

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP ADVISOR · SPEAKER

KEMER STEVENSON

Momentum, not motivation. Two decades inside the biggest studios on the planet, and what actually moves a career.

DISNEY · DREAMWORKS · BLUR · SKYDANCE · RHYTHM & HUES



20+

years in animation and VFX

3*

head of department

5,000+

in the room at SINFO 33

40+

released titles

ABOUT

Kemer Stevenson is a senior animation and VFX leader with more than two decades across Disney, DreamWorks, Blur and Skydance. He has led Character Effects departments at three studios, most recently Walt Disney Animation Studios Vancouver, on titles including *Zootopia 2*, *Love, Death & Robots*, *Secret Level*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Trolls*.

He speaks about how to accelerate the path to creative leadership inside complex studios: the patterns, frameworks and systems that compress years of trial and error into working judgment. He has taught at Harvard University and the New York Film Academy. His throughline: as AI commoditizes execution, the appreciating skill is judgment and taste. And judgment isn't found. It's handed down.

"Hosting Kemer at SINFO 33 was an absolute highlight for us. His talk brought incredible energy to the stage, captivated our audience from start to finish, and left a lasting impression on everyone in the room."

THE SINFO 33 TEAM · TÉCNICO INNOVATION CENTER, LISBON

SIGNATURE TALKS

FLAGSHIP

THE LAST WORD THE MACHINE CAN'T SAY

AI is eating execution. Rendering, simulation, first drafts, second drafts. What it can't do is stand in the room and say "that's good, and here's why." Directorial judgment is the skill that appreciates while everything else commoditizes. And it isn't found. It's handed down. This talk is about how it gets built, who builds it, and why most organizations are quietly dismantling the machinery that used to.

For Studio leadership · senior artists · anyone whose job is about to change

KEYNOTE · SINFO 33

CHANGE THE GAME YOU'RE PLAYING

Most careers drift. Not because people aren't talented, but because nobody told them they were allowed to steer. Three moves, told through twenty years of getting it wrong first: claim the steering wheel, move before you feel ready, aim before you fire. Delivered to over 5,000 at SINFO 33.

For Students · early-career · anyone at the first plateau



MORE TALKS

Pattern Recognition in Creative Leadership

Senior leaders aren't smarter. They've seen the pattern before. Which patterns matter, and how to build yours faster than the people beside you.

The Three Lanes of Creative Career Growth

Most artists plateau by accident. The ones who don't picked a lane on purpose. Craft, leadership, or breadth, and what each one costs.

Bureaucracy Hacking

Working inside a big organization without losing yourself in the politics. The systems are not going away. Learn to read them.

Both/And Thinking for Creative Leaders

The move that separates the senior individual contributor from the creative leader. Holding two true things at once and acting anyway.

Field Guide: Accelerating Expertise

How working pattern recognition actually gets built, and how to compress the timeline for emerging leaders.

Everyone Tells You to Over-Communicate. No One Tells You How.

Closing the loop, taking the monkey off their back, and the two-line email that changes how a supervisor sees you.

Every talk adapts to the room: keynote, half-day workshop, or panel. Built from the same place — two decades of running Character Effects departments and the patterns that kept showing up.

WHERE I'VE SPOKEN

2026

SINFO 33 · Keynote

Lisbon · over 5,000

2022 · 2023

THU · Trojan Horse Was a Unicorn · Keynote and workshops

Online conference

2022

The Allan McKay Podcast · Episode 349

Interview · podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id935478122?i=1000559437781

2005

Harvard University · New York Film Academy

Taught 3D animation & VFX

FORMATS

KEYNOTE

45–60 min, Q&A optional

WORKSHOP

Half day, up to 40 people

PANEL

Moderator or panelist

PODCAST

Long-form conversation

WATCH & LISTEN

SINFO 33 keynote highlights (2.5 min):

youtu.be/ZJjO6yJdmOI

Behind the scenes at SINFO 33 (6 min):

youtu.be/WuZwH3JxMOY

The Allan McKay Podcast, Ep. 349 (2022):

podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id935478122?i=1000559437781

BOOK KEMER

Keynotes, half-day workshops, panels, podcasts. Industry and corporate. Not sure it's a fit? Fifteen minutes will tell us both.

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