

# LOS ANGELES I'M YOURS

## Cypress Valley



It's been a while since we've checked in with Kiel Johnson, the multi-talented LA artist who has been working in a fascinating cardboard wonderland recently. We got word from him that he completed a project he had been working on with Cypress College students: he made a short film with them that features his cardboard creations as insane robotic costumes. It's a rad little piece called Cypress Valley and it is a great way to spend five minutes today.

Produced with Roger.tv, the piece takes place in Cypress Valley (AKA the city of Cypress AKA South, Southeast LA) in the year 3011. The world has basically turned to robots with brightly colored fixtures who bleep and bloop to each other and are able to do things like display Facebook feeds on their faces. The film follows a little high school robot couple as they go to the Cypress Valley High School prom which seems fairly normal (dancing, punch spiking, a vocoded version of "Lady In Red," etc.) until everything goes crazy in the best way possible. There's robotic drug usage, robotic vomiting, robotic hookups, and more. It's a remarkable video that, while funny and simply a good film, gets you very much invested in how they accomplished making it: there are soooo many cardboard details and there is soooo much variety. How did they do it?! Everything was made by students with Kiel over the course of a "four day super jam." It's really neat.

The piece was made two years ago and is now finally getting released online (at least by Kiel, that is). In a behind the scenes video that you can find at bottom, you get to hear from Kiel and artist/Cypress professor Devon Tsuno about what went into making the piece. It's totally wild. We sure do hope there are more films like this coming soon from Kiel! You can also read more about Kiel here, too.



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