``SALAM''

(Interpreting the meaning of Jihad)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements

Of the degree of

Master in Design

Ву

Jamshed Nassin KV

Supervisor:

Prof. Sumant Rao



Industrial Design Center

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY





Interpreting the meaning of Jihad

Jamshed Nassin KV

136340007

Animation & Film Design

Guide: Prof . Sumanth Rao

Approval Sheet

The animation Project entitled "Salam, Interpreting the meaning of Jihad" by Jamshed Nassin KV, 136340007 is approved in for the partial fulfillment of the Master Design Degree in Animation and Film Design.

Project Guide:

Chair Person:

Internal Examiner:

vun a External Examiner:

Date: 28-04-15

Place: IDC, IIT Bombay

Declaration

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words others ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated any idea/ data/ fact/ source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

Signature:

Date: 21-04-15

Name of the Student: Jamshed Nassin KV

Roll No: 136340007

Content

nterpreting the meaning of Jihad
Approval SheetVII
Declaration
Acknowledgment
Abstract
ntroduction
Research
Study of the subject
Story
Development and Story Idea
Visual Development
Thumbnails And Stoaryboards 21
Character Design
Salam
The Kid
Animatics
Trailer
Style
Production Planning and Management 43

Animation		7
	Animation	9
	Compositing & Editing	1
	Sound Design	5
	Poster Design	7
Conclusio		9
Reference	and Links 6	1

Acknowledgment

I sincerely extent my gratitude to my guide Prof. Sumant Rao for his guidance and support throughout the project . I thank Prof. Phani Tetali, Prof Nina Sabnani, Prof Shilpa Ranade and Prof. CP Narayan for their invaluable support. I thank my family and friends for their encouragement and support.

Abstract

'Salam', an animated short film project is a journey of me as human being and as a believer of the Islamic faith to understand the meaning of the word 'Jihad'. In my research I have come to understand that it has far different and deeper meanings than just a Holy war. The film showcases my humble attempt to express its meaning from my understanding through a story of a mother and her son.

Introduction

Ever since I was a child and during the time while I was growing up, I used to read and hear a lot about terrorism, and Islam being labeled as a religion of terrorists. I was confused, as this is not what Islam is all about, I thought. As a believer of the faith, it really saddened me when an entire community of humans were misunderstood or the truth behind the faith mistaken. So when the opportunity arose to make a short film of my own, I had no two thoughts in my mind and I decided to work on this, as this thought was very close to my heart.

It was a deeply moving and personal journey. In my research on the subject of terrorism and its link towards Islam, I have come across information which was very revelatory as well as very humbling. Such was the history of Islam that many have used and abused it in many ways. During this time of research I came across a certain word multiple times. People were using it in various contexts and giving it as an excuse for being a terrorist or encouraging terrorist activities. It was 'Jihad', a word known among all of us. It is a word shrouded in mystery by years and years of its misuse, the real truth behind it unknown. The only thing that we know is about the consequences that it creates. Jihad is what led me to my film. The film is a culmination of my want to understand its true meaning and my desire to let my fellow human beings be able understand it as well.

The report covers my journey into literature, films and other materials in search for a better understanding of the subject I am dealing with, as well as the treatment of the characters, visual style and narrative structures.

Research

Study of the subject

In my primary research I discovered that, Jihad, as an Arabic word simply meant struggle or strife. In an Islamic context it meant

"Striving Or struggling effort expended

By the individual Muslim to walk

In the path of the God"

I was surprised at how such a simple and humbling message turned into something about destroying people's lives in the name of God. One google search would turn out results after results of blood and destruction.





US mobilizes allies for assault on ISIS

Readies Coalition Before Air Offensive In Syria And Iraq

gun to mobilize a broad coali-Syria and is moving toward tacks by the militants. expanded air strikes in north-

a decision to authorize air strikes and airdrops of food strikes, the White House be-

US woman held hostage in Svria

The ISIS is holding hostage a young American woman who was doing humanitarian aid work in Syria, a family representative said. The 26-year-old woman is the third American known to have been kidnapped by the radical group. The 26-year-old woman was captured last year while working with thumanitarian

a united international community. Administration offigroups in Syria that are fighterials characterized the daminigassad winverseasevez colent jihlad and to track and on of the National Security

Washington: The US has beinfidels by ISIS, as similar to tion of allies behind potential of Yazidis, who were driven to American military action in Mount Sinjar in Iraq after at

The UN special represen ern Iraq, administration offi- tative for Iraq, Nickolay Mlacials said on Tuesday. denov, said three days ago that
President Obama, the offidenov, said three days ago that cials said, was broadening his mands immediate action to campaign against the Sunni militants of ISIS and nearing sacre of its citizens." As Ohama considered new

and water around the north- gan its diplomatic campaign to enlist allies and neigh-bours in the region to increase their support for Svria's moderate opposition and, in some cases, to provide support for possible American military operations. The countries likely to be enlisted include Australia, Britain, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, officials said.

The officials who asked not to be named discussing sensitive internal deliberations, said they expected that Britain and Australia would be willing to join the US in an ern Iraqi town of Amerli, air campaign. The officials home to members of Iraq's said they also wanted help Turkmen minority. The town from Turkey, which has miliof 12,000 has been under siege tary bases that could be used

for more than two months by the militants. Turkey is a transit route "Rooting out a cancer like" for foreign fighters, including ISIS won't be easy, and it won't those from the US and Europe be quick," Obama said in a speech on Tuesday to the join ISIS. Administration of American Legion in Char-lotte. He said that the US was building a coalition to "take tighten the border. It is also the fight to these barbaric ter-rorists," and that the mili-veillance help from Jordan tants would be "no match" for and financial help from Saudi



First American jihadi dies fighting for Islamists in Syria

McCain has become the first American jihadi to have died in Syria while fighting for ISIS, a terrorist outfit that has gained control of large parts of Syria and Irag.

The death of the 33-year-old American has left many top US officials seriously concerned. "We were aware of US citizen Douglas McAuthur McCain's presence in Svria and can confirm his death. We continue to use every tool we possess to disrupt



Douglas McAuthur McCain, 33, of New Hope, Minnesota died in a

said. According to the Britain-based Syrian Observato-ry for Human Rights, McCain died in a battle between rival disappearance.

told the CNN that Douglas in the regions of Raqqah McCain converted from Christianity to Islam several trolled by the ISIS, the panel years ago. The fact that he be-came a jihadi left his family mented beheadings and deprised as the country," the un-cle said. The US estimates say that there are about 100 American passport holders who are fighting for ISIS in Syria warning to residents, the re-

UN: Public executions very common in rebel areas

Geneva: Public executions often beheadings, are be coming a "common spectacle" in parts of Syria con-trolled by Islamic militants, and government forces there continue to massacre and torture civilians, a United Nations panel said in a re-

port released on Wednesday. The three-year civil war in Syria, which began between government and opposition groups, has evolved into multiple, shifting con flicts in which government forces and Islamic militants commit war crimes and crimes against humanity the four-member panel said in a report based on testimo-ny collected in the six months that ended July 21. "Government forces con-

tinued to perpetrate mas-sacres and conduct widespread attacks on civilians, the panel said, "systemati cally committing murder torture, rape and enforced

extremist groups in the sub-urbs of Aleppo.

His uncle, Ken McCain

"Executions in public spaces have become a com mon spectacle on Fridays' "Executions in public "devastated" and "just as sur- scribed how ISIS encourwere displayed on crucifixes port added. NYTNEWS SERVICE



THAT MATTERS

Love jihad is insidious; the fear seeps into the home, the bedroom

Historian Charu Gupta has extensively explored the links between sexuality, politics, culture and religious identity in colonial Uttar Pradesh. She believes that the current love iihad campaign taps into the anxieties of a patriarchal society where women are asserting themselves in matters of love and marriage. Constant

repetition of the idea will give the construct a stamp of validity.

Day after Gaza truce, Israel PM in line of fire at home





China's Is admits to

Beijing: In a rare public admission of Pakistani links to militancy in China's Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, the official media here on Wednesday said that the co-founder of al-Qaida link ed East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) was indoctrinated in a madarasa in

that country. State-run China Daily today published confessions of Memetuhut Memetrozi 41 co-founder of ETIM which is fighting for secession of Xiniang from China He is serv

AROUND THE WOR



To understand further the meaning of Jihad, I went into the heart of the Holy Quran or the Hadith of Prophet Muhammed, where Jihad is mentioned. I also wanted to know whether the history and life of Prophet reveals anything about its meaning. There I understood that Jihad is duty. And the person who has done his duty is called a Mujahid. Further delving into the subject, I discovered that there are two types of Jihad - The Lesser Jihad and the Greater Jihad. The Lesser Jihad refers to combat and the Greater Jihad refers to the struggle in the name of God with their own tongue, hand and heart - the Jihad to oneself. The soul and meaning of Jihad was not properly interpreted and it got misused to spread violence and terrorism throughout the world by force. The Quran never advocated this

Greater Jihad

Lesser Jihad

Jihad of heart

Jihad of tongue

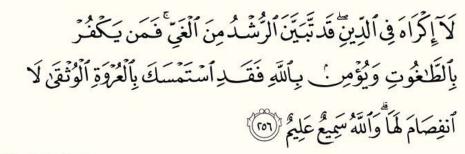
Jihad of hand

kind of terrorism.

Historically, Islam went through some very difficult early period during which violence was was the only option for survival and protection of the followers of Islam. It was in this context that Islam supported the killing of the 'enemy'. But who was the enemy and under what circumstances was it ok to resort to violence has been clearly stated in the Quran. Even in these cases, for physical fighting, killing and destruction, it wasn't 'Jihad' but the word 'Oathil' was used.

In all other contexts, Jihad had a much more deeper meaning that of an inner struggle in the path of God.

This idea of Jihad, which did not really advocate violence at all, was the soul which I wanted to instill in the story that I developed.



Sahih International

There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.

Story

Development and Story Idea

Developing a storyline was an iterative process. Since I was dealing with a very delicate issue, it had to be simple yet very effective in communicating the idea.

After going through the process of writing different versions of the possible plots which I had in my mind, one particular story to come out more effectively than the others. It was the story about a mother and her son

The Story

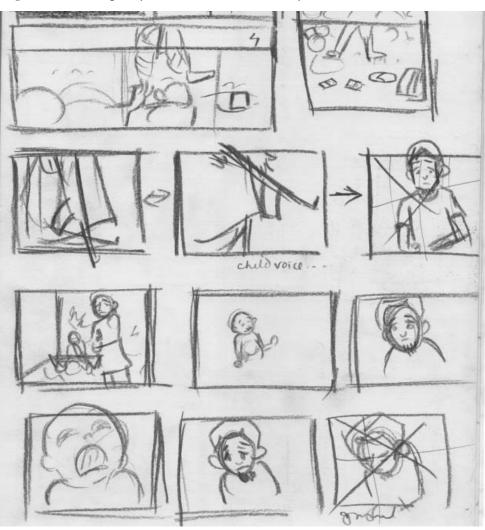
In a small village in Malabar, there lived a small muslim family of a mother and her son. The son went away for work one day and never returned. Everyday the expectant mother, praying for his return, used cook for him and wait for him to come back, but he never did. One day her prayers came true and he returned home. The mother was overwhelmed with emotions and happily fed him all that she made. The son was relieved to be back home and be with his mother. He was so tired that he lay his head on his mother's lap and slept. In his dream, he could hear the firing of guns, blasting grenades and crumbling buildings. As the days went by, the dreams became more vivid and he kept reliving the life that he left behind, the life of a terrorist. One dream was particularly reminiscent of the reason why

disturbed and the mother became increasingly aware of this disturbance. She felt that there was something wrong happening with her son. She tried to reason with him, but he was lost in his own thoughts and memories. One quiet morning, he heard rattling sounds and movements of boots. There were military personnel waiting for him outside his house. He looked at his loving mother, who was busy in prayer. He didn't want her to know what he had done and how he would be prosecuted for it. He quietly bade farewell to his mother and surrendered. The mother still kept waiting for him to return, cooking his favorite food and keeping it warm. She continued doing this everyday, yearning for her son to return. In a distant dark place, a young boy covered in black is taken to be executed by hanging. As he is hung, the mother, who has dozed off at the table, jolts awake, as if she felt her son returning home.

Visual Development

Thumbnails And Stoaryboards

Thumbnails are a quick way of fleshing out a story visually. Through thumbnailing, I explored various ideas of how to make the visual story interesting without making it a time consuming process. This process helped me converge my ideas into the final story. The thumbnails were later



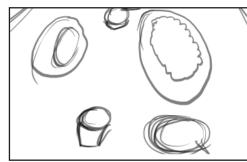




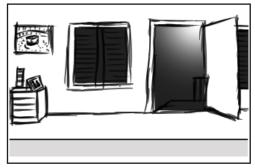
refined and converted into digital storyboards. Here I experimented with the visual language of the film, playing with camera angles and leaving subtle metaphors in visuals and lights.







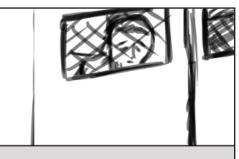




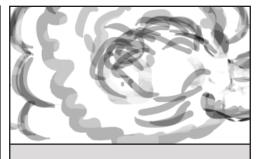




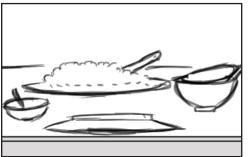


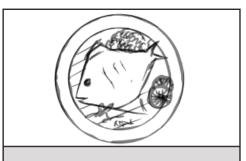


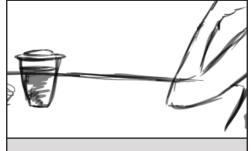




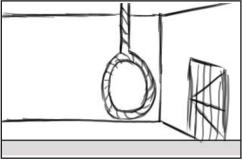




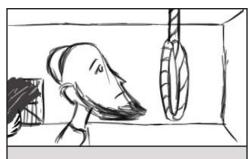












Character Design

Given the seriousness of the subject, I felt it was appropriate to try and maintain realistic features while developing the characters. The main characters which were developed are the mother and the son, Salam.





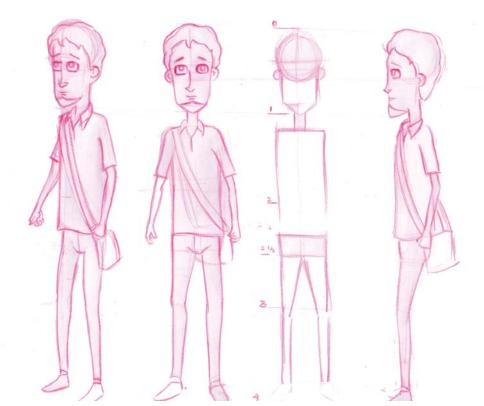








These went through several iterations until I was satisfied with the characters developed. This was important to get right at the onset for two reasons. The first was that they needed to be both specific to my story on one hand and yet familiar enough for the audience to identify with them as real people. The second is that they needed to be animatable, which is often a problem with realistic characters.



Animatics

From the storyboard, animatic was created with a rough soundtrack including dialogues, music and sound effects. This enabled me to ensure that the storytelling worked as a film. Changes were made to the animatic with simple animation, camera moves, transitions etc. until this was achieved to my satisfaction.

This became a blueprint for the production process of the the film. It allowed me to know exactly what each shot was, how it worked in the film as well as its duration.

Trailer

The duration of the film is 5 minutes and it was a challenge to cut a trailer which encompasses the soul of the film into a few seconds. Like for the main film, I did thumbnails for the trailer too. It was an immense learning experience as it allowed me to try different combinations of shots. Based on this, I decided to include shots which had some narration weaved into it. Thumbnailing also helped me decide the duration of the trailer.

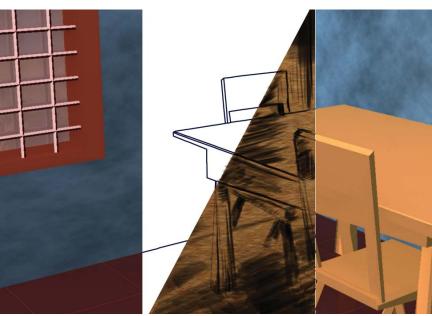




Style

Initially the visual style which I wanted to create was creating a 3D set with Initially the visual style which I wanted to create was creating a 3D set with traditional 2D animated characters. Based on my explorations to fine tune this visual style, this evolved into something very different. One shot from the film was taken and experimented on for its visual treatment. 2D as well as 3D elements were incorporated to develop the look of the layout and backgrounds. They were composited together to arrive at the final image. Different options were then compared and analysed before deciding on the final look.

















Style exploration

Production Planning and Management

Making an animation film is a complex process and I felt that one needed to plan the entire production process so as to manage finishing the film within the available time and resources without compromising on the visual design and story.

sq_sc no.	Durn.	description	layout & scene planning	rough animation & linetest	BG	final animation	compositing	effects	final comp	edit	corrections
sq01sc01	01s.00f	Bismi									
sq01sc02	10.2	Quran words									
sq01sc03	2.16	papad fry and IDC presents	layout 1								
sq01sc04	4.21	pot stirring	layout 2								
sq01sc05		chinease pot,smoke rise	layout 3								
sq01sc06	5.3	title salaam									
sq01sc07	1.3	pot stir .lift spoon	layout 3								
sq01sc08	4.12	sipping and tasting	layout4								
sq01sc09	1.12	potstir,spoon back	layout3								
sq01sc10		fish fripantakingA film by jamshed	lavout5								
sq01sc11		pan shot tablefish	layout6								
sq01sc12		mother face	layout7								
		table with foodmother	,								
sq01sc13	1.12	POV	layout 8								
200 Maria (1900)		mother turn towards	1000-00								
sq01sc14	2	camerhead	layout 7								
		towards open doorturns	layout 8,								
sq01sc15	8.3	into city and explotion	layout 9								
sq02sc01	5	vertical pan	layout 10								
sq02sc02		horizontal pan,terrorist passing,kid appearing	layout11								
sq02sc03	2.16	terrrist turn	layout12								
sq02sc04	2	kid rirsing	layout 11								
sq02sc05	1	terrorrist face	layout12								
sq02sc06		kid rirsing cont	layout11								
sq02sc07		terrorrist gun zooming	layout12								
sq03sc01		pressure cooker	layout13								
sq03sc02	2	Mother placing food	layout14								
sq03sc03	5.12	Mother on chair	layout7								
sq03sc04	1.6	door zooming	layout8								
sq03sc05	1.12	Mother face zooming lokking to cameraor door	layout7								
sq03sc06	2.12	door zooming	layout8								
sq03sc07	4.3	house night external	layout15								
sq03sc08	3	clock pendulam	layout16								
sq03sc09	1.18	glass of water	layout17								
		mother lying sound wake	7.5								
sq03sc10		her up	layout7								
sq03sc11	2.1	door open	layout8								

1

A shot breakdown was made using the animatic as a reference. A spreadsheet was made from this shot breakdown which had columns for each stage of the animation process for each shot. Using this, I could get an estimate of the amount of work involved. I could prioritise which shots I needed to work on each day, how much time I can spend on it and by regularly updating this, I could get a clear understanding of the progress of the project.

For each shot, the animation, final backgrounds, overlays and compositing was done and the shot was added to the animatic to make sure that it worked in the film. As the film progressed and more and more shots were added, changes were incorporated in shots where it was felt necessary.

Once I felt the animation for a particular shot was ok, any effects animation that were necessary for the shot was completed and updated in the edit.

Animation

Animation

TVPaint was used for animation as it allowed me to achieve the look I wanted easily. I did the background, line test, clean up and shading simultaneously for each shot.

Basic line tests of shots were made after which they were inbetweened and cleaned up.



Compositing & Editing

Effects, smoke,
vapour extra

Layer 4

lighting

The animation, background and foreground elements were separately exported out as sequences from TVPaint and brought into After Effects for compositing. It was here that the animation took shape by effectively adding visual effects and camera movements to enhance the experience of the film. The sequences were then imported into the animatic edit in Premiere pro.

Character or object animation

BG



Layer 3



Layer 2



Layer 1

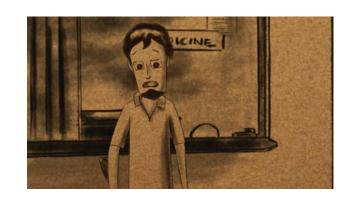
Though the timing of the animation was initially realized with the animatics, once animated, in some cases I felt that certain parts required momentum and others, moments of stillness which slightly varied the initial timeline. Accordingly changes were made in the edit. .



Final Composited out put



















Few shots from the final film

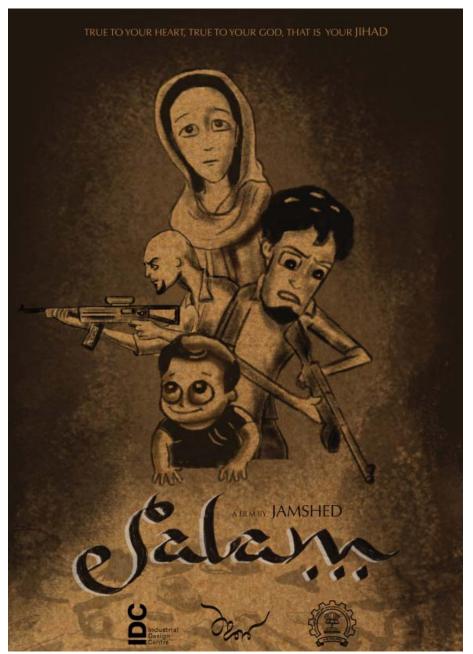
Sound Design

During the animatics stage, a rough cut of the sound was made to go along with the animatics. It helped me understand the mood, pace and duration of the film as I wanted.

The voice artists were hard to find as it was difficult to find people with the proper slang that I wanted, the Malappuram Malayalam slang. Some of my friends helped me achieve the initial emotions of the dialogs by acting into a phone. Later they were recorded in the sound studio. Foley sounds were recorded with real materials and it was a really enlightening experience.

Indian instruments were used in the development of the background score to believably achieve the emotions and environment of the film.

Poster Design



Conclusion

The process of creating a short animated movie of my own was truly an exhilarating experience. I have tried my best to communicate what I had in mind, about the true meaning of Jihad, in simple terms to both Muslims and Non-Muslims alike. It was a challenging task to converge such a deep concept into a span of a couple of minutes. My wish is that 'Salam' would have touched at least one person in delving deeper and understanding more about the deeper meaning of Jihad.

I look forward to making more films, until then...

Salam.

Reference and Links

Holy Quran

Sahih Hadith

Times of India

BBC

Wikipedia

http://islamicsupremecouncil.org/understanding-islam/legal-rulings/5-jih

http://www.peacewithrealism.org/jihad/jihad03.htm

http://www.gainpeace.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article

http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/submitted/heit/whatisjihad.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/beliefs/jihad_1.shtml

http://quran.com/

https://www.google.co.in/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guw5bez0wuA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUo_jMJfwgs

http://www.whyislam.org/

http://www.ted.com/talks