

An artistic frame of mind

Freshman pursues passion in animation



By Rey Kam
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Frame by frame, freshman Darrius Stuckey is making his way into the world of animation. Whether it's stop-motion action figure films, puppetry, voice acting or digital animation, Stuckey's YouTube channel has it.

"When I was younger, I loved drawing," Stuckey said. "And I guess I also liked watching cartoons to give me inspiration ... it really helps out."

When sophomore Hillary Williams first met Stuckey two years ago, she recognized great potential in the art that he showed her. Since then, Williams has been a major supporter of Stuckey's artistic endeavors, frequently encouraging him when times get tough.

"She tells me to 'keep doing what you do until you get noticed,' and I'm glad that she gives me advice sometimes," he said. "In middle school, I was going through difficult times—making friends and everything—and she really helped me out."

Almost two years ago, Stuckey posted his first animation project to his channel Dare's Films (a 13-second stop-motion video of two Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle (TMNT) action figures showing off their moves). Using his little brother's action figures as models, he animated fight sequences, turtle spins and even recreated the original cartoon's title sequence (complete with the theme song).

But now, Stuckey has moved on to new projects.

Feline High, Stuckey's original show, is in the preliminary stages of production and Stuckey says it's going "pretty well." He is still working on writing the first season. He recently posted a trailer/preview for his new show, one which Demetri Gritsas thought was "pretty legit."

Gritsas and Stuckey met in seventh grade art class, where they bonded over theater. Later, Stuckey sought Gritsas' advice on audition process and YouTube.

Stuckey said that a major factor in his choice to pursue animation and its many facets was his love of Seth MacFarlane, creator of *Family Guy*. Stuckey practiced his voice acting skills by imitating MacFarlane's voices, perfecting his own impressions of the characters that MacFarlane voices in his show.

"I think I've learned a lot from him (MacFarlane), and I just decided I should make my own show to be like him," Stuckey said.

Satisfied that his writing is turning out "very funny and reminiscent of shows like *Family Guy* and *The Simpsons*," Stuckey plans to take another page out of his idol MacFarlane's book and voice several of the *Feline High* freshmen himself.

"It's about a group of cats who are high school freshmen," Stuckey said. "And when they're outside of school, they go on these crazy adventures."

Williams sees potential in Stuckey's photos and believes he could be successful in his future.

"This one has major talent," Williams said. "Like with his animations and everything, he can go really far."



ABOVE: Multiple screenshots of Stuckey's animations throughout the years. "I'm not really sure I think what I want for my animation," Stuckey said. "I can see how I can start out and then later on improve myself. I just have different techniques on animating and if I can possibly change that, if I could make some other ones, it'd be better."

Senior threads way into clothing industry

By Emma Brock & Sarah Wietecha
ASSISTANT EDITORS

With help from a few graphic design classes and a spark of creativity, senior Givonne Terry crafted his own path into the wild life of fashion.

Last summer, Terry created a clothing line called "Wild Life" that has rapidly gained popularity. In the last month, he's sold products via social media and at kiosks Eastland Center.

"I sell to everybody. I was at Eastland (Mall) a couple weeks ago selling out of this one store to people," Terry said. "Then I sell at school, so you might see a couple people in the hallways with them, and people hit me up on Instagram."

Terry's fascination with design started to blossom after he took Photoshop I and Computer Graphics I with art teacher Michael Lamb last year.

"He has a good sense of design. He has a strong belief in his own abilities," Lamb said. "The way he designs, he's very proud of his own unique style and look (and is) very confident in that."

Although he finds inspiration in everything he experiences, a majority of his threads feature animals. A wolf, tiger and a claw scratch are common elements to some of his designs.

"I have one (design) with a bear claw scratch on the back of it ... it's like a 'WL,' and then I put 'Wild Life' underneath it," Terry said. "So almost everything I use has some type of scratch in it that's like a claw mark."

Terry receives support promoting his clothes from friends like senior Khalonji Gibbs. Gibbs isn't involved in the process of selling the designs, but he helps promote them by wearing the clothes.

"I like to support anybody who's selling clothes, especially someone that I would call my brother, so I started wearing his clothes," Gibbs said.

Gibbs sometimes spots people in Metro Detroit wearing the authentic designs. "It's unique. No one has it, and it's coming from him, and he's very creative," Gibbs said. "I love how it says 'Wild Life,' and then he comes out with different pictures on the front, like he has one for women with lips (on the shirt) and then for the guys, it's just an actual scrape."

The popularity of Terry's clothes is evident to Gibbs through the amount of buyers at school, online and out of the city.

"I see a lot of people in Eastland wearing his shirts, a couple people from school, and then there's more that are buying them," Gibbs said. "He promotes it on his (Instagram) page sometimes. That has people from other states ordering his shirts, so it's going good for him."

Terry looks to attend Ferris State University or Florida A&M University and major in graphic design. His dream is to open his own store one day that could branch out into different parts of the country.

"I want to do a franchise. With my first store, I want to base it in Detroit, like have my main store (there)," Terry said. "And then I'll have branches of it in New York, Cali, L.A., something like that."

Terry's friends will continue to give support to the endeavors that the future holds for him.

"I mean he's very dedicated to anything that he does and not only just sports and life," Gibbs said. "But as far as the clothing thing, it's looking really good for him."



ABOVE: One of Terry's new shirt designs that will be shown on the runway. "I'm currently going to be in a fashion show called Walk Fashion Detroit edition," Terry said.



ABOVE: Another shirt design from Terry's collection. "Right now I'm starting off," Terry said. "I'm doing a test run on my shirts and they're doing real good so I'm going to print out hoodies. I want to print out the sweatpants to go with the hoodies, like a little jogging set. I want to put it on some hats and jackets."