

biographies

Bill Tomlinson

Bill Tomlinson is a doctoral student in the Synthetic Characters Group at the MIT Media Lab. He has collaborated on installations for SIGGRAPH (1997, 1998, 1999, 2001), the New York Digital Salon (1999), E3 (2001), among other venues. Before coming to MIT, Bill studied biology as an undergraduate at Harvard College (A.B., 1994). He then received an M.F.A. (1996) in Experimental Animation from CalArts. His thesis film, a stop-motion animation called "Shaft of Light", showed at the Sundance Film Festival and about 20 other film festivals internationally; has played on Bravo, the Independent Film Channel, and the Sci-Fi Channel; and was distributed by the Anti-Defamation League in their catalog of anti-oppression resources. After CalArts, Bill came to the Media Lab, learned to program, and wrote a Master's thesis (M.S., 1999) about interactive cinematography.

Marc Downie

Marc Downie attended the University of Cambridge (Magdalene College), receiving an MA (Natural Sciences) and an MSci (Physics). He graduated with the Mott Prize in 1998 and became a member of the Synthetic Characters Group at the MIT Media Lab, from which he received a Master of Media Arts and Sciences degree in 2001. His Master's thesis was entitled "Behavior, Animation, Music: The Music and Movement of Synthetic Characters." He has shown work at venues including: SIGGRAPH (1999 - (void *): a cast of characters; 2000 - trinkets: new pieces to play; 2001 - AlphaWolf and Music Creatures), Media Lab Europe (2000 - Exchange: Listen: Exchange), and at The New York Digital Salon (1999 - Sand: Stone). His current projects include the décor and digital projections for a new Merce Cunningham piece premiering in September and three new works for SIGGRAPH 2002.



The Synthetic Characters Group

Matt Berlin is a Master's student in the Synthetic Characters and holds an AB from Harvard College. Jesse Gray is an undergraduate at Tufts College. Adolph Wong is a recent graduate from Massachusetts College of Art. Robert Burke (SM), Damian Isla (SM) and Yuri Ivanov (PhD) graduated from the group last year. Michael Patrick Johnson is a doctoral candidate in the group. Derek Lyons is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a BA from Reed college. Jennie Cochran and Bryan Yong are undergraduates at MIT.

Professor Bruce Blumberg

Bruce Blumberg is an associate professor of Media Arts and Sciences at the MIT Media Lab. He is also head of the Synthetic Characters Group as well as co-director of the Digital Life Consortium. He is a regular lecturer in courses on ALife techniques for interactive characters, including those offered at SIGGRAPH and GDC, and has published widely on the topic in conferences including SIGGRAPH, AAAI, CHI, AA, ABA, and SAB. His project ALIVE received an honourable mention in the Prix Ars Electronica 1994. Most recently his work was featured on the season premiere of PBS's *Scientific American Frontiers*. Bruce holds a BA in economics from Amherst, an SM in management from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and a PhD from the Media Arts and Sciences program at MIT.