

# Media Release

August 2014

## Animation student in pole position at international festival

A TAFE Queensland Brisbane screen and media student has had his works showcased at the Queensland season of the Australian International Animation Festival.

James Hazael's three minute animation project was featured at the State Library at the weekend, as part of an Australian Showcase.

'Le Tour' was one of 20 new Australian animations screened at the festival, which was its second screening this year.

"My film was also screened at the Melbourne International Animation Festival (MIAF) this year," James said.

"'Le Tour' was my final animation project from my two year course in screen and media at South Bank TAFE. It is set in the 1930's in Monaco and is about two mismatched competitors duel for the finish and the chequered flag but a pit stop event changes the outcome.

"I wanted to utilize all my skills that I had learnt over the past two years, so 'Le Tour' started as the idea to use a combination 2D and 3D animation and it grew from there."

Festival director, Malcolm Turner curated six sessions including the Australian Showcase, along with the main event which featured amongst 90 of the best new animated shorts from around the world, selected from 3,000 entries for this year's MIAF.

James, who now works as a professional Motion Graphics Artist in Brisbane, said he realised his love of drawing at a very early age.

"I taught myself the basics by trial and error but I have always had an eye for motion and really enjoyed bringing life to characters," he explained.

"I enjoyed my time at TAFE very much. Perhaps the best thing about my experience was the teachers. They always helped us get just that little bit extra from us."

Screen and media teacher Frank Gaschk described James as a very talented student.

"He sought to go beyond what he was taught and used the vocational style classes to dive deeper in to animation techniques," Frank said.

"In my biased opinion 'Le Tour' was much better animated work than the work produced from southern universities.

You can check out James' work on his website [jameshazael.com](http://jameshazael.com)

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