

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Trouble In Paradise: A Life Cut Short

STUDENT: Jerry Hannah

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My creative project, a stop-motion animated short film, *Trouble in Paradise: A Life Cut Short* uses a non-conventional medium to address substance abuse and its consequences. I present the perils of substance abuse using a simple and non-threatening format allowing the viewer to identify with the characters and their situation. It is my intent, as the artist, that this short film will reach viewers that previously fell through the cracks with traditional educational films on substance abuse. My paper reviews artistic influences including my personal aesthetic, impressionism, and contemporary animators. Hands on techniques such as model making, armature building and the process of filmmaking in this medium are discussed. The lengthy process, that is hallmark to stop-motion animation, shooting the scenes, constructing the props, building the characters, and forming the background are reviewed. These tools of the art are compared to computer generated filmmaking today. The process of animation with the newer computer imagery is much shorter and allows the film to be produced with less time. But, Claymation and mixed media are tools that bring the realistic element to the art as seen in my stop-motion animated substance abuse film. Greater research is needed to determine if this medium is appropriate for broaching this subject and I feel it should be regarded as an avenue for further exploration.

