

3D TRAINING INSTITUTE

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NEWS

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3D Training Institute (3DTi) Alumni, Eric Nersesian, Rides the New Wave in 3D Movie Making

3DTi Alumni Works on a Sci-Fi Web Series "The New Kind" Which Raised \$100K Through Kickstarter (a new funding platform for creative projects).

Eric Nersesian, 3D Training Institute (3DTi) Alumni, was sitting in his backyard when he got the call from director Peter Hyoguchi asking him to join his web project. "Peter saw my reel on the internet and felt that I would be a great fit as a VFX Artist. I looked him up online, saw his credentials, and thought, 'this can't be real.'" The web series also attracted other professionals who had worked on projects such as Star Wars, Avatar, Hugo, The Matrix, and Harry Potter. Suddenly, Eric found himself collaborating with animation superstars.



Until now, getting the necessary funding was more fantasy than reality. But, in the new age of the internet and social media, using Kickstarter, director Peter Hyoguchi, was able to raise \$100,000 to fund his Anime inspired, sci-fi web series called "The New Kind". Kickstarter, which describes itself as a funding platform for creative projects, has now made it possible for anyone with a great idea to make it happen.

During the day, Eric works as a full time Computer Graphics Project Lead and Animation Department Manager for military training simulations in the Unity Game Engine. In his off time, he collaborates with animators and directors from around the world, contributes to crowd sourced web projects, and works with Hollywood professionals, all from the comfort of his home.

Eric credits 3D Training Institute (3DTi), for giving him the tools to find work in both of these areas of 3D animation. Although, making movies with Hollywood producers is the glamorous side of 3D animation, Eric says that he is equally proud of the 3D interactive training simulations he creates that train people before they put themselves in dangerous situations.

Eric graduated from Rutgers with a BA in Economics, took a job with a shipping company and realized that he did not want to work in a corporate environment. He then started a furniture import business with a friend, but when the economy soured, the business was no longer feasible. Eric had discovered that he loved using 3D designs to explain blueprints to carpenters, went back to school, and got his Master's degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, in Information Science.

"Still," Eric says, "I realized that I needed a program that would give me real world, production based, professional training that was quick, affordable, and worked around my schedule." 3DTraining Institute met all Eric's criteria. Eric completed the beginner and intermediate programs at 3DTi, and was then accepted into the 6 month internship program. He found his first full time 3D job based on his 3DTi reel. Also, by posting his demo reel on YouTube and Vimeo, director Peter Hyoguchi was able to discover Eric and contact him for "The New Kind".

Eric remembers the initial excitement as they launched the Kickstarter proposal for making the "The New Kind" which took off in the social media networks. Wired and Variety wrote about us, the largest Sci-Fi blogging website, io9, wrote about us and pretty soon there was big buzz about our project. We just rode the momentum and the funding poured in. It is very rewarding to be part of a crowd sourced project."

Eric sees the whole VFX industry trying to figure out how to become more cost-efficient and productive. "The big studios are struggling with huge costs and no guarantees that a movie will be profitable. Large companies are now putting a big effort into outsourcing and creating virtual studios due to their flexibility and low fixed costs." With the new model of virtual studios along with hardware and software improvements, Eric says many people can create movies and commercials from their own homes at very low overhead.

Roninfilm is an example of the new alternative to the big studios. They describe themselves as the first international, crowd sourcing movie studio. Using a Facebook page, they encourage online collaboration and welcome feedback. Utilizing funding sites such as Kickstarter, they can create story funded projects. Eric's assessment is that "Virtual studios, crowd sourced projects, and funding along with hardware and software improvements have made it possible for anyone to learn 3D animation and make a movie with a very small investment. With production based, online 3D training, such as 3DTi, anyone can also create their dream job. This is the future of animation."

About 3D Training Institute

3D Training Institute, is the industry's leading provider of live-online, production-based training programs in Autodesk's 3ds Max, Maya, Revit, AutoCAD & Inventor software.

3DTi conducts training in a simulated production environment built upon its unique Learn-Practice-Work™ approach. Utilizing a focused, project-based course, students gain the expertise needed to work on real world projects.

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