

# Matt Sanders

ART DIRECTION  
DRAFTING  
DESIGN

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South West Screen  
Art-Direction Course



--- PORTFOLIO & SHOWREEL ---

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# SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

## Architectural Training

- I trained as an Architect, so have a grounding in architectural styles & details, as well as drawing techniques, site surveys, etc.

## Stage Design

- While studying, I designed sets for a dozen student Plays & Musicals, and also managed their construction.
- I thus gained experience of building a wide variety of sets on a limited budget, and the ingenious re-use of existing elements.

## Industry Design Experience

- I've worked in this industry for 21 years, designing sets & props for films, TV, commercials, exhibitions, music promos, etc.
- Work has ranged from miniature sets for animation, to massive permanent scenic installations in shopping centres.
- I was the Production Designer on *Hamilton Mattress*, a half-hour animated film, broadcast on BBC1, Christmas Day 2001.
- In 2007, I took the *South-West Screen Art Direction Training Course*, which focussed on live-action projects.

## Art-Director - *Coraline*

- In 2008, I worked in Portland USA, as an Art Director on this stop-motion feature film, based on the novel by Neil Gaiman.
- My sequences focussed on a magical garden with growing plants and flowers, so as well as supervising the designs, I coordinated the various departments involved in realising these effects, using armatures, rigging, practical lights, UV effects, motion-control, green-screen, VFX multiplication, inflatable bladders, rapid-prototype replacements, etc.

## Art Director - *The Pirates! (In an Adventure with Scientists!)*

- In 2009-11, I was an Art Director on this Aardman/Sony feature film, starring Hugh Grant, David Tennant & Martin Freeman.
- Sets included Pirate Ship interiors, London Alleys & Pubs, a gruesome Execution Dock, a fantasy Awards Show, a giant Sperm Whale, a chase through Charles Darwin's House, and Queen Victoria's gold-filled Treasure Vaults.

## Art Director - *Chuggington*

- 2012-15: I was the principal Art Director on 43 episodes of this children's series, for Ludorum/BBC/Disney/Fuji .
- Design responsibilities included Locations, Props, Graphics, Machines, Visual Effects, and 13 new Characters, (talking trains).
- This show was CGI, giving me a valuable insight into the technicalities of computer-modelling, animation and effects.

## Art Director - *Casualty*

- 2015: I was an Art Director on this live-action TV series, for BBC Wales Roath Lock.
- Responsibilities included: Breakdowns of set/prop/effect/graphic-requirements, location surveys, drawings and mock-ups, liaising with suppliers and other BBC departments, and on-set standby, in studio and on location.

## Set/Prop-Building & Model-Making

- I've built scenery for TV, films, stage plays, commercials, exhibitions, music promos, and scenic/theming installations.
- Also, an eclectic array of models, miniatures, sculptures, puppets, animatronics, special props, practical effects and costumes.

## Construction Management

- On many of these projects, I was also a Construction Manager, supervising teams of various sizes.
- This included Aardman's Oscar/Bafta-winning *Wallace & Gromit* feature-film, *Curse of the Were-Rabbit*.

## Studio Support

- On various projects, I have also been responsible for graphics, prop-buying, set-dressing, scenic painting, and studio-standby.

## Advantages of Practical Experience in Design Roles

- My model-making background means I can quickly build detailed mock-ups, for discussion and approvals.
- Knowledge of construction techniques means I can anticipate fabricators' questions, and put all the relevant info in the drawings.
- Also, in the design process, I can factor-in issues like timber sheet-sizes, vac-form limitations, available CNC routers, etc.
- Experience in a variety of disciplines, means I can bring knowledge and credibility to discussions with other departments.
- And I have an appreciation of what is achievable within the schedule and budget, and how to get the biggest bang for the buck.

# DESIGN & ART DIRECTION



Animated Feature Film, Aardman / Sony, 2009-11 Director: Peter Lord  
**Art Director** - Pirate Ship interiors, Execution Dock, London Streets & Pubs, Giant Sperm Whale, Charles Darwin's House, Queen Victoria's Treasure Vault...



Animated Feature Film, Laika Entertainment, Focus Features, 2008 Director: Henry Selick  
**Art Director** - A Magical Garden, with animated trees & flowers



30-Min Animated Film, Harvest Films / BBC1, 2000-2001 Director: Barry Purves  
**Production Designer** - City Streets & Alleys, Forest, Night-Club, Rubbish Dump

Love Bites, Golden-Fangs, Bermuda Bubbles - S4C / Aardman / Nickelodeon, 2002  
**Concept Art & Set Designs** for pilot & pitch documents



BBC Wales, 2015 Directors: Diarmuid Goggins, Paul Unwin, Sean Gleeson, Julie Edwards  
**Art Director** - Props, Sets, Locations, Graphics, Effects, etc.



CGI TV Series, 43 Episodes, Ludorum / BBC / Fuji, 2012-2015 Director: Sarah Ball  
**Art Director** - Locations, Props, Machines, Effects, and 13 new Train Characters



Animated TV Series, Hot Animation / BBC, 2002 Series Director: Liz Whitaker  
**Art Director** - Sets/Locations (Igloos & Antarctic Landscapes) for re-boot of the series



Animated TV Series, Cosgrove Hall / BBC, 2001 Directors: Tim Harper, Tim Collings  
**Concept Development** - Sets/Locations: Metal Tree, Exotic Houses

Once in a Lifetime

Music Promo for the band Texas, 1999 **Set Designer** - 4 studio sets

Miracle on the River Kwai

C4 Docu-Drama, 1998 **Set Designer** - Japanese POW Camp



Aardman, CMTB, Cod Steaks, Stink, Passion Pictures, 1996 - 2015

**Art Direction**  
**Set Design**  
**Concept Art**  
**Mock-ups**



Merlin's Gardaland Theme Park, Verona, Italy, 2015  
**Scenic Design** - Rides & Buildings, themed on the Kung Fu Panda movies...



X-Scape Shopping/Activity Centres, in Glasgow, Castleford & Milton Keynes, 2006  
**Scenic Design** - Lava Seats, Log-Cabin Lift-Shaft, Ski-Lift Gondolas, Ice Cave, 24 Trees, Giant "Ice" & "Metal" Signs, "Las Vegas" Sign, Giant Witches' Cauldrons...



Bath Postal Museum, 2006  
**Scenic Design** - Cabinets, Displays, Interactive Elements



"Evolution" Sculpture, at-Bristol Exhibition, 1999  
**Design** - 30ft-tall Perspex & Fibre-Optic Sculpture, depicting evolution of animals



Student Theatre Productions, 1988-95 **Set Design & Construction**  
 Cabaret, Steel Magnolias, Bedroom Farce, A Christmas Carol, Black Comedy, White Liars, Stags & Hens, The Snow Queen, Pass the Butler, Clowns, Gasping, Little Shop of Horrors

# SET/PROP CONSTRUCTION



Animated Feature Film, Aardman / Dreamworks, 2003-05 Dir: Nick Park & Steve Box  
**Model Construction Team-Leader** - Wallace's House, Church & Graveyard, Lady Tottington's Conservatory, Terraced Roads, Ferris Wheel, Forest, Street Furniture...



Animated 10-min Film, Aardman / Channel 4, 1997 Dir: Steve Box  
**Set Construction** - Victorian Music Hall (alive & derelict), Riverbank, Street, etc



Animated TV Series, Spitting Image / Channel 4, 1996 Dir: Sarah Ann Kennedy  
**Set/Prop Construction** - Ramshackle London Flats & Streets



Animated 10-min Film, Aardman / Channel 4, 1996 Dir: Peter Lord  
**Set/Prop Construction** - Medieval Castle, Peasant's Hovel



Animated 30-min Film, Aardman / BBC, 1994-5 Dir: Nick Park  
**Set/Prop Construction** - Wallace's House & Basement, Town Square with Shops, Clock Tower, Warehouses, Country Roads, Fields & Cliffs, Props & Street Furniture...



Aardman, Cod Steaks, CMTB, Passion Pictures, Olive Jar Studios, ScaryCat Studio, WhirlWind Media



**Set/Prop Building, and Construction Management**



Pharmacy, Gingerbread House, Shopping Centre, Spaceship, Giant Cuckoo Clock, Churchyard, Factory, Bank Vault, Glitzy Stage, Dressing Room, NY Apartment...



# PUPPET FABRICATION



Animated Feature Film, 20th Century Fox, 2008 Dir: Wes Anderson  
**Puppet Fabrication** - Various characters



TV Series, Eraser-Dog Productions, 2003 Dir: David Beatty  
**Puppet-Build Supervisor** - Multiple copies of Boy, Dog, Monkey

Edgar & Shelby

Cod Steaks Productions, 2000 **Puppet Design/Build** - Animated Eggs

Universally Challenged

Spike Island / United, 1998 **Puppet Design/Build** - Assorted Animals

Go - Stop

CMTB, 1995 **Puppet Build** - Animated Road-Signs, Traffic Lights, etc

ARTBOX BUNCH

CMTB / BBC, 1994 **Puppet Build** - Animated Pens, Pencils, Ruler, etc



Aardman, Cod Steaks, CMTB, Olive Jar Studios, Passion Pictures, Scary-Cat Studio, 1994-2014



**Sculpting, Armatures, Moulds, Casting, Paint**



Postman Pat characters, Twistables Fruit, Violent Veg, Tatty Teddy-Bears, Dairylea Cow, Duracell Bunny, Japanese Family, Dogs, Cats, Santa & Mrs Claus, Reindeers, Xmas Trees, Martians, and a Bendy Big Ben.



# MODEL-MAKING

## ANIMATRONICS



Walking Tortoise, Baby Kingfisher, Opening Oyster  
 Life-Size Dancing Baby  
 Dragon Costume  
 Blue Cat Costume  
 Panto-Horse Costume  
 Human Brain in a Laboratory Tank  
 "Bumble-Bee" BBC2 Logo  
 Giant Man-Eating Plants (*Little Shop of Horrors*)

## SCULPTURES



6ft Silver Robots  
 Grinning Tree Frog & Giant Ladybird  
 Scorpion  
 Octopus in a Fishbowl  
 Seagull with Knife & Fork  
 Full-Size Cartoon Sheep  
 "Son of Cod" (fish in a manger)  
 Assorted Human Characters

## MINIATURES



Big Ben Tower (*The People's Parliament*)  
 Eiffel Towers (*Jeux Sans Frontiers*)  
 Leaning Tower of Pisa  
 Avon Gorge (*Clifton Suspension Bridge Museum*)  
 Formula-1 Cars (*Collectors' Models*)  
 German U-Boat (*Bletchley Park Museum*)  
 Wallace & Gromit Machine  
 Space Satellite  
 Doctor Who TARDIS (*Collectors' Models*)

## LARGE-SCALE



Ship-Wreck (30ft long)  
 Planet Earth (5ft diameter)  
 Kitsch 1960s Wall Clock (30ft diameter)  
 Replica Chimney-Stack & Tree-Trunk (*999 Rescue*)  
 Football Boots (5ft long)  
 Whiskey Bottle (8ft tall)  
 Human Brain (10ft wide)  
 Noah's Ark (6ft long)  
 Star Wars Android (12ft tall)

## MISCELLANEOUS



Various Pack-Shots  
 Soft Pink "Baby" Channel Four Logo  
 Black Forest Advent Calendar  
 Living "Shop Dummy" Masks  
 24 "American-Footballer" Helmets/Masks  
 Transparent Wounded Leg  
 Giant Rubber Ducks  
 Hoover Nozzle with Indigestion  
 Life-Size Dalek  
 Woolly Mammoth Sperm in a Block of Ice