Hellbound: Producing An Animated Web Comic

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

by

Darian Jones

Thesis Advisor

Director Andy Beane

Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana

May 2019

Expected Date of Graduation

May 2019
Abstract

Animation pre-production is a complicated and detailed process that includes script-writing, character design, world-building, storyboarding, color-scheming, and many other disciplines. It requires a skilled generalist with vision and a strong understanding of the multifaceted processes of visual storytelling. My goal for this project was to develop as a pre-production generalist and to practice vital skills I will need in the industry. For this project, I wrote, scripted, planned, and produced the first issue of a web comic with animated elements. I originally planned fifty pages but downsized to fourteen when I realized my goal would not be met in one semester. I have titled the story *Hellbound* and plan for it to be an ongoing urban fantasy series for young adults. What you are about to read is a detailed record of four months of work on this project, start to finish.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my advisor Andy Beane who steered me through this challenging project and guided me toward the best designs and layouts I could achieve. I would also like to thank my fellow animation class of 2019 for critiquing my work every week, providing honest and insightful feedback into how the story and art would be received by an audience.

In addition, I would like to give a special thanks to my parents, Howard and Shannon who have been a solid source of inspiration and sound advice for *Hellbound* from its initial conception to its finishing touches.