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Photos courtesy/Joshua Redmond

A still from Joshua Redmond's short animation film "Monkey in the Middle," which he based on his siblings Caleb, 11 and Mandi, 8.

Animation creation

Sumner grad finds his way in an unusual career

BY AVANI NADKARNI
of The Herald

Joshua Redmond made his first animated film — a presentation of the sinking of the Titanic — in fifth grade and he's been hooked ever since.

"I love creating life, creating that illusion," the 2007 Sumner High School graduate said.

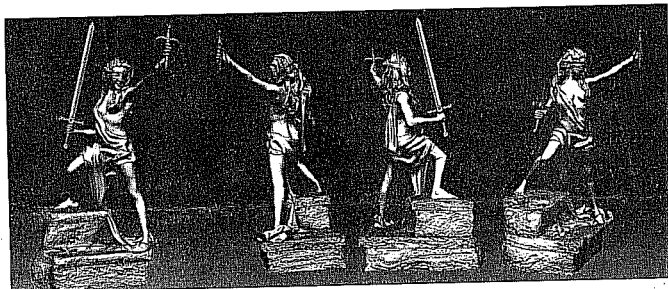
Redmond began taking an interest in animation and special effects when his father, Brian, started showing him what he calls "all the right films," such as "Jason and the Argonauts," "Star Wars," and "Back to the Future."

"I fell in love with "Star Wars" growing up," Redmond said.

He didn't have much room for film classes in his jam-packed high school course schedule, which included Running Start classes, but Redmond said he always knew he wanted to work in the animation field. In addition to the graphics, Redmond, who plays the piano, guitar, drums, saxophone and recently purchased a violin, also fell in love with the film's musical scores. His ultimate dream, he said, is to direct films and to help create the music for them.

Redmond is well on his way to achieving that dream. He obtained his associate's degree from Pierce College in 2007 and graduated last year from the prestigious Vancouver Film School, concentrating on 3D animation and special effects. He returned to Washington State and this past December, Redmond began working with Frogchildren Studios, a Seattle-based multimedia company that creates animation for comic books, films and even music videos.

"It really isn't bad for my first job," Redmond said, laughing.



Joshua Redmond designed these sculptures, named Lady Justice.

JOSHUA'S ANIMATION

To view Joshua Redmond's short film, "Monkey in the Middle," or to learn more about him, visit www.JoshuaRedmond.com.

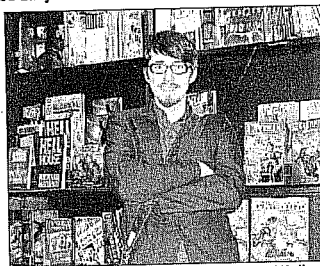
While Redmond cannot reveal details about some of his projects, he did say that he is currently working on creating animation for a set of comic books, which the company eventually hopes to turn into films.

"We're making the characters in 3D and then flattening them out for the books," Redmond said.

Although he is now living and working in Seattle, Redmond says he often gets his inspiration from his family and his hometown. For his final project in film school, he spent six months creating an animated short film titled "Monkey in the Middle," which he said he based on the personalities of his younger siblings, 11-year-old Caleb and Mandi, 8.

"They loved it," he said. "My family's been very supportive."

In addition to film direction, Redmond



Herald photo/Avani Nadkarni

Joshua Redmond stands in front of comics.

hopes to have his own game design company or animation studio. He lists "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson as someone he dreams of working with. At age 19, though, he still seems a little disbelieving of what he's accomplished so far. Through Frogchildren Studios, he has worked with Disney and is currently working with one of the biggest stars in music.

"Right now, we're working with Kanye West on one of his music videos," Redmond said, shaking his head. "Man, I have the coolest job."