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CrazyTalk 5 Pro

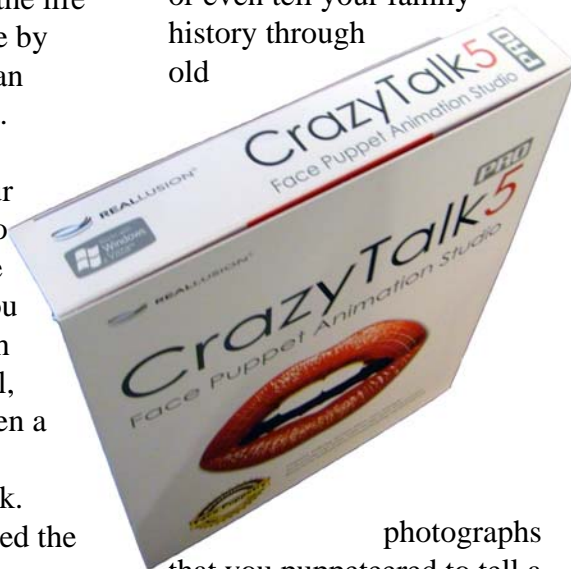
Did you ever look at an old photograph and wish that the image could speak? What would the person in the photo say and would it be something that you actually wanted to hear? With CrazyTalk 5 Pro you can take old photographs or drawings and breathe life into a character's face by turning the face into an animated face puppet.

This Reallusion® program can turn your computer into a photo face animation movie production studio. You choose the face which can be human, animal, insect, cartoon, or even a whimsical talking vegetable or tree trunk. Once you have selected the image that you want to warp to life, you only need to click on the image's mouth and eyes to get the talking process started.

The program even has an emotion wizard that allows you to give your talking photo a personality. The program's masking editor allows you to easily switch photo backgrounds. The program package also gives you the ability to infuse facial expressions into pictures that were perhaps frozen in time by

the click of a camera shutter many decades ago. If talking faces isn't enough to get your point across the program also allows you to add cartoon style text bubbles to your project.

With some practice you can create a video clip just for fun or even tell your family history through old



photographs that you puppeteered to tell a story. Each animation can be saved as video clips for inclusion in other video projects, burned onto video CDs or DVDs, or optimized for uploading to YouTube™. For fun I created a simple eighteen second video that I called SnowGirlLove. You can view the video at www.techknow-vision.com by clicking on the product review icon and then the online video link which is next to the online link for this review.

One thing is for sure, this is the perfect program to get students proactive in a computer learning experience that teaches video production and puppeteer animation in an exciting way. A project can easily be themed around telling a significant story about something that took place in history. Your students might bring a famous technologist or scientist to life and let them, through animation, talk about their scientific and technological achievements.

Recalling the Facts

1. To bring a face to life what parts of the image do you need to click on to get the process started?
2. What is the function of this program's masking editor and emotion wizard and how would you use them to improve the quality of your puppeteered scientist or technologist as they describe their greatest achievements?

Dr. Alan J. Pierce is co-author of Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2005 and a TechDirections Magazine Columnist. Visit www.techtoday.us for past columns and resources.