



# Luke Jacobson

**T**hey say the hardest place to start a story is at the beginning, but that's never a problem when you're a little boy; When you're young and the height of your chronicling ambition involves cranking out comics crafted on printer paper or a silent stop-motion short made with LEGO dinosaur, every effort is a masterpiece (especially the ones involving dinosaurs, obviously).

I had many such ambitions throughout my life, and explored them all thoroughly and energetically. I loved telling stories, especially fun stories, and after countless creative courses, film festivals & summer programs at UCLA and CalArts, I realized that the marvel of animation was the best venue to tell my stories through, bar none.

I was so certain that this would be my life's passion that I cranked out a 20 minute Stop Motion, lip-synced tribute to Ray Harryhausen just in time to graduate High School, and followed that up by moving south to study Animation at the University of Southern California. I leapt into studying every medium of animation, as well as taking courses in critical studies, storyboarding, art design, life drawing, and screenwriting, absorbing lessons from such wonderful professors as David Isaacs, Drew Casper, Tom Sito and Peter Chung. I graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts with a well-earned bachelor's degree in animation, and my thesis film *Dodgie* was the only undergraduate film selected for USC's yearly *First Look* Film Festival, as well as being selected for official screenings at the Tribeca Film Festival and the Asiana Short Film Festival. It is currently syndicated by Shorts.TV

After graduating I worked in the service industry while also continuing to hone my animation skills. Despite the service industry not being my chosen path, I never failed to show up and throw every effort into my job. I grew adept at handling customers, at defusing tensions, at establishing a rigorous work ethic and becoming a beloved team player to everyone I interacted with. During this time, I participated in life drawing sessions with the Model Drawing Collective in Los Angeles and slowly continued to improve my craft. I learned a lesson that no amount of University education could have drilled into my skull — that I was a talented dude, and I could offer dedication and exceptional work to any company that I'd be fortunate enough to join.

Recently I attended a model-making workshop at Aardman Animation in England. Following this I was accepted to the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, England, and pursued a Master's Degree in Directing Animation. My tutor there, Robert Bradbrook, praised me for a natural skill in understanding narrative, and I began looking for a chance to put this talent to the test.

A story's ending, incidentally, isn't so hard when you get there; You just as often find that it's merely been laying the groundwork for a wonderful, new chapter to begin.

Thank you.