

the animators



The work produced by the Disney Studio was the combination of a number of very talented craftsmen, artists and animators, many of whom joined Walt in the early days. Nine animators, in particular, were singled out as the sole creative force behind each new Disney animated feature, Walt called them his "Nine Old Men" after the Nine justices of the Supreme Court. Below are potted biographies of their work, arranged in the order that each man arrived at the Studio. A period from 1927 to 1935.

Les Clark. Animated Mickey Mouse in "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" in *Fantasia* and the Sugar Plum fairies in "The Nutcracker Suite". Was a sequence director on a number of films including *Sleeping Beauty*. Later worked on tv Specials and educational films. Retired in 1976. Died Sept, 1979.

Wolfgang (Woolie) Reitherman. Animated dinosaurs in *Fantasia* and Monstro the whale in *Pinocchio*. Directing animator on *Dumbo*, *Fun and Fancy Free*, *Ichabod and Mr Toad*, *Cinderella*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *Lady and the Tramp*. Sequence director on *Sleeping Beauty*. Director on *101 Dalmations* through to *Robin Hood*. Worked on *The Rescuers* and *The Fox and the Hound*.

Eric Larson. Animated Figaro in *Pinocchio* and the winged horses in *Fantasia*. Animator on *Bambi*, *Song of the South*, *Melody Time*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*. Sequence director on *Sleeping Beauty*. In charge of Studio's training scheme.

Ward Kimball. Designed Jiminy Cricket for *Pinocchio*. Animator on *The Three Caballeros*, *Ichabod and Mr Toad*, *Cinderella*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, tv Specials and 3D shorts. Retired mid-seventies. Designed *World of Motion* at EPCOT.

Milt Kahl. Animator on *Snow White*, *Make Mine Music*. Animated Peter Pan, the prince in *Sleeping Beauty*, Sir Ector and Kay in *The Sword in the Stone*, Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book*, Madame Medusa in *The Rescuers*. Retired in 1977.

Frank Thomas. Animated Dwarfs in *Snow White*. Directing animator on *Pinocchio*, *Ichabod and Mr Toad*, *Cinderella*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Jungle Book*. Retired in 1978.

Ollie Johnston. Animator on *Pinocchio* and *Victory Through Airpower*, *Melody Time*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Sword in the Stone*, *The Jungle Book* and *The Rescuers*. Retired in 1978.



John Lounsbery. Animated Ben Ali Gator on "Dance of the Hours" from *Fantasia*. Animator on *Dumbo*, *Fun and Fancy Free*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Jungle Book* and *The Aristocats*. Died 1976, leaving his work on *The Rescuers* incomplete.

Marc Davis. Clean-up drawings on *Snow White*. Designer on *Bambi* and *Victory Through Airpower*. Animator on *Bambi*, Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty* and Cruella de Ville in *101 Dalmations*. Moved to WED to work on *Disneyland* rides and attractions.

The past achievements of these men were recognised by the following awards; *Pioneer in Film Award* University of Southern California chapter of Delta Kappa Alpha National Honorary Cinema Fraternity, April 9th 1978, and Americana Film Institute at the Kennedy Centre in Washington DC, June 19th 1978.

At its height, in the early Forties, the Disney Studio utilised the talent of over 237 people. Too many, unfortunately, to mention by name. Below is a list of ten of the most prominent.

Ub Iwerks. The artist who originally drew Mickey Mouse and who went on to create most of the special photographic processes used in Disney animated films. Animated the birds in the Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name.

Bill Tytla. Brilliant draughtsman, animated Tchernobog in "Night On Bare Mountain" from *Fantasia* and Stromboli in *Pinocchio*.

Art Babbitt. Animator on *Fantasia*. Babbitt left the Studio during the strike and worked for other film companies. During his retirement worked for Richard Williams.

Ken Anderson. Conceptualist at the Studio. Animated the tremendous fight between the Prince and the dragon in *Sleeping Beauty*.

Ben Sharpsteen. Supervising director on a number of Disney full-length animated classics. Left Studio in 1959.

Joshua Meador. Effects animator, worked on *Fantasia* through to *Sleeping Beauty*. Animated Id monster from MGM's *Forbidden Planet*.

Hamilton Luske. Supervising director on most of the Disney cartoon films.

Norman Ferguson. Production Supervisor on *Fantasia*, *Snow White* and *Saludos Amigos*.

Clyde Geronimi. Sequence Director who worked at the Studio through to 1960.

Wilfred Jackson. Joined in the Studio in 1928. Helped to devise soundtrack for *Steamboat Willie*.