



**USC, UCLA, CALARTS AND WOMEN IN ANIMATION (WIA)  
ANNOUNCE WOMEN'S ANIMATION SYMPOSIUM**

**Giants in animation and academics collaborate for the first time to celebrate historical contributions and tackle current industry issues**

*July 26, 2018, Los Angeles* -- Academic powerhouses USC, UCLA and CalArts, along with Women In Animation (WIA), have partnered to create *Breaking the Glass Frame: Women and Animation, Past, Present, Future*; a symposium designed to empower women and LGBTQ+ people by spotlighting female contributions to the field of animation and exploring solutions to sexual harassment, bias and lack of diversity that challenge working women within the industry and academia. “We are so pleased to partner with these amazing academic institutions in such a meaningful way. We believe strongly in the next generation of artists and filmmakers and are honored to join in presenting this inspiring slate of speakers,” said Marge Dean, President of Women in Animation. The symposium is set to take place from October 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.

“With all the media coverage of women's issues right now, it's easy to presume that change is on the way. It will take a total shift in the culture, after sustained effort, to see any lasting effects. This event brings focus to important issues and provides a sense of solidarity among women at all levels: executives, established artists, and students eager to join the animation world,” said Maureen Furniss, Director of the CalArts Experimental Animation Program. Fellow organizer, Lisa Mann, Associate Professor of Practice of Cinematic Arts at USC, concurs. “This is the first collaborative event between three of the world's most prestigious animation programs: USC's John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts, the UCLA School of Theater Film and Television's Animation Workshop, and CalArts' Character and Experimental Animation Programs. We hope this gathering of incredible women will inspire the next generation to break through the glass frame.”

The symposium will feature keynote talks by Academy Award® winner, **Brenda Chapman** (*Brave, The Prince of Egypt*) and Executive Vice President and Creative Director at Sesame Workshop, **Brown Johnson**. “I'm proud to stand with my colleagues and friends as

we celebrate women’s trailblazing achievements in animation at this first-of-its-kind gathering,” said Johnson. “Reflecting the diversity of the world around us has been a priority throughout Sesame Workshop’s nearly 55-year history; today, we’re coming together across the industry to model the power of inclusivity for future generations.”

Panels with leaders and artists are a key component to the symposium: “NextGen World View, ” presented by Women in Animation; “Breaking Through the Boys' Club, Strategies for Positive Change in the Industry” featuring producer **Jane Hartwell** (*The Croods*); “Advocating for Diversity + Inclusion in Animation: Race, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation + Age,” moderated by **Jinko Gotoh**, WIA Vice President; and “An Invisible History - Trailblazing Women of Animation,” moderated by author and historian, **Mindy Johnson** and featuring two pioneering animators, **Enid Denbo Wizig** and **Jane Shattuck-Takamoto-Baer**. "We're at a pivotal point in our industry for women. The content and experience of this vital symposium provides a fresh threshold to re-frame a new and balanced future for women's voices within animation," said Johnson.

Rounding out the 3-day program are a series of networking mixers, presentations of academic papers, and screenings of short films including the new documentary, “*The Women of Titmouse Animation: The Inbetweens of Education, Employment & Everyday Life*”. For the full schedule of events, please check for updates on the BTGF website <http://breakingtheglassframe.com>. A final list of speakers and sponsors will be announced closer to the event date.

## **ABOUT USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS**

USC’s John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts (Hench-DADA) in the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) is an international and multicultural program offering BA and MFA degrees in animation and digital arts. The fundamental philosophy of the program is to encourage innovation, experimentation, and personal artistic vision. Hench-DADA films compete at major international and domestic festivals and have collected several Student Academy Awards. Our alumni are working in all areas of the animation industry, as independent artists, and as animation faculty at academic institutions around the world.

## **ABOUT UCLA ANIMATION WORKSHOP**

We are a MFA program area in the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media, UCLA School of Theater Film and Television. While primarily a MFA program, the Department (FTVDM), offers an undergraduate film degree, from which it’s possible to do a concentration in Animation. Since its founding in 1948, the UCLA Animation Workshop has been a leading animation university, educating students from around the world. Bill Shull, a former Disney animator, set the basic philosophy of the Workshop: one person, one film – one person does the entire film – defining their voice, their vision. Films by our students compete on the world stage - Annecy; Cannes; Hiroshima; Student Academy Awards; Zagreb - while they go on to work in the industry; as independent filmmakers; as educators.

## **ABOUT CALARTS**

The Character Animation and Experimental Animation Programs at CalArts have a long-standing international reputation for excellence in innovative animation production. Their faculty, students and alumni have consistently won top awards in festivals worldwide and are widely credited with helping to define the art of animation as we know it today.

## **ABOUT WOMEN IN ANIMATION**

Women in Animation (WIA) envisions a world in which women share fully in the creation, production and rewards of animation, resulting in richer and more diverse entertainment and media that move our culture forward. The mission of WIA is to bring together a global community of animation professionals to empower and support women in the art, science and business of animation by increasing access to resources, creating opportunities for education, encouraging strong connections between individuals, and inspiring excellence. For more information or to join WIA, please visit

<http://www.womeninanimation.org>.

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**BTGF WEBSITE:** <https://www.breakingtheglassframe.com>

**SYMPOSIUM FEES:** <https://www.breakingtheglassframe.com/registration>

- Early Bird Registration (Now through August 31st)
- Standard Registration (Beginning September 1st)

## **PRESS CONTACT:**

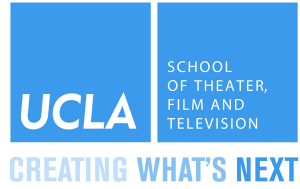
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**USC Cinematic Arts**  
*John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts*



**CaLARTS**