

Tabletop Moviemaking Company Profile
www.tabletopmedia.org
www.youtube.com/user/tabletopmoviemaking
By Vanessa Ziff Lasdon

(Profile has been search engine optimized for keywords and meta data)

Meta-Description (search results description below title in search engines)

Tabletop Moviemaking is fast, easy and fun for all ages. Grab an iPad, launch iMovie, frame handheld characters and flipbook backgrounds. Shoot, edit, export. Simple.

Title Tag & Headline (based on highest-ranking keywords, query relevance and link-friendly lingo under 72 characters): Quick, Mini iPad Movies with Tabletop Media

Mini Movie Magic

Palm-sized moviemaking in about an hour. That's Brick Maier's specialty. Founder of [Tabletop Media](http://www.tabletopmedia.org), the former language arts teacher has found a way to shrink the moviemaking process down to a table-size scope for all ages. Start with handheld characters and props, and a flipbook of backgrounds that rests on an aptly named gadget called a Monkey Mount. Grab an iPad2, launch iMovie, then frame, shoot, edit and export. It's seriously that simple.

Classic Storytelling with a Digital Twist

Maier created [Tabletop Moviemaking](http://www.tabletopmoviemaking.com) while on a Fulbright grant. He wanted to give students an outlet for creativity that wasn't bound by electricity and a rectangular digital device. Adding a twist to the tactile puppet theatre elements of the Victorian era, Brick placed the student's voice and personal experiences at the center of the production process. "We're all hardwired for storytelling," says Maier. "Shrink a kid down to puppet size, let them photograph their neighborhood for the backgrounds to a personal story, then put it all on screen, and the experience changes their world." In comparing the Tabletop Moviemaking process to traditional classroom writing assignments, Maier adds, "You'd be amazed at how much more children are willing to share." Spatial, visual, and kinetic learners, "all excel when it comes time to cut, paste, paint, sketch, glue, tear, rip, and tape their Tabletop worlds together," he explains. "There's a rich exchange of ideas behind the camera," a problem-solving process praised by educators worldwide, particularly for ESL students, who struggle with language barriers. Maier's techniques are used throughout Europe and the United States for professional development, in-school workshops and [student film festivals](#).

Student Authors Share

Tabletop Moviemaking is a cross-platform approach, easily edited on both Apple and PCs, and shared across browsers, mobile devices, and distribution sites like [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com). Brick has teamed up with organizations such as LA Education Partnership, [826LA](#), and LA Opera to bring curriculum and stories to life in the classroom. Recently, Tabletop Media partnered with the [Young Storytellers Foundation](#), whose goal is to help underserved students in arts-poor schools throughout Los Angeles write screenplays, while professional actors perform their stories in front of a live audience. For more information or to sign up for a workshop, visit www.tabletopmedia.org.