



# Making 'magic' through animation



*Dave and Dale Cox have made a career of bringing art to life...and they have they awards to prove it*

**Story by Andrea Lefebvre  
Photos by Ted Brown**

Inspector Gadget. Care Bears. The Magic School Bus. Beetlejuice. My Pet Monster. Franklin the Turtle. Rolie Polie Olie. Ewoks and Droids Adventure Hour.

For some people, this list sounds like the ultimate Saturday morning cartoon lineup. For Dave and Dale Cox, this list is taken straight from their resumés.

For more than 30 years, the local couple has been working in the creative, challenging and competitive world of animation. Their work, which includes everything from popular television series and commercials to educational shorts and smaller passion projects, has taken them all over the world and yet, at the end of the day, they are happy to return to their cozy home tucked in the hills of Glen Williams.

Although they both went on to have very successful careers in animation, neither Dave nor Dale set out to become animators.

Dave, a Georgetown native, started out in the graphic design and fine art program at the newly-opened Sheridan College in 1967 with the goal of becoming a fine artist. His plan hit a snag when a clerical error blocked him from the fine art option in his second year and forced him into the animation stream. He quickly fell in love.

"The first time you see something move that you have drawn— that is phenomenal," Dave says.

"It's magic," adds Dale. "The first thing you do is a bouncing ball. It takes a long time to draw and you do all that work for that little bit of film, but the first time you see the ball come in (to the frame) and bounce out, you gasp. It grabs you."

Dale began at Sheridan College a few years after Dave and started out studying graphic design. In her second year, she had the option of taking an illustration class or an animation class. She opted for animation and, like Dave, quickly fell in love with it.

Although the two were at the college at the



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