

# Ian Castracane

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## Professional & Creative Experience

**Award-Winning Filmmaker / Stop-Motion Animator** — Chicago, IL

*Common Fly* (Short Film) | 2024–Present

- Wrote, directed, and animated a 14-minute stop-motion short selected for multiple Oscar-Qualifying film festivals
- Designed and fabricated all puppets, characters, and miniature sets; served as sole animator
- Secured production funding through Northwestern grants and a successful Indiegogo campaign
- Worked Closely with a 35-student cast and crew across art, cinematography, sound, music, and post-production. Learned important collaboration techniques from overseeing this scope of production.
- Shot on Canon EOS-RP DSLR with vintage Nikon lenses using Dragonframe; edited in the Adobe Creative Suite
- Managed marketing and distribution, including film website design, social media promotion, and international festival submissions.
- **Awards & Selections include:**
  - Boston Film Festival — *Best Animated Short*
  - American Documentary & Animation Film Festival — *Oscar-Qualifying*
  - Athens International Film & Video Festival — *Oscar-Qualifying*
  - Yale Student Film Festival — *Best Screenplay; Best of Festival*
- View Film: [common-fly.com/common-fly](http://common-fly.com/common-fly)

## Relevant Work Experience

**Production Equipment Technician (The Cage)** — Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

2022–Present

- Provide technical support and equipment checkout for professional-grade cameras, lighting, sound, and grip gear used in student and faculty film productions
- Advise filmmakers on equipment selection and best practices across narrative, documentary, and experimental projects

## Education

**Northwestern University** — Evanston, IL | 2022–2026

Bachelor of Arts, Radio/TV/Film; Art Theory & Practice | Minor: Creative Writing | GPA: 4.00

## Honors & Grants

- Northwestern Studio 22 Filmmaker Grant — *Common Fly* (Stop-Motion Short)
- Northwestern Media Arts Grant (2026) — *Hoot* (Stop-Motion Short)
- Summer Undergraduate Research Grant (2025) — Live-Action / Model Integration
- Shuman Award Recipient (English Department) — Best Creative Non-Fiction (“That Summer”)
- Selected Member, Student Advisory Council for Undergraduate Research
- Two paintings selected for *Northwestern Art Review Spring Exhibition* (2023)

## Software & Tools

Dragonframe | Adobe Creative Suite | Final Cut Pro | Final Draft | Google Workspace