

## Oscar winning performance by animation company

St Just's biggest employer, the animation production company Spider Eye makes programmes for mainstream broadcasters and takes commissions from independent studios worldwide.

It produces both 2D and 3D computer-generated (CGI) material, mainly for TV but now also for feature films: the company recently worked on the Oscar- and BAFTA-winning short animated film 'Father and Daughter' for the UK-based company Cloudrunner. Spider Eye was established in London in 1998 and moved to Cornwall towards the end of 2002.

### Workforce

As media work is generally project-based, company staff levels tend to fluctuate. Last year, during production of The Cramp Twins for Fox TV's Telemagination/ TV Loonland, Spider Eye took on 15 local school leavers and trained them in the art of digital painting.

"The students come out of school computer literate, so it is simply a case of training them in specific software," says Director, Erica Darby.

"One of our trainees recently gained a place on the best CGI course in the country, at Bournemouth University."

"Penwith Council is currently trying to set up a new media centre in Penzance and we are great supporters of that, because we want to be part of a brand new industry's growth in the county." Andy.



### Clients

Spider Eye's rapidly growing worldwide reputation has seen it contribute to the Oscar-shortlisted Jester Till, produced by Munich Animation and distributed by Disney. The company has also worked on The Lampies for the BBC and with independent studios such as Illuminated Films and Grand Slamm Children's Films, as well as on commercials for Coca Cola and NatWest.

### Technology

"IT and media are perfectly transportable industries that, thanks to high-speed broadband, can function as easily here as anywhere else," Darby says. "We don't have to deal with clients face to face and, to be honest, we'd much rather be in Cornwall than Central London."