

## **The Best of BAA**

OL7, Europa Building, University of Teesside  
6.00pm

A selection of outstanding and award winning animation

### **Monsieur Pascal** Alison de Vere | 1979 | 6'

Old M. Pascal dreams of his younger life as he sits next to a giant crucifix; conscious of his own lack of freedom he decides to liberate the figure. In so doing the world around him is transformed. A tender yet unsentimental piece about liberty and the power to change. Winner of the Annecy Grand Prix. Her earlier film *Café Bar* is on British Animation Classics DVD Vol. 2.

### **Skywhales** Phil Austin, Derek W. Hayes | 1983 | 11'

High above the mist-shrouded planet of Perle float jungles of matted vegetation, buoyed aloft by gas-filled seed pods. From them, a race of alien hunters take out their flying boats to track and kill the massive Skywhales that sustain their existence. On one hunting trip the bond between hunter and hunted is revealed to be deeper than the Perlians know. Although the dialogue is in a completely alien language a full English script was written before the actors got to work on it, and devised a language based on speaking backwards – literally - speaking on the in breath rather than the out. Dirk Higgins' evocative music is based on native musics and, in part, is made by blowing across the top of a milk bottle and assigning the sound to the keys of a synthesiser. An Animation City production for Channel Four Television.

### **Door** David Anderson | 1990 | 6'

By turns comic and scary, the film documents activities in a floating globe filled with doors, keys and a bickering couple whose actions appear to lead to what Hoban's narrator calls "the end of snivelyzashuns" (civilizations). The film is a companion piece to another Anderson/Hoban collaboration, *Deadsy* (on British Animation Classics DVD Vol. 2), collectively entitled *Deadtime Stories for Big Folk*. Channel 4 Television Corporation (1990)

### **Hill Farm** Mark Baker | 1988 | 5'

A group of farmers live lives of steady routine, tending to the very demanding farm animals. One day the water pump runs dry, and the farmers are faced with the uncertainty, desperately searching the cloudless skies. The farm is visited by a group of sentimental campers, who photograph the picturesque surroundings, in stark contrast to another visiting group of ruthless hunters, who go around shooting anything that moves.

Bakers' Oscar nominated film *the Village* is on British Animation Classics DVD Vol. 2 and his later film, *Jolly Rodger*, is on the Best of British Animation Awards DVD Vol. 3.

National Film and Television School: [www.astleybakerdavies.com](http://www.astleybakerdavies.com)  
[www.nftsfilm-tv.ac.uk/films](http://www.nftsfilm-tv.ac.uk/films)

**Jukebox** Run Wrake | 1984 | 5'

Item of music and sound material: *Move On Up* written and performed by Curtis Mayfield. Two years in five minutes. How old are you? Employing a montage of Xeroxed images, paintings and sound, *Jukebox* is a personal journey through fragmented experience. Wrake's most recent and multi-award winning film, *Rabbit* is on the Best of British Animation Awards DVD Vol. 6. An Animate commission for Channel Four Television & the Arts Council.

[www.animateonline.org](http://www.animateonline.org) [www.runwrake.com](http://www.runwrake.com)

run Wrake is represented for commercial work by Bermuda Shorts,

[www.bermudashorts.com](http://www.bermudashorts.com)

**Second Class Mail** Alison Snowden | 1984 | 4'

A little old lady shops by post for an inflatable friend but the goods fall short of her expectations. Nominated for an Oscar in 1985. With her partner David Fine, Snowden later won an Oscar for their short film *Bob's Birthday*.

National Film & Television School.

[www.nftsfilms-tv.ac.uk/films](http://www.nftsfilms-tv.ac.uk/films)

[www.snowdenfine.com](http://www.snowdenfine.com)

**The Big Story** David Stoten & Tin Watts |1994| 2'

Winner of the BAFTA for Animated Short and an Oscar nominee a year later.

This brilliant pastiche of Hollywood movies, featuring three versions of Kirk Douglas at different ages, caught the attention of Quentin Tarrantino, who insisted it was released in the UK as a short with his own debut feature *Pulp Fiction*.

Screwball Productions

**The Mill** Petra Freeman | 1992 | 7'

A little girl left to her own devices finds herself attracted to nature, and especially bees for company. A dark fairy tale of desperate childhood fantasy, which explores themes of loneliness and otherness and pits the unrelenting solidness of industry against the possibilities of the natural world. It also celebrates the creativity, which can be inspired by solitude – perhaps the friend the girl eventually finds is of the imaginary kind. (Fiona Morrow). Petra Freeman's later film *Jumping Joan* is on the Best of British Animation Awards DVD Vol.1.

Channel 4 Television Corporation (1992)

**Screenplay** Barry Purves |1992 | 11'

The narrator relates the Japanese tale of two lovers who defy their families and society to be together. The tale ends happily, until something happens to make this tale truly Japanese in character. The puppet characters appear on a revolving set where changes of *mise en scene* are facilitated by moving screens, while the narrator takes on the role of both furious father and the maid who exposes the forbidden affair. Purves' dramatic twist in both plot and form cannot help but shock: the stunning denouement subverts ass that has come before:

theatricality becomes explicit realism, the static point of view is completely dislodged and our expectations are thoroughly challenged.' (Fiona Morrow)  
Channel 4 Television Corporation (1992)

**The Saint Inspector** Mike Booth | 1996 | 6'

This enigmatic work bears a certain literary weight, not unlike a wordless Beckett play. In five minutes of stop-action clay animation both brooding and scintillating, *The Saint Inspector* shows a higher being in a state of pious bliss enduring the attentions of a meddling official from some sort of high altitude bureaucracy. (Jan Herman – Los Angeles Times)

[www.bolexbrothers.co.uk](http://www.bolexbrothers.co.uk)

**Girls Night Out** Joanna Quinn | 1987 | 6'

The first appearance of Beryl the Welsh housewife: when her girlfriends take her on a rowdy birthday night out in a pub, with entertainment provided by a male stripper, she brings back more than memories! Quinn's later film, an adaptation from Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, features on Best of British Animation Awards DVD Vol. 3

**Feet of Song** Erica Russell | 1988 | 6'

An explosive combination of graphics, sound and animation, based on African dance rhythms, a stylised rendition and celebration of bodily rhythms and movement, switching between figuration and abstraction. Russell's later, Oscar-nominated *Triangle* features on best of British Animation Awards DVD Vol. 1  
A Gingco production for Channel Four Television .

[www.ericarussell.com](http://www.ericarussell.com)