

SIDNEY CLIFTON (*she/her*)

Executive Creative Leader • Animation & Mixed Media • Studio & Production Management

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[LinkedIn](#) | [IMDb](#)

Innovation • Inspiration • Integrity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Award-winning animation and mixed-media executive with 20+ years leading creative development, production, talent strategy, and studio operations across globally recognized brands and entertainment companies. Proven expertise in overseeing multi-platform animated series, cultivating visionary talent, building high-performing teams, and guiding complex productions from concept to delivery. Recognized for strategic leadership, cross-functional collaboration, and championing diverse voices across the animation industry.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Creative Leadership & Strategy • Studio Operations • Executive Production • Talent Development & Mentorship • Animation & Mixed Media • Multi-Platform Content • IP Development • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives • Partner & Vendor Management • Budgeting & Scheduling • Cross-Functional Collaboration • AI Tool Competency: Including ChatGPT, Sora, LTX Studio, Move AI • Pitching & Deal Negotiation • Problem Resolution & Stakeholder Alignment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of Animation, Mattel Studios

04/2024 – 11/2025

- Led development for all animation television series; managed creative executives and day-to-day departmental operations.
 - Oversaw creative vision, development pipelines, and production for animated series from concept to delivery.
 - Partnered with Business Affairs, Production, PR, Consumer Products, and franchise teams on launches and strategic planning.
 - Executive Produced animation projects, ensuring creative excellence, efficiency, and alignment with brand goals.
 - Spearheaded solution-driven collaboration with studio and external partners to address production challenges.
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Producer, The Jim Henson Company

01/2023 – 04/2024

- Produced **Slumberkins**, an 18-episode preschool series for Apple TV+.
 - Pitched, developed, and produced a slate of animated and mixed-media properties across multiple formats.
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SVP, Animation & Mixed Media, The Jim Henson Company

01/2021 – 01/2023

- Oversaw development and production of animated, live-action, and hybrid content utilizing Henson's Digital Puppetry Studio.
 - Served as Executive-in-Charge on project setup across creative, production, and technical teams.
 - Championed emerging talent through mentoring, staffing, and career development.
 - Served on Henson's Diversity Committee, shaping inclusive hiring and creative initiatives.
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Producer, *Harriet the Spy*, The Jim Henson Company

11/2020 – 01/2021

- Managed creative and production oversight of a 20-episode Apple TV+ animated series; provided ad-hoc showrunner support.
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Executive Producer, Deluxe Animation Studios

05/2019 – 01/2021

- Drove new business development and cultivated key client relationships.
 - Led bidding, budgeting, and production oversight across multiple concurrent animation projects.
 - Partnered with studio leadership (Business Planning, VP/GM teams) to refine production strategy, cost tracking, and pipelines.
 - Strengthened global studio integration, advancing restructuring to expand Toronto and Pune operations.
 - Facilitated risk management, scheduling, and cross-department coordination to ensure timely, high-quality delivery.
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Creative Recruiter / Creative Producer, Riot Games

08/2016 – 05/2019

- Recruited top animation, VFX, technical art, and narrative talent from universities across North America.
 - Built and maintained a comprehensive talent database supporting global studio staffing needs.
 - Contributed creative/production support to internal animated R&D projects.
 - Helped redesign the University Relations outreach strategy.
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Head of Recruiting, Transmedia & Employee Relations, Bento Box Entertainment

01/2014 – 07/2016

- Recruited animation talent across Burbank, North Hollywood, Atlanta, and Toronto studios.
 - Served as liaison between staff and senior leadership, supporting culture, communication, and retention.
 - Oversaw social media strategy and represented the studio at industry events.
 - Provided casting, production, and special projects support as needed.
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Production Executive, Bento Box Entertainment

01/2012 – 12/2013

- Managed development of animated pilots, long-form specials, and marketing materials.
 - Guided proprietary and co-production projects from concept through pitch.
 - Supported company principals and participated in high-level network pitches.
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President, Sanctuary Enterprises

07/2007 – 01/2012

- Executive Produced live-action, multimedia, and animated content across TV, VOD, publishing, and digital platforms.
 - Oversaw IP acquisition, development, and cross-media strategy.
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EVP, Creative, Programming & Production, Film Roman

08/2005 – 07/2007

- Sourced and developed original animated and long-form projects, securing deals with writers, talent, networks, and studios.
 - Produced multiple animated series and specials, including:
 - **HAPPY ELF** (NBC) – Producer
 - **ELOISE** – Executive Producer
 - **WEEBLES** (Hasbro) – Co-Producer
 - **TRIPPING THE RIFT** (Sci-Fi Channel) – Producer
 - **STAN LEE PRESENTS** – Producer
 - Represented company at national/international programming conferences.
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SVP, Head of Programming & Development, Film Roman

11/2002 – 08/2005

- Led animation and long-form development; acquired IP, oversaw creative direction, and produced pitch materials.
 - Sold projects to domestic and international buyers and managed current series.
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Vice President of Development, Film Roman

09/2000 – 11/2002

- Developed animation, live-action, and feature properties from concept to pitch.
 - Built industry relationships across agencies, management firms, and creative networks.
 - Maintained departmental operations, reporting, and invoice management.
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SELECT HIGHLIGHTS & AFFILIATIONS

- **Emmy Nomination:** Best Animated Program, One Hour or More – *Hellboy*
 - **Memberships:**
 - International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences
 - Academy of American Television (Daytime Emmy Judge)
 - Women in Animation
 - ASIFA
 - **Board of Directors, Academy of American Poets** – Chair, Chancellors Committee
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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

SIGGRAPH | Bentonville Film Festival | ASIFA-Hollywood Diversity Committee | Idyllwild School of the Arts Commencement Speaker | Ringling College Commencement Speaker | Women in Animation Industry Panels | Goyang City High-Tech Symposium (Seoul) | ComicCon Black Panel | Dwayne McDuffie Award Ceremony | Multiple Ringling College Panels

REFERENCES Available upon request.