

YOUNG ANIMATORS QUICK 'HOW TO' GUIDE

MY LOCKDOWN
COMPANION

Stop-Motion



Let your
imagination
TAKE OFF!

Animation Competition



TW SOCIAL ONLINE FESTIVAL



CATEGORIES: **AGE 5-10 YRS** **11-15 YRS** AND **16-24 YRS**



What is MY LOCKDOWN COMPANION?

My Lockdown Companion is a stop-motion animation film competition, devised to encourage young people to share their experience of life in lockdown during the pandemic of 2020/21.

Many young people suffered real anxiety and loneliness as their freedom was curtailed through the enforcement of lockdown: socialising and seeing friends was forbidden and schools, entertainment venues, shops and outdoor spaces were closed down. It was like a punishment, yet no one had done anything wrong! For many this brought on a sense of disempowerment, boredom, social isolation and/or mental illness.

My Lockdown Companion will comprise a collection of personal accounts that we hope will demonstrate the resilience and ingenuity young people discovered as they found ways to cope with the unprecedented living restrictions they suddenly found forced upon them.

Who or what helped you cope? Was it real or was it imaginary? Was it a person (friend, grandparent, auntie, neighbour, teacher), a pet, a video game, an online shared interest group, TikTok, or something less tangible such as nature.

This is your story, and your opportunity to think about how normality was turned upside down, and what it meant to you.

We want to hear your stories Verbatim. The word verbatim is just a fancy way of saying word for word. If you copy something verbatim you use the exact words that were originally used, in the exact way and context in which they were said. When working with verbatim accounts you can edit the story or audio by removing bits, but not by adding anything.

When creating Verbatim media, the creator interviews people that are linked to the topic that their work is focussed on and uses their responses to build their work. When recording the stories the storyteller must be a real person speaking in their real voice. Verbatim stories bring authenticity to the work created, and empowers the storyteller. Your stories, your experiences and your words matter; therefore we want to hear them in your voice.

We want you to use your story to create a stop motion animation video (up to 90 seconds), and submit it to TW Social to be featured in the **My Lockdown Companion film festival**.

A shortlist will be created by a panel of professionals and the top two winners from the 16+ category will receive a unique opportunity to spend time developing their video with the Tunbridge Wells based agency **Copper Leaf** specialising in graphic design, web design, video production and animation.



Entrants will be categorised by their age: 5 – 10 yrs; 11- 15 yrs and 16+
THE WINNERS FROM EACH CATEGORY WILL BE
ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

What is STOP-MOTION ANIMATION?

Stop motion is a filmmaking technique in which objects are physically moved in small actions between individually photographed frames so that they will appear to move or change when the series of frames/pictures are played back. **Puppets** with movable joints (puppet animation) or plasticine figures built over a wire frame (claymation) are most used; however, any kind of object can be animated through stop-motion. This includes household items, **paper, toys, fabric**, and people. Stop motion of flat materials such as paper, fabrics or photographs is usually called cutout animation.

What equipment will you need?

A camera/smartphone/smart device

A downward facing tripod or similar

- You will need to keep your camera or device in the same place for each shot.
- You can make a downward facing tripod or stand by using household objects like books to raise your device up and balance it on hangers, rulers or something similar.
- If you are going to do upright tabletop photography it is still recommended to use a stand or tripod so your device doesn't move around too much between shots.

Craft supplies

- Pens, paper, plasticine, buttons, pipe cleaners, you name it: anything can be animated using stop-motion animation. Whatever you want to use in your animation you can use.

Pencil, tape and backdrop

- It's a good idea (but not essential) to create a 'backdrop' for your animation. This will create a neutral space for your animation and make the animation look cleaner with a clear background. You can also use this to set the scene so can be decorated to make any environment you choose.
- It's a good idea to tape your backdrop to the table or stand and using a pencil mark where your sightlines end.

What software/apps will you need?

Once you have all your pictures you will need to put them all together to create the animation. We recommend using a **Stop Motion Animation** app to do so. **You can get many apps for free** on both Apple and Android devices. Most apps allow you to take your pictures and build your animation in the app itself, which can help your animation come together quicker.

Free apps include: *Stop Motion Studio, Stop Motion Cartoon Maker, I Can Animate, Life Lapse Stop Motion Maker.* **Paid for apps include:** *Stop Motion studio Pro, Dragonframe (computer), Rough Animator, Procreate*

How to make a STOP-MOTION ANIMATION FILM

First, record your My Lockdown Companion story as an audio file.

It is best to create your film to the audio file, listening regularly as you go than recording it after. Then you can turn your My Lockdown Companion story that you just recorded into a short film through Stop Motion Animation.

Next, set yourself up a workspace. A key thing to decide before doing this is: are you going to animate from above (using flat objects on a table) or from in front (using 3D objects)? If you are using flat objects you will need to set up your workspace flat on a table with a downward facing **tripod or camera stand**. If you are using 3D objects you will need to set up an upright workspace with your camera on a forward-facing tripod or stand. It may be helpful to create a studio with a cardboard box.

For both options **decide and set up your background for your film** and tape it in place. It is a good idea to have all your characters, props and objects made and ready before you start animating.

Next, set up your first scene and take a picture. Then move your objects just a little bit to what you want them to do next and take another picture. Repeat this process until you have taken pictures of your whole story. You want to make very small movements between pictures otherwise your animation can become very quick and jumpy. The more pictures you take of each movement, the smoother and more detailed the animation. You need time and patience!

Once you have taken all your pictures, you can format them together using a stop-motion app or editing software; then you can add your sound recording or voice-over to your animation.



How to ENTER

Please send film submissions as soon as they are completed.
Final **deadline** for film submissions is **5th November 2021**.

To submit your work, send your video to twsocial@tunbridgewells.gov.uk by the **5th November 2021**.

The Festival Gallery will start to showcase the films from the launch date on Monday 25th October 2021.

A shortlist will be created on 10th November.
Winners for each age category will be announced on Wednesday 24th November.

Example videos can be found at twsocial.co.uk/channels/my-lockdown-companion/

Videos will need to be submitted in an MP4 or MOV format, with the maximum file size of 1GB.

If you have any questions on taking part, or need any help, do not hesitate to get in touch. Drop us an **email** on twsocial@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

Note: Videos need to be suitable for a family audience, so no graphic or inappropriate images or profanities in your work.



**MY LOCKDOWN
COMPANION**



tw social



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