

Mini Ha-Ha's

■ What do you call it when a sailor is influenced by other sailors at the dock?

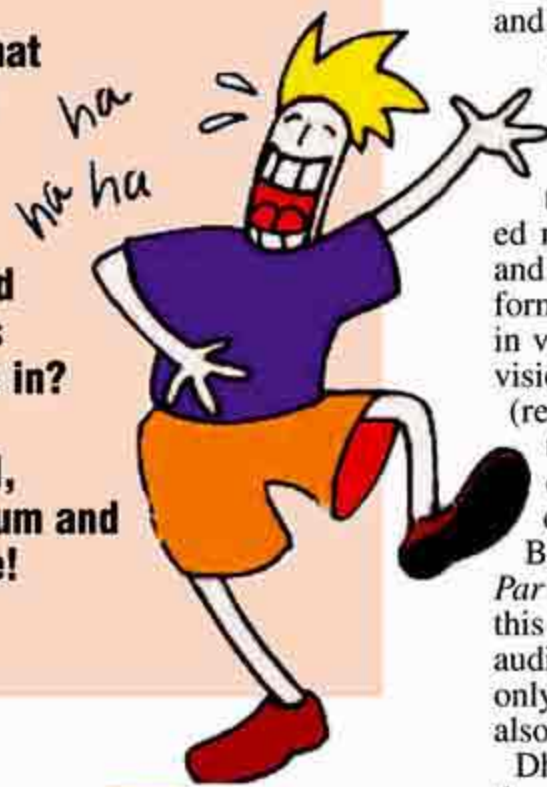
Pier pressure!

■ Why are rowboats such good listeners?

Because they'll all oars!

■ What sizes do flat-bottomed boats come in?

Small, medium and barge!



Think about it

I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.

ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN

What's Hot

Life is not easy and it will never be, but you've got friends and one of them is me ...

CAREER OPTION

Explore creativity and earn a fortune with claymation

MEERA J.PILLAI

Did you enjoy messing around with clay as a child? Do you have the right blend of creativity and computer skills? Then clay animation or claymation is the career option you are looking for. One would have come across claymation in hit Hollywood animated movies such as *Chicken Run* and *Wallace and Gromit*. This form of animation has been used in various commercials and television programme in India also (remember Chintamani from the ICICI campaign?), however, it was the beautiful claymation in the hit Bollywood flick *Taare Zameen Par* by Dhimant Vyas, that made this form popular among Indian audience. This profession is not only creatively challenging but also equally rewarding.

Dhimant Vyas, the man behind the creation of the animation in *TZP* says, "In India we have very few studios especially for claymation, but now the outlook is changing and people are ready to explore this field."

Speaking on his experience while working for *TZP*, he says, "To make a single clay model it may take about two-three hours. And to make animation for about four-five seconds, it takes at least a day. The three-minute long clay animation used in the movie took us about two months to finish."

"There is a lot of planning involved in it. Once the models are prepared, we have to time it properly and move the characters and the background simultaneously. If we go wrong even once, we will have to do it all over again. This is probably the only drawback with claymation," he adds.

However, he remarks, "If not for Aamir Khan, I do not think we would have been able to produce this work. Claymation involves a lot of creativity and Aamir did not interfere even once. He gave us the complete creative freedom, which helped us deliver the best."

Agreeing to him is Binu P.C., 3D animation visualiser at Khan Global, Bengaluru, "Claymation can be defined as 'creativity meets technology'. You need a lot of creative freedom. Aspirants must master the art of hand movements, wherein you can manually shape the clay to the desired characters."

"As a career option this is the right time for the youngsters because of the rapid develop-



Aamir Khan (left) with Dhimant Vyas during the making of the claymation for *Taare Zameen Par*

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DHIMANT VYAS

ments in the field of animation in India. Even production houses from Hollywood are recruiting us," he says.

Sitara S, (21) an animation student says, "I have always been interested in animation. Claymation is a new concept in India, but after the movie *TZP* came along, more and more youngsters are interested in knowing about this profession and the opportunities it provides. It is definitely creative but also can get very tedious," she adds.

Some of the institutes such as National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay, The Whistling Woods International Institute for Film, Television and Media Arts, Mumbai, Graphiti School of Animation, Mumbai, International College of Animation Arts and Technology, Mumbai, Anitoons Productions, New Delhi and Toonz animation, Thirunvanthapuram have animation courses.



Dhimant Vyas and his team took about two months to finish the three-minute long claymation sequence in *TZP*.

Founder of Pivot Animation, Chennai, Senthil Kumar says, "More than qualifications you need the talent and patience. It is definitely rewarding career option too. One can easily make Rs 10,000 per hour (for starters) and as the person pursues the career seriously, they can earn

anywhere between Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000."

"In Hollywood, this form of animation has lot many takers, however in India people are still waking up to it and in a span of two-three years, I think it will gain the same popularity as that of 3D animation," he adds.