THE ART OF DEPONI/

DAEDALIC ENTERTAINMENT

THEARTOF







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Concept & Design: Stefan Sturm Written by: Jan Müller-Michaelis, Johannes E. Kiel Published by: Carsten Fichtelmann

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FOREWORD

Poki, you are as old as "Zork". What may sound like an insult at first, is in fact a statement which does not offend me at all. Quite the contrary.

It implies that I have spent as much time on this planet as adventure games have – one of the first commercial forms of computer games ever created. Back then there weren't any to rudimentary sprites used in them. "Zork", for example, consisted only of a text used as a description, interrupted by yet another text-based user prompt. While I was learning how to walk and talk, computer games started learning how to use graphics – first four colors, then 16, 32... while I went to school, text adventures became graphic adventures.

When "Monkey Island 3" was released in 1997, I had just finished graduating from high school. At that time it became possible to bring life to hand-drawn comics in an almost seamless way, instead of animating chunky pixels. But the euphoria did not last very long. Even before the millennium expired, the genre was pronounced dead for the time being.

Fortunately, we all know by now that this recess did not represent the actual end of point'n'click adventures, but in fact – to add yet another next-to-last parallel to my own biography – displayed a sort of orientational phase. The last parallel should be a rather familiar one: Just in time for the new dawn of the adventure era, I found my way into the industry.

And so despite all the premature burial attempts, today I am allowed to write the foreword for this art book of a rather lively representative of its kind: Deponia. When looking at these three games – as originally intended – as a whole, one could say it is the most extensive point'n'click of all time and it has definitely become – in all modesty – a part of computer game history. And that is not only because these three adventure games have contributed their fair share to the relatively short history of the genre, but especially because of the huge effort which the art and animation team surrounding Simone Grünewald, Gunnar Bergmann, Michael Benrad, and Rino Pelli put into backgrounds, animations and videos. In contrast to the trend of the industry, everything in the games has been arduously drawn by hand, frame by frame. At any given time, about 20 animators were working on the project simultaneously – in the end the final headcount went over 50.

And yet Deponia had been planned as an inofficial sequel to "Edna & Harvey: The Breakout" at first, where I was supposed to draw everything myself. Fortunately, we decided otherwise in terms of how to approach Deponia. The scribbles I did in my coffee frenzy, which have also unfortunately found their way into this art book, illustrate what kind of catastrophe this would have ended up being otherwise. The only sprites used in the game that can be accredited solely to myself are Rufus' nose (Simone's approach just looked too good) and of course Goal's nose (which I am very proud of). When ignoring these graphical deficiencies, you will get a solid idea of how much talent, hard work and love have flown into the design of our favorite garbage planet and beyond that you will also learn of a few interesting facts about how our artists go about their work.

I hope you'll have as much fun as me rummaging through these pages. And to be honest: Browsing through a Deponia artbook has a lot more style than watching the regular trash on TV, right?

Kind regards,





CHARACTER DESIGN

When designing Rufus Simone Grünewald was loosely geared to Poki's "Edna-Style". Nevertheless, she drifted away from his first scribble with every new iteration. When she finally presented her outcome to him, after a while of pondering, Poki grabbed the tablet stylus right out of her hand, erased the nose and replaced it with the distinctive stroke which has adorned Rufus' face ever since. It should be mentioned that Simone left an empty space on her sketch of Goal as a precaution. Poki, however, did not correct this feature because he thought it to be a homage to Edna.



After he had to watch Goal die in his arms and the world had been infested by fewlocks, Solid Rufus was driven by one single thought: Deponia must burn. If everything ends, it might as well be ended by his own hands. The Rufus of the future has no hope left for better days. His last years spent in grief and pain made him jaded and cold; all joy of life drained from him he even grew a mustache.





Goal does not only play an important role in Deponia, but also a very solemn one. For half of the game she lies about motionless, being carried by Rufus or floating around in a container. 0

But, although her activity meter rarely registers any big peaks, one has to give her credit for doing only ethical actions. As the quiet conscience of our story her use in the game is narrowed down to being the moral compass needle. And as we know, the latter only shows the correct path when pausing motionless at a horizontal level.

Walking Cycle

CHARACTER DESIGN

ANIMATION

















Frame-by-frame animation is a very elaborate affair. While 3D character models only have to be created once and can be twisted and bent like a marionette to one's heart's content, Daedalic animators have to draw their

characters' every phase of motion. Imagine a puppet theater in which the puppet master has to carve a new puppet every time it moves an inch. It's crazy!













FUTURE GOAL



NO FUTURE GOAL

If you thought Future Goal was hard-boiled, this lady will show you the true meaning of the word.

She's seen it all, been through it all and she has nothing but contempt for Rufus at this point. She shipwrecked in the time bubble long ago and when the first people starting coming through the portals, she has built Paradox-City from the surrounding junk. She doesn't believe in a good future anymore, since there is literally no future in this place.

Concept Art: Poki





After Rufus fatal leap...well, fall of faith, times were hard for Goal. She not only suffered the loss of Rufus, but also had to see Elysium crash and burn. Her world offers nothing worth fighting for anymore, so she has nothing left to lose. When she came across someone who could change the past, she went all-in to get another shot at saving Rufus.



DOC

While we earthlings think of neat laboratories when hearing words like "scientist" and "inventor", the same cannot be said for the inhabitants of Deponia.

The Deponian tinkerer usually starts off his career with a simple discovery, things like "fire sets things on fire" or "wheels can be rolled" for example, and ends his career as a small heap of ash in a guardrail of a speedway. Therefore, you can, without a doubt, read off of Doc's old age that he must be a world-class tinkerer for a Deponian.





Early concept of Wenzel Artist: Michael Benrad You can discover who Wenzel really is and what happened to him after his sudden case of wealth by playing the leopard mode in Deponia or noting down the fourth letter on every third page backwards, translating them into ancient Greek and transcribing them into numbers.

WENZEL

Now all you have left to do is add them together and send us your result by email to leopardenmodus@daedalic.com. We will be in touch if you have done everything correctly.

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WENZEL ?

BAILIFF ARGUS

Being the right hand of evil, one requires nothing more than striking looks. Argus' outfit may, on the surface, remind outsiders of the antagonistic archetype from the Star Wars saga. To be honest, Poki did choose the military uniforms of the Red Army as a visual reference for the Organon uniforms. The beard fashion of famous communists have been alienated as mechanical chin hair prosthetics to serve as an iconic eye catcher. The actual outcome, which does in fact bear an undeniable resemblance to Darth Vader, only suggests that George Lucas suffers from the same brain defect as Poki does.

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Captain Bozo – the name of our favorite trashcutter captain is not to be comprehended in its English meaning of "idiot" but rather – to save Bozo's honor in this matter – as a straightforward translation from Spanish (= Capitano Baby Face).



CLETUS

PRIME CONTROLLER ULYSSES





After Emilio Indez from "A New Beginning" Cletus now lives up to be the second Daedalic super villain in a 70s disco-look. It makes you wonder whether The Great Zaroff secretly wears platform shoes or if Dr. Marcel would look good with Afro hair.





Concept Art: Poki



TV always adds ten pounds. Poki uses this principle brazenly in order to lend maximum presence to the elected mastermind behind the Organon conspiracy, although Prime Controller Ulyssesuntil just before the end.





RESIDENTS OF DEPONIA



"Put some food into your palm Take some butter, keep it calm Disregarding all the smut Put it into a cow's butt And it'll sound like Toni's mom."

Concept Art: Poki

GEMO

Even though Gizmo works three nerve-racking and time-consuming jobs, he's certainly not making enough money with them. He brags about getting exorbitant wages from all three, while at the same time he also pays three times the income tax and social security contributions. According to Mayor Lotek this is only fair.





CEMBELI

Here you can see Hermes wearing the genesis assortment from house Organon. The fashionable greenish-grey raincoat "Obiwan" protects its wearer from water as well as radioactive fallout and simultaneously preserves body warmth and suicidal tendencies at once.



Jugular ragout!

DONNA

Why does Donna have one eye? Why did she change her hair color? Who installed her implant? How did someone like her become the leader of a criminal organization? And why does Poki silently leave the room all of a sudden as soon as somebody addresses these topics?

GOWEOY DODO

Cowboy Dodo, originally known as "Cowherd Partridge", "The D", "Dodoist" and "Dr. Do", born as His Serene Highness Ottmar Dietrichson from Ostwestfeld, likes to describe himself as "the

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musical and other salvation of the world through lechery in all eternity, amen".

We are bound by contract to agree.



Concept Art: Poki

?? Look at me Look around 66



Any coincidental similarities with the German rapper Smudo are entirely intentional on our side.

Sketch and realization: Simone Grünewald

BAMBINA

Bambina's translated name corresponds to "little girl" which would suggest that, at least from her parents perspective, this was a fitting name for their daughter. Mind you, however, that Bambina's mother was bigger than Bozo and even had a denser beard growth - which proves once again that everything is relative in the universe.



Concept Art: Poki

CAPTAIN STATUL

According to experts, to flesh out an ideal authoritative father figure is one of the simplest exercises ever: All you have to do is take two portions of Sean Connery, one portion of



GOON

Not only did the German Let's Player "Gronkh" lend his voice and looks to Goon, but also his grace and his smell.



Concept Art: Poki

JUNE

June, you lucky thing! Admittedly, Rufus took her house, radiant heater and her great love, but instead he gave her the gift of dance – and nobody has really lived until they have danced!

OPPENEOT

Oppenbot obtained reason and emotion from his constructors in order to grasp and feel how meaningless his existence really is.





LIEBOLD

Liebold's resemblance to Rufus' first sketches proves that recycling is of great importance in Deponia. His nickname "compost cakehole", however, should be due to the teabags stuck between his teeth.



A picture paints a thousand words. With Garlef this only applies if one of these words isn't "hideous". In that case one can confidently refrain from the picture plus the other 999 words.

JANOSAI

? How can I shtop if you neffer tell me vhat it ish zat you find sho eggsheedingly hoomuroush?

Concept Art: Poki

The cliché, describing the goldilocked rebel leader, made its way to the satirical exaggeration it is today without the inconvenient detour over an underlying original. Parodies like "Top Secret" or "South Park - Bigger, Longer & Uncut" made fun of an archetype they themselves had created, in this way. To socialize this subjectless caper, this mirage of pop culture, this reverse vampire's reflection within yet another malapropism, with the opposite, presents itself as treading on thin ice even for post-postmodernism.





Mc CHRONICLE

McChronicle is the underrated janitor of Porta Rustica's university. When he meets Rufus, though, he introduces himself as a professor of temporal physics.

He built a real time machine but he is so worried to mess up the space-time continuum that he only uses it as a parking aid. Due to his trustful nature, he is the ideal victim for Rufus' cataclysmic ambitions.







FEWLOCKS

Fewlocks are the worst! After them, there were no upgrades to the genetic database, so they're the last model of the Elysian cloning facilities. Considering their vast number, you, dear reader, may wonder were all the biomass for their production comes from. This question is easily answered when you think about a connection between the Fewlocks and the ever dwindling number of Elysians.

The common Fewlock is a wild beast with an ounce of decency. That's why they always put pants on before mauling, maiming or chasing their own tail.







ELEPHANT

They're real! Pink elephants walk the earth of Deponia. But it needs exceptional skills to even notice them. Especially this specimen is a two-men crew in the sorry excuse for a radioactively pink camouflage suit. At first, the elephant is still shy and tries to stay hidden, but when someone meddles with his plans for the time lines, he will turn into an overwhelming enemy: he will stop from nothing an crush anybody in his way who does not belong into his version of the space-time continuum.

Concept Art: Poki

UTOPIAN & UTOPIAN 2 (UNMASKED ELEPHANT)

The Utopians are time-travelling aliens from planet Utopia. As you can see, they cover at least two frightening tropes of comic literature. This stands in vast contrast to their cute elephant-like appearance. In this emulsion of fear and cuteness there is little left they could command respect with. If it wasn't for their weaponry which is deadly for Utopians, but only mildly inconvenient for Deponians, nobody

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would take them seriously at all. Their plan is, to reverse everything to its normal state, i.e. the state before Rufus messed everything up. That is was actually their interference causing all this trouble is an oversight typically for time travelers.



Concept Art: Poki



RONNY

Ronny is Elysium's AI, operating its machines with wit and joy for the floating city's inhabitants. Ronny fulfills all their desires and there's nothing Ronny wouldn't do for them... At least until Rufus showed up. After a amateurish attempt to bypass Ronny's security routines, Rufus somehow managed to turn the benevolent AI into a threat to mankind.







Concept Art: Poki

TUGS

Good old Tuck is the town's drunkard. They say he once was an ambitious young man who easily turned junk into... well, better junk. But these days, he's just a sad wreck. The last drink is always the bitterest, so he prefers to keep drinking. Tuck and Rufus are friends, and their bond is only sometimes tainted by spontaneous vomiting on Tuck's part.



Concept Art: Poki

PIMPI THE PIMP

Pimpi the Pimp. The only shiny thing on Deponia is probably the bling of this jewel-juggler. He's a hopeless romantic and he doesn't believe, but actually knows what a woman wants to hear. His keen senses let him smell good mojo from 100 miles away and there are few things that make him lose his cool. It's all about love in his book. But even Pimpi meets his match when he tries to mentor a hopeless cause like Rufus.

SELINIX

There are few women like Schnixi. In fact, there are only 5 left, all others have been either been buried alive in catacombs or launched into orbit to put an end to their endless blabbering. You could say she's a telepath since there is no

Concept Art: Poki







WELCOME TO THE TRASH!









These early pieces of concept art mainly show the Lower Ascension Station. For the guess-friendly amongst our readers we have hidden a drawing which resembles something completely different. In every 20th artbook



one of these drawings can be scratched free with a coin. With a little luck you may also find a code underneath with which you can win a new artbook that hasn't been scratched up beyond recognition. Good luck!









COLORFUL WORLDS









When hurling around paint like a maniac, one should not be too surprised if he finds himself looking at a booger-green canvas eventually. That's what happened with our background artist, whose colour moods for the Porta-Fisco chapter invoke associations



with used handkerchiefs for a reason. His shift into his "nose secretion-like paint phase" marked the end of Micha's ambitions regarding his career as a portrait artist, but revealed to him a chance for a job as a matte painter for the next Peter Jackson film.





































































MAP OF DEPONIA

From a topographical perspective, the Red Rust Sea presents itself as child's play. True cartographers should test their skill on challenges like Rustralia, where tectonic movements lead to not only weather forecasts but also geographical correlations being predicted within every news broadcast. Announcements like "17°C in Smellbourne, western from Mount Anvil until Tuesday, followed by slight elevation in the Red Dessert which can last till the weekend" may seem critical, but could save a cartographer's life when in doubt. (Regular people usually distrust these topographically active areas anyway.)





THE VILLAGE OF KUVAQ

The tranquil village of Kuvaq was built in the sinkhole of a pile of garbage. The distinctive yellow rooftops of the settlement mainly consist of dismantled components of junk bulldozers, which now remind the residents that some things also lose their utility when they are used too often. Grown to a respectable amount in size, Kuvaq, is nowadays equipped with an own telephone tower, a fully functioning mail system, a hospital, a police station as well as a fire station and also an impressive town hall. Just ignore the fact that all the mentioned installations are located in only two buildings.

















Those of you who remember the movie E.T surely won't remember the same-named game which was released for the Atari 2600. It was in the year of 1982 when an Atari manager, after having an extensive waffle breakfast, had the grand idea to produce 5 million E.T. cartridges in order to distribute them. This act resulted in two lessons: Firstly, don't keep coke and powdered sugar in the same cupboard and secondly, there have to be about 10-20 truckloads of E.T. cartridges buried somewhere in the desert of New Mexico.

Ingame Art by Michael Benrad

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Fine concept by Poki





In Poki's first sketch of Toni's hut, Rufus had to sleep next to the toilet. In addition, it stands out that Toni's room is missing completely and Rufus' plans have shaped up to be even worse.

In his interpretation Michael Benrad adjusted the better part of these problems. However, Rufus' chances of reaching Elysium have still not improved.







Toni's Store, scribble by Poki

Ingame version by Michael Benrad 1







Norway
Norway

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Lonzos Bar Artist: Michael Benrad THE MINES

The collaboration with Goal was exceedingly pleasant. Only a handful of actresses would have let themselves be heaved in a crane over a ravine by Rufus whose skills are equal to those of a one-armed juggler. Then again, few actresses normally turn up unconscious on the set.



















In order to build a minebike one needs the following parts: one folding chair, three barbells (50kg, 25kg and 10kg in weight), ten heating pipes (copper), one flowerpot (no bottom), one lightbulb (600 watts), one steering wheel, one aquarium filled with battery acid, one cable, one portable furnace, one of grandpa's pants and 20 liters of superglue. Good friends at the MOT and a favorable lawyer wouldn't hurt as well.

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DREHBARES MINE

ASCENSION STATION









NONTROLLE DURCH DIE BEAMTEN



Here we have different pieces of concept art for the elevator. That thing in the second row on the left is supposed to be a chairlift. Probably.



Life has its ups and downs. Accordingly, a good drama should have at least one elevator scene: Ghost Busters, Blues Brothers, MacBeth - these are only three strong examples where an elevator provides comedic contrast to an otherwise tense and exciting moment. The heroes are carried towards a situation of utter uncertainty, rendered helpless to do anything but stare at the elevator's display in silence. Just like in life.

ALTERNATIV :

AUFGANG VON HIER

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The German language has a disappointing lack of any umbrella term for places of transportation-related farewells. After all, train stations, terminals, air fields and docks are essential for many romances and their respective emotional climax.

Deponia is no exception from the rule. Here, this tool of dramaturgy is provided by the Italian art noveau pier of the emergency cable boat to Elysium. It has to endure a real test between farewells and departures, of wanderlust and homesickness. Just how good the pier masters this narrative task is proven by the fact that not even Cletus, currently hanging from a flagpole, can destroy the Casablanca-moment Rufus and Goal share in this scene... at least if I remember it correctly.





Only few know that there's a real life reference for our datasettecartridges: the datasette. Yes, back in the 80s they had those. Though they were not used for storing your consciousness. Their intended purpose was, of course, software piracy so you'd get your hands on Terror Castle or Space Trek... what else was there to do? BACKUP






Creating this marathon of puzzles required weeks of serious research on junkyards. Poki literally went the extra mile and visited popular junkyards such as Berlin-Neukölln and Köln-Berg, but also more exotic sites like Rio de Janeiro and the Canary Islands.

If you want to read for yourself where he got his inspiration for the car horn, check out his bestselling guide "How to Have an Awesome Vacation at Your Company's Expense".





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Here we showcase the stunning beauty of Deponia's lush beaches. Also, there's an orthopedic stack of needles - a vanguard of Deponian medical care, providing everyone in need with the means of self-acupuncture.



"There once was a giant whale Who swam where ships liked to sail Then he got screwed, The shipwrights sued, But his lawyer was from Yale.

(The trial is still pending, lawsuits on both sides include assault and trespassing.)



Bozo's Trawler Artist: Michael Benrad

Bozo's trawler is not exactly what you'd call the apex of Deponian nautical engineering. It's not particularly fast, not even eco-friendly and definitely neither pretty nor clean, which are all attributes you can apply to its captain as well. Form, size and smell have a distinct resemblance to a garbage truck. Which, by the way, also applies to the trawler.







Bozo's Trawler, Poki and Michael Benrad

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However, cosmetic deficiencies like that are not only forgivable, but also obligatory in this case: pirate captains and their vessels have to be shabby old wrecks. There are certain standards to be maintained, after all. And thus it is proven: old is always better! Like wine, or whiskey, or Poki. Especially Poki.





Originally, Poki planned to tell the story of Deponia in one part. When it became apparent that it would require Mary Poppins' levels of magic to pull that stunt off, Deponia turned into a series instead. It's like a magic trick where you have to cut the rabbit into pieces to make it fit into the top hat. To create consistent transitions and tie all three parts together, scenes like Granny Utz' shack were used and turned out to be a great help. For this, we looked for a color palette that hasn't been used in the other chapters and eventually chose an underdog palette composed of turquoise, apricot, peral-copper and saffron.



THE FLOATING BLACKMARKET

J

Every Deponia installment has one, exactly one, exceedingly wide screen. The mysterious reasons for this are subjects of countless discussions online, as well as offline. Is Daedalic getting blackmailed by the patent holders of parallax scrolling? Did a special Trojan block the scroll bars of Micha's computer? Is it the engine, is something in Hamburg's water, is it the general political apathy? Or is it... just code? A sublime message unconsciously reminding us of the singularity of one particular game of the series, of one moment in time, or even reminds us of, yes, ourselves? Is three times one really three? Personally, I say it's the water, 'cause I just drank some and I'm feeling reeeeally.... reeeaaaally arglgrbleh!













The origin of the Floating Blackmarket is connected to a wrecked super-freighter and the large crowd of pirates picking up its SOS signal.

Every privateer looted as much cargo as they could and consequently capsized. It took only a few weeks until all the helpless ships formed a huge floating city inhabited by cutthroats. Fun fact: this little part of history has surprisingly a lot in common with Earth's Paris.



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Artist: Michael Benrad



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Schwarzmarkt Konzept Artist: Michael Benrad





If you count the clicks necessary to go from the marketplace to the drugstore and back, and the entrance to the arena, this screen has a recordbreaking number of seven exits.

This fact kindled an internal dispute between Daedalic experts Sebastian "Bade" Schmidt, head of game design and creative director Jan "Poki" Müller-Michaelis. "Too many exits", "'too inconvenient", "too confusing for the player" were the head game designer's arguments. "It's cool, though,"

was Poki's formidable riposte.







Eventually, the decision went in favor of better player orientation and this special screen was given a fast-travel map, accessible via the infoboard at the screen's center.





What better time to reflect on well (or badly) executed marketing strategies while comfortably lounging on a bistro chair right in the picturesque flair of a quiet, Mediterranean old town?

This stage is a good example of clever marketing. First, there is the very direct marketing in the form of the platypus merchandise shop. Then, to the left, there's viral marketing brought to you by McThulu's fast food. And last but not least, we have the cross-marketing happening in the center of the final screen: A poster advertising the magic show of the Great Zaroff from "The Night of the Rabbit".









Seagull's office is roughly based on Poki's own. However, Poki has a bigger fish tank, a bigger desk, bigger sofas... well, basically everything's bigger, especially the grand piano on his balcony. Pictures do not translate this difference very well, but if you're actually there you'll get it... do you see the two glasses on the table? That's about how big you'd feel in the office; and also likewise fragile and transparent. At least that's what he's telling people when he shows pictures of his stuff that are obviously just torn out of dubious calendars.





Hey there kids, it's getting late, time for bed,, But do not close your eyes yet, but instead Take a guess who's hiding among the shades Outside your window where he sits and waits For his chance to enter as soon as you sleep It's Hoedown, Hoedown! Ugly as can be!

(Excerpt from Poki's song ""Hoedown"")"

PORTA FISCO















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At the top: The underwater minigame we planned unfortunately had to be axed. None of the scripters could hold their breath long enough.

On the right: If you look closely, this Isla Watchit scene will solve the mystery of Granny Utz's lost fork.









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In front of the Blast Tower, ingame version by Michael, concept art by Poki

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HOTEL MENETEKEL

The Menetekel is a run-down hotel, sticking like a swallow's nest to the beams supporting the Organon Railway. This apparently simple construction is in fact a complex metaphor for











Another avatar of order is introduced by the role of Oppenbot. Originally this Organon-assistant robot was supposed to end up as an Elysian secretary called Oppendorff and his pedantic nature would be stress-tested in the chaotic confusion while visiting Hotel Menetekel. Re-writing the desk jockey into a machine capable of suffering who's utterly lost in this chaos despite his mental and electronic capacities. For some mysterious reason, people show more sympathy for a rusty machine than for a pedantic clerk.







The color palette of Hotel Menetekel's interior is composed of mold, dust and fecal colors. For obvious reasons. However, the visual presentation is only a small part of the hotel's complete ambience.

Let's look at Room Number 5, for example, which you can see here. As you can see, the room has no windows and no air conditioning. Consequently, this place has no ventilation whatsoever. To render the rich odor for the audience, there were plans to include olfactory samples in the game's box version. There even was a subcontracted partner company in Vladakistan commissioned with the corresponding production. Sadly, after the samples shipping confirmation, we lost contact to the company. The samples never reached us and the whole company vanished along with the whole country of Vladakistan. We don't think our commission and these events are connected in any way.







From his pants up to his neck, He moves in style, likes to brag But Cletus is not hipper Than a junk trawler skipper Proudly hoisting the idiot flag.





In the long history of the Hero's Journey a ritual washing was never as appropriate as in Rufus' case. It's no coincidence that Poki established the white vest as a key qualifier on all interpretable layers of his social ascension parable, especially when that ascension concerns Elysium.

The aforementioned cleaning, however, happens involuntarily in the filthiest hotel on Deponia and is part of an apocalyptic ritual. It's the ultimate example of how, when it comes to metaphors, a lack of quality can be offset by quantity."









Pies from this pie vending machine are available in the following flavors: lead, methane, pain, carbonara, slime, blergh, sausage, platypus intestines, hair, mold and sewerage worker.

ORGANON CRUISER

Argus' cruiser, in its first drafts, was conceptualized as a "rolling fortress" closely resembling a Russian battleship from World War I. Aside from the Organon's superiority it should also reflect the huge gap between the Organon and Deponia. Even in this early stage, Poki and Micha had the idea of making the excessive blind spot a leitmotif of the Organon design.

















Argus' cruiser, in its first drafts, was conceptualized as a "rolling fortress" closely resembling a Russian battleship from World War I. Aside from the Organon's superiority it should also reflect the huge gap between the Organon and Deponia. Even in this early stage, Poki and Micha had the idea of making the excessive blind spot a leitmotif of the Organon design.

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions". This proverb is followed faithfully by Rufus in every part of the story when he is confronted with a cryptic terminal through which he intends to save Goal, but achieves the exact opposite. In part one it's the levers of the Organon cruisers' trash chutes, part two has the cable boat's allegedly eject button. And here, in the third installment, the fatal machinery comes in form of the interrogator's controls. The subsequent plunge into the abyss, a major setback in Rufus' plan to finally reach Elysium, and Goals "consciousnessrelated inconveniences" are distinct parallels of all three parts.









The scene where Rufus was supposed to throw water balloons at robots onboard the Organon cruiser didn't make it into the final version of the game.

THE CLONING FACILITY

The higher you are, the farther you fall. But how do you convey that someone so used to falling has his emotionally lowest moment after this particular fall? The solution to this conundrum can be found by applying the best cure game design can provide: Immersion. During a pub crawl through Hamburg's finest bars with Poki, proofreading-fairy Anne Baumann had a brilliant idea: Resentment, regret and tristesse... there is only one context where a happy-go-lucky guy like Rufus would be able to go through these emotions, all associated with the loss of a beloved person, and still properly project those emotions to the players: The tutorial. Let's be honest here: Is there a thing closer to hell than relive this torture in the guise of game mechanics over and over for all eternity?





This terminal shows that customer satisfaction is important, even in hell. After all, Rufus is free to choose in which order he wants to be lasered, burned, crushed, frozen and sliced.

Exploiting this system to leave the conveyor practically unharmed surely wasn't an intended feature. Then again, you need some serious brainpower, patience and pain tolerance to get even this far.

Fine concepts by Poki







Granted, the work process for background graphics for Daedalic games is the direct opposite of assembly line work, the necessary steps still have to be seamless. Fittingly, we have the assembly line/conveyor screen as an example. Based on a very rough sketch by Poki, Micha scribbled a little colormood thumbnail.

Poki then gave it more substance using his own style, developing the layout you can see above, including all relevant layers and objects. The result was then tested in a so-called dummy script and considered good enough for Micha to start painting a clean version with this as a reference.









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You are what you eat. This little aphorism proved to be true when Rufus started looking for the very components of life.

As you know, Hermes is on a vegan diet. Consequently, the frying oil must be from a time when the clone factory was still in operation.

This also explains why Rufus can take it with him in one chunk and why his clones have such rancid personalities. 000

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PORTA FISCO 2.0











The underbelly of Porta Fisco is inhabited by, what else, despicable scum. We have organ grinders, witches, swamp monsters and Gronkhs. Here, not only uncomfortable subjects are addressed, but also...

Other uncomfortable things that let one doubt the moral integrity of the developers. Then again, it's probably like they say: Good humor prospers beyond good taste. "What do you mean, who said that? I did! It's written right here." Now enough with the nosy questions! Moving on...



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Those of you who played "Edna & Harvey: The Breakout" will certainly recognize the unique style of our creative director Jan "Poki" Müller-Michaelis.

This bearded poet is usually eager to grab the stylus himself and produce references like the ones pictured here, out of which the final screens emerge later on. If Deponia is ever declared as a national heritage we will gild his hands. Pinky swear!









... either gild or tar and feather. Depending on what's within reach. One thing is for sure: Neither will affect his line management.



ASCENSION STATION









The architecture of the Organon seems, at first glance, mundane and unimaginative. Looking at it a bit closer though, one can see how much effort has flown into the circumstance that every straight front has been equipped with a blind spot. As if the architects of the Dark Exchequer were anxious to frame a blue-ish metaphor, chaos reigns everywhere the Organon cannot or doesn't want to look. This "Blind Spot Mentality" highlights itself at the Control Stations where huge screens consequently block any view

out of the windows for the officials.







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ABOARD THE HIGH BOAT











The majestic High Boat is one of the vehicles that chauffeured the elite to Elysium in the early days. Appropriately, first attempts to adjust the interior to the likes of the barren Organon-style turned out to be a dead end. Poki's ornate art nouveau seemed to be a little too flamboyant for the art team so that all participating parties found common ground on the final outcome you can see to the left of this text as well as in the final game of course.

The sketch to the lower right shows another very early piece of concept art by Poki, which also marks the point at which the art team decided to not take Poki's sketches seriously anymore.





The sketches at the bottom for the High Boat were mainly rejected because we still had so much blue carpet left by the end of the game. It's a shame... those golden selvedges really looked great.

















This glance at Deponia really makes you think. Will we ever see Deponia again? What does the individual human being count for, when even the world itself is just a dust grain within the cosmos? How deep is this really? And most of all: What were the constructers of the High Boat thinking, not adding any handrails? When the credits of the last chapter of Goodbye Deponia begin to flicker across your monitor, not all of your questions will be answered. Only one thing will be for certain: You'll definitely need a new monitor. Flickering monitors are very bad for your eyes.

DERELICT ORGANON BLAST TOWER



















BBQ THURSDAY IN KUVAQ

















AMUSEMENT PARK















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PORTA RUSTICA'S JUNK TRADE UNIVERSITY






























DEPONIA'S FAUNA









Rufus as animal. Concept by Jo Lott

Parrot and Chameleon





Animal-Rufus J. LAU 2012





Mantis, Concept by Poki



In der Poststelle des Kurager Rathanses werden niedliche Kätzche per Elektros Roch daza gebrucht, marken und 5110 Briefunsellip onzulete.

Mail Kitten, Concept by Poki









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Wombat

Fish







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Junk Crab





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Pelican





Cleverbyte, Doc's dog





Torpedo Dolphins, concept by Poki





Giant Made

Honey Bee



Pressious



Rat

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Among Daedalic colleagues it's a popular party game to speculate about how the eleven platypus species that didn't make it into the otherwise very detailed platypus handbook in "Chaos on Deponia", but were later introduced in the collector's album as an easter egg in "Goodbye Deponia", go about their breeding behaviour. Just don't make the mistake of getting started on the nude platypus. Unless, of course, you're into these kind of parties.

























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STORYBOARD















Short video sequences, called cutscenes, should, among other things, represent a kind of reward for the player. In this sense, it's a shame, really, that players who skipped the corresponding minigame beforehand, also get to see the humorous disco scene. All that effort we put into that scene... boo, shame on you!



Storyboard by Poki Cutscene: Simone Grünewald































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Storyboard by Poki Cutscene: Simone Grünewald







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Storyboard by Poki Cutscene: Simone Grünewald

The cutscenes, by the way, have only been partly animated frame by frame. The remaining movement was achieved by our Cutter and Compositor Rino Pelli with AfterEffects animations.

For this he used neatly cut-up components from the characters' key postures that were largely designed by Simone herself, corresponding to Poki's scribbled storyboards.





























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Cutscene: Simone Grünewald













ANIMATIONS



Donna wearing Goal costume, walking cycle



Argus walking cycle



Rufus being electrocuted in water



Bottle witch turning in water



Goal turning around



The Guru presenting the crystal ball



Toni being startled while showering



Rufus receiving a real scare

Birth of a water platypus



Goon setting up a folding chair



Disguised Rufus spilling coffee

EFFFFFFFF Strages

June dancing in water



Argus removing his helmet

GUI DESIGN

When it comes to the interface most games focus on modern, preferably abstract elements. Deponia, however, was supposed to feel like handling real, heavy items when playing. Just like the machines Rufus operates (or breaks) in the course of the game - not computer interfaces or comfortable touchscreens but big levers and huge gears should form the interface with which the player would interact. The GUI should also have a kind of Low-Tech character.

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From the gears that represent the mouse cursor to the metallic noises when clicking on a button in the main menu - every push of a button was supposed to make the player feel the kind of physical exertion a Deponian tinkerer would feel day to day. Looking at it this way it's almost sad that the resourceful interface designers came up with the clever idea to open up the inventory by scrolling with the mouse wheel. This way, in the explained fashion above, said "push" became obsolete in the end.







DESIGNING THE LOGO





DEPONIA





CHAOS AUF CHAOS AUF

CHAOS AUF



<u>GOYOTDBYEE</u>

GOODBY



GOODSYE









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Sketch and realisation: Gunnar Bergman







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Over the years we've established a "tradition" to design an individual Daedalic logo suitable for the particular game we are developing. This applies to our games "The Dark Eye: Chains of Satinav", "The Dark Eye: Memoria" or "Blackguards", for example.

In the case of Deponia we didn't have an individually designed logo for the first two parts. Although we had in on our To-Do list for quite some time, it just never became a top priority - and so it happened that we never had the time to implement a new design. Instead, we focused on polishing the numerous animations in the game, right up until the last minute.

It always bothered me though that we never came around to design a new logo - after all, Deponia's universe opens up great possibilities for this purpose. Eventually, for the third and final part of the series ("Goodbye Deponia") we got round to designing the iconic "trash version" of the Daedalic logo after a lot of nagging on my part. It in fact did not become possible for us to design the logo until we had submitted the German master version: With one extra week's time, which we used to prepare the game for its digital versions, we were finally able to design a new logo.

This is also the reason for the ordinary Daedalic logo adorning the original DVD version of "Goodbye Deponia" and why the specific Deponia versions of our company's logo were subsequently added with the first game patch.

- Tom, Deponia Line Producer











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THE DEPONIA ART TEAM



JAN MÜLLER-MICHAELIS - POKI Creative Director

Has a creative beard and writes long stories. Sometimes the other way round.



MICHAEL BENRAD Lead Background Artist All of his sketches were either garbage, trash or rubbish.



RINO PELLI Compositing Artist Trying to move something while sitting.



SIMONE GRÜNEWALD Art Director ... has been drawing since forever.



GUNNAR BERGMANN Lead Animation Artist

Broke a gamepad once. Was sad afterwards.



MARCO HÜLLEN Cut Scenes - 3D Compositing Artist Bought himself a monkey to write his Skype messages.

CREATIVE LEAD Jan Müller-Michaelie

ART DIRECTOR Simone Grünewald

CHARACTER DESIGN

Simone Grünewald Jan Müller-Michaelis Michael Benrad Gunnar Bergmann Cam Tu Nguyen Sandra Schwarz Dominic Zurbriggen

LEAD BACKGROUND ARTIST & DESIGNER Michael Benrad

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ARTISTS

Jan Philipp Dombrowski Stefanie Genzwürker Malte Burup Muri Kemaldar Simone Grünewald Stefanie Kick Anna Runge Philipp Suchowski Irina Zinner Fabia Zobel Laura Müller Julia Metzger Julia Brandes Moritz Manhart Nick Noah Michael Benrad Gunnar Bergmann Stefan Wefer

LEAD 2D ART & ANIMATIONS

Gunnar Bergmann Simone Grünewald

CONCEPT ART

Jan Müller-Michaelis Michael Benrad

CUT SCENES - DIRECTOR Jan Müller-Michaelis Rino Pelli

CUT SCENES

- COMPOSITING/ANIMATION/FX Rino Pelli Nick Noah Moritz Manhart

CUT SCENES - 3D COMPOSITING

Marco Hüllen Nick Noah Rino Pelli Sandra Schwarz

CUT SCENES

– **3D MODELS** Rebecca Bertram Stefan Wacker

CUT SCENES - STORYBOARDS

Muri Kemaldar Jan Müller-Michaelis

CUT SCENES

- CHARACTER ARTISTS Simone Grünewald Stefanie Genzwürker Franziska Klaus Stephan Mangelsen

ARTBOOK

Stefan Sturm (Layout) Jan Müller-Michaelis, (Text) Johannes E. Kiel (Text)

2D ART & ANIMATIONS

CREDITS

Christian Ahlers Olga Andriyenko Tobia Baraccani Johanna Baumann Rebecca Bertram Marion Bricaud Kerstin Buzelan Nadja Clauberg Maren Collet Sören Dirksen-Thedens Nicky Dretvic Anabel Ehlers Hanna Franz Johannes Grünwald Jenny Harder Regina Haselhorst Tatjana Heinz Marco Hüllen Agne Inciute Stefanie Kick Franziska Klaus Jasmina Kloss Christian Kotz Sina Lampe Johannes Lott Stephan Mangelsen Claudia Marvisi Julia Metzger Raluca-Mirela Miron Laura Müller Cam Tu Nguyen Nick Noah





Dedicated to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Jukebox Dwarves

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