

# POPPED

★ OR ★

# ALIVE



# ABOUT POPPED OR ALIVE

Back in January of 2024, an evil-looking balloon character was drawn with Expo marker on the side of a dorm room fridge. Little did we know, it would not only lead to working on one of the most influential projects of our lives, but also the formation of a tight-knit group of friends. The story for Popped or Alive started as sketches for a storyboarding class and a few laughs, but our friends loved the characters and encouraged Dani to pitch it for our senior capstone. Lo and behold, everyone loved the idea of a Western film starring balloons, and the project was greenlit.

When recruiting began, half of us were complete strangers. The first time we were all in a room together was at our first POA Crew Spaghetti Dinner (™)—and that night, it felt like we were in for something special. Everyone was super passionate about the project, and we got to work almost immediately. Though we hadn't worked together before, we were quick to figure out each other's styles. When fall quarter rolled around, we already had a strong bond and a lot of progress to show. We met every week, worked tirelessly throughout the year, but always found time to have fun outside the project—from school events to casual hangouts. The down time helped us become more than just collaborators; we became an inseparable crew of ten goofballs.

As the work progressed, so did the challenges. No amount of conceptual understanding of the pipeline could have prepared us for the sheer diversity of skill sets we'd need. Many of us had no experience with aspects of the pipeline outside our concentrations, but each of us had to wear multiple hats and push through the difficulties. Some of us focused on modeling and texturing, others on animation, rigging, or rendering—but we all ended up learning, adapting, and troubleshooting.

In the end, it was our support for one another that made the difference. Each of us brought something valuable to the table. We encouraged each other, pushed each other, and celebrated each other's wins. We wouldn't give up when things got tough—we faced challenges head-on to bring this film to life. Watching the final result, we can see each of our contributions woven into every frame. This film doesn't feel like it belongs to any one person. It's the result of every team member's hard work, creativity, and passion.

We're not just walking away with knowledge and demo reel material. We're walking away with friendships we'll hold onto for life. We're proud of what we accomplished, and know that we couldn't have asked for a better team, a better group of friends, or a better family to be a part of. We hope you enjoy our wacky film about balloons—Popped or Alive is truly special to us.

- The **POPPED OR ALIVE** Crew

# LOGLINE

In an imaginary world of balloon people, an outlaw and a sheriff find themselves working together to take down a poorly-drawn monster.

# TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/1087832583/bcd062e48a?share=copy>

# FACT SHEET

**Running time:** 3:12 mins

**Software:** Autodesk Maya, Autodesk Flow Production Tracking, Substance Painter, Unreal Engine, Nuke, Adobe Suite, Davinci Resolve, Procreate

**Screening Format:** 2K MP4, 2K Flat DCP

**Aspect Ratio:** 2560x1440 (16:9)

**Sound:** Stereo, 5.1, and Dolby Atmos

**Country of Production:** Savannah, Georgia, United States

**Year:** May 2025

**Language:** English

**Website:** <https://poppedoralive.wixsite.com/poppedoralivefilm>

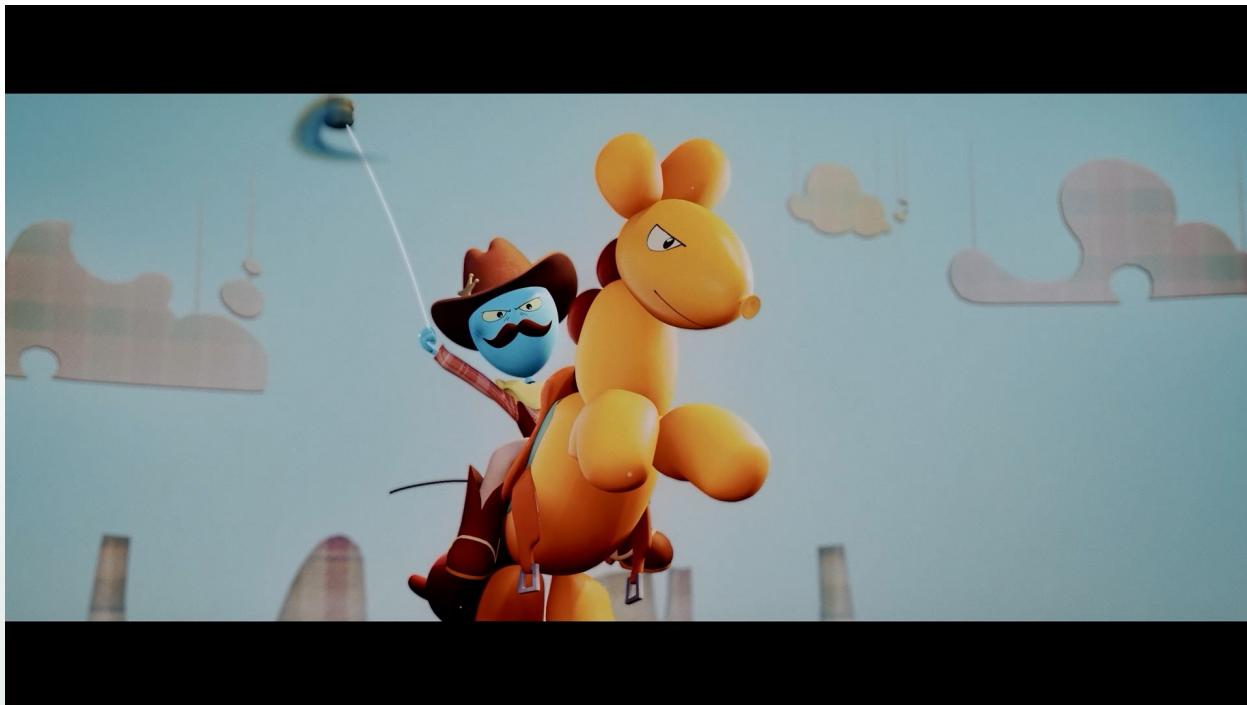
**Press/ Business Contact:** poppedoralive@gmail.com

**Social:** @popped\_or\_alive\_film on Instagram

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# FILM STILLS



# FILM STILLS



# MEET THE CREW

## Carter Hanson

Carter had to wear a lot of hats for this film. He was modeling, illustrating, compositing, animating, storyboarding and doing silly little doodles of the crew behind their back. More often than not, Carter was described as a “Jack of all trades” and he feels like he really gotta show that in Popped or Alive. The degree might say 3D animator but he



## Dani Fevola

Dani is a 3D character animator who likes to put a humorous spin on their projects. They have always admired the exaggerated movements and poses in cartoony work, and enjoy incorporating that into their own. As the director of Popped or Alive, they absorbed the thoughts and ideas of their crew to help make the story the best it could possibly be. Seeing their characters evolve from concept art to animatable 3D rigs, and then finally on the big screen was a fulfilling experience for them. They couldn't be prouder of their crew and what they accomplished together.

In their spare time, Dani enjoys visiting the beach, drawing, and spending time with friends.

## Diya Ali

Diya Ali is the Rigging Artist responsible for designing and implementing the Baloot, Sheriff, and Mr. Smiley body and facial rigs and the Horsey facial rig. This necessitated the creation of a bespoke 2D facial system for Popped or Alive, as well as a custom script so that the 2D faces could be brought into unreal. Diya was also responsible for parts of lighting and even some animation.

Diya enjoys rigging, cooking, carpentry, and staring at the art in hollow knight.



# **Duda Freire Vasconcellos Bulhões**



Duda Bulhões is a 3D animator who also greatly enjoys 3D modeling and compositing. Throughout the production of Popped or Alive, she had a chance to expand her knowledge in Unreal Engine, while also using their proficiency in Autodesk Maya and Adobe After Effects to work on multiple aspects of the film such as modeling, animating, lighting, and compositing. A part of the pipeline she didn't expect to enjoy so much was compositing, but it ended up being one of her favorite things to do in the film, alongside animation. Outside of animation, Duda loves listening to music, playing video games, and drawing, and she enjoys combining those passions to create art.

## **Ellie (Ez) Sykes**

Ellie(Ez) Sykes is a creature animator who works in both 3D and 2D animation as well as modeling. While anyone who has met them can say Ez is a bit on the quiet side, they love being around funny people and doing fun things with them. As a more realistic creature animator, this film was a fun challenge for her to work on. It was absurd and silly and Horsey wasn't a real horse so they couldn't animate him like one. Ez had to break out of their usual animation ways to make something more cartoony for the Balloon people and animals. Outside of animating, Ellie loves to read, write, listen to music, and spend time with her dog Appa.



## **Julienne Sones**



Julienne is an Environment Artist that specializes in stylized realism. Over the course of the production of Popped or Alive, Julienne took a role in ensuring the overall cohesion and setup of the 3D environment, creating resources and troubleshooting issues related to Unreal Engine and Perforce, and setting up environment lighting for the film. Over the duration of the film while also expanding their knowledge on Unreal Engine, Julienne also found an admiration for lighting and compositing. When there is free time, Julienne enjoys playing the guitar, playing video games, and listening to music.

# Megan Staton

Megan Staton is a 3D animator who prioritizes appeal through nuanced acting character movement. During the production of Popped or Alive, Megan had the opportunity to contribute not only their skills in animation, but also their skills in production management. As the Producer, Megan created and managed a series of resources, schedules, and assets that were necessary for the film's completion. They enjoyed working together with such a talented team, and are excited to see Popped or Alive on the big screen! Outside of the film Megan enjoys illustration, video games, music-based visual content, and any hands-on craft they think looks easy enough to pull off.



# Rachel Li

Rachel is a 3D character animator who thrives on every stage of the 3D animation pipeline. For this film, she took on animation duties, as well as modeling and texturing some of the props. She loved the creative adaptability demanded by working in a small team and can't wait to tackle more projects in the future.

Requel Bloom is a 3D animator with a passion for concept art, 3d modeling, rigging, and lighting. During the production of Popped or Alive, Requel had the opportunity to utilize and expand upon their existing knowledge to help with multiple different parts of the pipeline. From doing the concept art, modeling, to animating, lighting, and compositing, she got to experience and learn while also utilizing her existing knowledge to help the team the best she could. Requel found Popped or Alive to be an amazing film to be a part of, especially about her fellows and the close bond everyone formed over development. When not animating, Requel enjoys music, reading, 3d printing, drawing, and 3d modeling.

# Requel Bloom



## Zag Cook

Zag is a 3D animator who works tirelessly to be as versatile and proficient as possible. Through animation, modeling, texturing, rigging, lighting, rendering and compositing, Zag worked to push their well-trained proficiencies to their absolute limit while absorbing any and all other skills they had the opportunity to partake in. Thriving in an environment of intense communication and constant feedback, Zag found Popped or Alive to be one of the most utterly enjoyable experiences they have ever been involved in, seeing their team members more as family than simply peers. When relaxing and recharging, Zag can often be found playing online shooters, skating or tinkering with their RC short-course trucks.



# FULL CREDITS

## Main Crew

Carter Hanson  
Dani Fevola  
Diya Ali  
Duda Freire Vasconcellos Bulhões  
Ez Sykes  
Julienne Sones  
Megan Staton  
Rachel Li  
Requel Bloom  
Zag Cook

## Music

Gianluca Calcaño

## Voice

Maks Dudek

## Color

Luke Cooper Escobar

## Additional Animation

Sage Mitchell  
Valerie Manning

## Sound Design

Alex Alma  
Sydney Miles

## Additional Compositing

Kaniya Williams

## Sound Mixing

Ashley Park  
Myiah Kapp  
Nathan Ohrman



# SPECIAL THANKS

Our Faculty Supervisor - **Bernardo Warman**

Luna De Queso Crew | Friends and Family

Professor Osborn | Professor Standing

