

Riccardo Renna
Computer Animation, 2013

Born in Santiago, Chile, Ricky spent a nomadic childhood on three continents. He says the constant relocations drove him to pursue solitary interests, such as drawing and learning about computers. As a young boy, he developed a fascination with Super Mario Brothers and would often sketch the characters. "It was something about shooting fireballs while sporting the manliest mustache of all time that ignited my passion for art and computer animation," he kids.

Ricky discovered Ringling while browsing through prominent animation schools. He says Ringling was right at the top, and he intended on getting the best education possible. He majored in Computer Animation because it encompasses everything he loves to do - character design, storytelling, and animation. Ricky says he left the program a greater artist than he ever imagined possible and learned the importance of resiliency. "I learned there are many obstacles throughout an artist's life, but with willpower and enough endurance anything can be surpassed," he says.

After graduation, Ricky went on to the School of Visual Arts in New York, where he is pursuing his MFA in Computer Art. At the heart of his work is the desire to entertain. "Computer animation keeps your funny bone alive. If I can put a smile on peoples' faces or keep audiences entertained, then I've achieved my goal," he says. He is the winner of the Young Cuts Film Festival's Best Animation Award and was recently nominated for a 2014 Annie Award. His current project is a short film heavily inspired by his personal journey at Ringling. Once his MFA is in hand, Ricky will pursue a career in animation. "To get paid to do what I love is really the best outcome I could imagine," he says.