2-D PUPPET & COLLAGE

CREATING CUT-OUT
ANIMATION

BY LYNN
TOMLINSON

Frank Film, Frank Mouris, 1973

CUT OUT ANIMATION

- Cut-out is a kind of stop-motion or stop-action animation.

- Cut-outs are usually shot "under the camera" with the camera pointing down at the images. You will need to hold the camera steady on a copy stand or tripod angled down.

- There are certain things that work well, and others that don't. embrace the hand-made look.

- Create hinged puppet characters. You may need to use replacement animation for certain moves.

- It's hard to do 3/4 view characters in cut-out. Front and Side shots are often best.

- Some effective uses of cut-out animation are silhouettes, collage, stylized designs, fully-colored hinged puppets, and combinations of these.

CUT-OUT ANIMATION: How to add movement

- Hinged characters — Cut-out 2-D puppets — moved frame by frame under the camera. Characters can sometimes have no hinges (a fish for example, can just glide past the camera) or multiple hinges, but the more hinges, the more complicated it is to move them.

- Replacement animation — a series of slightly different objects used one after the other to create the illusion of movement.

Indonesia
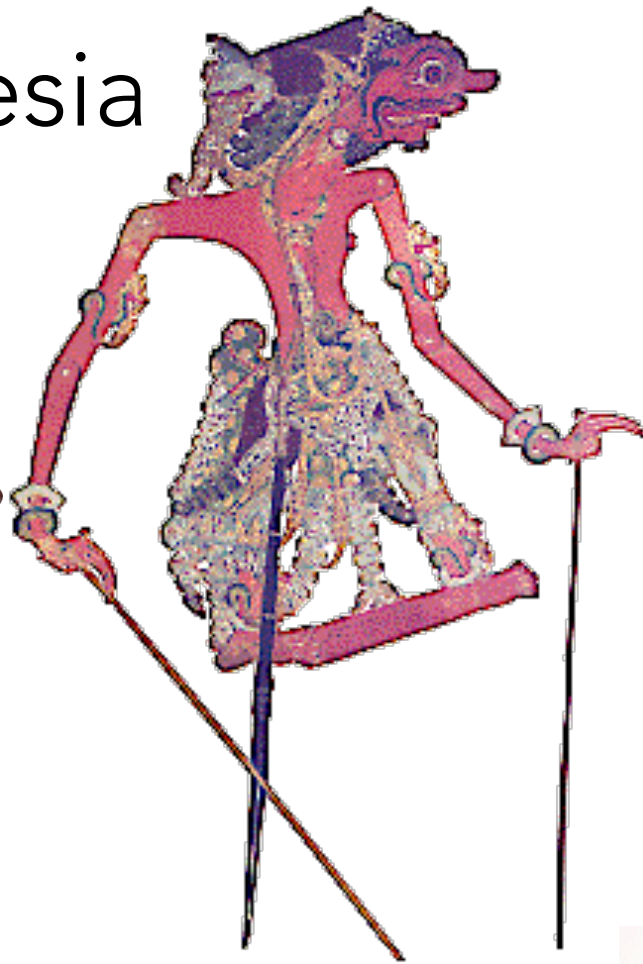
China

Turkey

Shadow Puppets can inspire
cut-out animation puppet designs

DON'T BE AFRAID TO DIY!

CUT-OUT EXAMPLES (from my workshops)

https://vimeo.com/63461472

https://vimeo.com/54453222

https://vimeo.com/46315019

MORE STUDENT EXAMPLES

Christina Sanchez
http://youtu.be/9uA9hV0AIY0

Juliana Chen
https://vimeo.com/39119835

Amy Cousins
https://vimeo.com/33552173

MORE CUT-OUT ADVICE

- Any age can animate using cut outs. Simplify for younger kids and larger classes.

- To simplify, limit the number of hinges or moving parts

- Instead of thread hinges, use small brads or double stick tape.

- Color your characters before you cut them out.

- Silhouettes on light boxes work well.

MORE EXAMPLES….

Lotte Reiniger
http://youtu.be/vDojanzKKmw

Yuri Norstein
http://youtu.be/oW0jvJC2rvM

Gianluca Maruotti
https://vimeo.com/75196023

EVEN MORE EXAMPLES….

The Merry Circus (part II)
by Jiri Trnka
http://youtu.be/LrDSQZG1e98

Monkeys Fish the Moon
by Zhou Kequin and A Da

http://youtu.be/GXAGAWHKwZ8

CUT-OUT TUTORIALS & BEHIND THE SCENES

Making of Paper Plane
https://vimeo.com/71154508

Time-lapse by Bide Cui
https://vimeo.com/6207801

Terry Gilliam (Monty Python)
http://youtu.be/xs7WaL44_Iw

THE APP WE WILL BE USING IS

OSnap!

http://www.osnapphotoapp.com

There are several apps with similar names: be
sure to get the correct one!
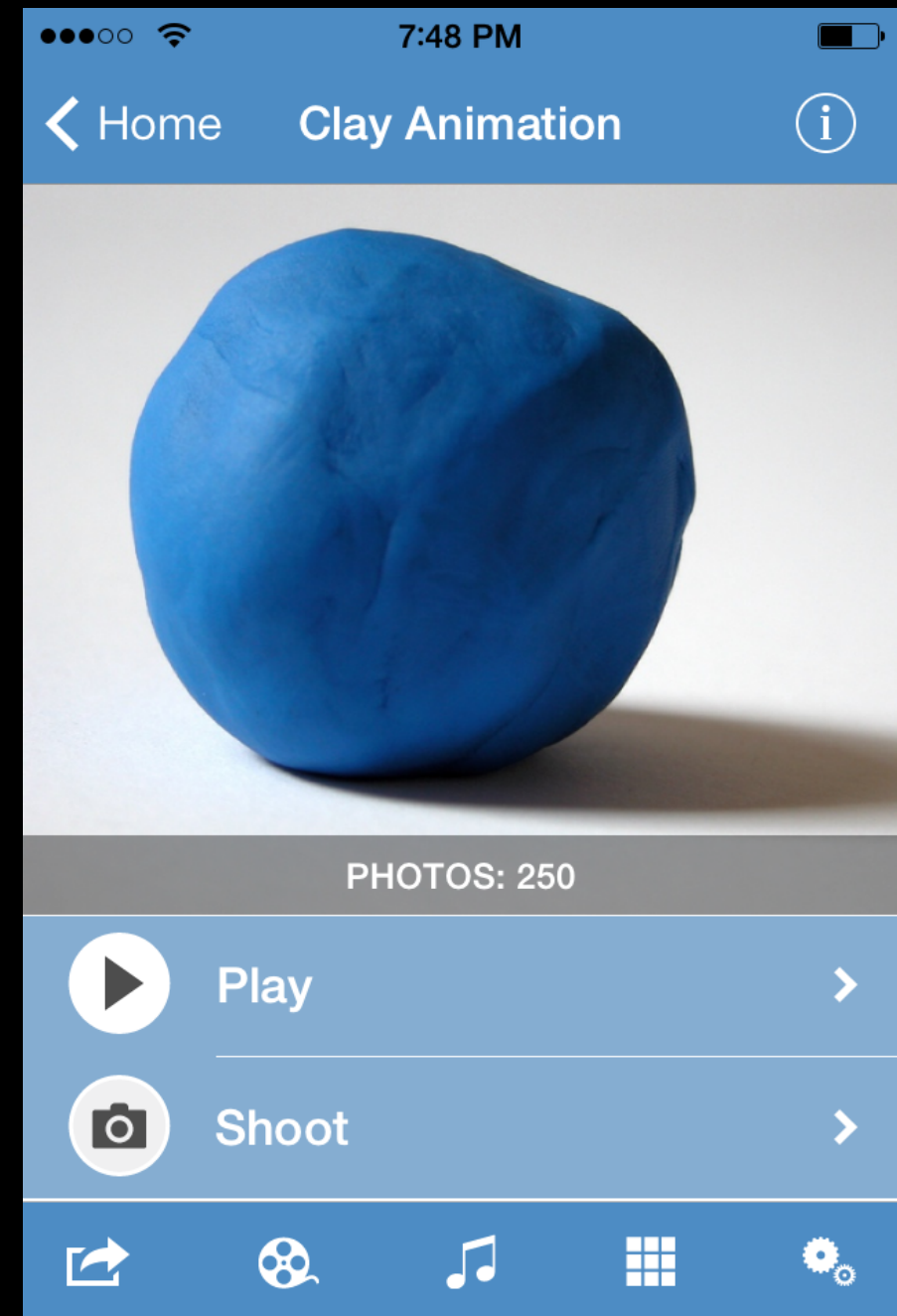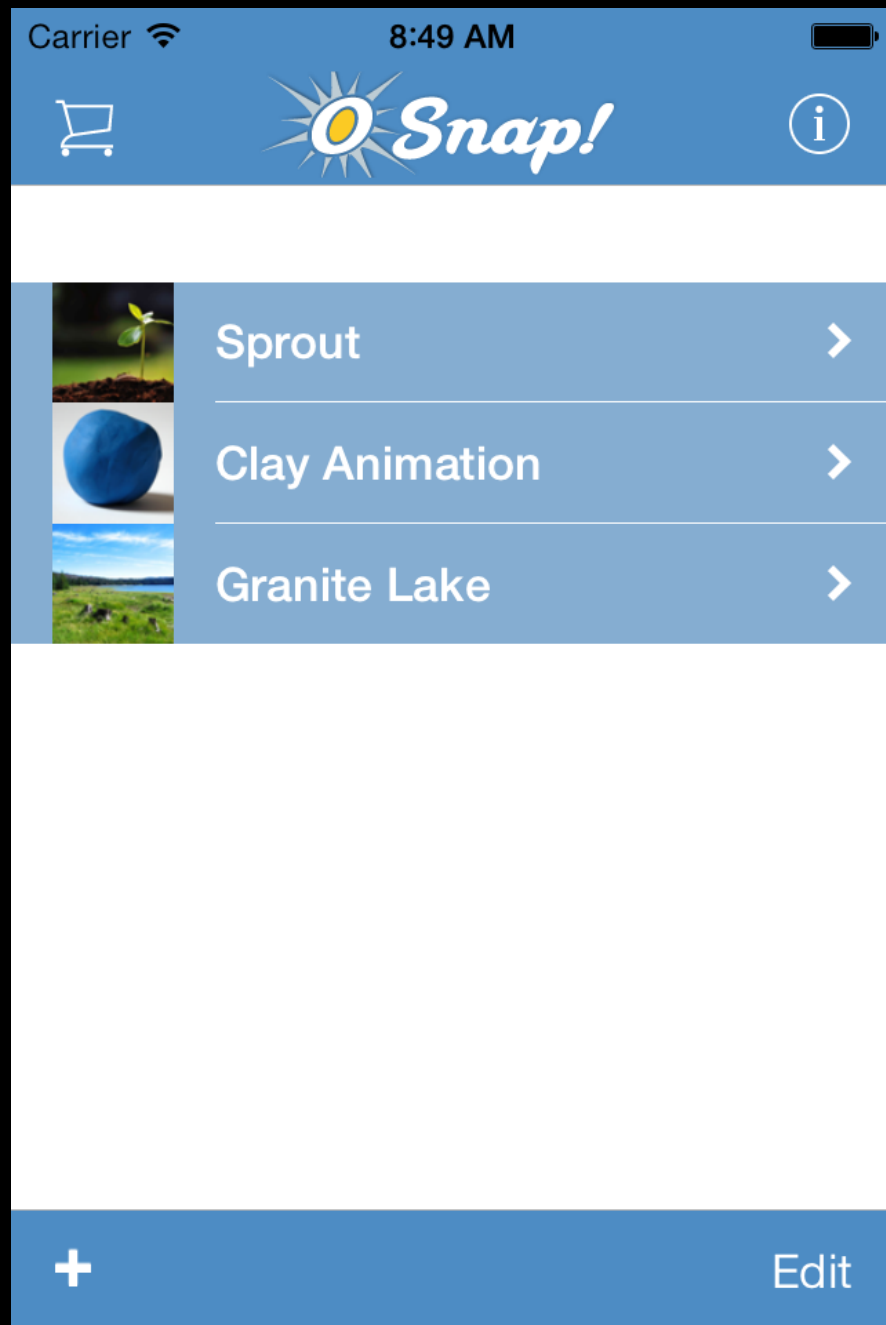
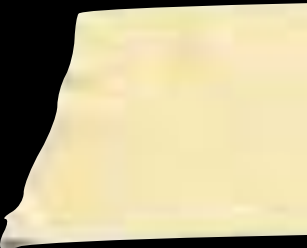OSnap! iPhone app FAQ
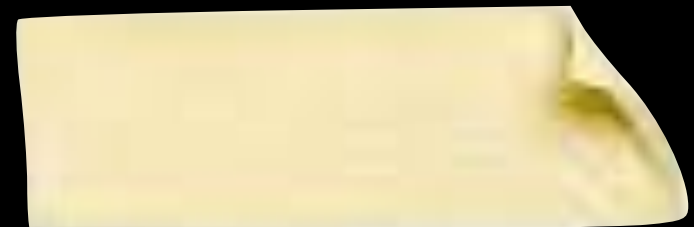http://www.osnapphotoapp.com/faq.php
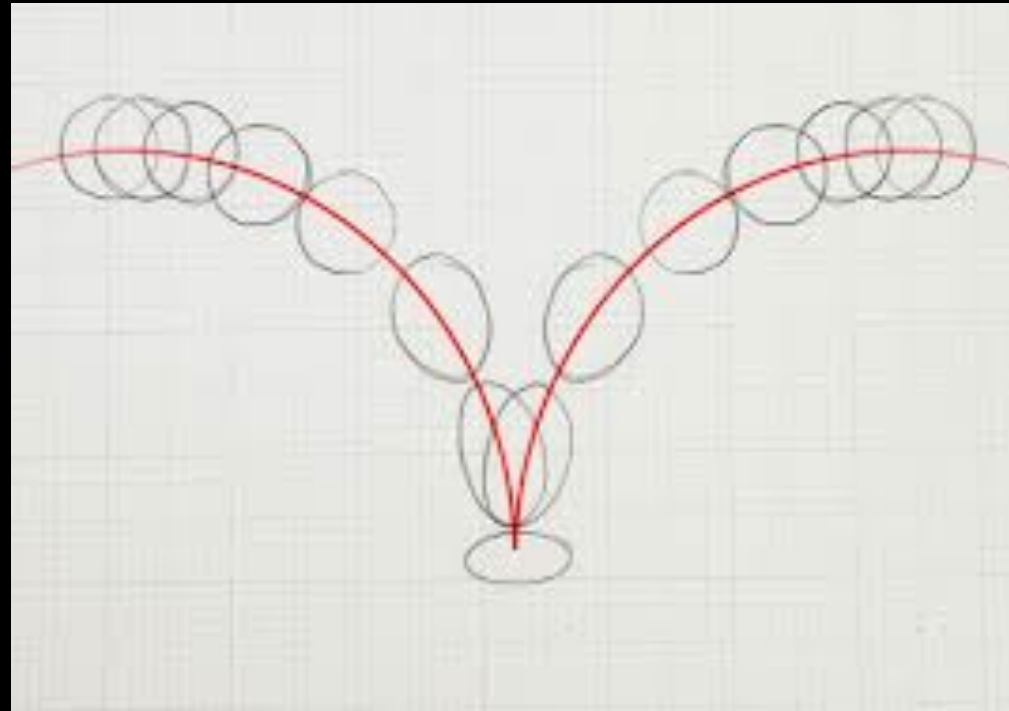
STOP-MOTION SOFTWARE
THINGS TO LOOK FOR....

- Locking focus, exposure, and white balance

- Onion-skinning

- Able to edit out mistakes

- Variable frame rate

- Easy to export

IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE, TAPE IT DOWN!

RULE #2

USE A FRAME RATE OF 10-12 FRAMES PER SECOND. 8 IF YOU ARE PRESSED FOR TIME. ANY LOWER IS JERKY AND JUMPY.
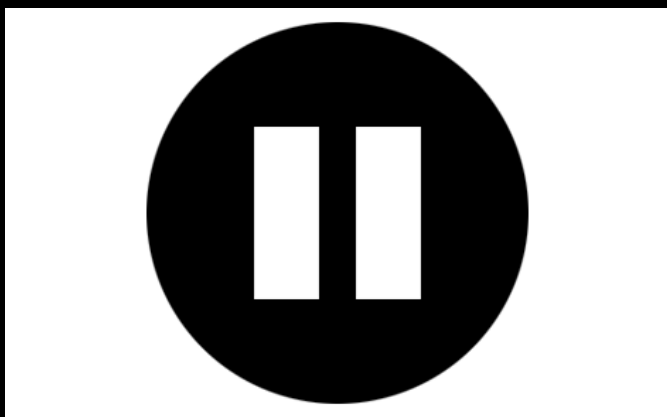
RULE #3

SHOOT AT LEAST ONE SECOND (10-12 FRAMES) TO START AND ONE SECOND (10-12 FRAMES) TO END EACH SHOT.

THINK ABOUT TIMING, SPACING, AND INCLUDE...

....PAUSES.

(A PAUSE CAN BE 1-2 SECONDS. IT IS BETTER TO SHOOT THE PAUSE THAN TO ADD IT DIGITALLY LATER ON. DIGITAL FREEZES WILL LOOK FROZEN AND DEAD.)