

## CARTOONS and ANIMATION

Animation is a way of making a movie from many still images. The images are put together one after another and then played at a fast speed. That gives the illusion of movement. At the beginning, artists had to draw pictures by hand. They had to draw a lot of pictures and create movement. Now, artists use computers to draw different characters and to make them move. These artists are called animators. Because animation is expensive, most animation is made by professional companies such as MGM, Pixar, Walt Disney Pictures, Warner Bros and many others. Animation can be made in 2D or 3D technique.

I think that if I say cartoon, you all think about those cartoons that we call risanka in Slovene. But there are different types of cartoons.

The first type is a political cartoon, which are published in newspapers and make fun of politics.

The second type is a comic strip (strip in Slovene), which is published as a newspaper for children or as a short series of illustrations published in daily newspapers. The most famous Slovenian comic strip is Zvitorepec, Trdonja in Lakotnik, which was written and drawn by Miki Muster.

The third type of cartoons is a web comic, which is a comic posted on the internet.

And the fourth type is a movie cartoon (risanka in Slovene).

I believe that movie cartoons are the most popular of the four types and I will concentrate on this type of cartoons.

The first animated cartoon was created by Emile Cohl ("emil kol") in 1908. At first, movie cartoons were quite short and there weren't many of them. From the 1920s (nineteen twenties) to 1960s (nineteen sixties) was the "golden age" for movie cartoons. It is the time when cartoons were produced in huge numbers and they played them in cinemas before another film.

Some movie cartoons are based on fairy tales such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty and The Little Mermaid. And the scripts of some other cartoons are written just for that cartoon. The examples would be Planes, Cars, Shrek and others. Sometimes famous actors and actresses "play" character in cartoon. That means that they lend their voices to characters, for example David Schwimmer, who also played in a sitcom Friends, lent his voice to Melman, the zebra in the cartoon Madagascar. Because such cartoons are mostly for children, they have to be dubbed for children in other countries, so that young children understand what the characters are saying. Some cartoons are for adults, such as The Simpsons, Family Guy, American Dad and South Park. They are for adults because they sometimes have language that is not for children and have jokes that children can't really understand.

Now let me mention a few very famous and successful cartoonists and animators.

The first has to be Walt Disney who was an American business magnate, cartoonist, animator and voice actor. He was famous as a filmmaker and a popular showman, as well as an innovator in animation and theme park design. He and his staff created numerous fictional characters including

Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy. Disney himself was the original voice for Mickey. He also built the theme park Disneyland, where people can meet characters from his cartoons. His company is responsible for making (TREBA JE DODATI NASLOVE RISANK).

The second would be Mark O'Hare. He is an American cartoonist. O'Hare is well known for his work on animated television shows as a writer and storyboard artist for *Rocko's Modern Life*, *SpongeBob*, *Dexter's Laboratory*,... He is currently a story artist who has contributed to the films *Despicable Me*, *The Lorax*, and the *Despicable Me 2*.

Then there is Bill Kroyer who is an American director of animation and computer graphics commercials, short films, movie titles and theatrical films. Kroyer began his animation career in 1975 by working in a small commercial studio. In 1977, he finally ended up at Disney Studios as animator on *The Fox*. Then he met future *Tron* director and After *Tron* was finished, Kroyer decided to stay with computer animation instead of traditional animation. After he joined Hues Studios he supervised the animation for film such as *Garfield*, *Scooby Doo*, *Viva rock Vegas*,...

And the last famous animator that I will mention is Frank Thomas. He was one of Walt Disney's team of animators. He worked on campus humor magazine and after that he joined The Walt Disney Company. Thomas is responsible for some famous cartoons scenes and characters such as Bambi and Thumper on the ice, *Lady and the Tramp* eating spaghetti, the three fairies in *Sleeping Beauty*, Merlin and Arthur,...