

DIMENSION

The Newsletter of the L.A. ACM/SIGGRAPH

October 1999

Mark your Calendar.
Our Next meeting is on
Monday, November 8th
at the TV Academy

L.A. ACM/SIGGRAPH Presents
Tuesday October 12th, 1999

"Heads Up Troopers" An Evening with Foundation Imaging

The Program

6:30-7:30 Social Hour

7:30-9:00 Program

The Location

Steven Ross Theater Warner Bros. Studios
4000 Warner Blvd. Burbank, CA 91522

Directions

The Steven Ross Theatre is located on the Warner Bros. Studio lot in Burbank, CA. Take the 134 Freeway East. Exit at Pass Ave. Turn Left at the first light, Alameda. Continue on Alameda a few blocks until you reach Hollywood Way. Turn Right onto Hollywood Way. Continue straight on Hollywood Way into the Warner Bros. Studio lot (Gate #4 - Hollywood Way Gate).

Parking

Free Parking on the Studio lot.

Fees/Registration

This event is free to L.A. ACM/SIGGRAPH Chapter members and \$10 for non-members. New members who sign up on-site and pay the \$25 annual membership fee (checks or cash only) do not have to pay the \$10 registration fee. Members only will be given priority entrance from 6:30-7:00 PM. After 7:00 PM it's first come first served. We strongly urge that members arrive early to assure their admittance.

The Event

"Heads Up Troopers" Join Foundation Imaging for a behind the scenes look at the new CG TV animated series, "Roughnecks: The Starship Troopers Chronicles", based on the book "Starship Troopers," by Robert Heinlein.



"Roughnecks:
The Starship
Trooper
Chronicles"
Foundation
Imaging ©1999
Adelaide
Productions, Inc.

An Evening with Foundation Imaging

Best known for their Emmy Award winning effects on "Babylon 5" and "Star Trek: Voyager", Foundation Imaging has joined the list of companies producing CGI animation for television which includes Mainframe Entertainment. Their latest project, "Roughnecks: The Starship Troopers Chronicles" is currently shown on the Bohbot Kids Network (Airs locally on KCAL Channel 9 Mon-Fri at 7:30am).

Foundation Imaging, a leading computer animation/special effects company based in Valencia, California, was founded in 1992 by Ron Thornton and Paul Bryant to create computer

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Special thanks to Alan
Botvinick, Jeff Scheetz, Stacie
Sharp and Ron Thornton

What would you like to see published in the newsletter?

We would like your feedback. Please email us at Los_Angelos_Chapter@siggraph.org

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Content | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Information Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More Content | <input type="checkbox"/> Classified Listing (hardware, software, jobs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

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"Roughnecks: The Starship Trooper Chronicles" Foundation Imaging ©1999 Adelaide Productions, Inc.

visual effects, miniatures, and motion control for the entertainment industry.

In Spring 1998, Foundation Imaging tripled its existing production facilities to a newer 20,000 square foot site in Valencia, which features a full Ascension motion capture stage, a 60'/22-channel motion control stage and a permanent 70' greenscreen stage.

Their recent efforts include creating effects for three major theme park attractions, including "Star Trek: The Experience" for the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel/Las Vegas; "Journey to Atlantis" for Sea World/Florida; and "Return to Atlantis" for the Warner Bros. theme park in Sydney, Australia. Foundation Imaging also produced the visual effects for the Saban Entertainment television series, "Mystic Knights of Tir Na Nog." For another project, the company was hired by the Space Frontier Foundation of Washington, D.C., to complete production of a short video program on the viability of a new series of "Space Planes."

Foundation Imaging continues to create visual effects for "Star Trek: Voyager," and has had a hand in several

episodes of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine". Also of note: the NBC comedy special "steve.oedekerk.com," the feature film, "The Jackal," and the Warner Bros. Home Video release, "Batman & Mr. Freeze: Sub Zero."

The company is currently producing 25 episodes of fully computer generated animation for Columbia Tristar's "Starship Troopers: Bug Wars", airing in the fall of 1999 on Bohbot Kids Network. The show, striped for syndication will feature action on eight different alien worlds.

Foundation is also currently in post-production on the pilot for "The Universe & Harry Morgan", the first action-comedy from their production arm, Revenge Productions, Inc.

In addition, the company also provided effects shots for client Sony ImageWorks for the TriStar Pictures release "Contact". These shots involved one of the film's climactic scenes which took place in the Mission Control Center.

Thornton and Bryant perceive the effects business as a "blending of art and technology," with Thornton as animator/model maker/motion control specialist and Bryant handling the computer and technology aspects required to create the ground-breaking visual effects for which the company is highly regarded. The duo has formed a visual FX animation business which they believe is unique – an innovative and pioneering organization specializing in high-end film and television visual effects which can be produced within extremely rigid budgets.

In 1993, the principals of Foundation Imaging received an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Special Visual Effects," for their very first effort, the visual effects for the pilot of the sci-fi television series, "Babylon 5." After that project came a string of others: Paramount Television's "Viper," for which they won an "International Monitor" Award, an English program entitled "Dan Dare," and then additional work on the "Babylon 5" series, after it had been successfully launched into first-run syndication.

In 1993, Foundation Imaging decided to branch out into the development and creation of its own television programs. The idea was to do live action shows in combination with CGI. In 1994, Thornton and Foundation Imaging created a new children's program called

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"Hypernauts". The show, which ran for several months on ABC, was designed to break technological barriers, while remaining an exciting live-action/CGI adventure which would follow three teenagers on their futuristic journeys throughout outer space.

The Speakers

Animation Producer, Jeff Scheetz, will give an overview of the project. In addition to managing the production flow on *Starship Troopers*, Jeff Scheetz handles much of the recruiting for Foundation Imaging's Lightwave division.

Mocap Supervisor, Dave West, discusses Foundation's migration from magnetic to optical solutions. Dave West joined FI in February 1997 as a character animator for "steve.oedeker.com", and then went on to be a modeler/animator.

Model Supervisor Dave Adams and CGI Character Model Supervisor Tom MacDougall will share insights and discuss issues such as design vs. functionality of storyboards. After a 10 year career in Special Effects/Production Management in Detroit, Dave Adams (a.k.a. LightwaveDave) joined Foundation Imaging as a Visual Effects Animator in January 1998. Tom MacDougall discovered animation in 1996 while making short films for school projects.

CGI Animation Directors PJ Foley, Kevin Kipper, Emile Edwin Smith and Mike Stetson will discuss lip sync, primary animation and technical direction of scenes. PJ Foley has

been with Foundation Imaging for 2 1/2 years. After heading up a Detroit-Based Lightwave User's Group for a short time, and being a part-owner in a small animation company, PJ turned his attention to Hollywood special effects. After working as a freelance artist for Computer Café in 1996, Kevin Kipper joined the team of animators working on "Hypernauts", "Babylon 5" and "Star Trek: Voyager" at Foundation Imaging. In 1997 he supervised the animation team responsible for the CGI shots on the Warner Bros direct to video release of "Batman vs. Mr. Freeze: SubZero" and later that year for the feature film "The Jackal". Mike Stetson made a career change and came to Foundation in January, 1997. Emile Edwin Smith went to the University of California at San Diego where he received his bachelor's degree in film. He has also shot various elements on film for our "Star Trek" work. Currently he is directing several episodes of "Starship Troopers" as well as contributing to other areas of the show's organization.

Digital Director of Photography Robert Baldwin has been at the heart of the Rebellion ever since his duty in Houston, where he helped found a virtual reality company. When that company was boarded by troops from the Imperial Star Destroyer Devastator, Rob was programmed with vital plans and technical data. The little droid struggled to carry that message to waiting compatriots in Austin, where he did real-time game art and technical direction. After freelancing in Texas for a few years with pirates and

Wookies, Rob decided to move to California, where the bright center of the 3D universe and further adventures with his droid companions led him to Valencia. Rob continues to play an important and ongoing role in helping the Rebels thwart Imperial forces.

Foundation Imaging continues to create, design and produce intriguing – and unduplicated digital special effects for network and syndicated television projects, feature films, multimedia projects and theme parks around the world.

"Roughnecks: The Starship Trooper Chronicles" Foundation Imaging ©1999 Adelaide Productions, Inc.

