



TOWER RUN

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Director - Daniel Pindell

Year of film - 2022

Estimated Running Time - 3'

MA Graduation Film

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TOWER RUN

by Dan Pindell



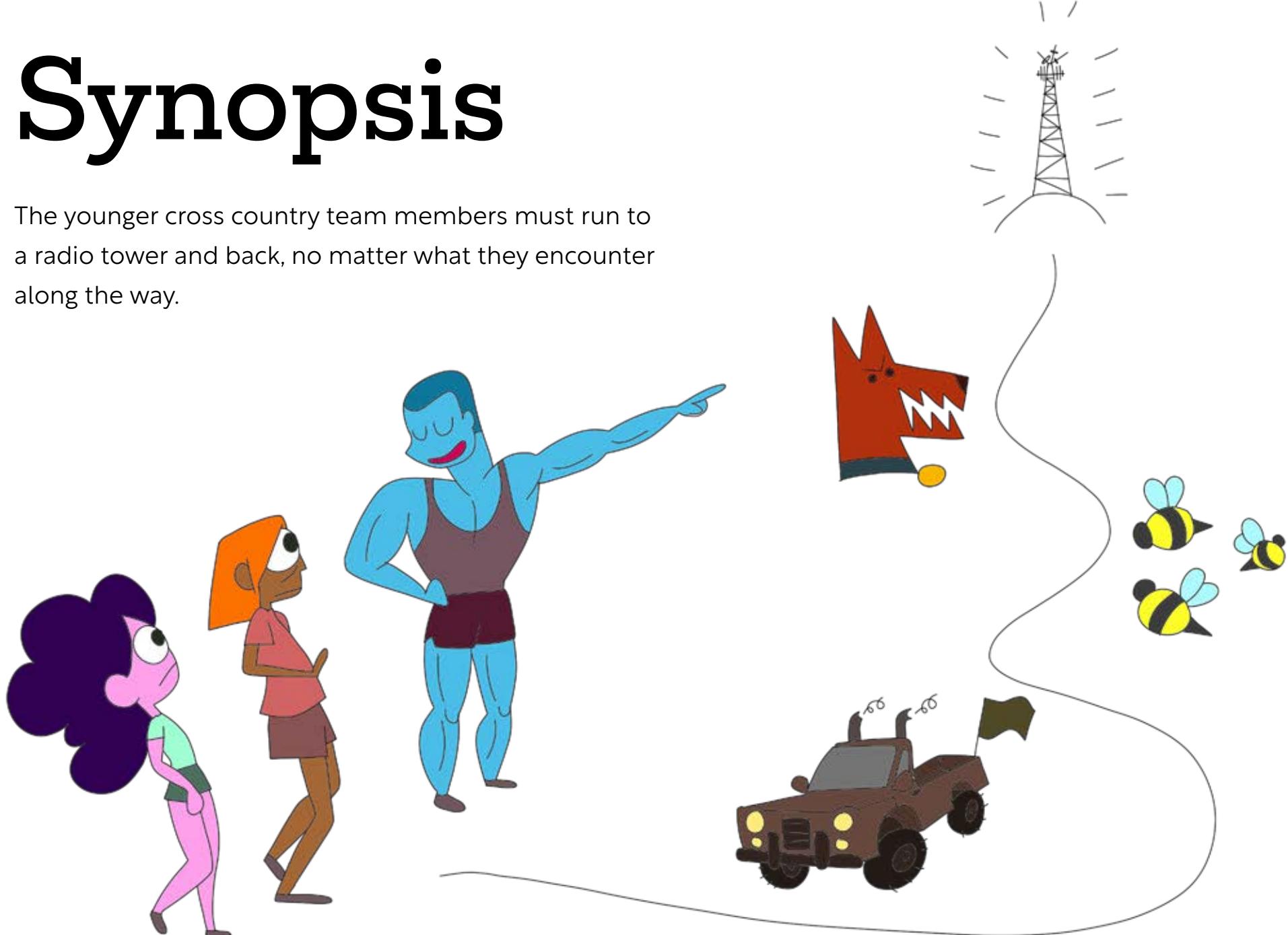
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Synopsis

The younger cross country team members must run to a radio tower and back, no matter what they encounter along the way.



Overview

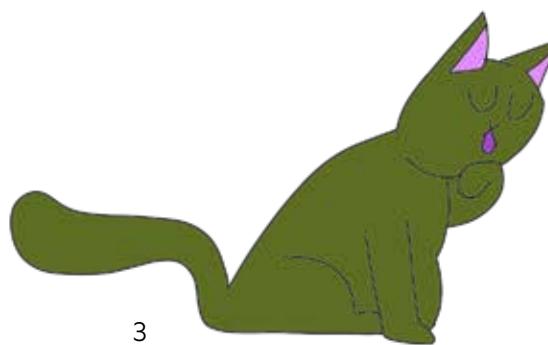
Cross country team practice runs can yield surprising encounters and colorful memories.

Running builds community. Friendships grow through shared adversity. Teammates challenge one another to improve.

Sometimes silly stuff happens, too.



Storyboards





1. The team gathers for an early morning long distance run.



2. The newer runners are quickly outpaced by the veterans.



3. The young runners make a valiant effort to keep up.



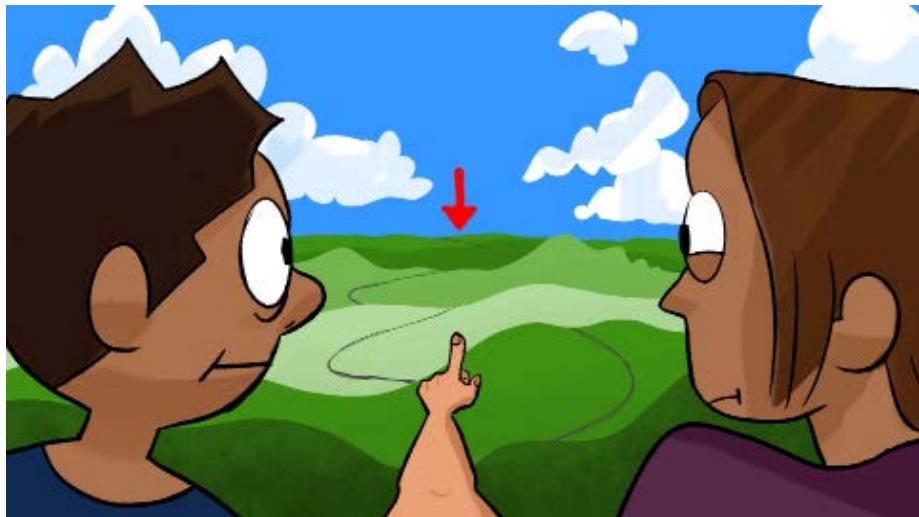
4. Eventually they lose sight of the vets.



5. All the runners encounter distractions and obstacles along the way.



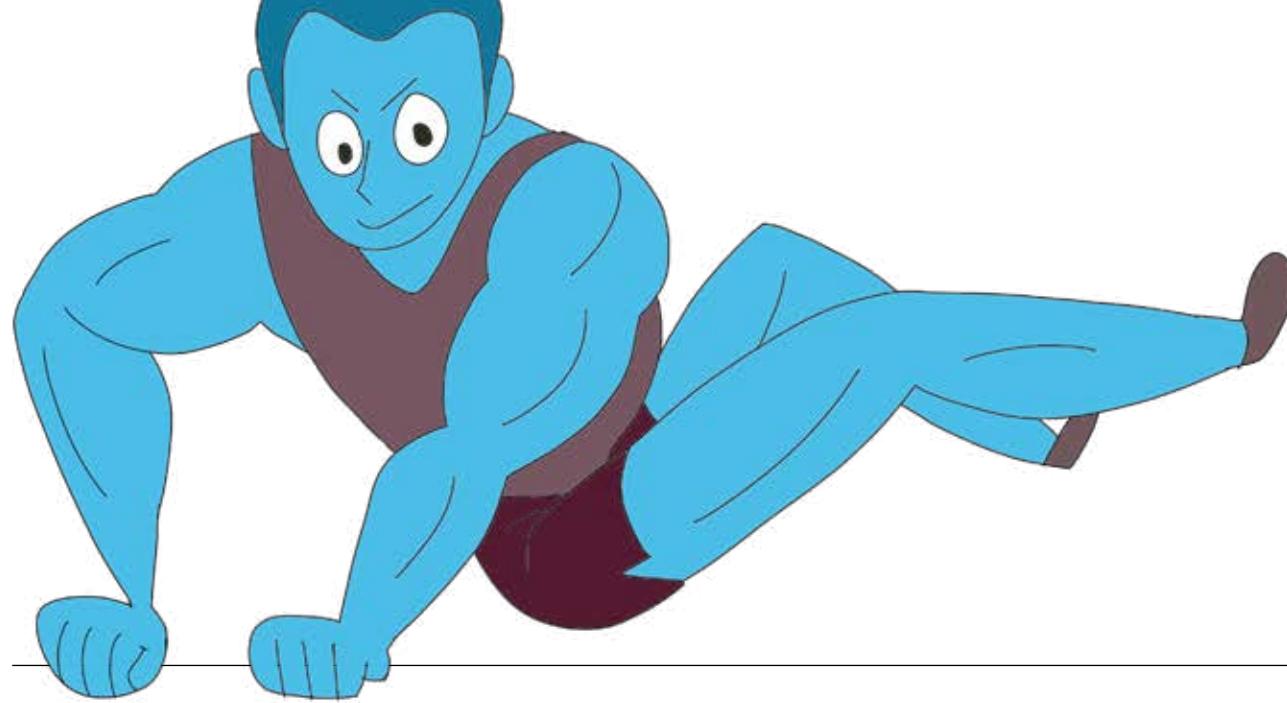
6. Eventually all the runners reach their goal - the radio tower!



7. Of course, they are only halfway. Now it's time to head back.



8. The return journey begins.



Characters



Protagonists / The B Team

Young, less experienced, still new to the sport, still growing. They are the primary eyes and ears of the film.



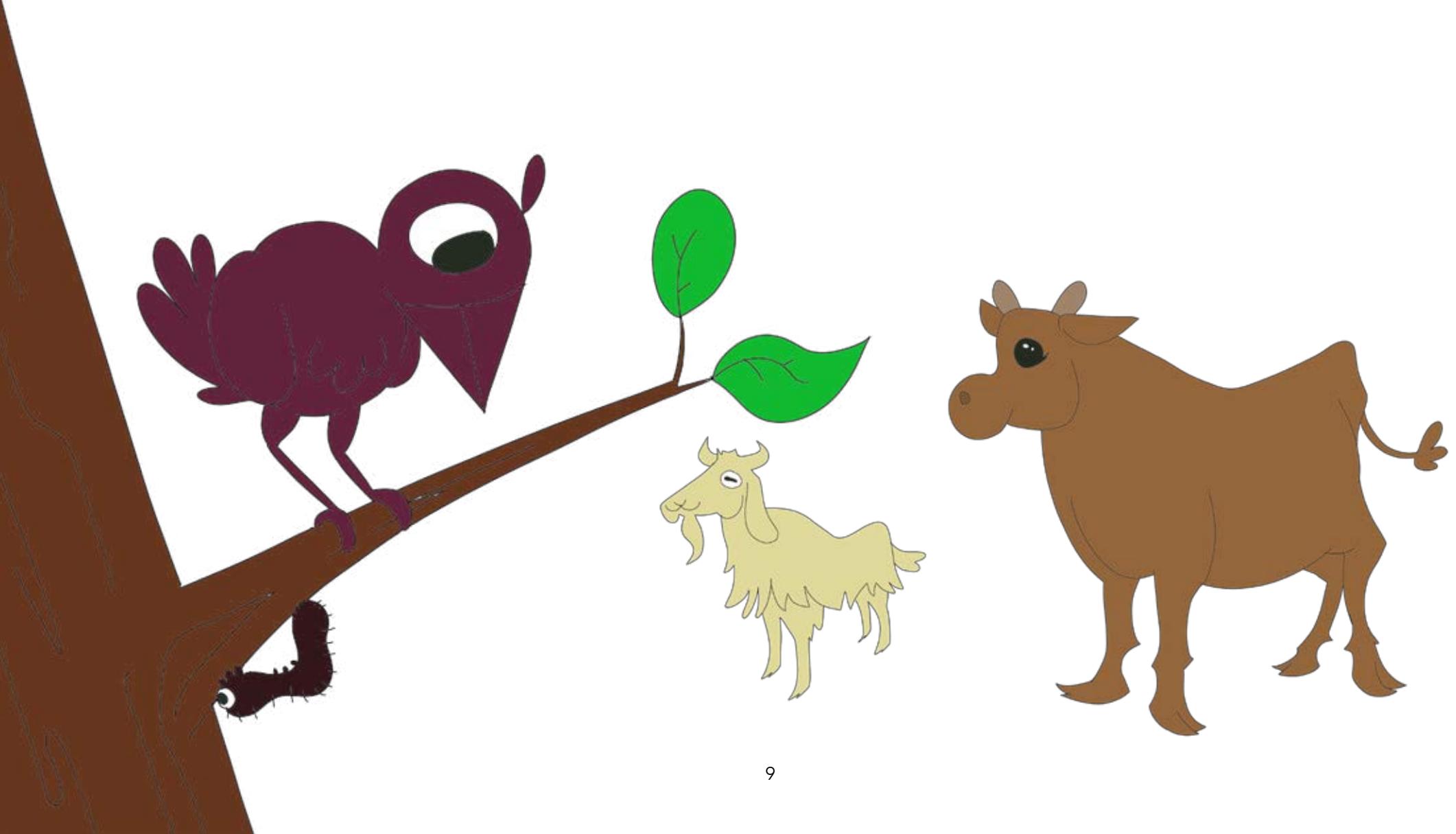
Supporting Cast / The Varsity Team

Older, with more races under their belts. Definitely confident, stronger and faster, but not necessarily wiser.



Animals / The Onlookers

Animals are omnipresent on a run. From house pets to wild pests, animals make their presence known.



They'll make cameos throughout the film.

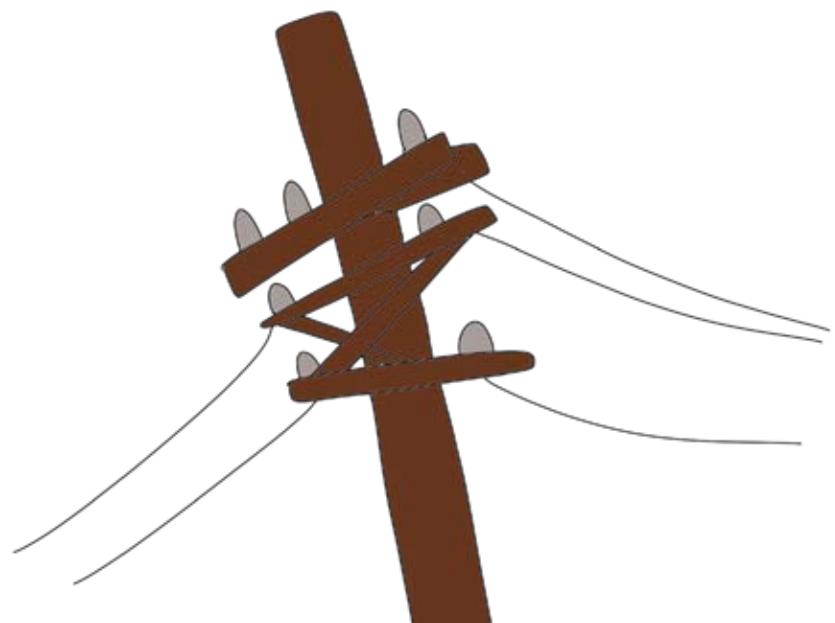


Props

Long runs often become solitary as the pack thins out and individuals find their groove.

Observant types don't suffer from a lack of stimulation as long as they keep their eyes peeled.



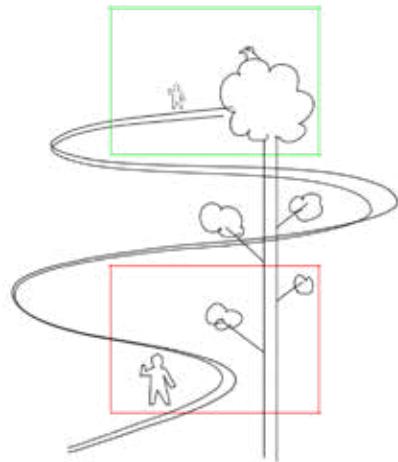


Visual Approach



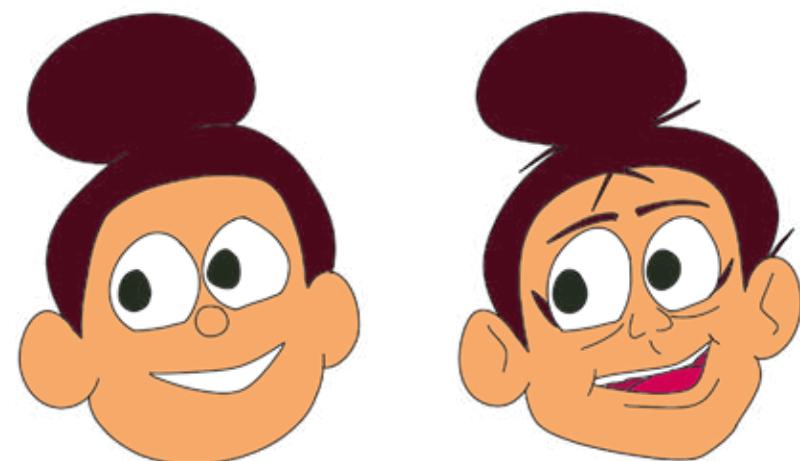
Camera Movement

Taking advantage of sweeping camera moves will allow for more engagement with visual elements and break up cuts.



Simplified Design

The current designs have been streamlined for speed and efficiency. Details and texture may return for close ups as the narrative demands.



Pushed Perspective

Contorted, stretched, and warped body proportions will be used to communicate the physical exertion and emotions the runners experience.



Concept Art

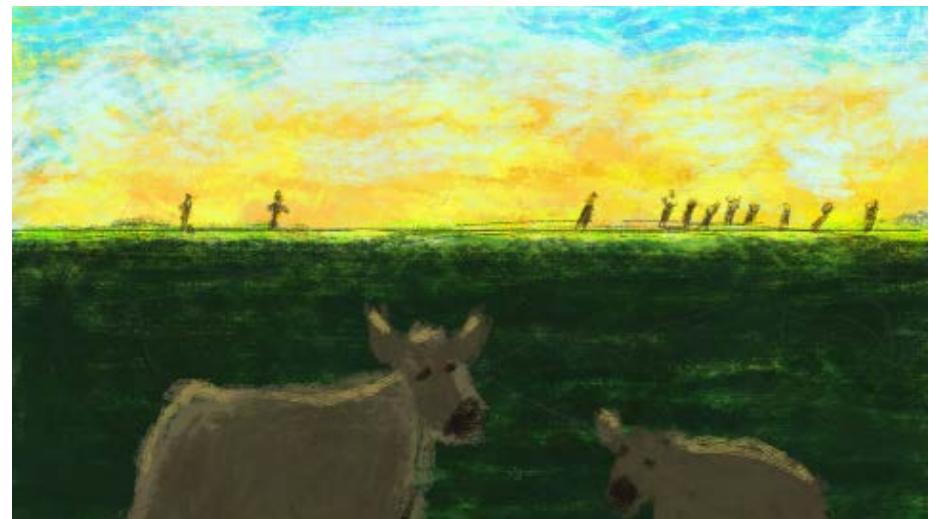
Color and lighting will be studied further during development.



Childhood memory exaggeration: "That tree used to seem so big."



Long shots will be a necessity to break up action.



A heartfelt tradition: slap the tree before continuing the run.



Up shots to push perspective.



Fantastic colors may be utilized to heighten story beats.



A chance to create fluid effects animation.



A depiction of a rare phenomenon called “runner’s high” or “bonking.”



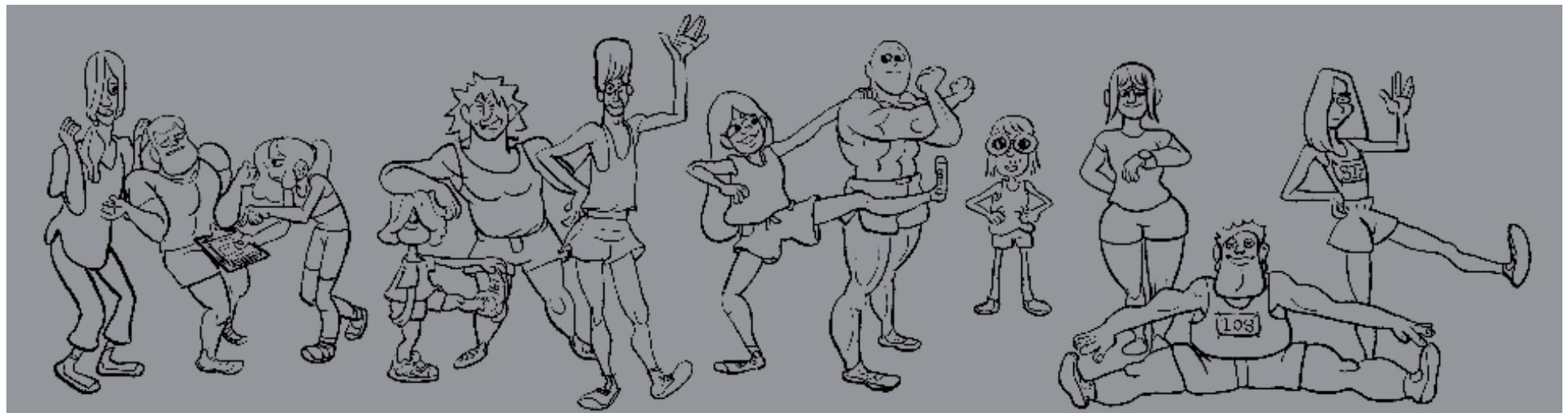
A particularly traumatic trail run in the woods.



Some training courses have unique obstacles.



Early character concepts that may be adapted as development continues.



Sound



Diegetic Cues

Runners rely on their ears to keep wary of dangers outside of their peripheral vision.

Oftentimes, the runner will hear something, like road traffic, long before they can see it.

Diegetic audio will be key to worldbuilding, staging and anticipation.



Music

Subtle thematic music will be employed to heighten dramatic moments.



Production Notes

Software

Toon Boom's Storyboard Pro and Harmony will be the production environment of choice.

Additional work may be needed in Adobe After Effects and Audition.

Priority Tasks

1. Complete production storyboards.
2. Finalize character and prop designs (silhouettes, expressions, poses).
3. Improve compositions and scenery layout to compliment story beats.
4. Capture new audio where appropriate.
5. Complete animatic to establish final timing.

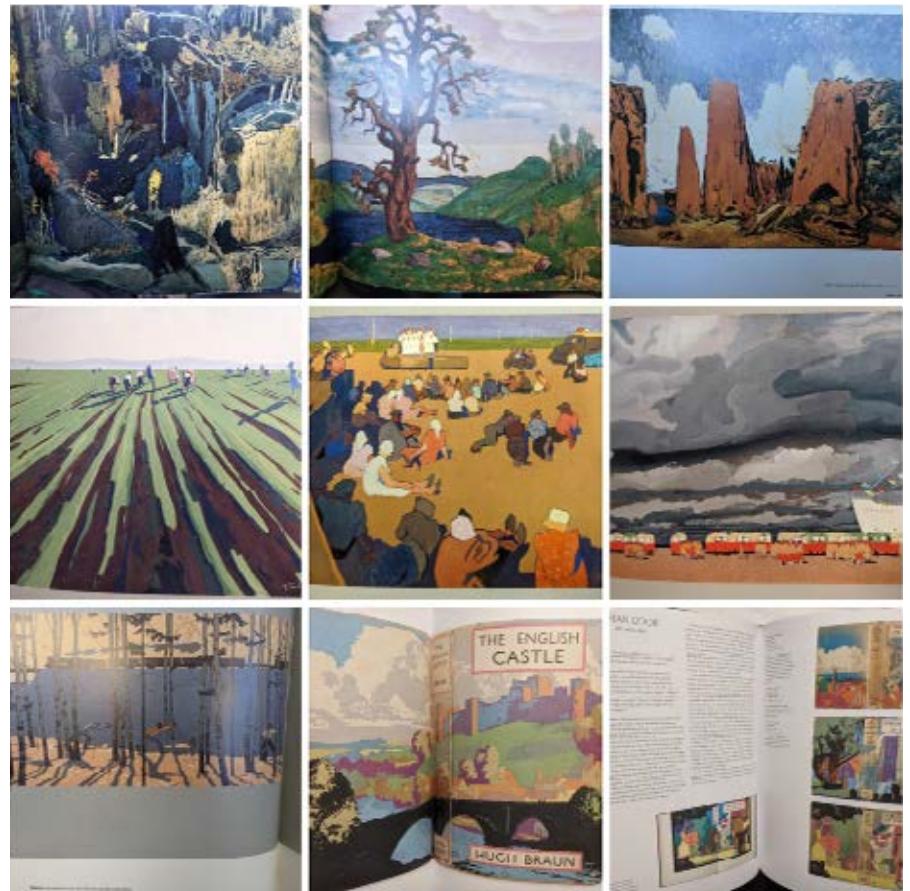
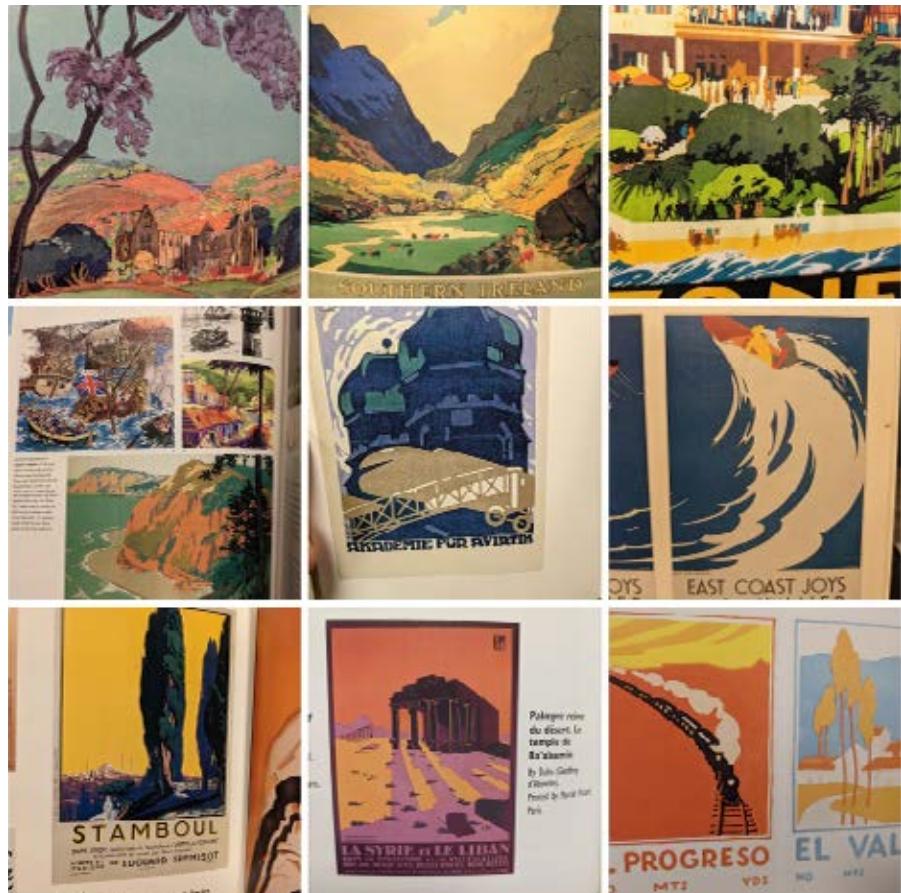


The Gate, an animated short by Shane Plante, demonstrates capabilities that align with visual goals for this film.

<https://www.toonboom.com/shane-plante-on-animating-terror-in-the-gate>

References

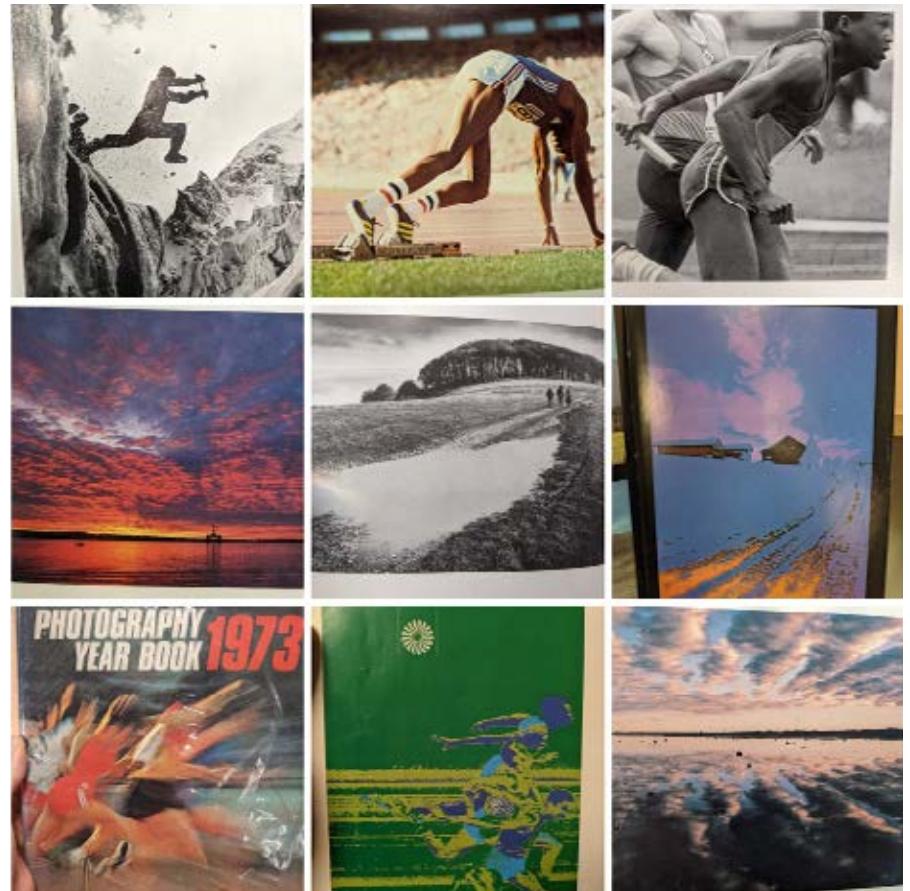
All images have been gathered from the UCA Farnham Elaine Thomas Library.



Examples of shape and color usage in 19th and 20th century travel posters have been helpful.

Photos & Posters

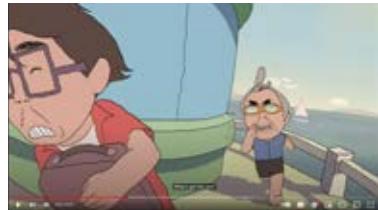
These images offer cues for more dynamic shot direction and composition.



Mid to late 20th century annual photo collections provide unique imagery not accessible online.

Animated Shorts

A small sample of influential animated films that showcase targets for tone and treatment.



Chroniques De L'eau Salée
Directors: Tamerlan Bekmurzayev, Antoine Carre, Rodrigo Goulão De Sousa, Alexandra Petit, Martin Robic

<https://youtu.be/lULcbkJGYAE>



The Walk
Created & Produced by Art&Graft
<https://artandgraft.com/project/the-walk>



Dix-huit kilomètres trois
Directors: Maïlis Colombie, Manon Serda, Justine Thibault

<https://youtu.be/8vt0YfUt1I4>



Over the Garden Wall - Highwayman
Animation Process
Animator: Nick Cross

<https://youtu.be/2k7UYy4-Tas>



Doris & Mary-Anne Are Breaking Out Of Prison | Episode 1
Director: Ben Levin

<https://youtu.be/NXEb-jxqz1w>

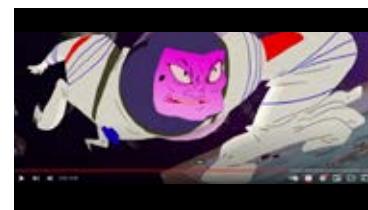


Jason & Friends
Director: Worthikids
<https://youtu.be/0pdF1a7Qi9c>

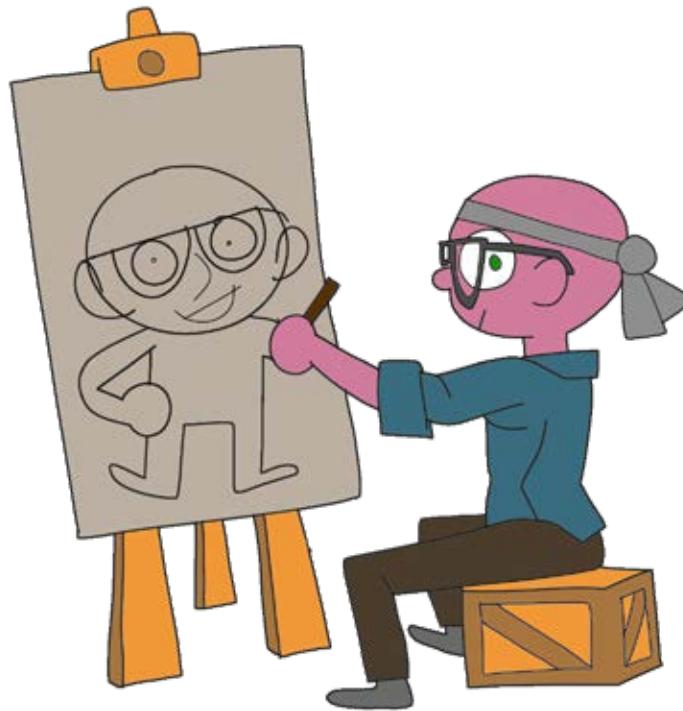


Izen - 'Talk' Music Video
Directors: Remus Buznea, Kyriaki Kyriakou

<https://www.remusandkiki.com/talk>



Stuck In the Sound - Let's Go
Directors: Alexis Beaumont & Rémi Godin
<https://youtu.be/52Gg9CqhbP8>



Dan Pindell is an illustrator and animator.

He enjoys taking photos with his Nikon D3500, cycling to work and hunting through shops for secondhand books.

Visit **www.danpindell.com** to see animation tests, concept art and more.



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