

## 'Beauty and Beast' animator to keynote Miami Dade animation conference this fall

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Budding animators will get the chance to pitch their creations to experts from Walt Disney Television Animation, Warner Bros. Entertainment and Microsoft Studios at the MIA Animation Conference & Festival at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus Oct. 10 to 11.

The annual MIA Animation conference, which started in 2013, will once again feature exhibitions, workshops, lectures and portfolio reviews. Students and aspiring animators will be able to submit projects for an animated TV series by Aug. 31. The top submissions will be invited to pitch their ideas in person at the conference and the top pitch will earn three

meetings with relevant buyers or talent representatives.

"It gives an opportunity for people aspiring in this industry to really get ahead," said MDC spokesman Juan Mendieta.

The event's keynote speaker will be Beauty and the Beast and Shrek animator Tom Sito.

The conference will also feature Walt Disney Television Animation's Post-Production Supervisor Drew Tolman and Director of Development Kimberly Dennison. Microsoft Studios Narrative Design Director Leah Hoyer and Baldo comic strip cartoonist and MDC alumnus Carlos Castellanos will also speak.

Mendieta said MDC hopes the festival will help turn Miami into an animation hub. The college plans to announce an expansion of its animation degree options at the conference. It currently offers an associate degree in computer arts animation.

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