

CARIBBEAN WOMEN IN ANIMATION

By Camille Selvon Abrahams

As we celebrate 'Women in ICT Day 2014' often we forget the many different aspects of ICT that connects our creativity. In the area of animation the technical goes hand in hand with the creative therefore an animator must work closely with the writer illustrator and director. The writer or director must also understand the dynamics of the technology so as to write effectively to fit within the limits or capabilities of the software. Global statistics for women in animation shows that there is a gender gap that is slowly closing. In the Caribbean we are not immune from these statistics. At the University of Trinidad and Tobago the intakes between 2008 and 2012 for the Animation Diploma programme showed around 90% males applied compared to 10% females. However in 2013 there was a 100% increase in girls applying to the programme. As programme administrator for Animation department at the University, I can state that this increase was not by chance. We identified that there was a gender gap within the programme and deliberately went out to garner the interests of girls in technology. Several strategic symposiums were targeted like the Microsoft DIGIGirlz programme where we presented to audiences of girls, the exciting opportunities for them in animation.

Identifying the different aspects of animations that girls can now get into is also extremely important, as many people still believe that animation is just about 'cartoons'. Girls can now get into gaming, 3D design, architectural rendering, interactive animated book publishing, app development and much more. Following is a list of some women doing great things in animation in the Caribbean.



Camille Selvon Abrahams is a renowned animation and multi-media specialist who has shared her knowledge of the animation industry after her return from studies abroad at Goldsmiths University. Specialised in 2D animation, scriptwriting and storyboard, Camille also co-created 'Pete the Panstick' an interactive training tool teaching children about pan. She is working currently on an interactive animated e-book for download. Utilising the creative process is extremely important in using these kinds of technology as anyone can learn to use software, but not many can create a visually and aesthetically pleasing dynamic product using the technology. Marrying the two is what makes a great animator. Camille is currently the President of the recently formed Caribbean ASIFA group one of 24 animation association from around the world. She is also the founder and director of the Animae Caribe Animation and New Media Festival.



Alison Latchman is CEO and Head Writer at Alcyone Animation (pronounced Al-sci-on-ee) based in Jamaica. Alcyone is the production house behind the multi award winning "**Cabbie Chronicles**", the Caribbean's first animated series. A classically trained actor and voice coach who studied Performing Arts in London, England Alison returned to Jamaica in 2005 and is now fully immersed in the technology. She works hand in hand with her animation team to create IP for various platforms reflecting authentic Caribbean experiences and memorable commercial projects.



Kylie Homer is the baby of the bunch. Graduated from Full Sail University in 2008 Kylie is now the lead 3D Animator at Full Circle Animation Studio in Trinidad. Her specialist skills in modeling, rigging and lighting using 3D Maya has her in high demand. She is also a part time lecturer at the University of Trinidad and Tobago Diploma in Animation Studies. At the studio she leads a team of five or six animators for everything 3D coming out of the studio. Recently one of the many 3D commercials she worked on went on to win a local Advertising Association Award.



Coretta Singer is the first female animator to win an Animae Caribe Award with her 3D piece called 'Voyajah'. She is also Jamaica's first (but not only) female 3D animator. Her 3D skills are considered to be the top in Jamaica with work being done for advertising agencies and private sector. Coretta is a self-taught 3D generalist. She also had success with her short "Kina Sky" which aired on Nickelodeon in 2009 for the Nickelodeon Animation Festival. She is also versed in areas like video editing, digital music production and graphic design. She is currently working along-side James Parris in Los Angeles on the Paper Tiger production "Pink and Blue". She is also the President of the recently incorporated Jamaica Animation Nation Network, the official animation association for Jamaica, created to be a guiding force for both

animators and animation in the country.