

JUSTIN GAZZILLO

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Portfolio: <https://gazzillo.myportfolio.com>

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SUMMARY

Multidisciplinary animator and storyteller focused on expressive, character-driven animation. With a background in professional performance (SAG-AFTRA), I bring a strong understanding of movement, timing, and physicality into my work. I thrive in collaborative environments and am especially drawn to bold, stylized storytelling that blends humor, emotion, and dynamic character acting.

EXPERIENCE

Co-Creator, Animator, Writer, Director & Editor – “Wave” (In Development) (Senior Thesis Film, Small Group)

Chapman University | Dodge College of Film and Media Studies, Jan 2026 – Present

- Co-leading a collaborative animated thesis film from concept through production (Spring 2027 completion). Under the mentorship of John Musker

Editor – “Bear Appetit” (Junior Thesis Film, Large Group)

Dodge College of Film and Media Studies, Sep 2025 – Mar 2026

- Refined narrative structure to strengthen emotional and visual beats, enhance storyline
- Crafting pacing, comedic timing, and story clarity in collaboration with director and team

Animator, Writer, Director & Editor – “Wildcat” (Sophomore Thesis Film, Individual)

Dodge College of Film and Media Studies, Nov 2024 – May 2025

- Created a fully original animated short (1:37) from concept to completion
- Completed all aspects of production, including writing, storyboarding, animation, editing, and direction

Commercial Dancer/Actor (SAG-AFTRA)

Highlight: “Young Bob Fosse” in FX’s “Fosse/Verdon”

McDonald Selznick Associates | 2020 – Present

- Professional performer in TV, commercial, and live productions (NYC & LA)
- Collaborate with directors and choreographers to deliver performance-driven storytelling

Clear Talent Group | 2016 – 2019

- Professional performance experience across media

SKILLS

Creative: Character Animation, Storytelling, Visual Development, Comedic Timing

Animation: Toon Boom Harmony, Storyboard Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Procreate, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

Performance: Television & Film, Live Performance, Off-Broadway

EDUCATION

Chapman University – Dodge College of Film and Media Arts

BFA in Animation (*Expected May 2027*); GPA: 3.8; Activities: Phi Kappa Tau, Snow Club

GOBELINS Paris – Visual Storytelling Program (Summer 2025)

On location Paris, France; Grade: A, Certification

HONORS & AWARDS

- “Wildcat” – Official Elite Selection and Award Nominee; *Jersey Shore Film Festival (2026)*
- Commissioned work presented to Brad Bird; *Dodge College Master Class Program, Mar 2026*