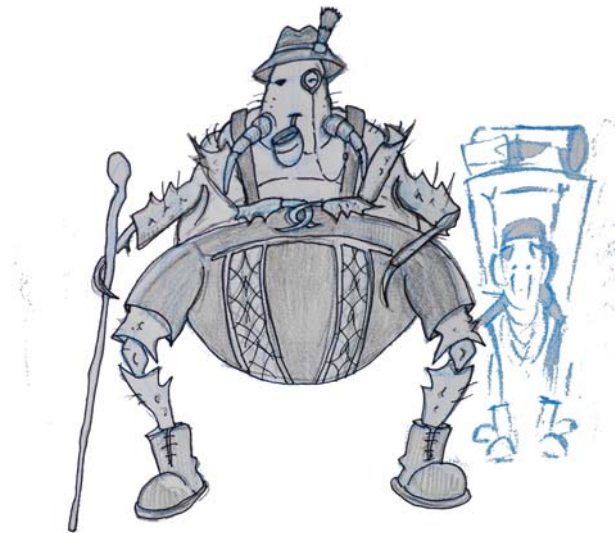


Neil Baker
Outline for Animation Screenwriting
December 9th 2008

Small Sacrifices *or* **The Peak**

Synopsis:

A group of insects encounter deadly obstacles as they attempt to conquer a snowy peak.



Concept:

An 'adventurer' (portrayed by a lederhosen-clad louse), undertakes his greatest expedition – to climb an intimidating 'mountain'. His Sherpa team is made up of several fleas that are used as packhorses and guides, and during the tough ascension it becomes evident that these fellow climbers are expendable in the louse's quest to reach the summit. The film, which will be stop-motion against green screen, will reveal the folly of such an undertaking, including the deplorable loss of life in the pursuit of one person's goals.

Outline:

The film begins with the ascent in full swing. Two guide fleas leap ahead, testing the way and finding the safest passages. Tethered to these guides is the louse, calmly picking his way up through the snowy outcrops and smoking his pipe. Strung out behind the louse is a team of three flea 'Sherpas' – each of them is laden down with boxes of supplies, extra equipment and, implausibly, a large leather armchair.

The next scene depicts the first death, as a flea Sherpa is used to bridge a crevice for the louse to cross. The flea's legs crumple and he falls to his death, but not before his tether is cut to release him. The other fleas share his load.



The team makes a camp for the night. While the fleas shiver, exposed on the mountain face, the louse reclines on his leather armchair, reading his newspaper inside his comfortable tent.



The next morning one of the guides is found frozen solid. The team moves on – prompted by the louse.



With the peak in sight the party presses on, taking more chances, and the extra effort results in more mistakes. An accident by the remaining guide causes a small avalanche, which sweeps away one of the Sherpas, and a misstep by the louse causes an icy rockslide, which results in the one remaining Sherpa flea being crushed under a boulder.



Finally, the louse and his one guide reach the summit. The louse yanks on the tether rope, pulling himself ahead of the flea so that he can set foot on the top first. He assumes a triumphant pose as the guide flea takes out a large box camera to record the moment.



The flash of the bulb results in a sepia tined photograph of the louse's monumental achievement. The camera pulls back from this still image, pulling further and further back until the insects are mere specks on the mountaintop. The image continues to pull back until it is revealed that the 'mountain' is in fact the hat of a modern mountain climber – who is standing triumphant on the summit of Everest.

