



Teacher Joe Summerhays helped Mikey Price and his pals make a film about an adventurous cell phone.

It's Showtime!

Young moviemakers bring their ideas to life.

Mean iPods are hurting your computer chip! Whom can you call? Indiana Phones, that's who! He is the hero in the new movie *Indiana Phones and the Last Upgrade*.

The **animated film** was made by kids. In an animated film, drawings and objects appear to be alive or moving. Kids made the movie at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, N.Y.



Students animated this paper doll for the movie *Oliver's Organic Ice Cream*.



Louisa Soohoo (left) and Maayan Apkon shoot scenes.

Kids learn about animation at the film center. They are also taught how to use tools for making films. Then the kids create movies, music videos, and more. The program is about 12 weeks long.

"They're using the tools of a [pro]," says Emily Keating. She

works at the film center. "They're filmmakers at the end of this."

Behind the Scenes

About 4,000 students have made movies at the film center. The classes first started in 2003.

Kids have created all **genres**, or types, of movies. Some made comedies. Others made action films. The characters have been everything from Indiana Phones to toilet bowls!

Joe Summerhays teaches the classes. "My [saying] is 'Create your own Cartoon

Network,'" he told *WR News*. "Have some fun with it."

It takes hundreds of pictures to make a movie. For a one-minute movie, students need about 900 **frames**. A frame is a picture. It takes 15 frames to make one second of film. (See "Lights, Camera, Action!")

Louisa Soohoo, 10, learned that. The fifth grader from Chappaqua, N.Y., helped create a movie. It was called *Oliver's Organic Ice Cream*. In the film, Oliver serves strange desserts, such as ice cream that tastes like fish and broccoli.

"If you [take a picture] once or twice, then you really know how to do it the third time," Louisa says.

The Big Picture

The classes are a sneak preview into the film **industry**. That is a business. But students learn much more than just how to make a movie. They practice math and language arts. They also learn public speaking skills.

Students use math. They add up how many frames they will need. They use language arts to write scripts. They practice public speaking when they record their voices in front of one another.

The students also learn to work together. They create their films in small groups. They have

Movie posters help show off kids' films.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Can't picture yourself making a movie? It's easy! Read on to learn how kids at the Jacob Burns Film Center create their awesome animations.

1 The Write Stuff

Working in small groups, students come up with a **plot**, or basic story, for their movie. They agree on a completely **original**, or new, main character. Then, they write their script.



2 What's Your Story?

Next, students draw a **storyboard**. That is a visual layout of a movie. By seeing parts of their movie in front of them, students can decide how best to shoot each scene.



3 Ready, Set, Go!

Using construction paper, clay, and other materials, students design their characters and build the movie **sets**, or backgrounds.



4 Animation Creation

Students are now ready to shoot scenes. They place a scene under a raised camera that is connected to a computer. Using software, kids press the computer's space bar to snap a photo.



5 Sound Check

Finally, students choose music and sound effects to go with each scene of their movie. They also record their own voices using a microphone.



to agree on every decision. "It's all about teamwork," Summerhays says.

Teamwork was a skill that Mikey Price, 11, learned. His group made the film about Indiana Phones. First, the group came up with ideas for the story. Then each kid voted for his or

her favorite, Mikey says. The sixth grader from Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., helped come up with the main character.

"I'm actually making a real movie," he told *WR News*. "It's an adventure." WR

THINK CRITICALLY: What should students do if their group does not agree on a topic?

Watch *Indiana Phones* and other kids' films at tinyurl.com/burnscenter.