



# **Kim Mashiyama and Janelle Young**

**Animators  
Class of 2005**

**By Quinn  
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We have all had a BFF (Best Friend Forever) at some point in our lives. Kim Mashiyama and Janelle Young are true examples of this. It is amazing that their BFF status has endured from intermediate school through college. Currently, they work together as animators under the same employer.

Kim and Janelle were first introduced to one another after being assigned to sit next to each other in their sixth grade math class with Mrs. Purbaugh, (who is now a substitute teacher) and have been friends ever since. Their friendship grew even stronger during eighth grade when they worked together on a project for the History Day event in 2001. They enjoyed collaborating together and hanging out with their mutual friends.

Both Kim and Janelle were interested in animation and video games, which naturally led them to pursue a career in animation. Consequently, after graduating from high school, they moved to Oahu to attend Kapi'o'lani Community College and participated in the New Media Arts 3D animation program. After obtaining their Associate in Science degrees from the community college, their teachers sent them a variety of job offers. One particular offer from a company in Hakalau stood out; employment there would allow them to return to their homes in Hilo. Soon after applying, Kim and Janelle were hired by GB Hajim: Kim as a 2D animator and Janelle as a 3D animator. They are both still happily working at Screaming Wink Productions, LLC. They complement each other well with their differing specialties.

Screaming Wink Productions, LLC., has been working on a movie called Strange Frame: Love and Sax. For more information, you can visit this site: <http://www.strangeframe.com/blog>

When asked how they describe a major change that occurred in their job and how they solved it, they replied:

“As of late, GB has fallen ill and has been unable to be present at the studio from long periods of time. We have adapted to this change by continuing to work on the projects that were assigned to us and by trying to make the most of his visits by showing him the results and getting feedback on the projects we have completed. If we cannot wait, however, GB is also available via phone or email.”

Like anything, being an animator is a lot of work. So when Kim and Janelle have a lot of work to do, they get it done by going in to work on the weekends or by trying to do what they can at home. Basically, they just try to do their best on the task at hand and complete their work. Even with deadlines to worry about, they quote, “GB is a very understanding boss.”

To those that might be interested in working in this field, you have to keep your knowledge current with the ongoing changes in the industry. Kim and Janelle do this by communicating with each other and their coworkers whenever they learn something new. However, due to methods being utilized in their animation process, using the latest software and techniques is not really necessary. For the 2D elements, the ever-famous Photoshop is commonly used to draw their characters while they use a not-so-familiar program, Adobe After Effects, to animate them. To work in 3D, they use Autodesk Maya for moving elements that would be difficult to replicate in 2D. I think that the quote that matches their friendship is *“A good friend is hard to find, hard to lose, and impossible to forget...”* **(Anonymous)**

