

Resume

August 2006

Leo Todeschini aka Tod Todeschini -Bsc.(Hons) MDes.Eng.(RCA) DICTel 01865 300165 Mob
07957 434775 email tod@todsstuff.co.uk

TV Engineering, Special Effects, model making, knife and sword making and leatherwork

Skills base

I have a number of skill sets from previous careers and interests

Design and NPD - Product design, visual design, mechanism design, mechanical engineering, naming, concept origination and development, group and research facilitation.

Special effects - Animatronics, pyrotechnics, hydraulics, pneumatics, mechanisms, atmospherics and weather, rigs, mechanics, liquids, fabrication of metals, woods and plastics, laminating, casting, machining, game design and generation.

TV Engineering Support – I have provided behind camera engineering support for Zero 2 Hero 1 and 2, Mission Implausible and have most recently been Engineering Consultant for Scrapheap Challenge series 9.

TV Presenting – I have appeared as an expert, leading a team on Scrapheap Challenge in 2002, 2003 and 2005, as a team member in Monster Garage, and as joint presenter on Zero 2 Hero Series 2 and many times taking part in the experiments on experi-MENTAL 1 and 2.

Tods Stuff – leatherwork, cutlery making, smithing, engraving, leather carving, woodwork, research and history.

Teaching – As well as tutoring at Goldsmiths I teach children history at Kentwell Hall in the summer and have started running engineering days for schools with specialist engineering status.

Positions Held (some simultaneously)

1993-1995 Product designer for Grey Matter Product Development Consultants

1995-1997 Freelance effects and animatronics technician*

1997-2000 Models and Effects Supervisor for Complete Fabrication

1997-2000 Facilitator and New Product Development Consultant for The Gathering

1998-2000 Workshop Tutor for Goldsmiths College design department

2000-2005 Effects Supervisor for Machine Shop Special Effects Ltd

2001-2005 Everything for Tods Stuff and Traditional Materials (hyperlink) (Oxon)

2006 – 2006 Engineering Consultant for Scrapheap Challenge series 9 for RDF Media

• worked for Hensons Creature Workshop, Artem, Asylum, Image Animation, Derek Henden Associates

Recent notable work as an Effects Supervisor, both managing and undertaking work.

Stilts for the Millenium Dome show; Carbon/Kevlar/aluminium stilts custom designed, developed and made for the performers.

Experi-MENTAL series 1 and 2; a relentless series of science based, amazing stunts and effects for 8-12 year olds.

Brit Awards 1997 (crew only), 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003; live stage pyros, rigs and atmospherics for between 4 and 9 bands per show. Supervised between 5 and 10 crew per show.

Hendon RAF Museum; developed designs and ran production crew on manufacture and installation of 14 high tech, flight themed exhibits for the new flagship gallery.

Zero To Hero series 1 and 2; Off screen engineering support, Engineering Health and Safety, Special Effects and joint presenting.

Silent Witness 2004 and 2005; props, rigs and effects for many of the individual programmes.

The Thin Guide to models and effects (2003); principle writer of Machine Shops' guide, written to provide an overview guide to directors and producers new to working with certain

technologies.

I have also supervised hundreds of jobs for TV adverts TV series, pop promos, live events, magic tricks, virals and stills photography.

Design, construction and operation of an inductance coil gun operating at 2,000V at 50,000A on behalf of Impossible Pictures for 'Ways to save the planet'. Front and back of camera, 2007.

Engineering Consultant, special effects and demonstrations for Darlow Smithson for 'Engineering Connections'. Front and back of camera, 2007, 2008.

Main fabricator for Doug Fosters' 'Frozen' installation, 2007

Notable customers of Tods Stuff or services.

Theatre

Shakespears Globe Theatre,
Royal Shakespear Company

Museums/Houses

English Heritage
National Trust The Royal Armouries
(Leeds)
Mary Rose Trust (Museum)
Middle Ages Centre (Norway)
Weald and Downland Museum
Plimoth Plantation (Museum, US)
Hampton Court Palace Kitchens
The Tower of London
The Royal Ontario Museum
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Film/TV

Alexander (Film)
The Weapons that Made Britain (TV)
Colonial House (US TV)
The Tudors (US/UK TV)
The Other Boleyn Girl

I have an excellent reputation amongst British and European re-enactors for supplying all manner of goods and have supplied groups such as The Tudor Group, Company of St George, Destrier, and countless others.

Academic qualifications

Industrial and Business Systems (Leicester Poly) 2:1 Industrial Design Engineering (Royal College of Art and Imperial College) Masters Diplome of Imperial College (Imperial College, London) Diploma

Other qualifications

Shrivenham/Cranfield – Safe handling of explosives PADI – Open water diver Powered access licence - scissor lifts and cherry pickers

Personal statement

I have a good eye, good hands and good attention to detail with a very wide breadth of skills and can reliably fit the job to the time and the budget available. I understand history with a passion and the media industries thoroughly.

I am amiable, clear headed and calm, hard to rattle, easy to get on with have good client and crew handling and interpersonal skills.

I live near Oxford with my wife, daughters and workshop.