

# chad welson

Writer, Director & Story Artist

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## Summary

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Writer, director, and storyboard artist with 20 years of experience shaping animated content for top technology brands and major Hollywood studios. Skilled in visual storytelling, character-driven narratives, and production workflows, with a strong track record of thoughtful collaboration and creative problem-solving.

## Work Experience

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### **Assistant Director**

DreamWorks Animation | *Dragons: The Nine Realms* | JAN 2022 - FEB 2023

- Collaborated with the Supervising Director to finalize animatics for partner studios, ensuring storyboards aligned with the creative vision, tone, and style of each episode
- Analyzed storyboards to interpret and clarify executive and network notes, overseeing timely and accurate revisions to meet production deadlines
- Participated in storyboard pitches and production meetings, providing creative input and support as needed by the Supervising Director

### **Visual Development Artist**

DreamWorks Animation | *Unannounced CG Series* | SEP 2022 - DEC 2022

- Designed and developed concept art, color scripts, and environment layouts to establish the visual style of animated films and series.
- Created character turnarounds, prop designs, and key background paintings, ensuring consistency with the project's artistic direction.
- Collaborated closely with directors, storyboard artists, and 3D modelers to translate 2D concepts into fully realized animated scenes.

### **Storyboard Revisionist / TV Story Trainee**

DreamWorks Animation | *Dragons: The Nine Realms* | JUL 2021 - DEC 2021

- Trained under industry professionals to develop skills as a Storyboard Revisionist while actively contributing to a fast-paced production environment
- Maintained consistent delivery of assignments on deadline, communicating progress effectively with supervisors and production staff
- Participated in structured coursework as part of the Storyboard Trainee program, completing assignments and projects to build storytelling, staging, and boarding proficiency

### **Visual Storytelling Consultant**

Welsonworks | Los Angeles, CA | SEP 2009 - Present

- Collaborate with clients across animation, live-action, and interactive media to develop story concepts, writing outlines, treatments, and scripts tailored to production pipelines and project goals
- Create production illustrations, storyboards, and pre-visualization materials to clearly communicate narrative structure and visual intent
- Design game systems and virtual economies that support and enhance immersive narrative experiences

Clients: Disney, Nickelodeon, Microsoft, Indigo Slate, COLOR Creative, 3DEO

## Skills

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- 18 years of visual storytelling experience spanning animation production, live-action film, and interactive entertainment
- Excellent knowledge of storyboarding principles and film language: composition, staging, cutting, continuity, camera, screen direction, lighting, lensing, and photography
- Experience storyboarding from screenplays, story treatments, and verbal pitches in a variety of genres (drama, comedy, action/adventure)
- Excellent ability to draw characters (humans, animals, and inanimate objects) and communicate performance through dialogue, emotion, and action with an excellent understanding of the principles of animation
- Experience using 3D technology for scene planning/scouting in CG sets
- Proficient with industry-standard software and hardware: ToonBoom Storyboard Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Blender 3D, Wacom Cintiq, etc.
- Excellent knowledge of screenwriting and story structure for linear and interactive narrative
- Experience pitching/developing intellectual property for large studios
- Flight, super-strength, and hypersonic speed
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Robust time management skills and empathetic leadership providing critical analysis and constructive feedback to collaborate with, manage, and mentor other artists

## Productions and Awards

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### **Newcomer of the Year Nominee**

DreamWorks Animation Story Summit 2021

*Dragons: The Nine Realms*

### **Best in Show: Art Order Dragonworld**

"Georgia and the Dragon" Winning Categories: Sequential Art, Best in Show

Judges: James Gurney, Todd Lockwood, Jon Schindehette

### **Best Drawer - 1987**

*Mrs. Dodge's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class*

Hamshire-Fannett Elementary

## Education

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### **Animation Industry Mentorships**

Mentors: Chris Oatley (*Disney, DreamWorks*), Sarah Moreno (*Nickelodeon*), Steve Ahn (*DreamWorks, Netflix*) Chris and Justin Copeland (*Marvel, Warner Bros., DreamWorks*)

### **Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry**

Scotland, UK | 1992 - 1999

House Slytherin | Major: Cryptozoology

### **Xavier Institute of Higher Learning**

Westchester, NY | 1986 - 1992

Primary & Intermediate Education