

KOYAA: FLÜCHTIGES PAPIER

KOYAA - ELUSIVE PAPER • Slowenien • 2019 • 3 Minuten



- **Pädagogische Altersempfehlung** ab 3 Jahren
- **Themen** Papier, Pappe, Animation, Freundschaft, Ideen / Einfälle, Spielzeug, Fantasie
- **Regie, Produzent** Kolja Saksida
- **Animation** Julia Peguet, Bartosz Kotarski
- **Produktion** ZVIKS

INHALT

Während Herr Rabe ein Vogelhaus aus Pappe bastelt, beschließt Koyaa, dass er draußen ein paar Aquarelle malen möchte. Er schnappt sich seinen Pinsel, um mit dem Malen zu beginnen, aber die Leinwand faltet sich von ganz allein und macht sich plötzlich selbstständig. Koyaa erkennt, dass er einen seiner speziellen Pläne braucht, um die Leinwand zu überlisten.

EINSTIMMUNG ZUM FILM

- Was kennt ihr für Animations- / Trickfilmserien?
- Was sind eure Lieblingsserien und warum gefallen sie euch so gut?
- Was habt ihr schon alles aus Papier / Pappe selbst hergestellt?
- Kennt ihr jemanden, der immer gute Ideen / Einfälle hat?

FRAGEN ZUM FILM

- Kennt schon jemand diese Serie?
- Was ist denn da passiert?
- Was hat Koyaa aus Papier gebaut?
- Was hat sein Freund der Rabe währenddessen aus Pappe gebaut?
- Warum ist das Blatt Papier weggefliegen?
- Was für eine Idee hatte Koyaa, um den Schmetterling aus Papier einzufangen?
- Warum wollte er ihn denn überhaupt fangen?
- Was glaubt ihr, wollte Koyaa auf das Blatt malen?
- Was würdet ihr jetzt gerne zum Film malen / basteln?

BASTELANLEITUNGEN

SCHMETTERLING AUS PAPIER

- alte Zeitung verwenden (Zeitungspapier ist schön dünn, lässt sich deshalb einfacher falten und nimmt die Farben wunderbar auf)
- zwei Stücken Zeitungspapier in beliebiger Größe und quadratischer Form bereit legen und bemalen, danach trocknen lassen
- das Papier wird wie eine Ziehharmonika von einer Ecke zur Gegenüberliegenden gefaltet
- beide Elemente mit Pfeifenreiniger aneinander befestigen
- Flieger / Frosch / Schiffchen aus Papier bauen und so eine schöne Landschaft entstehen lassen

BILD AUS SCHMETTERLINGSNUDELN GESTALTEN

- Rohe Schmetterlingsnudeln werden ganz einfach bemalt und können so zu einem bunten Bild zusammenfliegen

SPINNENNETZ AUS KLEBEBAND basteln und eine Spinne aus Pfeifenreiniger hineinsetzen

HÄUSCHEN AUS PAPPE

Du benötigst:

- 2 leere und ausgewaschene Tetra-Paks, zum Beispiel Milchpackungen
- eine Schere oder ein Cutter Messer (Lass dir dabei von einem Erwachsenen helfen!)
- Acrylfarben und Pinsel
- Ein LED-Leuchtdraht oder eine LED-Kerze

Anleitung:

- Schneide aus dem einem Tetra-Pak ein Häuschen. Mess 9 cm vom Boden ab und mach auf zwei gegenüberliegenden Seiten einen geraden Schnitt. Die zwei anderen Seiten sind dreieckige Giebelseiten. An der Spitze der Giebel lässt du eine Lasche stehen, daran befestigst du später dein Dach. Jetzt schneide lustige Fenster in dein Haus.
- Aus dem anderen Tetra-Pak bastelst du nun dein Dach. Dafür benötigst du eine lange Seite, zuzüglich 1 cm Extra von den anliegenden Seiten deines Kartons. Nun knicke dein Dach in der Mitte und schneide von oben, links und rechts, ca. 1 cm vom Rand entfernt, ein Schlitz rein. Da steckst du am Ende die Giebeltaschen von deinem Häuschen durch.
- Nun male dein Häuschen bunt an, am besten benutzt du dafür Acrylfarbe.
- Am Ende kommt das LED-Licht ins Häuschen. Dach drauf und fertig.

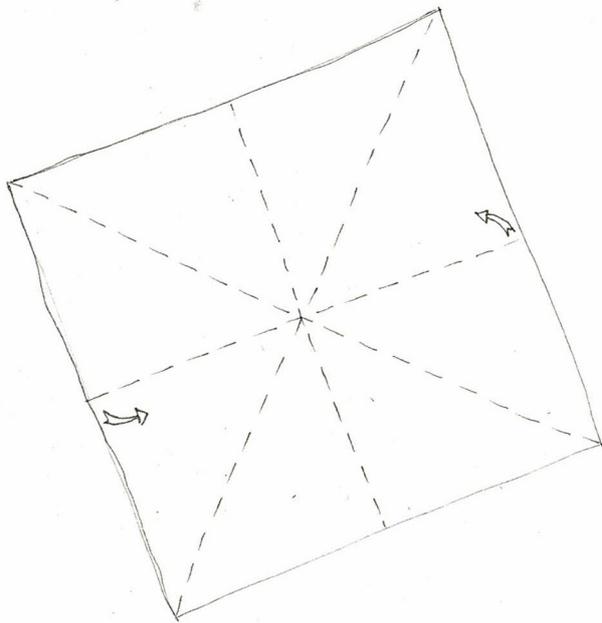


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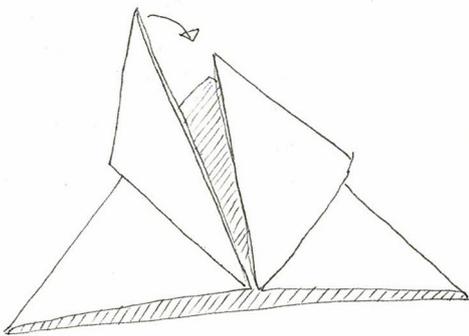
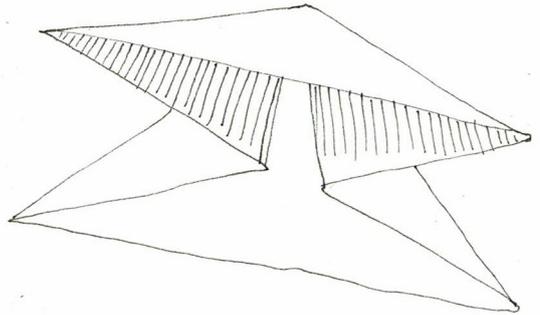




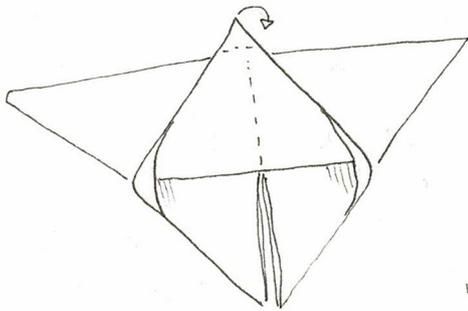
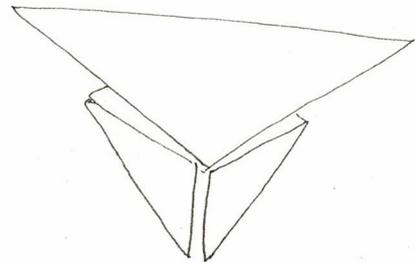
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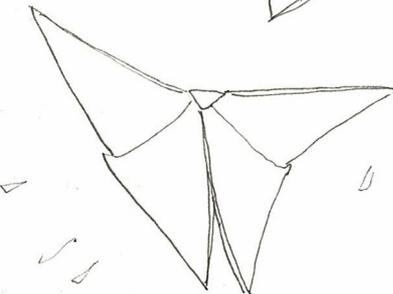
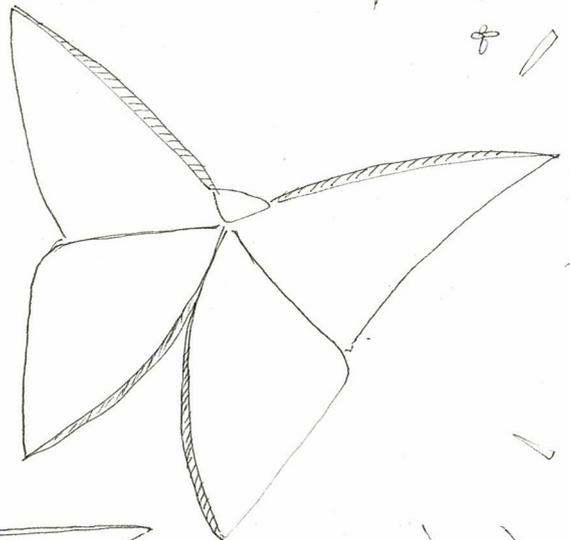


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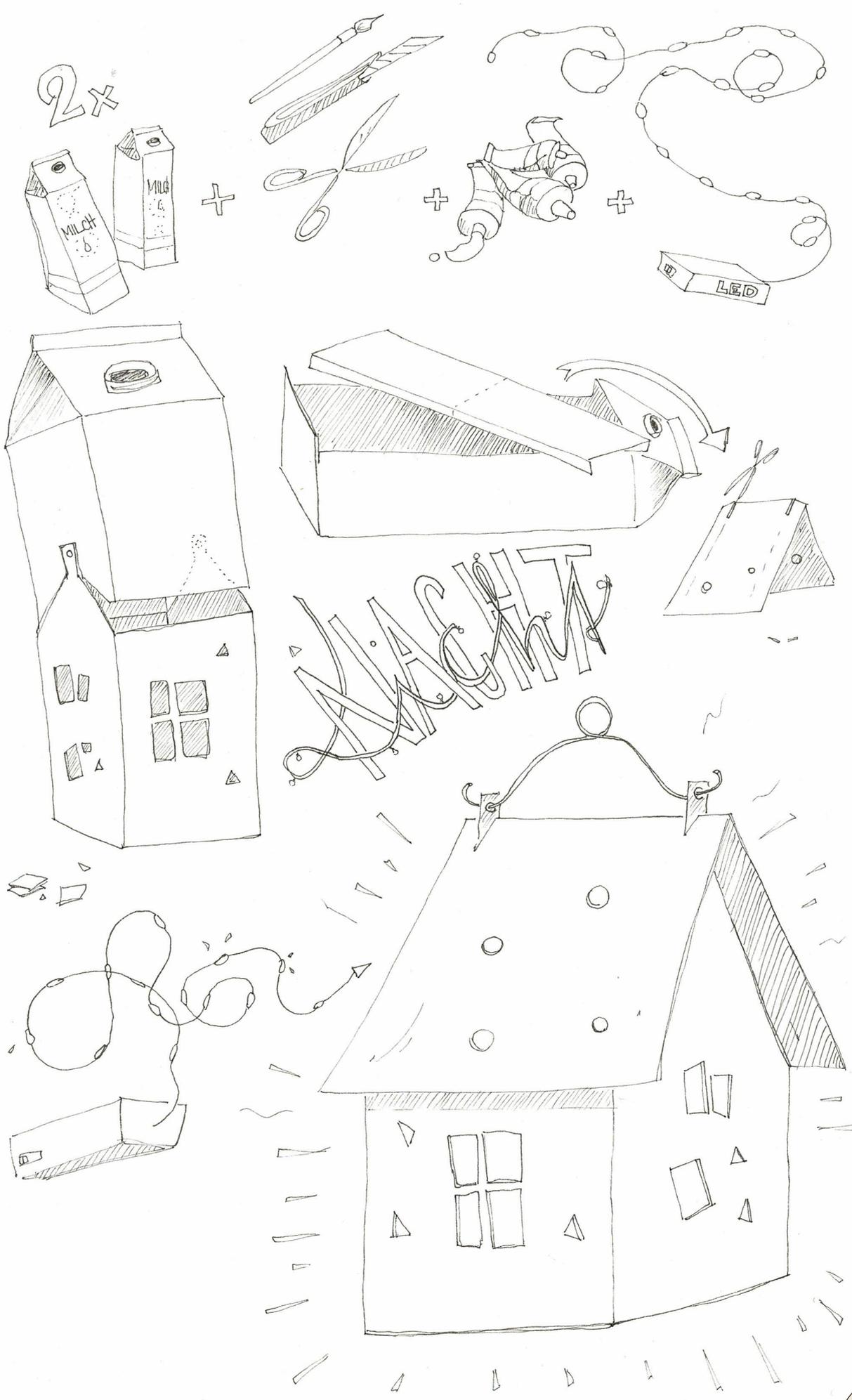


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FA
Alt
falter



A short animated film

ZVVIKS



KOJAA

Elusive Paper



Genre slapstick comedy Duration 2'45" Technique puppet stop-motion animation
Language no dialogue Target audience 3+ Playback format 16:9
Format and sound DCP, 5.1 Release date March 2019

Created by Kolja Saksida

Elusive Paper

2019, 2'45''

As Mr Raven crafts a cardboard birdhouse, Koyaa decides he fancies doing some watercolours outdoors. He grabs his brush to begin painting, but the canvas starts folding in all by itself - once, twice, then flying off as a paper airplane. He tries grabbing it

as it turns into a jumping frog, then a ship and soon a butterfly ... Koyaa realises he'll need one of his special plans to outsmart the canvas.



Director and producer Kolja Saksida
Screenwriters Marko Bratuš, Kolja Saksida
Lead animator Julia Peguet
Animator Bartosz Kotarski
Director of photography Miloš Srđić
Supervising sound editor Julij Zornik
Music composers Miha Šajina,
Borja Močnik
Editor Tomaž Gorkič
Production designer Gregor Nartnik
Character designer Blaž Porenta
Dubbing Frano Mašković, Žiga Saksida
Set designers Mateja Rojc, Simon Hudolin –
Salči, Leon Vidmar, Marko Turkuš
Co-producers Tanja Prinčič, Teo Rižnar

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Production ZVVIKS

Co-production RTV Slovenija, NuFrame

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Film Ljubljana

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Development support

PRIME 4Kids&Family, HEAD, ECAL



YAA!

Teaching materials

KOJAA

3+

YAA!



Text

Sara Živkovič

→ Index

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Teaching materials | 4 |
| Heroes from behind the scenes: Creators of animated puppet films | 5 |
| Conversation and creativity cues | 16 |
| KOYAA: Animation observatory | 16 |
| KOYAA: Film encyclopaedia, film make-a-media | 24 |
| Photo comic of the film | 26 |
| Credits | 27 |

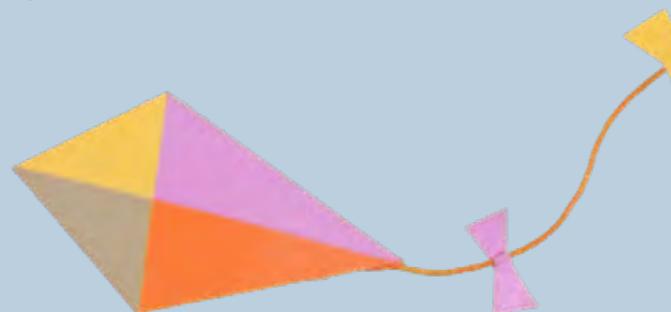
→ Teaching materials

When watching a film, have you ever wondered who made it? Who got the idea for the compelling story, and who came up with the animated characters that keep you so entertained?

Who filmed the pictures and who added all the sound and music?

As you're watching animation, time seems to just fly by – especially in contrast to the time it takes to create it. It's no exaggeration to say that the

making of an animated puppet film like *Koyaa* takes nearly a million minutes more than it does to see it. Can you imagine? Indeed, making animated film is no easy task. It's a long creative commitment involving many different people – like a team sport of sorts, where different artists cooperate to a pre-determined timetable.



→ Heroes from behind the scenes: Creators of animated puppet films

Making puppet animation is a little bit like building a multi-storey house. We start with the foundations and, before even the first scene is filmed, a solid plan is set out detailing how we're going to execute all our ideas, the people we need to call to get the help and tools we require, and all the materials we'll be using. And of course, how much time and money we're going to spend.



SCREENWRITER
Marko Bratuš

It all begins with a great idea. Since it must be put down on paper, the first person we call is a talented **SCREENWRITER**. This profession requires language skills and lots of imagination. Usually it's done by people who love reading books and who have the talent and desire to write. They rarely run out of ideas: some they get while looking at the world, others from personal experiences, and others still from art, dreams or imaginary worlds. No matter how they develop their story, it's important that the events are described in picturesque and precise ways; only then will the story be compelling enough to move reader and audience. The screenwriter thus writes a story rich with detail, called the 'script' or 'screenplay' in the film world, and this text provides the

foundation for our future animated film. During the writing process, the screenwriter needs to use a rich vocabulary and to display an understanding of non-verbal communication (gestures, glances, etc.); they also need to have a talent for writing dialogue, if the film demands it. It's almost never the case that the screenwriter writes just one version of the story; rather, they usually write many different versions until the very best one is polished and eventually becomes the film we see. The screenwriter must also consider the age of the audience. In addition to the screenplay, all the characters in the story must be outlined – their personalities and their appearance. Are they tall, short, thin or plump? Are they freckled, and do they wear glasses or a hat? How old are they? Do they laugh and like to play pranks, or are they

calm and quiet? Are they an angry villain or a hero out to save the world? Perhaps the leading protagonist isn't even human? The possibilities are endless – or, rather, as profound as the screenwriter's imagination.



PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Gregor Nartnik

The final screenplay, along with the descriptions of all the characters ('characterisation' in film language) is then passed on to the **PRODUCTION DESIGNER**. This is a skilled artist and colourist who imagines and draws all the characters, the sets and the backgrounds, i.e. the complete visual world of the film. Since nearly anything is possible in animation, the production designer enjoys a great deal of freedom as long as they stick to the script. Animated films are created using different animation techniques (traditional drawing, stop-motion animation, computer animation, animation of various substances, cut-out animation, etc.) and the production designer must keep in mind the specifics of the film's animation technique. They also

need to be careful about the colours they use, so that the characters do not blend in with the background like a tiger does in the jungle, and understand how colours tend to affect the human mind (we call this 'colour psychology'). Did you know that each colour and colour combination encourages different impressions and moods in our mind? Amazing, isn't it? When the production design is complete, each drawing must contain scale or proportions (height, width, length), presenting the size ratios between the individual parts and the whole – for example, how big a character is compared to a tree.

Despite the specifics of the screenplay and the production design, there is quite a bit of wiggle room for creativity in the final shape of the film.

Where a building is drawn and designed by a single architect or studio, an animated film has many people working on its planning and execution. Every creator involved in the



DIRECTOR
Kolja Saksida

film is their own type of architect. One of the most important ones is the **DIRECTOR**. This is the person who, after reading the script, creates in their mind a complete idea of the film from start to finish, and communicates that idea to everyone else involved before and during production. This is why the production designer converses extensively with the director before completing their work. The director must be a confident personality who is always sure about their vision for the course of the story and the road they need to follow to accomplish this goal. This is why people expect directors to be masters of film language. It's not a world language like French or Japanese; instead, it's a special universal language which comes with its own content and rules – a particular alphabet, terminology, limitations and meanings that teach us how the film narrates its story, how it brings its points across and how it can be interpreted, and explains the particularities of film space and time. The director must also have detailed knowledge of the technical capacities that are available and that will enable them to achieve the desired results. Each director gathers a team of artists to realise the idea. The director must explain their vision thoroughly and precisely so that the artists' creative expertise can bring it to life. Persistence is key in this important role since it's reasonable to expect quite a few problems and complications in the production process. While accomplishing their many tasks, the director must never lose track of the fundamental concept while keeping a cool head (and, of course, steady nerves), since they're the one who guides and manages the entire team of artists. While a good film requires a well-tuned crew, a poor

one is mostly blamed on the director because they're ultimately in charge of the entire process. The director's role is therefore one of great responsibility, but also satisfaction and fulfilment when the film turns out well and becomes a success.

The screenplay, production design and director's vision then have to be brought together in a type of comic book, which shows, in a series of images, how the individual film scenes will look. This comic is called a storyboard and the person who makes it is the **STORYBOARD ARTIST**. Just like the production designer, this artist must be extremely good at drawing, possessing in their little finger an acute feeling for space, time, motion, shapes, people and animals. If they are creating their storyboard using 3D computer software, the artist must be a master of 3D modelling and digital design. Their work entails lots of conversation with the film's director and with the director of photography – another crucial figure in the whole set-up.



STORYBOARD ARTIST
Leon Vidmar



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Miloš Srdić

The **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY** is the film's lead 'visionary'. They need to know how to position and operate the camera in order to get precisely the images needed. This profession plays with distance and positioning in space, moving the perspective around. Sometimes they set the camera really low to the ground (called the 'frog's-eye view' by filmmakers), or really high up in the air (the 'bird's-eye view'). Just as a pilot guides a plane, the director of photography guides a camera lens. They can also use several cameras at the same time. When they do that, it's especially important for the director of photography to know how to arrange cameras in space so that each is skilfully hidden from the rest and doesn't intrude on the shot during filming. Have you ever watched a film and noticed other cameras in the picture? Probably not. The camera is an invisible observer of events and the key device that enables the viewer to see what's going on. Next to a close understanding of technology and recording gear, the director of photography must be

familiar with the secrets of lighting. Without proper lighting, the camera cannot record a good picture, meaning that the film could turn out to be way too dark. Since we need light to see, lighting is a key element of film creation, and quality lighting reveals that the director of photography is also an experienced lighting designer.

Once the vision is fully developed, and the fundamental plans have all been laid, the door of the animation studio is finally unlocked – though shooting is still quite far away. For now, the studio remains empty. The first people to start work in there are the **SET DESIGNER** and the **PROP-MAKER**. Their arrival turns the studio into a proper little construction site, and they also bring along a whole truckload of equipment – a bit like rock stars on tour. This is because their work demands many different materials (wood, styrofoam, paper, plastic, to name just a few), tools and accessories (such as saws, glues, knives, scissors, pliers, nails, rulers and paint). Although the set designer follows the predefined production design plans, and the



SET DESIGNER
Simon Hudolin - Salči

prop-maker the list of props required by the script, their work involves quite a bit of experimentation, leaning on architectural, sculpting, design and fine arts skills to foster imaginative solutions. Before getting down to work, they join the director to look over the reference photography so that everyone is on the same page when it comes to the visuals. The set designer and prop-maker must have a deep knowledge of materials and their combinations. Props need to be durable and practical, and the set needs to be as solid as a rock. Nothing must be allowed to shift or move during the course of the animation process.



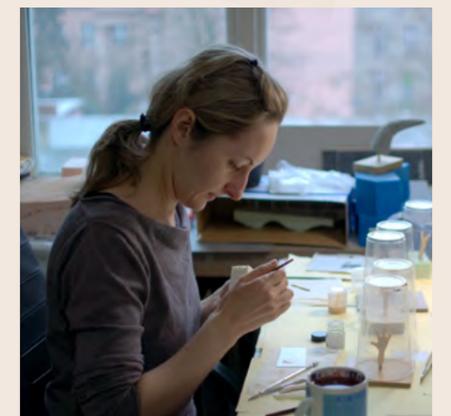
PROP-MAKER
Mateja Rojc

Right! The set has been built and the animation studio is ready. Now all we need are the cameras and lights, and shooting can begin!

Actually, it's not that simple ... We still need to wait for the leading characters. In the case of puppet

animation, these are, of course, the puppets, created by the puppet-makers according to the specifications of the production designer.

The **PUPPET-MAKER** is another in the line of animated film creators who must be extra precise and resourceful in their work. In fact, puppet-making requires the skilled hands of several people, who craft the puppet according to instructions: a sculptor, a painter, a costume designer and a machinist. The puppet is the most vital material component of puppet animation since it is the medium of all the action, which means the audience will be highly attentive to its features and movements. Gestures must be especially convincing and artfully designed so that the puppet expresses a full range of emotion and encourages the viewer to suspend their disbelief. All this rests in the hands of the puppet-maker. The puppets must also be sturdy and flexible, since many of the shots require different positions that place a strain on the puppet or cause wear. Stop-motion animation requires



PUPPET-MAKER
Agnieszka Mikołajczyk

several replaceable pairs of hands, heads and clothes for the leading protagonists, as these get damaged or dirty during filming. A good puppet-maker will prepare their puppets to be as flexible and long-lasting as possible. Though puppets might appear quite big on the screen, they're normally pretty small. The puppet-maker must therefore have a sense of fine craftsmanship, detail and patience.

Now that the puppets have arrived in the studio, filming can finally begin! The lights are turned on, the puppets are placed on set, the camera is powered up, and ...

Nothing. Nothing happens. The puppets, you see, can't just move by themselves! If we want to create some action, we need another essential member of the film crew – someone an animated film can't be made without, the person who breathes life into the puppets and objects. This is the **ANIMATOR**.



ANIMATOR
Julia Peguet

The animator is an incredibly patient and meticulous individual, dealing with the precise repositioning of the puppet, which results in smooth motions and requires tremendous concentration. They must know anatomy and kinaesthetics inside out and be a good observer of the world. If, for example, they need to animate two characters, a kid and their grandparent, who are climbing a tree, each of them would look different doing it and climb at different speeds. Managing the range of motion in a given time period is a key feature of high-quality animation. With years of experience, the animator also learns skills that allow them to trick the viewers with optical illusions. When emotions are involved, though, it takes a genuine connection to reach out through the screen. To get feelings to resonate in the audience, the puppet must be making the right faces at the right dramatic moments (and sometimes even exaggerating).



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Marko Čeh

In addition to the animator, the director and the director of photography, there are the **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** and the



CAMERA OPERATOR
Leon Vidmar

CAMERA OPERATOR, who is the director of photography's right-hand man or woman. Both these individuals make sure that work in the animation studio runs smoothly, that all the necessary equipment and materials are on hand, and that no unnecessary delays occur in the shooting procedure. There is often also a **PHOTOGRAPHER** present to provide behind-the-scenes stills.



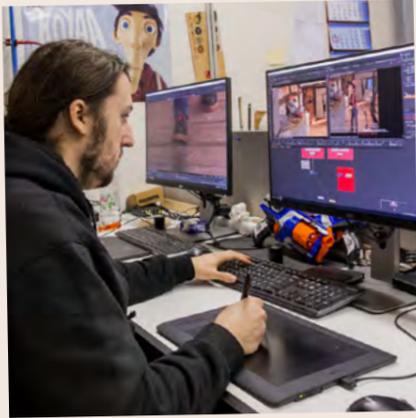
PHOTOGRAPHER
Blaž Miklič

There. When all the film material has been recorded, it's like our house has been covered by a roof. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief. Now it's time for post-production. We call the team that handles the processing of the images.



EDITOR
Tomaž Gorkič

The first to receive the materials is the **EDITOR**. Even though they've been present in the previous phases already, their work really starts when it's time to arrange all the images into the proper sequence, as dictated by the storyboard they've also helped to create. The editor camps in a dark room, where manipulating moving images is easiest. With a refined feeling for combining images, they insert breaks and transitions so that the film – which is of course a series of images – runs smoothly. The secret lies in rhythm, pace and duration. Naturally, a good understanding of dramatic concepts and theory is a great asset in this line of work.



DIGITAL COMPOSITOR
Ivan Umer

When they're finished, it's the turn of another artist called the **DI COLOURIST**. This is a colour composition specialist who harmonises and enhances all the colours in the image. If any object requires a special focus, they can pronounce it by increasing the colour intensity. The colourist works closely with the director of photography, who tells them what colour range and tone the animation is aiming for.

Tone isn't a property just of colour but also of sound! The team that equips the film with sound and music is quite large and diverse.

One important member is the **MUSIC COMPOSER**, who creates and writes down the film score. This requires an ear for pitch, melody and rhythm, bags of creativity and



MUSICIAN
Marko Brdnik

a thorough knowledge of music theory. Each genre of music conjures up a different emotional atmosphere, and it's important for

the composer to have a clear goal in mind before crafting their art. Does the film need a lively atmosphere, or perhaps a calming background rhythm? Does it want to create suspense or provide a catchy tune for the audience to remember? Music has a profound influence on the atmosphere of the film, and the composer must take care not to overwhelm the film with music at the wrong moment. The composition is then performed in the recording studio by the **MUSICIANS**, who are normally selected personally by the composer according to the instruments needed to perform the score. The musicians must, of course, be excellent at playing their instruments and reading music. Sometimes, it's handy if they're also able to improvise on the spot, spicing up the music with some unexpected bells and whistles if the composer thinks they'll fit. The musicians must also be in harmony and time, so they meet for rehearsals before recording. Once the tape is rolling, there's no room for mistakes.

If you listen carefully, you'll notice other sounds appearing in the film as well: the rustling of leaves, the echo of footsteps, the howling of wind, things like that. This is because the **SOUND DESIGNER** comes up with the complete sound arrangement – the sonic backdrop of the animated film. They look at the picture very carefully several times, and write down any missing sounds that need to be recorded. They then gather their team, which includes the **FOLEY ARTIST, RECORDIST** and **EDITOR**, the **SOUND EFFECTS EDITOR** and the **RE-RECORDING MIXER**. Quite a crew, isn't it?



SOUND EFFECTS EDITOR
Peter Žerovnik

While watching the images, the Foley artist recreates sounds from unusual props, coming up with custom-made noises like the flight of a bird, the sound of glass shattering or old doors creaking. Complementing the Foleys, the sound effects editor also pitches in with their own sounds, gathered from an archive called the 'sound bank', where special sound effects are found – for



SOUND DESIGNER
Julij Zornik

The **DIGITAL COMPOSITOR** is the animation crew's chief digital expert. They are able to erase the crane and other technical stuff, such as the wires used by the animator to hang or move objects around, and correct any bugs or errors in the picture. If the image requires special effects, such as smoke or fog, the digital compositor is here to do the job.



DI COLOURIST
Teo Rižnar

example, thunder, the sound of crickets or the chugging of a locomotive. The other guys record any remaining sounds, which are then edited together into a whole that appears genuine and life-like. All this mastery takes many pairs of highly sensitive ears.



DUBBING ARTIST
Frano Mašković

Then it's the turn of the **DUBBING ARTIST** to work their magic. They also work with sound, though their instrument is their own voice. The dubbing artist is a master of speech and of creating noises, cheers and interjections for the animated characters. A highly skilled dubbing artist can speak in various registers and pitches to suit different characters and creatures. They can mimic animals, children's voices, or a person with a deep, raspy voice, or perhaps a high, squeaky one. If need be, they will also sing – anything from lullabies to arias. When a film character speaks a foreign language, a dubbing artist can be found abroad. At any rate, for this job, the most important thing is to be able to immerse oneself in the character and

stay consistent with the delivery. If another season is being made next year, the voice mustn't change too much in between.

Alright, we've made it to the end! We called the crew and everyone did their part of the job. Hurray! Wait ... we didn't call them, actually. Did you? You didn't? Who did, then ..?

Surely, it must have been the **PRODUCER!** A very important link between everyone else. The producer manages and oversees the entire creative operation and everyone in it, from the concept to the end-result you see on the screen. It's certainly no easy task, and the producer needs to have lots of energy and a basic knowledge of all areas of film creation so that they can guide, organise and take care of the numerous crew profiles. The producer also signs various documents, taking on themselves the responsibility for finishing the film and providing payment on time to everyone involved. In such a highly demanding job, they need extra help. Various colleagues sharing the production office assist the producer – the **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**, the **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**, the **PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**, the **PROJECT MANAGER** and the **ORGANISER**.

A good production team makes it possible for the development, realisation and post-production of the film to run smoothly and without disruption. Most importantly, they make sure that the film receives sufficient financial support and additional project partners, who are called the 'co-producers'.

The production team is constantly up to their necks in work and mountains of documents and papers. They manage the legal, insurance and other paperwork, oversee finances and are responsible for the promotion and distribution of the film in order to ultimately bring it before the **FILM AUDIENCE**. The audience, then, is like the people in your house who give it sense and meaning. Just like your family members, each viewer has a slightly different character and worldview, and thus their own subjective experience of the film action. Someone can be laughing at the gags while another person is perhaps curious or really absorbed in the narrative. Like animated films themselves, the viewers are a colourful bunch.



FILM
AUDIENCE

Now, you have an idea of all the people who work on the creation of an animated puppet film, something you can view in one sitting before brushing your teeth and heading to

bed. Animation creators are men and women, young and old, enthusiasts from all parts of the world. There are quite a few of us around and we are united by a single mission: to foster passion and love for the medium of animation while observing and exploring the world. It's a creative field filled with imagination, resourcefulness, patience, precision, daydreaming, responsibility and artistry. Animation is a long-term artistic commitment in which the crew play with puppets for a living from dawn till dusk. Some have always known that this is what they wanted to do, others discover their talent for animation later, and some combine several vocations they like pursuing and find themselves working on animated film. However they arrive in this enchanting and enchanted world, there's a fundamental motto underlying the art for all those who want to become the best: practice makes perfect, and perfection takes practice!

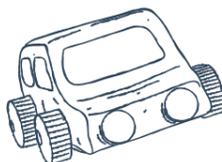
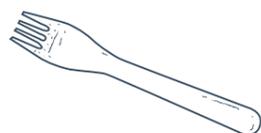
→ KOYAA: Animation observatory

Conversation and creativity cues

The *Koyaa* series of animated films presents our hero's many curious adventures, encouraging the audience to explore their own inner world of creativity and imagination.

We've provided some handy cues that can be used by parents or teachers to foster conversation with children and engage in play activities after watching the series, individually or in groups. They aim to promote careful observation, reflection, critical thinking and creative output.

Koyaa wants you to pay close attention! For starters, did you notice what letter lies in the post-box at the start of each individual film and what message it contains?



Questions for the best observers

Koyaa and Mr Raven live in a mountain cottage on the rocky ledge.

- How many fingers does Koyaa have on each hand?
- Koyaa always wears his signature cap. Does Mr Raven wear one, too? Compare the two.
- Koyaa and Mr Raven live alone, but there are many objects found around the house. Some are shaped like animals. Did you notice them? What are they?

Like any other house, Koyaa's mountain cottage has different rooms: a kitchen, a bathroom and a bedroom.

- How are the individual rooms furnished?
- Can you name some things you have at home but Koyaa doesn't?
- What do we normally do in the kitchen? In the bathroom? The bedroom?

Some *Koyaa* films happen outdoors. In the language of animation, we call this the 'exterior'. The surface outside the house is pleasant - and tidy as well.

- What objects and things are found around Koyaa's house?
- Look through your own window and tell us what you see.
- What kind of games can we play in the garden or in front of the house?

Each individual *Koyaa* film contains lots of music, sound and noises we call 'Foleys'. For a change, try playing the film and closing your eyes. Listen carefully.

- Is the music the same in every film?
- In what way does the music contribute to the events?
- When Koyaa gets a clever idea, he shouts 'Aha!' and leaps into the air. What do you say when you get a really good idea?



Elusive Paper



- What painting accessories has Koyaa prepared before painting?
- What item is causing Koyaa problems?
- What shapes does the paper sheet transform itself into?
- What does Koyaa do to finally catch it?
- Do you think this was a clever solution?
- What material did Mr Raven build his birdhouse from?
- What tools can we use to draw on paper? What things can we make using paper as a material?



Jumpy Eraser



- Koyaa and Mr Raven are each busy with their own activities. What are they doing?
- What do you like to do in your free time? Do you prefer to be by yourself or with your friends?
- What mood is the naughty eraser in? Can you remember the items it touches? What are they?
- Could the eraser have caused damage by acting the way it did?
- Does Koyaa manage to calm the eraser down? If so, how?
- What tool does Mr Raven use to help build his birdhouse?
- Look through your pencil case. What's in it right now?



Slippery Soap



- Why are Koyaa's hands dirty? Do you ever get your hands dirty? When?
- What happens to Koyaa while he's washing his hands? Has this ever happened to you?
- Koyaa has many things in his bathroom. Do they all belong in there?
- Which winter sport comes to mind when Koyaa is sliding around on the soap bar?
- What about when he's trying to get the soap back into the bathroom?
- Which sports do you know? Which ones are played in the winter, the spring, the summer, the autumn?
- How does Koyaa reward himself after solving the problem? How do you like to reward yourself?



Trippy Trashcan



- What is Koyaa doing this time?
- What colour paint is he using? What colours do you know and what ones do you like best?
- What tools is Koyaa using today?
- What did Koyaa do to feed the hungry trashcan and make it stand still?
- How would you paint the naughty trashcan?
- Mr Raven likes to grumble a lot. What do you think this means?
- At the very start of the episode, something is happening with the weather. What is this event called? Why does it happen? Have you ever seen one?



Creepy Blanket



- What part of the day is it in the story? Is it morning, afternoon or evening? Can you guess the season? How?
- How can we tell Koyaa is sleepy?
- What does Koyaa do before going to sleep? What is your bedtime routine like?
- What is on Koyaa's nightstand? Did he turn off all the lights before going to sleep? Is that smart? Why not?
- Which object comes to life this time around? Is Koyaa scared of it? Do you ever get scared? How do you stop yourself from being scared?
- How does Koyaa solve the situation?
- Why is Mr Raven up so long? What is he doing?



Happy Fork



- What did Koyaa decide to do in front the house? Is he in a good mood? How can you tell?
- What is his snack for the day? Which meals do we know and when do we eat them?
- Did you notice Mr Raven also had a little snack? What was it? What do animals eat in general?
- What object is causing Koyaa trouble this time? What is it doing?
- How does Koyaa manage to catch the happy fork? Does the scene remind you of anything?
- Mr Raven is making a house from corn husks. Can you guess what month it is on the rocky ledge?



→ KOYAA: Film encyclopaedia, film make-a-media

Now that you've seen all the films and thought about and discussed them a little, try answering the questions below. What new things have you found out about animated characters and the processes that go on behind the scenes? Here are some subjects that can remind you how an animated film is created:

- Who writes the story of the animated film and where do they get their ideas from? Can you imagine what technology and accessories are needed in their line of work?
- Are there any differences between stories created for kids and those created for adults? If yes, what are they?

- In live-action films, we see living actors. Who are the actors in puppet animation? Who draws them and who builds them? What can they be made of? Unleash your imagination!
- What do we call the immovable backdrop (houses, roads, land, etc.) in the animated film? What must we be careful of when we're choosing the materials to construct it?
- Who makes all the moving objects and props (like kitchen utensils, toys and books) in the film? What skills are needed in this line of work?
- What does the animated film's director do? Are directors only men, or can they be women too?
- What do we call the comic book that shows the film stor in a series of images? Who works on making it?

- What do we call a person who brings puppets to life? What personal traits are useful in their profession?
- Who is present in the film or animation studio? Can you name all the artists?
- Which professions in animated film require knowledge of various types of computer software?
- Who is part of the team that creates the film's music and sound?
- What does the production team do?
- Who works on the film from first to last minute, managing everything?

—

If you created your own animated film, what would it be about? What would the title be?

Based on your story, try and come up with a main character.

What do they look like? Try and draw them! If there are several main characters in your film, draw these as well. Try to make three drawings for each one, to get a 3D impression: from the front, the side and the back.

Draw a storyboard that narrates the events in your film through a series of images. Don't forget to include the characters, the set and the props.

—

↓ At www.koyaa.net, we've prepared some materials to help you create your own animation. Yaa!

The website also contains lots of information on the making of Koyaa, as well as photographs of scenes, sets and puppets.

→ **KOYAA – Jumpy Eraser**
Photo comic of the film



Animated films

Director: Kolja Saksida
Screenwriters: Marko Bratuš, Kolja Saksida
Character design: Blaž Porenta
Production design: Gregor Nartnik
Animators: Julia Peguet, Bartosz Kotarski
Director of photography: Miloš Srdić
Editor: Tomaž Gorkič
Music composers: Miha Šajina, Borja Močnik
Sound design: Julij Zornik
DI colourist: Teo Rižnar
Dubbing artists: Frano Mašković, Žiga Saksida
Set designers: Mateja Rojc, Simon Hudolin – Salči, Leon Vidmar, Marko Turkuš
Co-producers: Tanja Prinčič, Teo Rižnar
Producer: Kolja Saksida

Teaching materials

Text: Sara Živkovič
Slogan: Milan Dekleva
Review: Barbara Kelbl, Martina Peštaj, Petra Slatinšek
Translation: Jeremi Slak
Design: Pikto
Editor: Kolja Saksida

Production: ZVVIKS
Co-production: RTV Slovenija, NuFrame
With the support of: the Slovenian Film Centre, Viba Film Studio Ljubljana, the Slovenian Ministry of Culture, the European Union (European Social Fund), the Employment Service of Slovenia, and the Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration

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www.koyaa.net

ZVVIKS
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YAA!

Educational materials

# KOJAA

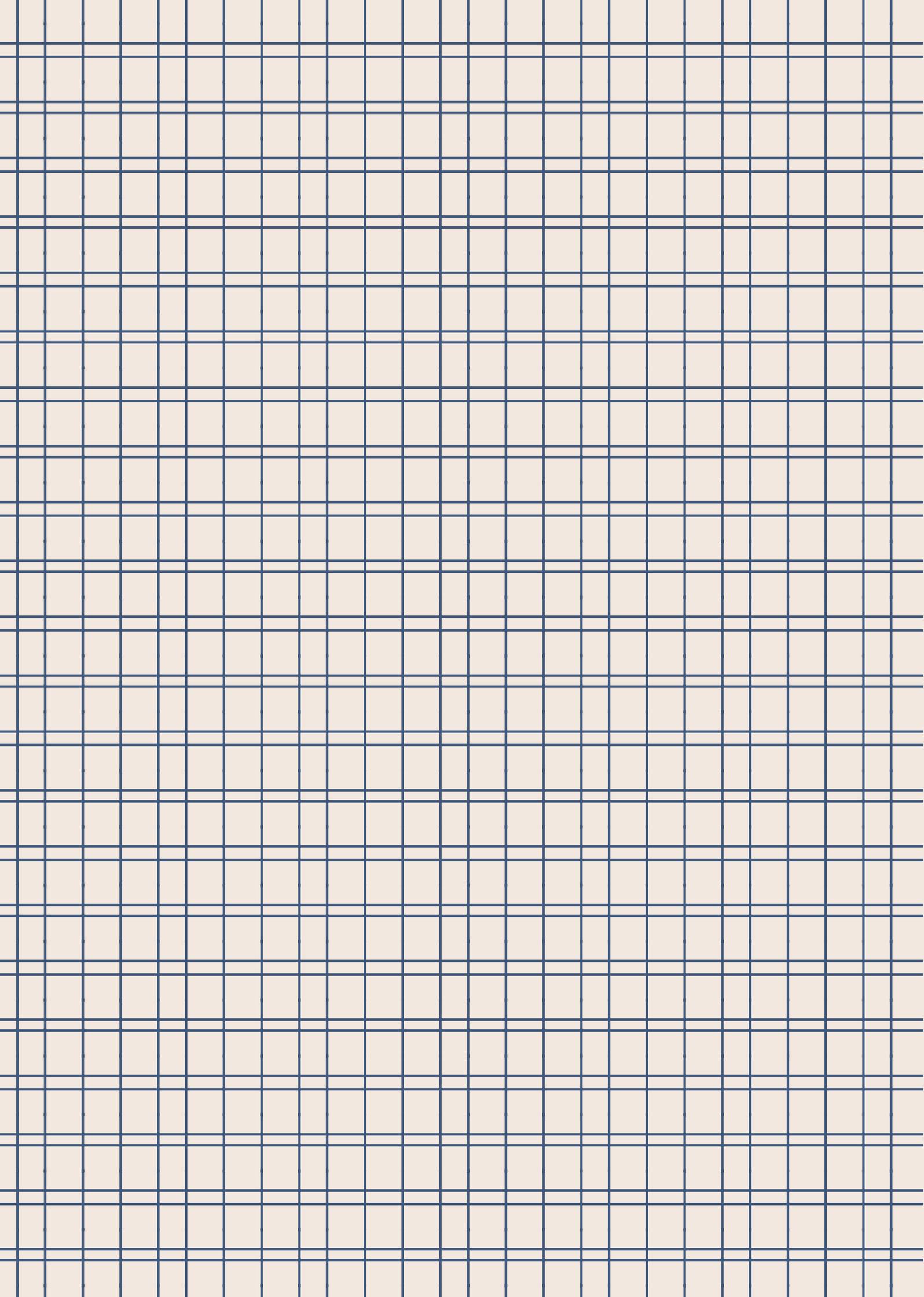
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YAA!



Texts

Kolja Saksida,  
Matija Šturm,  
Sara Živkovič,  
Deja Škerjanc



# → Index

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Educational materials</b>                   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>How stop-motion animated films are made</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Talking points</b>                          | <b>11</b> |
| Naughty Toy Car                                | <b>14</b> |
| Wild Sunbed                                    | <b>15</b> |
| Flying Workbook                                | <b>16</b> |
| Dancing Socks                                  | <b>17</b> |
| Silly Stickers                                 | <b>18</b> |
| Freezing Scarf                                 | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Photo comic of the film</b>                 | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Credits</b>                                 | <b>21</b> |

## → Educational materials

These animated shorts showcase the weird and wacky experiences of boyish hero Koyaa as he struggles with everyday objects that spring to life and cause him no end of problems. The wild imagination on display in these stories is close to the way that children perceive the world, where objects can be attributed all kinds of meanings and characteristics. Koyaa handles his challenges by keeping his spirits up – which is perhaps the best way to tackle any problem. The witty, out-of-the-box

solutions created by Koyaa allow the challenges to develop in clever ways. The *Koyaa* films therefore illuminate the value of persistence and display the advantages of creative thinking – not only in a fantastic setting, but also in stressful everyday situations. Koyaa lives far from the urban churn, on a rocky ledge high above the clouds. The setting is an allegory for the freedom of nature and fresh air, which fuels the mind with fresh ideas.

Here's a wish  
and there's a dream,  
Happy mood,  
we're all a team!

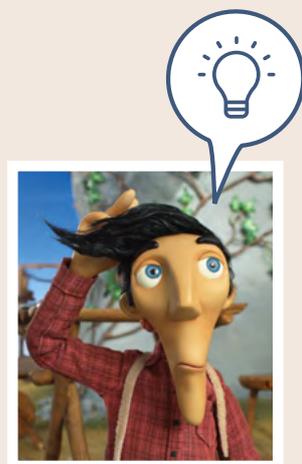
AAA



# → How stop-motion animated films are made

An animated film is born as a **colourful story** written in the form of a screenplay. Puppet animation demands an especially high degree of precision when it comes to planning; this is to ensure that nothing gets lost or forgotten during the arduous animation process. A storyboard is therefore created prior to filming to enable everyone to follow the same plan to the letter. The **storyboard** is made up of shots arranged one after another by the film's director and director of photography. The images are numbered and marked with the duration of individual scenes. It's like a **comic book** that shows, in drawings or digital design, what every scene in the film should end up looking like.

The *Koyaa* films are created using the classic technique of **puppet stop-motion animation**. They are filmed in an animation studio using handmade puppets, sets and props crafted for each episode. As with all animation, stop-motion is done by **shooting images frame-by-frame** to create the illusion of motion. To make the puppet move smoothly, we have to take a picture of each new position, as well as all the objects we wish to move. When the images are played in rapid succession, the result is a continuous animated image. One second of film contains 25 images.



**How many positions does Koyaa need to take one step? How many images are shot in one day? Who brings the puppets to life?**

A single Koyaa step (the way it appears on film) takes 16 movements of the puppet and a photo of each position, meaning 16 frames of animation. In one nine-hour shooting day, around 125 successful frames are recorded. Since one second of film contains **25 frames**, this means that a full day of hard work yields a mere **five seconds of material**. The animator is the one who moves the puppet during the shooting – as we like to say, they breathe ‘soul’ into the character. Animators must be versed in various types of physiology, as well as body language and expression, since setting the puppet in certain positions ends up being a major part of the ‘feel’ of the character. Animators work closely with the director, who advises them on how the characters should behave.

**How many images does it take to make one film? How long is the shooting process?**

Discounting the beginning and end credits, which list all the artists and contributors to the series, each *Koyaa* film is **2 minutes and 15 seconds** long. One animator needs around **30 shooting days** to make one episode, which consists of **3,375 images**. More images are recorded during filming, but some of them don’t make it into the final edit. The director and the editor decide which images to use. We don’t leave too many behind on the cutting room floor, though: the scenes shoot are well prepared in advance.



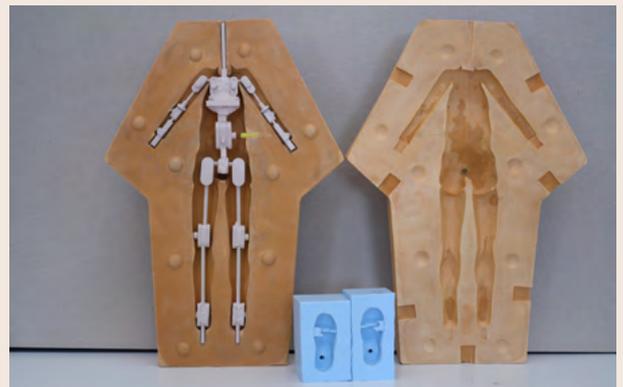
## What is the Koyaa puppet made of?

### How big is it?

The puppets are **made in Poland by a team of six puppet makers**. The basis for their appearance are the sketches and pictures we call **'character design'**. Koyaa's puppet is **27 cm** high, while Mr Raven's measures only **7 cm**. It is very important for us to be able to set a puppet into a certain position – and make sure that it stays there! This is made possible by the wire-frame skeleton inside every puppet. Koyaa's exterior is made of various materials: the body is **silicon**, as are the hands, while the head is solid plastic cast from a rubber mould. An **aluminium wire** runs through the extremities, hair and cap, which allows for even finer levels of adjustment. Koyaa's clothes are sewn together in the same way as regular clothes – just that they're obviously a great deal smaller.

### How does Koyaa express his emotions and move his eyes?

Koyaa's head consists of an **upper part** (forehead, nose and eyes) and a **lower part** (the mouth). **Fifty-six different interchangeable face parts are used**; these allow us to give our hero a wide range of expressions. The two sections of the head are connected with a magnet, which makes them easier to move around. The line between the two parts runs across Koyaa's head during shooting – but is subsequently erased when the images are processed on computer. The eyes, also an important element of expression, are moved using a tool resembling a needle. The eyebrows are fixed to the forehead



with a magnet, which means that we can move them as well. If we want Koyaa to wink, we can use one of **four different plastic eyelid pieces**.

### How long does it take to make a Koyaa puppet?

The puppet-makers work hard for three months crafting the puppets, making several identical copies of Koyaa's body, hands and face parts. Why? Well, if we want to use two animators at the same time (as we do), they each have to have their own perfectly identical puppet, with the same clothes and facial expressions. What's more, since the puppets are used every day, parts get dirty, clothes get torn and wires snap – which is why we have **several costumes** and parts ready to go at any time. While making the six most recent *Koyaa* films, we replaced **21 pairs of hands**, for example: the little wires in the fingers eventually break and the silicon gets grubby and cracked.

### How is Koyaa able to stand on the set without falling over? How do we get the objects to fly?

Koyaa's shoes have threaded holes in them, so he can be screw-fixed to the set and doesn't end up in awkward poses. When we want Koyaa to jump, we use a metal crane – a sort of mechanical hand – to hold the puppets and other objects in place. When the shot is done, our computer editors erase the crane from the images so that they don't appear in the film.



## How are the sets and props made?

### How big are they?

Like the puppets, the sets and props are also carefully designed, with series of sketches acting as the 'construction plans'. **The sets** are made from standard craft materials, such as **wood, styrofoam and various glues**. Rocks, for example, are made of styrofoam covered with a powdered resin glue and water mix. The props are made of wood, plastics and malleable materials that harden when dried. Naturally, everything has to be properly measured and in proportion. The central setting (the **rocky ledge** on which Koyaa's house stands) is **270 cm tall** and **350 cm wide**. The props have to be in proportion to the set and the puppets, so most are between 1 and 5 cm in size. The sets, props and puppets are made to a scale of 1:6, meaning that they would be six times bigger than they are if they were real.

### Where does Koyaa get his voice?

The sound dubbing process begins after the images have been recorded and assembled (edited) into their proper order. **Voice actors** produce the **sounds and noises** as the film is played in the studio; we then record those sounds, edit them and use the best ones to create Koyaa's sonic world.



## How are the sound and music created?

The film features different kinds of sound:

### **Foleys, special effects and an original music.**

The Foley artists record their magic in a sound studio using all kinds of materials. To match the picture, they record the sounds of various items that best fit the desired effect; this helps them to create a convincing sonic backdrop. An example: the sound of the Raven's wings was created using toilet paper! The atmospheres and special sound effects are also stored in various sound banks, from where they can be copied when needed. **Original music** is also composed for each episode, with the genre matching the events on screen. Sometimes Koyaa is accompanied by wild jazz, and sometimes by jumpy ska, playful funk or whatever vibe suits the image. All the music is recorded by professional musicians in the studio, which results in a polished and organic sound.

## How many people work on Koyaa?

**Over 35 artists** help bring the Koyaa's adventures to life. Since they are busy working in different fields, such as directing, production, set design, puppet manufacture and post-production, not all of them work together all the time. However, **an average of 15 people are working on the series** on any given shooting day.

## How long did it take to make the six films?

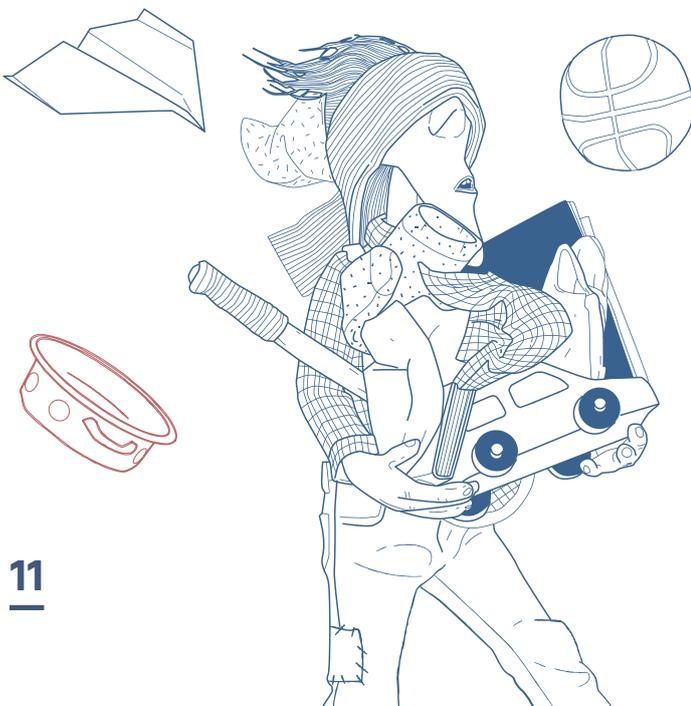
The final scripts were completed in October 2014 and the films in March 2017: that's two-and-a-half years of intensive work!



# → Talking points

Having watched the series, you can use these talking points to discuss *Koyaa* with children at home, at nursery or primary school – or indeed anywhere else. The talking points revolve around the stories, as well as film language and the general concept of animation. By presenting unusual situations to the hero and his audience, the films encourage creative exploration, opening up a range of interesting subjects. These can be used for discussions between educators, parents and, of course, kids, who might just pick up some additional critical thinking and abstract reflection skills when addressing the stories.

Huh



## Koyaa, our animated hero

- Who is Koyaa?
- What does he look like? What are his clothes like? What kind of character is he?
- How old do you think Koyaa is?
- How can we tell when Koyaa has had a great idea?
- Do the solutions he comes up with make him happy? How do we know? Does Koyaa use language and words?

Is speaking the only way to communicate in life? Talk about non-verbal communication and the ways in which people are able to interact without words, i.e. by using just their body language, expressions and gestures.

- Does Koyaa solve his problems at the first attempt? When he fails, how does he react? Is Koyaa persistent?

Imagine you are in Koyaa's shoes! How would you try to solve that particular situation?

- **What emotions do you experience while watching Koyaa's adventures?**

Besides laughing at Koyaa's wacky adventures, do you ever feel sorry for him when he falls, surprised when something unexpected happens, relieved when you see he will be alright?

## **Koyaa and his trusty friend**

- **Who is Koyaa's best friend?**
- **What does Mr Raven do? What kinds of material does he use to make his birdhouses?**
- **Are the birdhouses connected to the story? In what way?**
- **What is the relationship between Koyaa and Mr Raven? Do they react to trouble the same way or in different ways?**
- **How do Koyaa and Mr Raven show that they respect each other?**

Talk about the bonds between people and animals (pets, animals in general), the way we treat them and how we co-exist as neighbours on the planet.

## **Unruly items, wondrous landscapes**

- **Where does Koyaa live? Describe the landscape, his house and his surroundings.**
- **Why do you think Koyaa lives on a lone mountain, far away from the city and other people? What does he like about his rocky ledge?**

Think about all the different places in which people can live: cities, villages, remote mountain settlement, forests ... Use photos or the internet to show children unusual living environments.

- **What roles do common household items play in Koyaa's life?**

Name some of the objects found in the kitchen, bathroom and children's room. Think how these might come to life, what characters they might express, what roles they could play. Have any of the kids' bedsheets ever been used as a giant tent, or perhaps the roof of a castle?

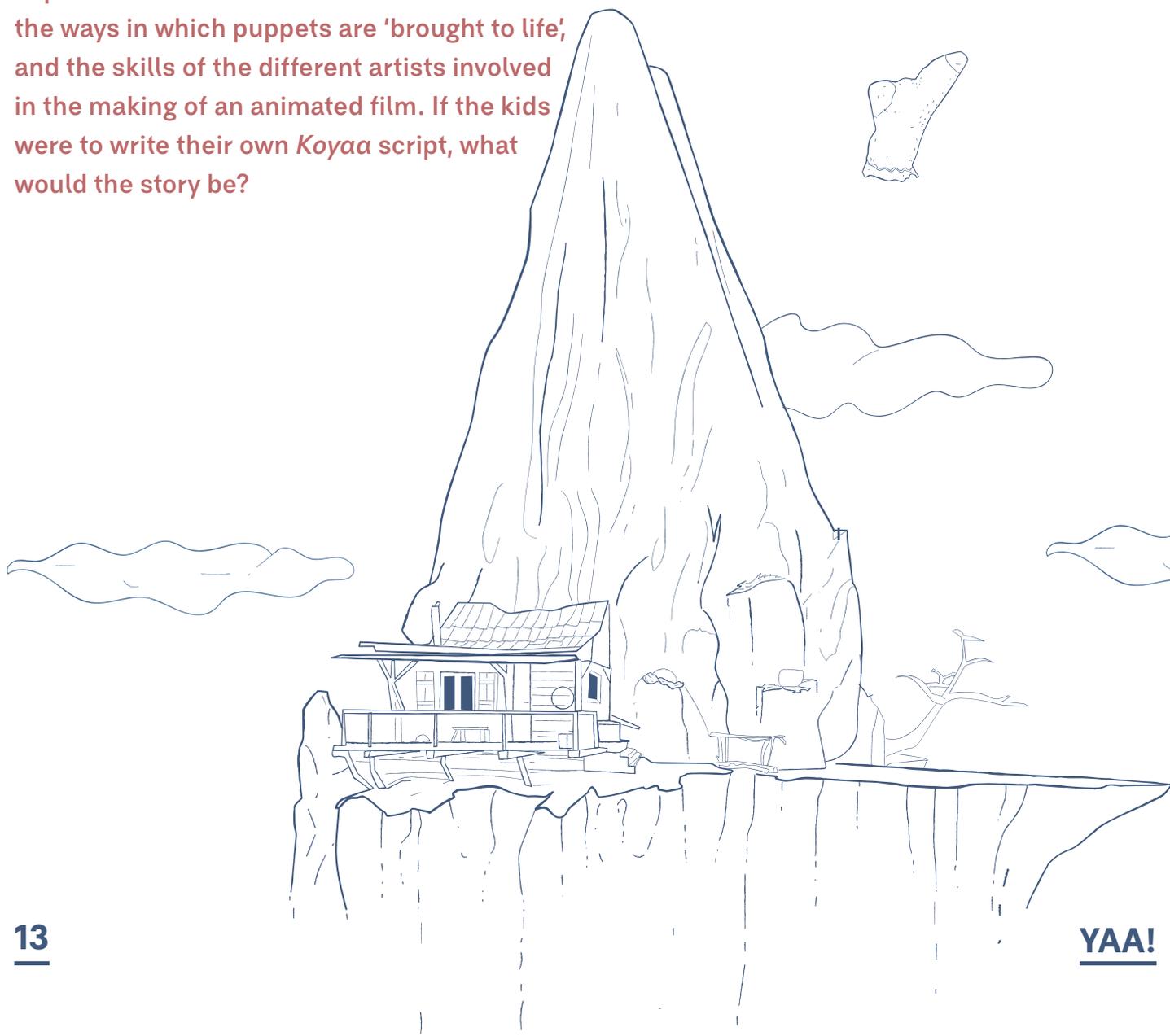
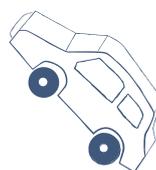
- **Do the seasons change in the films? How can you tell which season an episode is taking place in? What does Koyaa do in the winter, in spring, in summer, in the autumn? What does he do when the weather is bad?**

Talk about the seasons. What is the weather usually like outside? What activities do people do in a particular season?



- **Does making an animated film require lots of imagination? How do you think a series like *Koyaa* is actually made?**

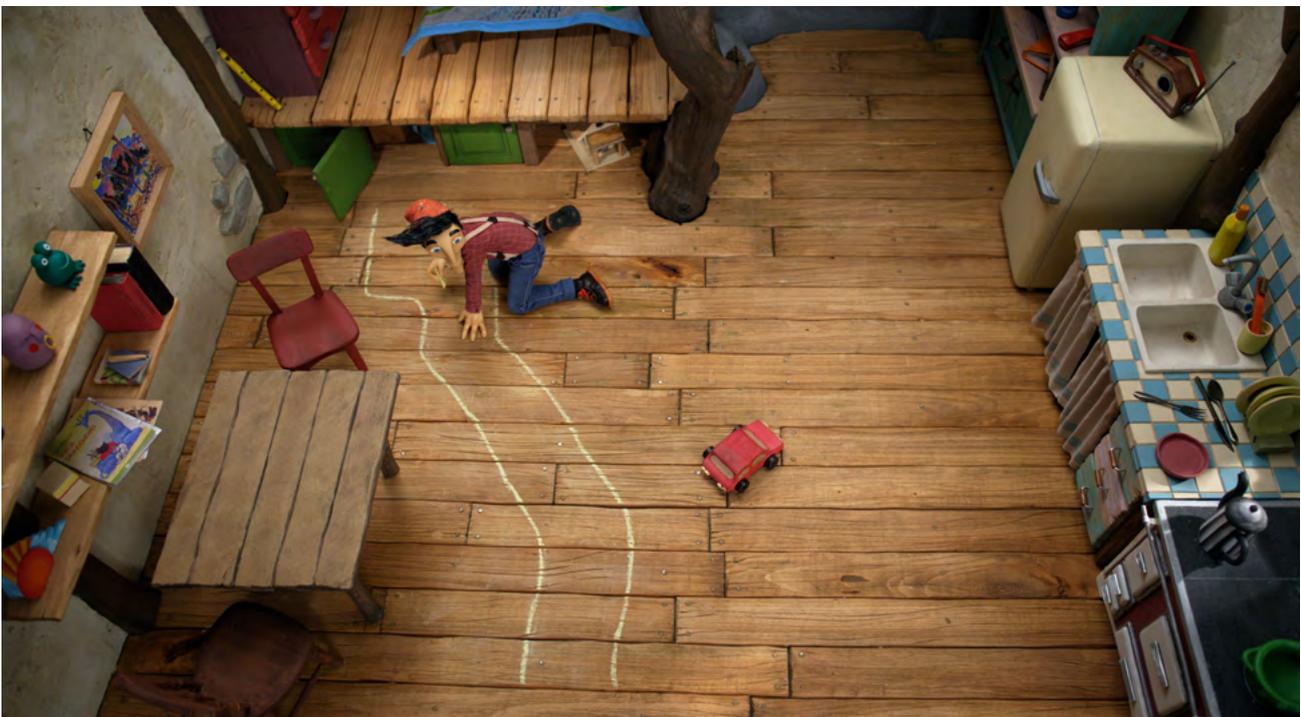
Explain animation to the children. Discover the ways in which puppets are 'brought to life', and the skills of the different artists involved in the making of an animated film. If the kids were to write their own *Koyaa* script, what would the story be?



# Koyaa - Naughty Toy Car



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What is the weather like? How can we tell? What other kinds of weather do we know?
- What object comes to life in the film, and how does it act?
- What material is the toy car made of? What colour is it? Can cars be made from other materials, too? If yes, which materials?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- What is Koyaa's room like at the beginning? What does Koyaa have to do to improve it? Do you ever clean your own room, too?
- What does Koyaa do to trick the car into driving into the cupboard?
- Do your own toys ride around like that sometimes?



# Koyaa - Wild Sunbed



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What season is it outside? How can we tell?
- Are you hot in the summer, too? What do you do to cool down?
- What object comes to life in the film? What animal does it remind you of, and why? What sounds do some other animals make?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- How does Koyaa manage to ride the sunbed?
- What is the music like?
- How does Koyaa finally calm the sunbed down?



# Koyaa - Flying Workbook



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What is Koyaa doing on the terrace in front of the house?
- What object comes to life in the film? What is it doing?
- What animal does the flying book remind you of? What other animals can fly around like that?
- What letters are written in the workbook?
- How many letters does the alphabet have? How many languages do you know? Do all alphabets have the same letters?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- How does Koyaa trick the workbook into playing nicely? What other kinds of book do you know?



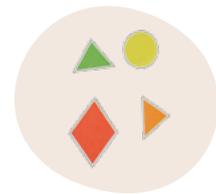
# Koyaa - Dancing Socks



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What time of the day is it? How can you tell?
- What objects come to life and what are they doing? Are the socks related? In what way?
- Where do the socks hide from Koyaa?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- How does Koyaa lure the sock back onto his foot?
- Why do people even wear socks?



# Koyaa – Silly Stickers



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What does Koyaa want to do with the stickers?
- How are the stickers being naughty?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- How does Koyaa get the stickers to finally come closer and behave?
- Do you also enjoy sticking stickers to things? Do they ever annoy you? In what way?
- How come the stickers stick to the window in the end? Did anything change with the window?



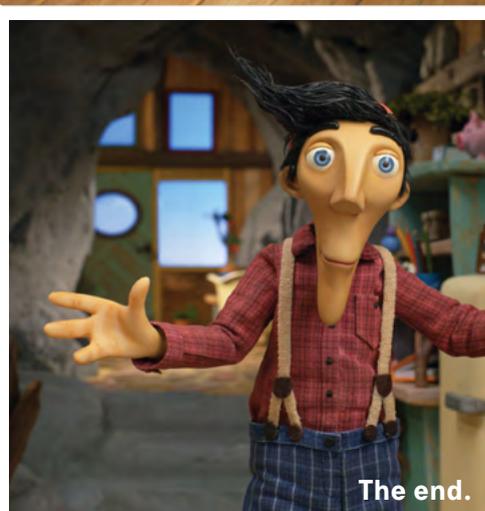
# Koyaa - Freezing Scarf



- What image appears on the letter in the mailbox?
- What object comes to life in the film? What animal does it resemble, and why?
- Koyaa and the scarf show us they're cold without mentioning it. What moves and sounds do they make to show that? What other sensations can we express without using words?
- What is Mr Raven's birdhouse being made from? How is it connected to the story?
- What clothes do you put on when you're cold?



→ KOYAA - Dancing Socks  
Photo comic of the film



## Animated films

**Director:** Kolja Saksida

**Screenwriters:** Marko Bratuš, Kolja Saksida

**Slogan author:** Milan Dekleva

**Character design:** Blaž Porenta

**Concept design:** Gregor Nartnik

**Animators:** Julia Peguet, Will Hodge

**Director of photography:** Miloš Srdić

**Editors:** Monika Drahotuski, Tomaž Gorkič

**Music:** Miha Šajina, Borja Močnik

**Sound design:** Julij Zornik

**DI colourist:** Teo Rižnar

**Voice actors:** Frano Mašković, Žiga Saksida

**Set designers:** Mateja Rojc, Simon Hudolin,  
Leon Vidmar

**Executive producer:** Matija Šturm

**Co-producers:** Tanja Prinčič, Marina Andree  
Škop, Darija Kulenović Gudan, Žiga Pokorn,  
Teo Rižnar, Miloš Srdić

**Producer:** Kolja Saksida

## Educational materials

**Texts:** Kolja Saksida, Matija Šturm, Sara  
Živkovič, Deja Škerjanc

**Translation:** Jeremi Slak

**Proofreading:** Joel Smith

**Photography:** Blaž Miklič, Tomaž Šantl

**Concept and character design sketches:**  
Gregor Nartnik, Blaž Porenta

**Design:** Pikto

**Production:** ZVVIKS

**Co-production:** Radio Television Slovenia,  
NuFrame, A Atalanta, Studio dim

**Supported by:** Slovenian Film Centre,  
public agency of the RS, Film Studio Viba  
Film Ljubljana, Croatian Audiovisual Centre

ZVVIKS  
W

Studio  
dim

RADIO  
TELEVIZIJA  
SLOVENIJA

NU  
FRAME

A ATALANTA  
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PRODUCTION  
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Croatian  
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**YAA!**