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Miami Dade College hosting MIA Animation Conference & Festival this weekend



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Miami Dade College will again host the renowned MIA Animation Conference & Festival on Friday, Oct. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 14, at MDC's Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami. The renowned event features world-renowned speakers, technology influencers from the nation's top animation studios, universities, and the best talent in the industry. It has become one of the most exciting and cutting edge events in Miami, alongside a community of advanced technology-explorers, decision-makers, trend-setters, software developers, and creative industry professionals.

The industry conference focuses on Computer Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects and Motion Graphics, Virtual and Augmented Reality. It draws some of the world's top leaders in animation and education, and features exhibitions, workshops and master classes. It has been designed to be a forum for active networking and practical information exchange with strong commitment and emphasis in education while developing and nourishing new talent.

Featured speakers at this year's MIA Animation Festival include Matt Shumway, animation supervisor at ILM and 2016 Oscar Nominee for "The Revenant"; Aliko Theophiloupolos, supervising producer at Dreamworks; Leah Hoyer, vice president of creative at Telltale Games; and Kat Thorson Good, director at the Walt Disney Company.

Some of this year's highlights include the Arts & Technology Breakfast, which will explore the ways in which the arts and tech industries can work together to build a connected creative ecosystem. Also, exploring the power that creativity can bring to everything it touches, specifically to amplify technology as a true connector and catalyst for innovation. This year's breakfast topic will focus on virtual reality storytelling for areas like gaming, journalism, broadcasting and animation.

Another highlight is Game On, the third annual indie game competition, which is sponsored by MIA Animation and the Idea Center @ MDC. The competition was created to encourage independent game development and fresh voices in the video game industry. The winner will receive a consulting meeting at the IDEA Center. The finalists will be showcased at the MIA Animation Festival where attendees will be able to play the prototype.

The MIA Animation Festival will also hold a Pitching Contest for applicants to submit animation projects for a TV animated series. The top submissions in both categories will be invited to pitch their idea in person to a panel of animation industry experts and professionals. The top pitch overall will be set up with interviews with major animation studio execs in Los Angeles.

Another highlight of the MIA Animation Festival is the Students and Young Directors competitions, which are currently taking submissions for animated films to be judged for conceptual, technical, and aesthetic innovation and excellence.

The conference is free for MDC students and faculty; \$65 for students and \$195 for professionals.

For more information: visit miaanimation.com (<http://miaanimation.com/>) or contact (305) 521-3429 (tel:(305)%20521-3429)

- Submitted by Miami Dade College

Posted by Nancy Dahlberg 10/10/2017 at 10:03 AM in Conferences, Education, Events, Guest Posts, Technology | Permalink

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