

Masterclass comments from Montreal:

Hello there,

My name is Daniel, and I recently attended the Pixar Master class in Montreal this past weekend. All I have to say is nice job! It was so refreshing to hear someone just talk about what they love to do. I felt that both classes ran with a very natural flow, and rarely ever felt like it was a seminar or educational presentation. Mind you, I sure did learn a lot none the less. A lot of it was fundamentals and the core of what either Animation or Storytelling is all about. It was just great to know that you guys are doing it things so obviously simple, but just doing it so freakin' well. I think a lot of people have this idea in their head that Pixar is so successful with their work because they must have this secret technique or these special machines that just put you over the top in production. Although this may be true, in some sense, I think, or at least what I got from this weekend, was that it is a solid foundation and understanding of the basics that is important. From there, Pixar just builds up into solid pieces of work.

But, I don't want this to run on. I just want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, and you guys seem totally down to earth and non-superficial, like some others in your field. You seem as though you just love doing what you do. And I'm a strong believer in that. Hopefully next time there is a class like this, there will be more time to say 'hello' and what not, and you won't have to be bombarded with people as you try to leave.

Truly inspirational stuff all around and I can't wait to get back home to start working on things again. Thanks again for taking the time to do such a class, and to read this email following up afterwards. I look forward to hearing back, and to attending something like this again in the future. Take care, and don't work too hard.

Cheers,

Daniel

I would suggest to create a blog and invite all participants to join and participate in general and specific discussions. On that blog you can create a section for sharing information to get in contact with those artists outside the Vanarts presentation context.

I'd like to thank you guys at Vanarts for giving us this luxurious opportunity to learn from our unseen mentors. We look up to those types of artists just by looking at their work. To get to learn from them in person is a very uplifting and encouraging experience that motivates us to maybe do the same one day (i know i will). The event was great, I have zero regrets! Oh and the draws and little prizes were a lot of fun too!

I hope you enjoyed your stay on our little island :)

Cheers

I was just SO happy to have the chance to have a bit of the Pixar expertise and would like to thank VanArts to have had the idea of creating an event in Montreal. I am such a huge Pixar fan and it was a first step in my dream fulfillment to someday become a Pixar artist. I do greatly hope you guys come back in Montreal next year, with new subjects and artists (the same artists would still be very appreciated if there weren't any others.)

I'd just like to say thank you! It was phenomenal and I feel like I have a huge edge over the rest of my program now!

Overall, very satisfied and a great opportunity. Thank you for letting me make it fit my budget - the flexibility of being able to take only 1/2 the weekend was important for my budget/bottom line and was the ultimate deciding factor, esp. in these economic times. I can't wait to go again.

Overall this event was great! The venue was a good place (screening room, the location, the relationship the Cinematheque has with Animation), but honestly (very minor comment) the "refreshments" part could be perfected (I suppose it was the Cinematheque's part). Come on! No MILK with the coffee? Nuts in almost all cookies and muffins?!? With all the allergic people out there, do they really want a DEATH on their hands? ;-) Anyway, thank for the opportunity. To whom at VanArts should we send a DVD of our students films, just so that you know us and we know you?

And one last thing: our College has a 400 seat superb auditorium that would also be great to hold this kind of event. In the future, considering that we offer classical and 3D programs, maybe we could cooperate?

First, concerning question 18, I'd prefer the Facebook group but I'd take the spreadsheet. Second, wonderful choice of venue, really. Third, I left each day without feeling tired. I would've loved it if each day were longer! I can't think of anything else, but to sum this all up: I loved it and I'd definitely attend this again, even if it were the same program.

Thank You VanArts, & Ken, the session will definitely help my career, Ken was very nice, he helped me register at the door... We all got some insights that would be impossible to get lest we worked at Pixar, so I am grateful that someone would prepare such an event...

MORE MORE MORE plz!! lol

As a teacher, I was certainly impressed with the ease with which the attention of everyone there was kept riveted for such a long period of time, and in a different way both days to boot! Again, excellent presentations.

Make the class longer maybe 2 and 1/2 days (Friday night to Sunday). Add more details to the coursebook such as some website links, recommended movies to watch for specific points, more information on what they are talking about because it was more like a plan of the class, and more visuals. And I'm not saying that I didn't appreciate the refreshments, on the contrary, but maybe fruits and juices would be something you could add too.

It would have been fun to have some kind of evening event to go along with the course (say a Saturday evening social event).

I LOVED these courses. The instructors were incredibly full of information, making me feel like I could spend several more weeks just learning more and more from these guys. I came away with SO MUCH more than I had expected. Most notably, I came away with a much more clear understanding of where I'd like to end up in a few years. Andrew's course on animation made me realize that I have a lot more to learn about animation than I thought. But he also made me realize that animation is exactly where my passion lies. I'm 30 years old (celebrated my 30th this weekend of the course, actually ... perfect gift to myself :) and I can say after leaving

the masterclass on Saturday, it was the first time I was ever sure about where I wanted to end up, professionally. I work at Autodesk in a very technical area of the 3D universe. Andrew made me realize that my passions lie within the art this universe. So in a way, this course has put me on the right course. Hopefully one day I will be able to work in the Vancouver Pixar office. I'm sure after this weekend, every single person in the room had the same thought. If these two guys represent Pixar's attitude and passion towards making art and film, then I'm definitely sold to their philosophy and want to join in as soon as possible.

Matthew's course was beneficial in an entirely different way than Gordon's was to me. I'm in the midst of making a short film. I've just finished the storyboard and was about ready to begin modeling. However, after taking Matthew's course on story, well ... I'm actually EXCITED about restarting this short film project from scratch. Having heard all the details regarding how he and his department goes about developing stories, I saw every single piece that was missing in my story and development. Matthew's course felt more like a workshop than a class, because as I was taking notes, I was also working on bettering my own short story! I could not put a price to that, so 450.00 for Matthew's "workshop" and Andrew's eye-opening teachings ... well, I'll tell you it was worth every dollar and then some.

I'd like to finish my positive ramblings with saying that I also appreciate the people who organized this event. I received a personal email ensuring that I was aware the course was happening this weekend. That level of personal contact really impressed me. I felt like I was part of something intensive and focused, rather than something like ADAPT (an impersonal conference that happens here in Montreal every year).

These are randomly selected from over 66 comments left by attendees of the class. We did not select specific comments.