

Sijia Zheng

Director / Storyboard Artist / AI Artist



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Goal: To be a Great Director, an amazing storyteller, and a wonderful avant-garde.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Sijia Zheng is a director, AI filmmaker, and visual storyteller specializing in experimental animation, AI-driven filmmaking, and hybrid production techniques. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the Academy of Art University in 2020 and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Expanded Animation at the University of Southern California.

Since 2017, he has worked as a visual designer for prominent Chinese artists and entertainment projects, including Walking Dead, Mai, and Yang Hesu. His works explore the intersection between cinema, AI technology, and visual innovation.

His short film Cat Chaser was selected as the opening project for the VR·XR exhibition of the 2024 China Golden Rooster Awards. He has also collaborated with major companies and directors such as Wanda Group, Wajijiwa Entertainment, and director Yu Baimei.

Since 2024, several of his short films—including Cat Chaser, Scrolling, and Torment—have received international awards and selections at Oscar-qualifying film festivals. In 2025, his AI short film Torment won Best AI Short Film at the Oscar-qualifying LA Shorts International Film Festival.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Director | Director | Jianlibao 2026 Chinese New Year AI Commercial

Jun. 2026

► Directed a one-minute AI-driven commercial for the well-known Chinese beverage brand Jianlibao, collaborating with Wajijiwa Entertainment and artist Ma Boqian. The project showcased advanced AI visual storytelling within a short format.

Director | AI Short Film "Predator" — Official Alibaba Wan2.6 Collaboratio.

Dec. 2025

► Directed a sci-fi action short film demonstrating the capabilities of Alibaba's Wan2.6 AI tools. The film gained wide attention and was featured in People's Daily Overseas Edition.

Director | AI film "Monument" for China Central Television

Aug.2025- Sep.2025

► "Monument" is an anti-war concept short film that uses AI technology to create a moving story in an extremely short time. The film took part in the concert event "United: The Rhythm of Peace", co-hosted by China Central Television and the Aiwowow platform, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory against fascism. It was screened at Lincoln Center in New York.

Creative Supervisor & Assistant Director | Short film "Zhongkui" .

Oct.2024-Nov.2024

► The short film "Zhong Kui" was jointly shot by the famous Chinese director "Yu Baimei" and the famous Chinese company "Kuaishou". As an assistant director and creative director, I was deeply involved in the project. I participated in all aspects of the film throughout the process, including but not limited to scripts, storyboards, AI, UE 3D animation, and editing.

Director | Music VJ for Chinese Celebrity Company "Wajijiwa Entertainment"

May.2024-Now

► Using AI, I created VJ visuals for Ma Boqian, an artist under Wajijiwa Entertainment, for songs such as 'Bedroom Playlist,' 'Be Your Light,' 'Moon Bridge,' 'Carabiner,' and 'Forget Keys' quickly and on a tight budget. The AI technology produced different artistic styles, including early 3D pixel game style, sweet psychedelic style, and retro vaporwave style. The high efficiency and visual artistry were highly appreciated by the client.

Director | Science Documentary "Coral Reels"

Mar.2024-May.2024

► "Coral Reels" is a Science Documentary film that was produced in collaboration with USC scientists and the Wrigley Institute. The film was produced under the Coral Conservation Initiative, a program supported by the U.S. government.

Open the Portal Studio| Los Angeles, United States

May 2024-July.2024

► Animator of the film "Cup Boy" which is 2D Animation combined with Stop motion & live action.

Sijiadoudou Studio| Executive Director, Start-up Company. Shenzhen, China.

Jun.2022-Present

► The company's creative director and founder, responsible for managing the company's development direction, controlling the quality of works and products, and also responsible for the company's project design.

► Designed the animation short film 'Oops' .

► Integrated script writing, character designs, storyboard, model construction, and rigging,etc.

► Coordinated tasks between scene designers, riggers, modelers, and prviz artists, etc.

► Website link: <https://www.sjiadoudou.com/>

Hangzhou Blue Whale Animation Co. Ltd., Hangzhou, China.

Sept. 2020- May.2022

- ▶ Produced various game animations and advertising storyboard productions.
- ▶ In charge of the company' s projects' posts.

No Label Crew company. Shanxi, China.

Feb. 2021

- ▶ Worked as the visual artist to be in charge of the character design of the hip-hop album 'Mystery Toy Box.

Awards

Director, Story artist, Editor, Writer| independent film "Tornment 熬"

May.2025-June.2025

- ▶ "Tornment" is a AI-Live Action film that won different film festivals awards and selected by many film festivals. Such as:

Awards by the festival:

"LA Shorts International Film Festival — Best AI Film"

[Oscar Qualifying & BAFTA Qualifying Film Festival]

Director, Story artist, Editor, Writer| independent film "Scrolling"

Mar.2024-May.2024

- ▶ "Scrolling" is a traditional 2D animation short film that won different film festivals awards and selected by many film festivals. Such as:

Awards by the festival:

"Los Angeles Animation Festival" : Best Student Animation Comedy Award

Officially selected by the festival:

"Santa Fe International Film Festival"

"Rhode Island International Film Festival" [Oscar Qualifying & BAFTA Qualifying Film Festival]

Director, Story artist, Editor, Writer| independent film "Cat Chaser"

Sep.2023-Jan.2024

- ▶ "Cat Chaser" is an independent film that won different film festival awards. Such as:

Awards by the festival:

"IndieX Film Fest" : Best Experimental film, Best Fantasy film, The Best Male Student Director

"Zepstone International Film Awards" : Best AI film

"Oniros Film Awards® - New York" : BEST AI FILM

"Touchstone Independent Film Festival" : Best AI Short

"SikaniaFilmFestival" : Best International Short

"Best Shorts Competition" : Best Experimental (Student)

"Happy Place Film Festival" : Best Sezione +3 Film

"2024 ARFF Paris // International Awards" : Honorable mention by festival

"Copper Dragon International Film Festival" : Finalist

"Shanghai International Short Week" : Semi-Finalist

"Art Giraffe International Film Festival" : Quarter-Finalist

"25 GIFF | Genesis International Film Festival" : Quarter-Finalist

"Cape Town Squad International Film Festival" : Nomination

"Meta Morph AI Film Award" : Nomination

"Volterra Fantasy Film Festival" : Nomination

Officially selected by the festival:

"LA Shorts International Film Festival" [Oscar Qualifying & BAFTA Qualifying Film Festival]
"Tehran International Short Film Festival" [Oscar Qualifying Film Festival]
"Golden Rooster Awards XR Film Exhibition" [One of the biggest Chinese Film Festival]
"Bârlad International Film Festival"
"TREASURE COAST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL"
"Metadisruption – AI International Art&Design Festival"
"Castel Lagopesole International Short Film Festival"
"Chroma Art Film Festival"
"AI Artist BeiJing"
"ONED art/experimental film festival"
"Indie Shorts Mag Short Film Festival"
"Filmfest Oberursel International Film Festival"
"BAIFF - Burano Artificial Intelligence Film Festival"
"CineTech Future Fest"
"Cannes World Film Festival"
"LuminaFlicks International Short Film Fest"
"Short Movie Club Film Festival "Nefiltravane kino"
"New Filmmakers NY"
"Experimental Brasil"
"ReelHeART International Film and Screenplay Festival"
"Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions 2024"

Director| Stop motion Animation "Monument"

Sep.2023-Jan.2024

► "Monument" is an independent stop-motion animation that won different film festival awards. Such as:

Awards by the festival:

"Best Shorts Competition" : Best Animation
"The Bay International Film Festival" : Semi-Finalist
"Indie Short Fest" : Nominee

Officially selected by the festival:

"New York Tri-State International Film Festival"
"Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions 2024"
"AsterFest International Film Festival 2024"
"Bridge of Peace"

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

❖ Year 2021:

Worked for many celebrities, like KeyNG, Mai, FOX, PH-1, Nineone, Yamy, Tia, and in charge of the derivative products, logo, and album covers, etc.

❖ Year 2019, 2020, 2021:

Chinese rap label Woken Day (WalkingDead) visual artist in charge of post, album, and derivatives producing.

❖ Year 2020:

NHBW fashion clothing brand logo & clothes design; ZTO fashion clothing brand logo & clothes design.

❖ Year 2021-Now:

Founder of Starlight Card Studio

EDUCATION

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Sept.2016-Sept.2021

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation & Visual Effects Overall GPA: 3.167/4.0

Core Courses: Animation filmmaking, computer animation, figure drawing, color theory, storyboard and cinematography, perspective illustration, advanced animation production.

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Sept.2023-Now

Expanded Animation Research + Practice (XA) Overall GPA: 4.0/4.0

Core Courses: AI filmmaking, expanded animation, contemporary animation theory, screenwriting, directing actors, advanced storyboarding, film aesthetics.

SKILLS

AI-driven filmmaking | Drawing | 2D animation pipeline | 3D animation workflow | Live-action production | Stop-motion | Screenwriting | Music production