

Lee Lanier Biography

Lee Lanier is an award-winning short film producer, animator, and director whose works have played over 200 museums, galleries, and film festivals worldwide. Lee founded his animation company, BeezleBug Bit, LLC, in 2000, shortly after serving as a Senior Animator on *Shrek* at Dreamworks/PDI. Lee is also the founder of the Dam Short Film Festival, which screens 100 of the world's best shorts each February in charming Boulder City, Nevada.

Lee was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. After graduating with a B.F.A. in Motion Picture Production from Wright State University, he moved to Los Angeles, where he forged a career as a Script Supervisor on independent feature films, commercials, and educational. In 1994, on a whim, he taught himself 3d animation. Shortly thereafter, he joined Buena Vista Visual Effects at Walt Disney Studios and began creating digital special effects for such films as *Mortal Kombat* and *The Santa Clause*. In 1996, he left Los Angeles to join Dreamworks/PDI in Palo Alto, California. He spent 4 years in the modeling and lighting departments on *Antz* and *Shrek* refining his advanced animation skills.

In 1998, Lee directed and animated his first ground-breaking short film, *Millennium Bug*. Thanks to its success, he went onto to create *Mirror*, *Weapons of Mass Destruction*, *Day Off the Dead*, and *13 Ways to Die at Home*. He left Dreamworks/PDI in 2000 to start BeezleBug Bit, LLC, relocating to Boulder City, Nevada. Between 1998 and the present, he has traveled to dozens of film festivals across the United States, Canada, and Europe. His travels inspired him to start the Dam Short Film Festival in 2003.

Along the way, Lee has received numerous awards and has been interviewed by dozens of magazines, newspapers, and television shows on the subject of animation, short films, and film festivals. He has also put in time teaching advanced animation classes at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and the Art Institute of Las Vegas. He has written newspaper articles and has recently completed two software books for Sybex.

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