

EFX delivers fantastic Kite fight sequence for Aparna Sen's 'Japanese Wife'

03 May 2010 05:55 PM

BY ANIMATIONXPRESS.COM TEAM

'Japanese wife' directed by Aparna Sen and distributed by Saregama Films has a sequence where an Indo-Japanese kite flying competition is held. The kite fight is a rich visual treat, beautiful Japanese kites with faces painted in bright colours dot the azure blue sky, humbling their Indian rivals, simple and small. Japanese kites were specially brought from Japan for the kite flying sequence for film.

Director Aparna Sen visualized the Kite sequence which was a very important scene in the film. Initially it was decided that Sagar and Nagasaki kites fight will be mainly built up using CG and the rest will be shot in real situation and composited. On the day of the shoot the kite flying experts were unable to fly them as desired as there were no strong winds. Though some portions were shot the kite dynamics was not working as expected and planned for the sequence.

Hence a decision to do entire sequence in CG was made by the team. DOP Annay Goswami planned and developed the entire kite sequence with Prasad EFX's VFX Supervisor Ashoke Chowdhury and together they designed the VFX shots for the kite sequence.

Sagar and Nagasaki kites



The entire project team worked towards a thorough understanding of the flying dynamics of all Japanese kites. The complexity of the shots was well appreciated before work started and tests for the movement of different types of Japanese kites were done to achieve the realistic movements and to get the dynamics right.

Hima Kumar, Head of DI & VFX at Prasad EFX says "The kites were required to have realistic look and merge with the environment which was a complex task. Team has achieved this flawlessly".

Baramon Kite (Japanese Kite)



Threads tension varies with the pulls and releases as kite flier maneuvers the kite. Twist & turns with tension experienced on the thread due to kite changing position was clearly visible in the scene and articulately animated.

Other Japanese Kite

The tail on kite was required to follow natural movement which was constrained by kite pull and wind acting on it.



Kites were perfectly made to be part of the environment. Being a bright day the translucency on the kites, which were made with hard paper, was matched accurately according to the daylight.



Multiple Japanese kites flying, were superbly synchronized and executed.



Japanese Wife Kite



Flexibility of the 'Japanese Wife Kite' was a big challenge. The bending and twisting of the kite due to wind pressure had to be precisely shown as the kite was very big and captured lot of wind.

Japanese Wife Kite and Tri Color Kite



Lighting of kites was an important aspect in making CG kites part of the environment.

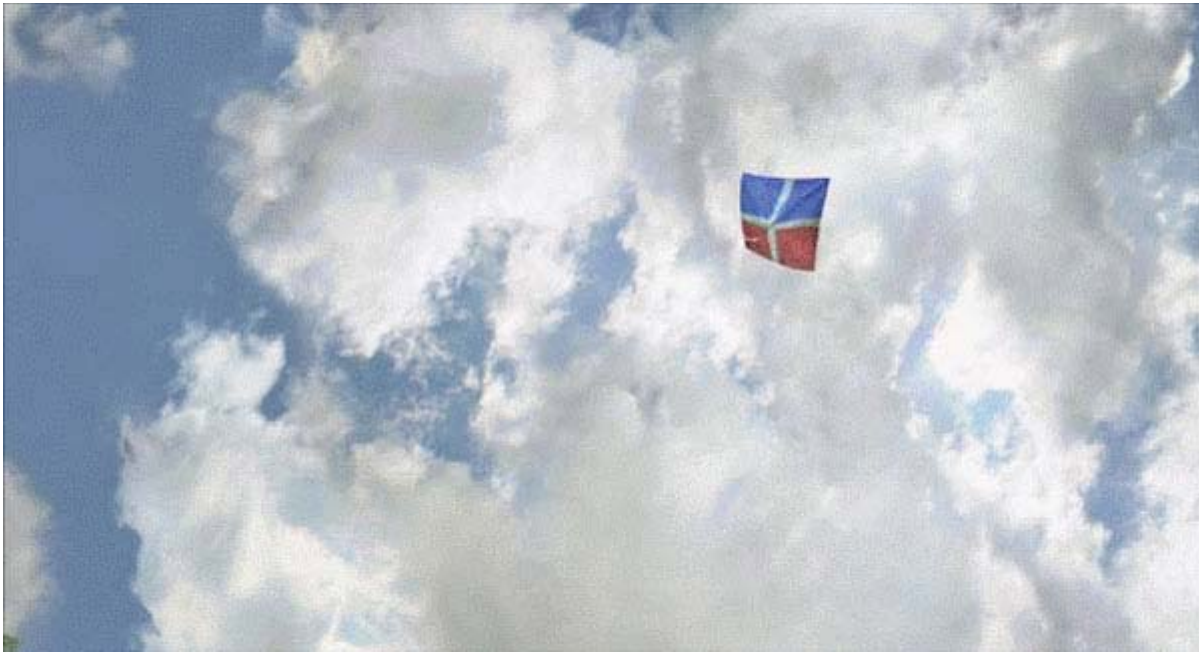
Before



After



"We had taken only a static camera movement shot. Matte painting for the extension of environment was done to give room for camera movement. We designed the camera movement from a low angle in which only sky was visible and kites are fighting in the sky. The camera follows the fighting kites and moves into top angle where we see the kites exit the scene and the crowd gathered to watch comes into view" added Hima Kumar.

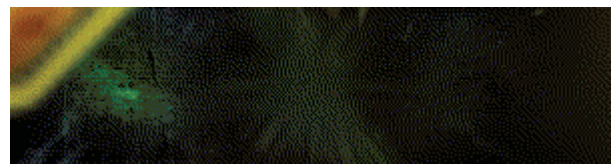


Two kites are engaged in fighting - the friction on the thread with the tension of pulling and subsequently the releasing of tension on the thread, when the kite is cut, was hard to achieve.

It was a generally a great experience for everyone to work on the sequence and the team had great fun at work on this project.

connect@animationxpress.com

Advertisement



URL for this article:

<http://www.animationxpress.com/?file=story&id=28011>