

✧ Talk with Jenny Wright ✧

Independent Filmmaker & Animator

@ CSM 2016-2018

'My Mother's Eyes' Director & Maker!

When at uni, is probably the best time to do no-budget & low-budget jobs.

She still did regular jobs (barbican, cafe, bakery) as it was easy to cut down hours if she got freelance work. But also because as an animator-director she often works alone, so these jobs gave her a social element.

Again, usually advised against free work, however in 2017, while still working for Rose Bakery, she was being proactive and offered to do a little GIF (drawing people on photos) for them. This led to more work. 5 years later, MUGI unsiled her after finding it.

Random Acts from Channel 4 asked to license MME after she applied with a different film.

Film Festivals are just fantastic. Go & meet the lovely people. Often times you'll keep meeting each other at different festivals. Tribeca Film Festival was great & Jenny got a travel grant from British Council, so it's worth keeping an eye on the list. (check if they're for British citizens only).

RA & Tribeca were the most special experiences of her life. Whoopi Goldberg actually creates the animation section at Tribeca. She got to go to a lot of screenings & meet a lot of interesting people.

Try & compile a list of Festivals → Animation specific, films, shorts.

Look at FilmFreeway, animation-festivals.com, Zippy Frames, Skwigly, BFI Network, FILM London, Animation UK, Animation Alliance UK

Jenny then got commissioned to animate Blue Bottle. The writer & producer reached out to her to work together after applying for BFI Funding.

Go to Directors Notes to watch other people's work.

Keep an eye on communities, job boards, networks & newsletters (She Drew That, Animation, If You Could, The-Dots, FLAMIN newsletter).

Showcases & Directories: Directors Notes, Girls in Film, Short of the Week, Great Women Animators

It's worth getting in touch with studios & individuals speculatively.

Things she's learnt:

- The animation community is really friendly
- Say NO sometimes: lots of people don't understand how long animation takes.
- Keep everything in writing / have contracts.

Well organised folders can keep you calm, work out a system that works for you.

Storage-wise: a lot of people use Google Drive and One Drive for having it backed up. However, Jenny just uses a regular hard drive.

Residencies worth looking at: TAIS!, nef (nouvelles écritures pour le film d'animation). Jenny did go to TAIS which is Canada-based. Her initial idea she applied with was with an animated poem "Wait".

Loops are a good thing to do to practice animation but they're also great to put on your socials.

Regarding regular work - how do you organise it. I know a lot of freelance work can be short notice, and a lot of jobs will schedule weeks ahead. Are you upfront about it when interviewing?

Having a 8 hour contract might be the way to go, so you can give them monthly availability.

Or should you get a less stressful job with regular hours and do freelance work in the evenings / weekend?

Perhaps speak to your employer & communicate more. Or maybe it's time to look elsewhere.

Get time with Jenny to look at my work next week.