immediately catches my eye for its simple clear design. It is well referenced throughout with strong examples of work from across the animation sector; I particularly like the historical illustrations of T.S. Sullivant, A.B. Frost etc, showing the art of caricature and emotion... I would strongly recommend this book to our students and to anyone interested in animation.

Professor Peter Parr, Reader in Animation, The Arts University College at Bournemouth, UK.

'*Animated Performance* by Nancy Beiman is an instant classic. Beiman's new book concentrates solely on character animation and she knocks it out of the park. It is a thorough, step by step examination of the art, aimed at the advanced student or professional animator who already knows the basics. The principles she discusses can apply to any technique (CG, Flash, stop motion, etc.) and she has packed the book with ample examples of her own animation, as well as classic comic strips, commercial art and movie stills to illustrate her points.'

Jerry Beck, www.cartoonbrew.com

'A beautiful 234-page instructional text that should inspire both beginners and long-term experts in animation. Packed with amusing illustrations, inspiring anecdotes and lively examples, Beiman's book acts as the kind of teacher we all wish we had in school.'

***Animation Magazine*, October 2010**

'Nancy Beiman's new book *Animated Performance* should find a place on the bookshelf of anyone who creates character based work, whether it's animation, illustration, comic art, writing or portraiture.'

Elliot Cowan, www.elliottelliott.com

'If I had to select one book, today, that I would recommend people read to learn about the art of animation,

I'd probably pick Nancy Beiman's latest tome. It's a bona fide gem. This book does as its title suggests, it shows you how to get a *performance* out of your characters.'

Michael Sporn, www.michaelspornanimation.com

'Nancy Beiman's *Animated Performance* is a personal, professional and historical introduction to the animation process. It's top notch primer. In fact, I would recommend first time animation students begin with this text (and Miyazaki's *Starting Point*) before proceeding to Tony White or Halas & Whittaker and then Williams. Right there you'd have a solid three year course of study.'

Asterisk Animation, August 2010

'*Animated Performance* offers a comprehensive study of movement in animation. The book covers basic concepts, such as lip sync, character analysis and motivation, but also delves further into topics of contemporary concern, such as varying languages and their effect on mouth movement, as well as approaches to masculinity and femininity. Highly recommended for all film libraries and readers high school level and up.'

Animation Journal, Volume 18, 2010

'[Nancy Beiman's] imagination-based exercises are where this book really shines. They're great. Every five or 10 pages, Nancy adds a clear, concise, well-planned and thoughtful exercise that directly relates to the preceding text. They are the kind of exercises that appear to have been developed by an excellent teacher after years of hands-on knowledge in the classroom. I'd love to try them all.'

Fran Krause, *Animation World Network, October 2010*

'Toon town veteran and animation teacher Beiman delivers a well-designed (both aesthetically and functionally) and indispensable resource in this primer volume. In its 200-plus pages you'll find tons of information on the study of movement in animation, from lip syncing to character analysis and motivation. Beiman guides you through the principles of designing motion with a level of care and knowledge you'd be hard pressed to find in many how-tos – grab a pack of gold star stickers to keep on your desk and you may as well have a personal toon tutor.'

Animation magazine

From the Author

ANIMATED PERFORMANCE was written as an antidote to that school of animation that imitates reality. Animation is not reality--it is much better-- and you can animate and 'perform' anything that you can create or design, whether it be a puppet, a drawing, or a digital character.

Acting in animation is all in your head. It's not restricted by the limitations of the human body. Animators might perform as a school of fish, a lovesick candelabra, a terrified dinosaur, or a flock of dragons. Live action reference or motion capture won't get you very far with any of those characters. Imagination will. My book is not aimed at beginning animators, since there are excellent books that cover the bouncing ball and cycle walk and the basics of the technique. But all animators will benefit by getting back to their roots--their 'fantastic' roots.

Thank you very much and I hope that you enjoy the book.

About the Author

Nancy Beiman is a professor at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Canada. She has produced, directed, designed, storyboarded and animated for television commercials, specials, features, and new media projects. Her employers have included The Walt Disney Company, Warner Brothers Animation and Bill Melendez Productions. Nancy has been teaching at college level since 2000,

and her first book, **PREPARE TO BOARD!** Creating Story and Characters for Animated Features and Shorts, has been adopted as a standard text by animation schools worldwide.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sam Grimes:

The book *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like available and read a guide *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

Todd Quesinberry:

This *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* without we recognize teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* can bring if you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Arthur Dickison:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The *Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range)* giving you one more experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Marge Lee:

Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Animated Performance: Bringing Imaginary Animal, Human and Fantasy Characters to Life (Required Reading Range) although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

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