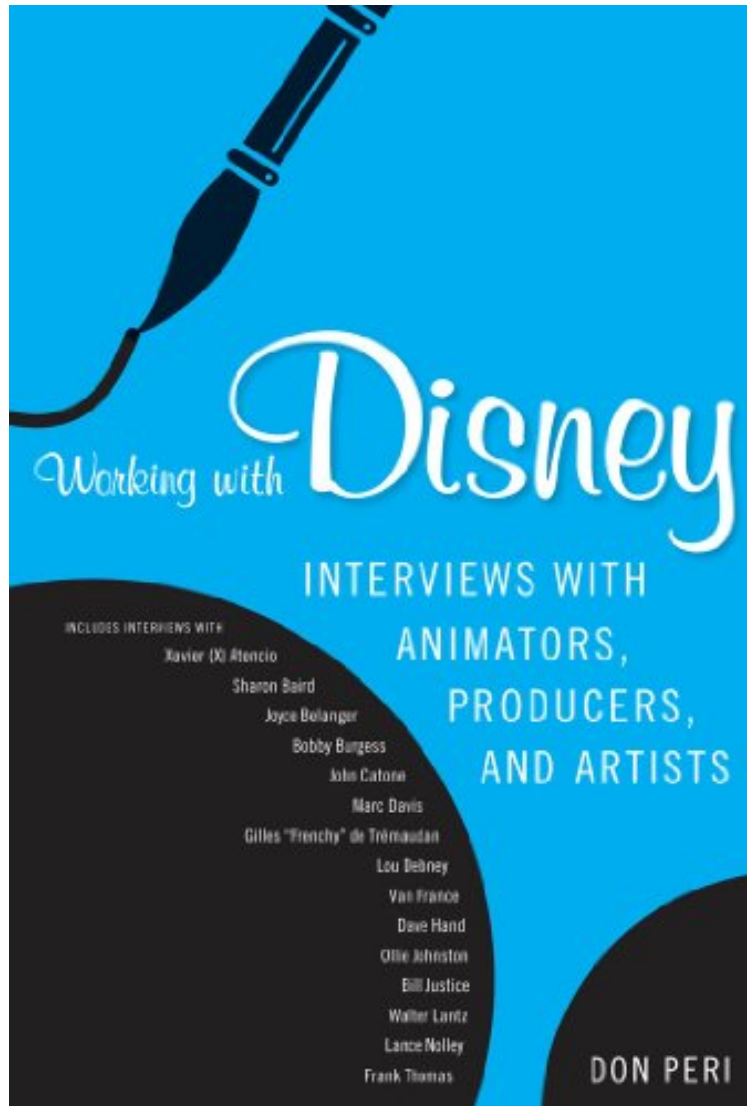


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# Working with Disney: Interviews with Animators, Producers, and Artists

Don Peri

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**Don Peri : Working with Disney: Interviews with Animators, Producers, and Artists** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Working with Disney: Interviews with Animators, Producers, and Artists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More Indispensable Disney HistoryBy VDon Peri releases to us another batch of extremely valuable Disney history that he compiled decades ago. The most valuable interviews are with Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston, Marc Davis, Lance Nolley, and Xavier Atencio. The correspondence with David

Hand was somewhat disappointing. An interesting interview is with Giles "Frenchy" de Tremaudan, an animator during the early days of the studio. Not very much is out there about Giles and the interview is very short, but valuable nonetheless, because it gives him a voice. Definitely valuable for reference. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Worthy Successor to "Working With Walt" By Glenn Gallagher "Working with Disney" by Don Peri is a worthy successor to his first book about Disney animators, "Working with Walt". In this new set of interviews with those fortunate enough to work with Walt Disney, the author expands his focus to include not only animators, but also animation directors and producers, story idea people, writers, actors, imagineers, and even Disneyland ride operators. The sum of the parts may not be quite as perfect as "Working with Walt", but is still a fascinating inside glimpse into the talented people who had the honor and the challenge of creating movie magic with Walt Disney as the omnipresent great man they tried to impress. Some of the inside knowledge into animation and the references to Disney films may be a little deep for the Disney neophyte. It definitely helps to already know the basic history of Walt Disney and his films. Here's a very quick run-down of the interviews in the order they appear in the book, and my impression of them. Interviews with Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston, and Marc Davis. All three of these legendary animators were in the original fabled "Nine Old Men" of Disney studios. They worked on almost all the great Disney classic feature length animated films from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves through The Jungle Book. Delightful stories and remembrances of working with Walt. Dave Hand, a long-time animator for Disney, appears to be extremely guarded and a little bit defensive and evasive during his interview, which was a bit of a disappointment. Author Don Peri notes of Dave Hand that "He was hesitant to participate in a face to face interview". The two never met, and the interview was done through correspondence, which may account for the somewhat distant and lackluster tone of the interview. Walter Lantz, the inventor of Woody Woodpecker. A curious choice to include in this set of interviews, as it appears he never worked directly for Disney, but did continue animating "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit" invented by Walt Disney. The introduction to the interview somewhat euphemistically states "When Walt Disney lost the character Oswald the Lucky Rabbit to his distributor, Charles Mintz, Universal retained the copyright, and the company's head, Carl Laemmle Jr., soon asked Walter to replace Mintz as producer, giving Oswald a new lease on life..." According to other histories, the character Oswald was stolen from Walt and he was unceremoniously cut out of the Oswald franchise. Nevertheless, a fine interview, with some interesting history of Woody the Woodpecker. Giles "Frenchy" de Tremaudan, an animator for Disney, was tracked down when he was quite old and in poor health, and subsequently, he doesn't have a lot to say. Lance Nolley, a "big-hearted Texan" was an art director, layout artist, and production designer on many short subjects for Disney. He's a lot of fun and his warmth and enthusiasm shine through. He has some great stories on what it was like to work for Hannah-Barbera between stints working for Disney. Xavier "X" Atencio worked on shorts, titles for feature length films, and later on for WED (Enterprises), he even wrote the lyrics to "Yo Ho (A Pirate's Life for Me)" for the Disneyland attraction "The Pirates of the Caribbean". Another terrific story-teller with insider stories of "the strike" at Disney studios prior to World War II. Bill Justice and Lou Debnay - Bill was an animator and Lou was an assistant director and production coordinator. Both are wonderful interviews with men who clearly loved their work and working for Walt Disney. Lengthy interviews that are informative and fascinating. Joyce Belanger, John Catone, and Van France worked behind the scenes in various roles to support Disneyland (ticket taker, communication services director, attraction consultant), and collectively, they all add depth and a non-animation perspective to working with Disney and working at Disneyland. Bobby Burgess and Sharon Baird were both Mousketeers who starred in the television show "The Mickey Mouse Club", and both were dancers and remained so professionally even after the television show was canceled. Two of the brightest, most endearing interviews in the collection, their joy and enthusiasm for being in the Mickey Mouse Club was still shining through decades later and is captured in these two delightful interviews. In summary, "Working With Disney" is a must-have collection of interviews for anybody interested in the art of Walt Disney, and is curious to know a little more about the people and the work they did to make possible that "Disney magic". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another home run By gheb Once again, Don Peri has served up a wide variety of entertaining interviews with individuals who were disciples of Walt Disney. Following his successful first book, "Working with Walt," the author widens his scope to include not only those in the animation field, but entertainers. He even includes a long-time Disneyland ticket seller and a Disneyland greeter who ultimately became an operations manager. The mix, stirred to a higher level with interviews of Mousketeers Bobby Burgess and Sharon Baird, is sure to capture the heart of any true Disney fan. The anecdotes, the recollections, are fresh no matter how many Disney volumes the consumer may have read before. For example, famed animator Marc Davis's touching remarks about his last meeting with Walt are more complete here than anywhere else. The lengthy chat with a Disney fan favorite, Bill Justice, who invented Chip and Dale among many other successes, is a treat. The interviews demonstrate once again that even a taste of the Disney way encouraged those who had even just minimal contact with the great one to set a solidly ethical life course. The only discordant note is the interview with legendary artist Walter Lantz. Lantz not only did not work for Disney; he inherited the character, "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit," who was stolen from Walt Disney. But there is irony here: Had not Walt lost Oswald, the birth of Mickey Mouse may have been delayed forever. So suffering a Lantz may not be so painful after all. The number of memorable stories in this volume threaten to outnumber its pages. It's a keeper.

In this volume Don Peri expands his extraordinary work conducting in-depth interviews with Disney employees and animators. These recent interviews include conversations with actors and performers rather than solely animators. This book offers Peri's extensive interviews with Marc Davis, Frank Thomas, and Ollie Johnston, three of Walt Disney's famed "Nine Old Men of Animation." Peri interviewed two Disney Mouseketeers-Bobby Burgess and Sharon Baird-from the original Mickey Mouse Club Show, providing valuable perspectives on how the Walt Disney Company worked with television. Lou Debnay, a Disney television producer, discusses the company's engagement with television and live-action film. Walter Lantz talks about his work in the animation business, especially with Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. And Dave Hand discusses his legendary work on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Taken together, the interviews in Working with Disney create an enlightening perspective on the Walt Disney Company as it grew from its animation roots into a media powerhouse.

From the Inside Flap  
Talks with the talents who made Disney magic happen  
About the Author  
Don Peri of Davis, California, first gained the confidence of Disney insiders through his work with animator, director, and producer Ben Sharpsteen. He has written and published extensively on Walt Disney's productions.