

Tewodross “Tee” Melchishua (pronounced Tay-oh-droze Mell keh-shoo-ah) was born and raised in the DC/MD area and received a B.A. Degree in Art and Photographic Media from Morgan State University. He also completed his MFA in Imaging and Digital Arts, at The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). He has years of experience as an animator, filmmaker, designer, visual artist, educator, and creative consultant in the Washington, DC, and Baltimore metropolitan areas. His animation, art and films have been shown to audiences nationally and internationally.

He has also been a featured speaker and consultant on several community workshops, panels and television programs discussing issues and topics such as digital art & multimedia, design, animation, filmmaking and the cultural and historical aesthetics of the moving image, technology and animation. Some of these programs/venues included: *Reality Check: A Conference Of The Design/The Organization Of Black Designers*, *In The Mix (PBS)*, *On Time (WJZ-TV)*, *And The Bottom Line With Kweisi Mfume (WBAL-TV)*, *Right To Fight (Sarah Lawrence College)*, *The Annual Black Engineer's Conference & Black Families Technology Network (IBM Corporation)*, *International Visitor Project: Film in the US - Women & Minorities in the Film Industry Panel*, sponsored by *The US Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, World Learning for International Development/Delphi International*

His work with students and The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, allowed him the opportunity to travel to Israel in 1998, to conduct research on teaching strategies for high school educators, who teach the history and significance of racism, stereotypes, propaganda and the Holocaust. In 1999, he received a Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Fellowship. The seminar was titled, *Faces of Islam in Africa*, and allowed him to travel to Senegal and Morocco. It was from this experience that he was able to visit these two nations to research African and Islamic art, music and culture. He has also conducted workshops and participated in panels and lectures on animation at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NYC; The Maryland Institute, College of Art and The Johns Hopkins University. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his work in video and animation such as:

- The SONY Innovator's Award in Animation; Sony Corporation, New York, NY.
- First Place for Animation from The Maafa Film & Video Festival, Brooklyn, NY.
- The Paul Robeson Award in Film and Video, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ.
- The Annual Rosebud Independent Film & Video Competition, Washington, DC.
- The National Black Programming Consortium's Prized Pieces, Columbus, OH.

Tewodross is also a member, and serves as the chair of the Education Committee for FOCUSONDESIGN (formerly The Organization of Black Designers, OBD-DC); Publicity and Outreach Coordinator. He is also a member of The National Association of Artists of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (NAAHBCU), AIGA-DC, The Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF); SIGGRAPH and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He currently teaches animation, multimedia, digital imaging & design as an Assistant Professor of Visual Communication & Digital Media Arts (formerly Computer Graphics), in the Department of Fine & Performing Arts at Bowie State University. He is the founder of Visual Jazz Media Group and The Soulsuite Studios (www.soulsuite.com), online media arts, animation/film studio and collective, where he also serves as creative director, consultant, animator and producer.