

BRICK AND MORTAR BOARD

Today's college and grad-school grads are dynamic and multi-talented at work—something they learned at their alma maters

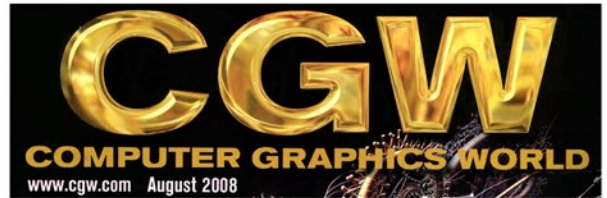
By KEN MCGORRY

The “finish school, then start your career” paradigm has gotten old. Today, talented artists and filmmakers are finding their dream job via circuitous routes that include internships, networking, returning to school, entering grad school, or all of the above. Here are five very different schools whose job is to put you on that career fast track.

3D TRAINING INSTITUTE

New York-based 3D Training Institute (3DTi) has to like a high-profile graduate like Kern Darrabie, what with his position at the Comcast Network's CN8 as senior graphic designer/ animator.

Darrabie was looking to make a move from his freelance Adobe After Effects work, and attending 3DTi turned out to be the key to building a career as an Autodesk 3ds Max and Maya, and Maxon Cinema 4D, expert. Since his arrival two years ago at CN8 (www.cn8.tv), which serves its nine million cable viewers from Maine to Washington, DC with regional and local news and sports coverage, Darrabie has helped re-brand the network with abstract, layered 3D work. Furthermore, he has redesigned on-air graphics packages for CN8's sports programming, and



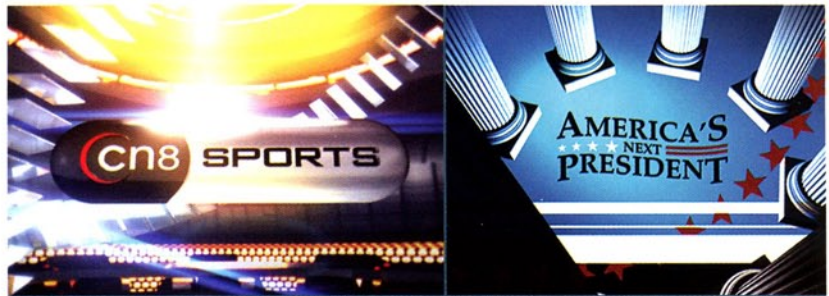
has customized titles for many sporting events, including *College Football*, *Primetime Boxing*, *Varsity GameNight*, *Varsity GameDay*, and more. Complex sports projects involve a lot more 3D and a lot more motion graphics work, notes Darrabie.

Aside from sports, Darrabie and the team readied a political package fairly early, and he expects to revisit it—



soon. One, “America's Next President,” is a deft mix of 2D motion graphics and 3D. “Sometimes,” Darrabie says, “if you can just dial it back a bit and mix everything in, it feels great. You don't need massive amounts of lens flares and crazy camera angles.” Darrabie worked in Cinema 4D to easily build dramatic, white 3D pillars that rotate seamlessly into a 2D After Effects background.

Despite his solid grasp of 3ds Max, when Darrabie first enrolled in 3DTi's three-month in-class course, he found the instructors' depth of knowledge humbling, saying, “We're going to show you from scratch everything you



SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ANIMATOR KERN DARRABIE WORKED ON A NUMBER OF INTERESTING PROJECTS WHILE AT CN8.

need to know about the program.’ It was like boot camp for 3D, and it was great.” ■

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