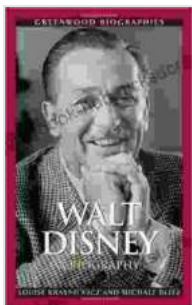


Walt Disney: Pioneer of American Animation and Entertainment

Walter Elias Disney, known throughout the world as Walt Disney, was an American entrepreneur, animator, voice actor and film producer. A pioneer of the American animation industry, he introduced several developments in the production of cartoons. As the co-founder of Walt Disney Productions, one of the best-known motion picture studios in the world, he also had a significant impact in the development of theme parks and vacation resorts.



Walt Disney: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies)

by Louise Krasniewicz

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1867 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Print length : 155 pages

Screen Reader: Supported



Early Life and Career

Walt Disney was born on December 5, 1901, in Chicago, Illinois. He developed an early interest in art and drawing, and by the age of 14, he was already selling his sketches to neighbors and friends. In 1917, he dropped out of high school to join the army, but was rejected due to his young age. He then found work as a commercial artist, drawing advertising posters and designing logos.

In 1920, Disney moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he met Ub Iwerks, a fellow animator. Together, they founded the Iwerks-Disney Commercial Artists studio, which produced animated commercials and short films. In 1923, Disney and Iwerks created the character Mickey Mouse, which would become one of the most iconic figures in American popular culture.

The Golden Age of Animation

In 1928, Disney released his first feature-length animated film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The film was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to usher in the "Golden Age of Animation." During this period, Disney produced a number of classic animated films, including *Pinocchio* (1940), *Fantasia* (1940), and *Mary Poppins* (1964).

Disney's films were groundbreaking in their use of animation, music, and storytelling. He pioneered the use of soundtracks and special effects, and he developed new techniques for creating realistic and immersive animations. His films also reflected his own personal values, such as the importance of family, friendship, and imagination.

Disneyland and Beyond

In addition to his work in animation, Disney also had a significant impact on the development of theme parks. In 1955, he opened Disneyland in Anaheim, California. The park was an immediate success, and it quickly became one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Disney also oversaw the development of other theme parks, including Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and Tokyo Disneyland in Japan.

Disney died of lung cancer on December 15, 1966, at the age of 65. He left behind a legacy of innovation, creativity, and entertainment that continues

to inspire people around the world.

Legacy

Walt Disney is widely considered to be one of the most influential figures in American history. His contributions to the world of animation and entertainment are immeasurable. He created some of the most beloved characters in popular culture, and his theme parks have brought joy to millions of people around the world.

Disney's legacy extends far beyond his own lifetime. His company, Walt Disney Productions, continues to produce popular films, television shows, and theme parks. His characters and stories have been translated into dozens of languages, and they continue to be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Walt Disney was a true visionary who changed the way we think about animation and entertainment. His legacy is one of innovation, creativity, and imagination. He will continue to be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.



Walt Disney in his studio, circa 1950.

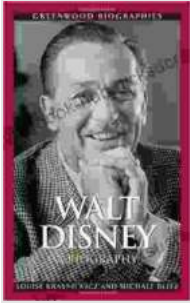
Additional Resources

- [The Walt Disney Family Museum](#)
- [The Walt Disney Company](#)
- [Walt Disney on Wikipedia](#)

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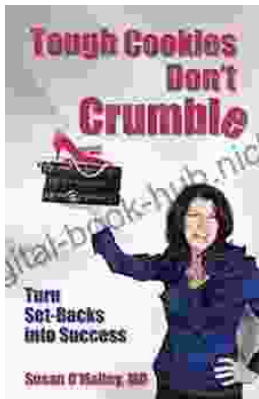
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