



Danny Barnhart (He/They)

Effects Artist

in [linkedin.com/in/DannyBarnhart](https://www.linkedin.com/in/DannyBarnhart)

A dynamic and skilled effects artist, Danny Barnhart has extensive experience in creating visual effects for feature animation, live action episodics, and commercial projects. Passionate about DEI initiatives and inclusive storytelling, they actively support employee resource groups and advocate for marginalized voices. Known for positive energy and valuable input in team discussions, Danny promotes interdepartmental collaboration and diversity. With a proven ability to deliver high-quality visual effects, meeting artistic standards and tight project deadlines, Danny is highly regarded by peers and leaders for creativity, technical expertise, and a strong commitment to inclusion.

COMPETENCIES

Technical Skills | Visual Effects, Rendering (Mantra, Karma, Redshift, Renderman, Arnold), Simulation (Destruction, Water, Volumes, Cloth, Particles), Procedural Effects, Tool and Workflow Development, Scripting (Python, VEX, OSL, C++), USD Workflow, Operating System Proficiency (Linux, Windows, Mac), 2D Software Proficiency (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere, Canva), 3D Software Proficiency (Houdini, Maya, Nuke, Katana, Blender, Unreal)

Artistic Skills | Artistic Direction, Fine Art and Digital Illustration, Creative Problem-Solving, Concept Development, Visual Storytelling, Color Theory, Composition Techniques, Graphic Design, Prototyping, Fabrication

DEI/ERG Skills | Inclusive and Authentic Storytelling, ERG Leadership, Community Engagement, Event Planning, Diversity Training, Inclusive Communication, Cross-Team Collaboration, Mentorship, Fundraising

WORK EXPERIENCE

Effects Artist | Pixar Animation Studios (2021 - 2024)

- **Artistic Technical Direction** - Delivered effects for *Turning Red*, *Lightyear*, *Inside Out 2*, and *Win or Lose* using procedural and simulation-based setups, consistently meeting deadlines and artistic standards.
- **Enhanced Studio Versatility** - Enhanced project efficiency and adaptability by exploring new technologies in an experimental department called 'The Lab', quickly learning and integrating new software, boosting the studio's capability for a diverse range of new projects.

Story Consultant | ShapeShifter Films (2020 - 2022)

- **Elevated Film Authenticity** - Strengthened representation of LGBTQ+ narratives in *Nimona* by reviewing production materials and providing feedback, ensuring authenticity and resonance with its audience.

Effects Artist | PowerHouse VFX (2019 - 2020)

- **Expedited Effects Delivery** - Developed high-quality effects assets on tight deadlines for episodic and commercial projects, including volume, particle, pyro, vellum, and rigid body simulations.
- **Ensured Seamless Integration** - Maintained smooth workflow and consistent visual quality by efficiently lighting and shading effects assets for seamless integration into final compositions.

Workshop Instructor | The Gnomon Workshop (2020)

- **Advanced Artist Skills** - Improved artists' proficiency in Houdini by creating and conducting workshops on FLIP solver, particle effects, and ocean surface workflow, enhancing their technical abilities and overall project efficiency.

Effects Artist | Blue Sky Studios (2018 - 2019)

- **Enhanced Film Effects** - Created a variety of effects for *Spies in Disguise* using procedural and simulation workflows.

- **Developed Department Tools** - Developed a volume masking tool to be used by the effects department to improve efficiency and quickly address director notes.

Visual Effects Peer Tutor | Savannah College of Art and Design (2017 - 2018)

- **Enhanced Student Skills** - Boosted students' proficiency in visual effects software and concepts through clear communication and effective problem-solving techniques, facilitating academic success and career readiness.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), VFX, Motion Media | Savannah College of Art and Design

Effects Intern | Blue Sky Studios (2018)

Teaching & Learning Certification | College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & VOLUNTEERING

Studio Resource Group Lead & Contributor | Pixar Animation Studios (2021 - 2024)

- **Ceased Political Donations** - Secured 400+ employee signatures with an open letter on Disney's anti-LGBTQ+ contributions, leading to a cessation of political donations by engaging with leadership and the community.
- **Established Branding Guide** - Developed and implemented logos, style guides, and branded materials (shirts, stickers, pins) for LGBTQ+ and disabled employee resource groups.
- **Strengthened Community Engagement** - Achieved record turnout for SF Pride by organizing Pixar-specific events, designing and sourcing custom pride shirts, and managing logistics. Boosted morale and engagement by connecting with the local LGBTQ+ community through tailored events, leading to Pixar's first participation in Oakland Pride.
- **Raised Awareness and Funds** - Raised over \$2.5K for the Transgender Law Center by designing custom swag for a merchandise-based fundraiser. Collaborated with Disney Enterprise efforts on the "GET" initiative to support trans employees with educational resources.

Volunteer | Queer Women of Color Film Festival (2022-2023)

- **Assisted Attendees** - Gave directions to various resources, facilities, and provided information about the films.

Volunteer | Frameline Film Festival (2022)

- **Connected With Community** - Worked the table at the free family matinee for *Lightyear*. Connected with queer families by handing out swag and offering assistance when needed.

Employee Resource Group Lead & Contributor | Blue Sky Studios (2018-2019)

- **Co-Founded Studio Inclusion Group** - Helped establish the Studio's first group for marginalized employees, organized the first annual Pride Party, and oversaw the social media coverage.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Excellence Award | The Rookies

- Awarded to entrants that are of the absolute highest quality. Awarded by the editorial team and represents a great achievement for all entrants.

Academic Honors & Achievement Scholarships | SCAD

- Scholarships awarded based on academic achievement.

Scholarship Recipient | PFLAG

- Awarded for activism, leadership, and commitment to advocacy and positive social change in the LGBTQ+ community.