



Tommy Schatz-Thompson, PMP

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About:

With over thirteen years of experience in film, animation, animatronics, themed entertainment, and live experiences, I blend creativity and precision. As a certified PMP project manager, I lead by building personal connections with clients, collaborators, and team members to make their dreams a reality. My goal is to turn visions into tangible masterpieces, meticulously orchestrating every detail for impeccable results.

Work Experience:

Meow Wolf - Exhibition Manager - Dallas, Texas: 2023 - Current

- Manage site-wide art, scenic, tech, live event support, maintenance, and sustainment
- Budget, schedule, plan, and execute the operational, logistical, and financial site projects
- Team development, process design, documentation, tech and fabrication workshop operation
- Installation team management to open the site achieving the creative vision and intent

Netflix - Lead Rigger (Wendell and Wild) - Portland, Oregon: 2021 - 2022

- Manage project builds - scheduling, budgeting, design, fabrication, and departmental collaboration
- Design and build rigs using a range of tools, machinery, and software for manual and motion-control

Animax Designs - Planning and Strategy Manager - Nashville, Tennessee: 2020 - 2021

- Created the Planning and Strategy department responsible company-wide scheduling and resourcing
- Developed a scheduling system from the ground up utilizing Microsoft Projects and Teams
- Collaborated with department heads and figure leads to maintain the projects' timelines and needs

Technical Design Manager 2019 - 2021

- Managed animatronic/puppet builds from the cradle to the grave - design, production, and installation
- Created conceptual designs and build plans for each figure while maintaining build documents
- Oversaw \$20 million in technical assets from initial design to on-site installation

Assembly Technician 2018 - 2019

- Assembled complex mechanical robotic structures and puppets to the client's technical specifications
- Integrated each mechanism with the animatronics' cosmetic figure finish (skins, foam, furs, costumes)

BBC/Bento Box Animation - Animatronic Designer/Fabricator (Moon and Me) - Atlanta, Georgia: 2018

- Designed and fabricated animatronic head mechs utilizing machining, laser cutting, and 3D printing
- Molded and cast master sculpts, cast fiberglass head shells, integrated animatronic head mechs

LAIKA - Rigger (Missing Link) - Portland, Oregon: 2017 - 2018

- Built rigging apparatus and mechanisms providing movement, stability, and ease of use for puppets
- Designed and produced parts using 3D printing, machining, laser cutting, welding, and casting

Metal Fabricator (Missing Link) 2017

- Mig/tig welded steel deck animation tables, foliage armatures for landscapes, and facilities projects
- Designed and fabricated builds using CAD, welding, machining, and metal finishing techniques

Machinist (Kubo and The Two Strings, Missing Link) 2014 - 2017

- Machined armature, rigging, and motion-control parts and kit items operating a Haas VF-1 CNC Mill
- Manually machined production runs of parts using mills, lathes, tapping machines, and tumblers

Bent Image Lab - Animator / Generalist - Portland, Oregon: 2012 - 2014

- Animated, rigged, set-dressed, and look-development on TV specials, commercials, and digital shorts
- Fabricated sets, models, props, puppets, armatures, animatable features and animation tables

Kate Bush's Mistraldespair - Director / Production Designer / Animator - London, England: 2011

- Hired by Kate Bush to create a music video for her song "Misty" from her album "50 Words For Snow"
- Worked on site at Abbey Row Studios and Kate Bush's studio

Certifications: PMP Certified - Project Management Institute -2022, Google Project Management - 2022

Education: Bachelor of Arts, 2010 Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA: Stop Motion Production/Film Studies

Awards: High Strung (2011) Stop-Motion Short, 13 min.

"Most Promising Filmmaker" SPIFF 2012, "Best Animation" NWCF 2012, "Best Animation" BEFF 2011

Skills

• Project management

- Scheduling
- Budgeting
- Team building

• Design

- CAD
- Mechanical
- Narrative development

• Fabrication

- Machining
- Welding
- Woodworking
- Electronics
- 3D printing
- Molding/Casting
- CNC operation
- Laser cutting
- Vacuum-forming

• Live Event Support

- Audio mixing/stage support
- Lighting design
- Control system playback

• Facility

- Show control
- Networking
- HVAC/Fire systems
- Shipping & Receiving

Software

• Management

- Google Drive
- Asana
- Microsoft Projects
- Office 365
- Teams
- Workday
- Slack
- Airtable

• Design

- Fusion360
- Inventor
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- MAX/MSP
- TouchDesigner
- Bluebeam
- Navisworks Freedom
- Arduino IDE
- ETC Mosaic Designer

• AVL Systems

- Q-Sys Designer
- Dante Control
- ETC Paradigm
- Advatek Assistant 2&3
- TeamViewer
- EV Reach
- BrightAuthor Connected