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There are many people I would like to thank for their help and support as I have worked on this major book project over the past nine years. My primary and biggest supporter is Ashley Shaffer, my best friend, hiking buddy, adventure pal, convention comrade, travel mate, seafaring cruise companion, podcast partner, lead home chef, and wife. She has had to endure over a decade of me constantly talking about Disney facts. I spent most of my free time writing, and she was very patient with me and let me get some writing done when I needed to, which was challenging to do while working over 60 hours a week, as long as I carved out some time to spend going on an adventure and doing activities with her.

A special thank you to my mother, Sandy Shaffer, who spent my childhood homeschooling me because I was diagnosed with ADHD and learning disabilities at a young age, and she was told I needed to be in a classroom with very few students to receive one-on-one teaching, and that I would probably never learn how to read. Well, it turns out she succeeded in teaching me how to read.

Also, I would like to thank director/animator Tony Bancroft for writing such a wonderful foreword for me.

I would like to give credit to the websites that contributed information to this book, *Wikipedia.com*, *Disney.wikia.com*, and *IMDb.com*, for pointing out topics and history that I could research and supply information like dates, box office revenue, actors, production companies, and cast lists. These sites were effective in pointing me toward the information I needed to research.

FOREWORD

Having been an employee of the *Walt Disney Feature Animation Studios* for 12 years of my younger life, I felt like I knew about all there was about Disney: the man, the company, the theme parks, the movies, you name it, all the way down to the brand of canned chili he liked to eat (*Hormel*, by the way). In fact, when we had friends over on a Friday night, and the *Disney Trivial Pursuit* board game came out, everyone wanted me to be on their team. Name all three of Donald's nephews? Sure, no problem. Name the two guys who wrote the songs for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*? Uh, yeah, easy-peasy. I cleaned up at Disney trivia!



*Shaffer and Tony Bancroft
Mouse-Con 2018*

But then I met Joshua Shaffer. It was 2018, and my wife and I had been invited to be guests at a Disney-fan convention called *Mouse-Con*. I had been to one or two of these conventions and met a lot of fervent fans of the *Disney Company*. They were always kind and enthusiastic about hearing my stories of working for the

Mouse. So, I was not surprised when the hosts of the Con and several of their friends wanted to take us out to dinner. We went out to the finest establishment Concord, CA had to offer, *The Lazy Dog*, and sat across from a young man who was polite and a bit quiet. He respectfully introduced himself as Joshua and told me that he had published a Disney trivia book, *Discovering the Magic Kingdom*. I thought, “Well, that’s cute. He knows about the parks, but what about the roots of the Disney Company, the animated films?” And so, over a roast beef sandwich, I proceeded to regale Joshua with questions from my vast knowledge about the animated films. “Ok, but do you know the names of ALL seven dwarves?” He did. “I bet you can’t tell me what color dress that Princess Aurora ends up in in the final frames of the dance at the end of *Sleeping Beauty*?” He did. And then I brought out both barrels... “What was Goofy’s original name?” In mid-chew of his fish and chips, Joshua looked up calmly and said, “Goofy’s original name was Dippy Dawg. His first appearance was in the 1932 Mickey Mouse animated short, *Mickey’s Revue*, released in theaters on May 25th, and there was a high of 87 degrees outside with a northerly wind.” That was the day I met the man who I would later learn was referred to as “The Disney Guy.”

I’m happy to report that he has only produced more triviality for Disney fans in this book you hold, “Do you like Disney fun facts?”

Joshua shared this wondrous tome with me recently, and I can say that I have never seen a more extensive book on the fun and mostly unknown factoids that have made Disney the greatest company ever. This book has it all! I have learned so much and gained a fuller appreciation for the magical history of Disney.

Where else can you learn that Sherri Stoner who performed the live action reference for Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* also wrote the script for the Disney’ *My Favorite Martian* feature that came out in 1999, or that on a fine day in February 2004, *The Jim Henson Company* would sell *The Muppets* to Disney for \$75 million or that Jackie Chan voiced the character Shang in the Mandarin version of the animated movie *Mulan*?

Well, that last one I actually did know.

To Joshua Shaffer, The Disney Guy, you bring honor to us all!

Tony Bancroft

Co-director of *Mulan*, the Supervising Animator of Pumbaa in *The Lion King*, and Kronk in *The Emperor’s New Groove*.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony BANCROFT". The word "Tony" is written in a cursive script, while "BANCROFT" is in a more blocky, all-caps style with some flourishes.

I am frequently asked when my books will be published. The truth is, it is just taking me longer than I had anticipated. To satiate everyone's need for new fun facts, I am releasing this "teaser trailer" book, which seems fitting since the upcoming books are about movies.

I had a hard time coming up with a name for this book series. I wanted it to be perfect for what it is and not be too long. At conventions and events, I always call out to people, "*Do you like fun facts?*" This would then draw them to my table. I kind of wanted to incorporate that into the title. So, I went to my Facebook fans and asked them to vote on a title they liked, or come up with their own. After dozens of votes, these are the other titles not chosen:

Cool Disney Facts • Disney Fun Facts Beyond Our Imagination • Disney Fun Facts That You Can't Live Without • Disney Fun Facts to Infinity and Beyond • Disney Movie Fun Facts • Disney Movie Fun Facts: Tons of Little-known Factoids You Don't Know • Disney Movie Trivia: All the Celluloid Fun Facts You Like to Know! • Do you know your Disney? Fun Facts You Need to Know About Disney • Inquiring Minds Think Alike... Disney Fun Facts • Inquiring Minds Want to Know Disney Fun Facts. Do You? • Josh's Guide to Disney Trivia • Unofficial Disney Trivia Vault of Facts.

This book offers a taste of what is to come. I hope you enjoy it.

HOW DOES THIS BOOK WORK?

This book functions as a teaser for what is to come, much like a movie teaser trailer. The upcoming multi-volume set will include fun facts from all of the Disney movies, but they will be divided into multiple books, possibly four. For example, I have 312 fun facts for *Zootopia* (2016). This means each book will include *Zootopia*, but only 78 of the fun facts. This way, no matter which book you get, you will get all of the films and have different fun facts in each one.

I tried to find the most accurate information I could. Although these are all fun facts at the time they are written, information can change. A fact like "*They began filming this movie on July 2nd, 2011,*" is a fact. But a fact like "*This film has the shortest runtime in the MCU*" can change. In fact, I had to update that on *Thor* after *The Marvels* was released. Basically, some facts like that, ones that hold records or can change in the future, have to be read and understood with a grain of salt.

Although the layout of this book will be slightly more straightforward than that of the upcoming volumes, here is how each movie will appear. The sections will vary depending on whether the films are live-action or animated. The *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* films are the only ones listed in release order; the remainder are listed alphabetically.

Movie Title (2005) (year released)

1st PIXAR FILM or FILM #1 IN THE MCU or Disney's 11th theatrically released animated film (this is so you know which order they were released in)

Released: The film's release date.

Rereleased: The date the film was rereleased in theaters, if it was.

Budget: \$30 million Box Office: \$350 million

PRECEDING SHORT: The short that accompanied the movie in the theater.

DIRECTOR: The director of the movie.

WRITERS: All the writers involved with the film.

FUN FACTS

- Regular fun facts about the movie.

HISTORY

- This section covers the movie's history, including when production started, different script outcomes, and directors being replaced.

THE ANIMATION BOARD

- These facts are for the animated movies and describe what the animators went through to create the film. This could include new programs to animate fabric or hair, the time required to render a frame, and the animators' prior studies before working on the film. Like the number of balloons animated to make the house float in *Up*.

MISTAKES

- Not all movies have this section unless there are many mistakes to mention in the film.

EASTER EGGS, HIDDEN MICKEYS, NODS & CAMEOS

- This section points out the Easter Eggs, Hidden Mickeys, and cameos from other characters or actors who appear in the movie. This would also list the appearances of A113, the Pizza Planet Truck (Pixar), the Luxo Ball (Pixar), Wilhelm Scream, Stan Lee's cameos (Marvel), and others.

SO THEY SAY

- This section doesn't appear for every movie, only those with facts that seem too far-fetched or cannot be confirmed.

WHO DOES THAT VOICE, or WHO IS THAT ACTOR

- Some viewers aren't good with names. This is where the movie's leading actors are listed. It may list an actor's other Disney credits or just their other popular roles. For example, Bonnie Hunt voices Sally Carrera in *Cars* (2006) and Bonnie Hopps in *Zootopia* (2016), but she is also known for her role in *Jumanji* (1995). This is the same for live-action films.

OTHER MCU REFERENCES

- This section is reserved for the *Marvel* section to show Easter Eggs that can be seen in the movie to connect it to another *MCU* movie. For example, a photo of Bruce Banner hanging on the wall in Peter Parker's science class.

FAN THEORIES

- These are fun theories that fans have come up with about the characters or storylines of the movie, like how fans think Woody once belonged to Andy's dad in *Toy Story*.

IN THE PARKS

- If attractions, shows, lands, or restaurants are related to this movie in any Disney Park, they would be listed here. For example, *Peter Pan* (1953) features *Peter Pan's Flight* in *Fantasyland* at five of its theme parks.

A FILM COMPANY IN THE MAKING

Disney is more than a single company. It has undergone numerous name changes, been split into multiple branches, and acquired several companies and intellectual properties. I tried to find as many mergers, buyouts, and sales as possible for this list. Most list the exact dates, but some record only the year or month and year when the precise date was hard to pinpoint.

1920s

- January 1920 – Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks founded *Iwerks-Disney Studio Commercial Artists*. After a month, they both left the company to join the *Kansas City Slide Company*.
- June 28, 1921 – Walt started *Laugh-O-Gram Studio* in Kansas City, Missouri.
- May 23, 1922 – Walt incorporated the remaining assets of *Iwerks-Disney Studio Commercial Artists* into *Laugh-O-Gram Studio*, and Ub Iwerks joined.
- October 16, 1923 – Walt left Kansas City, abandoning the bankrupt *Laugh-O-Gram Studio*. He went to Los Angeles with his last film, unedited, the first of the *Alice Comedies*. After signing a production contract with M.J. Winkler, he created the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* with Roy Disney. The company's founding in 1923 is the reason we have D23. D represents Disney, and 23 means 1923.
- January 1926 – Walt and Roy moved the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* to 2719 Hyperion Ave, Los Angeles, and renamed it *Walt Disney Studios*. This was the birthplace of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit in 1927 and Mickey Mouse in 1928.
- December 16, 1929 – *Walt Disney Studios* was renamed *Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.*
- December 16, 1929 – Walt created *Walt Disney Enterprises* to handle merchandising license deals, such as licensing Mickey Mouse for use in children's books.
- December 16, 1929 – Walt created *Disney Film Recording Company* as a subsidiary of *Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.* in response to writing the song "Minnie's Yoo-Hoo" for the short *Mickey's Follies* (1929).
- December 16, 1929 – Due to the need to purchase properties, Walt created *Liled Realty Investment Company*.

1930s

- December 21, 1937 – They released their first full-length animated film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.
- September 29, 1938 – *Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.*, *Walt Disney Enterprises*, *Disney Film Recording Company*, and *Liled Realty Investment Company* merged to create *Walt Disney Productions*.

1940s

- 1940 – The company moved to Burbank, California, went public, and started selling stock.

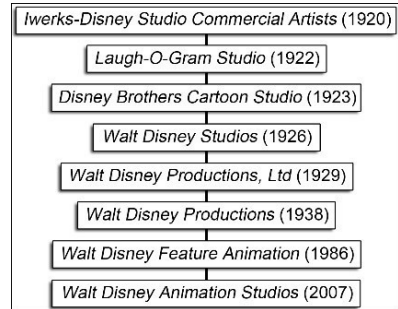
WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS

It all started back in October 1923 when Walt Disney and his brother, Roy Disney, founded the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* after *Laugh-O-Gram Studio* went bankrupt. *Laugh-O-Gram's* last project was the short *Alice's Wonderland* (1923). Walt kept the unedited reels of *Alice* with him when he moved to Los Angeles to live with Roy and shop the project around until he found *Winkler Pictures* to distribute it, along with the other shorts that would follow. This was when Walt and his brother started the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* to produce the *Alice Comedies*. These short films were set in an

animated world featuring a live-action little girl, first played by Virginia Davis, whose footage was overlaid onto the animated background, and who interacted with animated characters. Julius the Cat, Disney's first recurring character, would appear in almost all the shorts from 1922 to 1927. Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and Mickey Mouse debuted in 1927 and 1928, respectively. Pegleg Pete also made his

first appearance in *Alice Solves the Puzzle* (1925), the 15th short in the series. In 1926, the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* was renamed *Walt Disney Studios*. It was renamed again in 1929 to *Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.* In 1938, *Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.*, *Walt Disney Enterprises*, *Disney Film Recording Company*, and *Liled Realty Investment Company* merged to create *Walt Disney Productions*. It lasted until 1986, when it was separated from the parent company and became its own branch, named *Walt Disney Feature Animation* to differentiate it from television animation. It was again changed in 2007 by John Lasseter to *Walt Disney Animation Studios*. It is the world's longest-running animation studio.

Animation created by Disney isn't just from one animation studio. Although it started as one, Disney has acquired or created many other studios to produce animation for its theatrical films, television shows, or direct-to-home video releases. Here is a list of all the animation studios associated with Disney, not including their renaming, as they are the same studio. Some studios have also partnered with Disney for various reasons.



Established Studios		
Studio	Est./Acqu.	Defunct/ Sold/Ended
<i>Walt Disney Animation Studios</i>	1923	
<i>Disney Television Animation</i>	1984	
<i>Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida</i>	1989	2004
<i>Disneytoon Studios</i>	1990	2018
<i>Walt Disney Animation Canada</i>	1996	2000
<i>Circle 7 Animation</i>	2004	2006
<i>Pixar Canada</i>	2009	2013
<i>Marvel Studios Animation</i>	2021	
<i>Walt Disney Animation Studios Vancouver</i>	2021	

Alice in Wonderland (1951)

Disney's 13th theatrically released animated film

Released: September 14, 1951

Rereleased: March 15, 1974, and April 3, 1981

FUN FACTS

8. The term “**Mad as a Hatter**” came about because hat makers’ long-term exposure to mercury would cause mercury poisoning, which had side effects like slurred speech, tremors, stumbling, and sometimes hallucinations.
9. **Over 200 actresses auditioned for the role of Alice.** Walt discovered Kathryn Beaumont in the film *On an Island with You* (1948) and wanted her for the part because he liked her voice and said it would be pleasant for Americans to hear.
10. **Figaro from *Pinocchio* (1940) appears as a caterpillar** bothered by a copper centipede.

The Aristocats (1970)

Disney's 20th theatrically released animated film

Released: December 24, 1970

Rereleased: December 19, 1980, and April 10, 1987

FUN FACTS

11. **The kittens were given names based on famous past aristocrats.** Toulouse was named after the well-known French painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901). He was known for his stylized cabaret posters, most notably the ones for the Moulin Rouge. Marie was named after Marie Antoinette (1755-1793), a Queen of France. She is most notable for the Affair of the Diamond Necklace. She was later nicknamed Madame Déficit because of her lavish spending during times of famine. Several films have been made about her; the most famous, released in 2006, starred Kirsten Dunst. Berlioz was named after Hector Berlioz (1803-1869), the renowned French composer best known for his compositions *Symphonie Fantastique* (1830), *Grande Messe des Morts* (1837), and *Romeo et Juliette* (1839).
12. Some of Napoleon and Lafayette's barks were **reused audio clips of dog barks** from the Twilight Bark scene in *101 Dalmatians* (1961).
13. **Phil Harris voiced Thomas O'Malley.** Harris also voiced Little John in *Robin Hood* and Baloo in *The Jungle Book*, and, in his final film, the narrator and Patou the dog in the Don Bluth animation *Rock-A-Doodle* (1991). Phil said that his inspiration for voicing this alley cat was Clark Gable. He was asked to reprise his role as Baloo in the 1990 TV series *TaleSpin* and had already recorded some lines before being replaced by Ed Gilbert.

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (2001)

Disney's 41st theatrically released animated film

Released: June 15, 2001

FUN FACTS

14. Although the movie did make more than its budget, it was considered a financial flop. **It was released a few weeks after *Shrek* (2001)**, one of 2001's highest-grossing films, taking in almost half a billion dollars.
15. **Marc Okrand was the language consultant on the film** who created the Atlantean language. He is also known for creating the Vulcan and Klingon languages for the *Star Trek* films and television shows.
16. After Milo gets seasick on the ship, he says, "*Carrots? Why are there always carrots? I didn't even eat carrots,*" which was **ad-libbed by Michael J. Fox**.

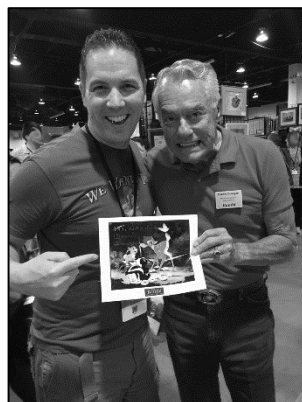
Bambi (1942)

Disney's 5th theatrically released animated film

Released: August 21, 1942

FUN FACTS

17. **Bambi's species was a European roe deer.** As a male, he would be called a Roebuck. Walt changed his species to a white-tailed deer since they are more prevalent in North America.
18. The movie is **based on the novel "*Bambi, A Life in the Woods*"** by Felix Salten, published in 1923 in Austria. It was published in English in 1928. Felix wrote a sequel titled "*Bambi's Children*" in 1939, with an English publication first.
19. **Donnie Dunagan was the voice and facial model for young Bambi** when he was eight years old. It was the final film in his acting career. Donnie grew up in a low-income family and became the primary earner through his acting. He has seven acting credits; one well-known credit is Peter von Frankenstein in *Son of Frankenstein* (1939). At 13, while living in a boarding house, he got a job as a lathe operator. He left that all behind when he joined the military. Ten years after *Bambi*, at 18, he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1952 and became the youngest drill instructor. He served three tours in Vietnam and was wounded several times before retiring in 1977 as a Major. He received a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. (see photo of me meeting Dunagan at the 2017 D23 Expo)



Beauty and the Beast (1991)

See *Disney Princess Collection* on page 071 for Fun Facts.

PIXAR

Pixar Animation Studios was initially founded as the *Graphics Group*, one-third of *Lucasfilm's Computer Division*, with approximately 40 employees. The division launched in 1979 after *Lucasfilm* hired Ed Catmull from the *New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)*. At *NYIT*, researchers were working on an experimental film called *The Works*. When the group moved to *Lucasfilm*, they focused on developing *Motion Doctor*, the precursor to *RenderMan*. This software let traditional cel animators use computer animation with minimal training.

The team began developing film sequences for *Lucasfilm* and collaborated with *Industrial Light and Magic (ILM)* on special effects. Following successful projects such as *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (1982) and *Young Sherlock Holmes* (1985), Steve Jobs acquired the company in 1986 for \$10 million. The name "Pixar," a portmanteau of "Picture Maker," was suggested, but "Pixar" was chosen after a meeting. A sort of play on a fake Spanish word meaning "to make pictures" or "to make pixels." This sale was partly due to cash-flow constraints following George Lucas's divorce and declining revenue from the *Star Wars* franchise. Dr. Edwin Catmull served as President and CEO, while Dr. Alvy Ray Smith served as Executive Vice President. Jobs served as Chairman and CEO.

Pixar initially focused on computer hardware, with the *Pixar Image Computer* as its primary product, sold primarily to the government and medical sectors. Notably, Disney Studios employed this device in its CAPS project to automate the labor-intensive ink-and-paint stage of 2D animation, marking a major advancement in animation technology.

Although the Image Computer had poor sales, it significantly advanced the industry. John Lasseter of *Pixar* showcased the studio's capabilities through short animations at SIGGRAPH, receiving widespread acclaim and reinforcing *Pixar's* influence in animation.

As *Pixar* faced declining computer sales, Lasseter's animation department began producing computer-animated commercials for other companies, achieving early success with several campaigns.

California Lottery	Life Savers	Toppan Printing
Chips Ahoy	Listerine	Toys "R" Us
Fleischmann's	McDonald's	Trident
Hershey	Paramount Pictures	Tropicana
IBM	Pillsbury	Twizzlers
Kellogg's All-Bran	Sesame Street	Unicef
Levi's Jeans	Tetra Pak Drink Boxes	Volkswagen

In 1991, *Pixar* secured a \$26 million deal with Disney to produce three computer-animated films, starting with *Toy Story*. Despite this sum, Jobs incurred high out-of-pocket costs and initially considered selling the company. He also devoted much of his time to *NeXT*, his computer technology company, which developed new computers and ultimately merged with *Apple Computer, Inc.* in 1997. However, he persisted after Disney confirmed *Toy Story's* distribution for the 1995 holiday season. *Pixar Animation Studios* was re-incorporated on December 9, 1995.

Toy Story (1995)

1st PIXAR FILM

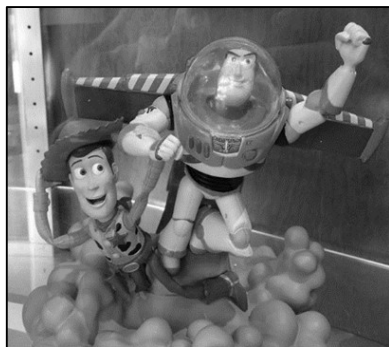
Released: November 22, 1995

Rerelease: October 2, 2009 (3D version)

FUN FACTS

231. A can of Dr. Catmull Root Beer can be seen on Sid's workbench after he tapes the rocket to Buzz. This references Ed Catmull, the film's producer and one of Pixar's founders. He created the first computer-animated segment used in a movie. He made a one-minute animation of his left hand in 1972, titled "*A Computer-Animated Hand*." A film production company acquired it and used it in *Futureworld* (1976), marking a first for the film industry.

232. Toy Story was not just a film; it was a groundbreaking achievement. **It was the first-ever computer-animated full-length feature film**, a significant milestone in animation history. Like *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), the first full-length animated feature film, this achievement pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible in animation and left a profound, lasting impact on the industry.



233. The soda fountain at Pizza Planet uses a Xenomorph from Alien (1979) to spew soda into cups.

234. Billy Crystal was asked to voice Buzz Lightyear before Tim Allen. Crystal declined it, but after watching the final product, he regretted it. John Lasseter heard about this and called him up to offer him the role of Mike Wazowski in *Monsters, Inc.* Billy's wife, Janice, answered the phone, called Billy, and said, "*John Lasseter is on the phone for you.*" Billy took the phone and replied, "Yes."

Toy Story 2 (1999)

3rd PIXAR FILM

Released: November 24, 1999

FUN FACTS

235. When Tour Guide Barbie takes Hamm, Mr. Potato Head, Rex, and Slinky Dog on a store tour, she says, "And this is the Buzz Lightyear aisle. Back in 1995, short-sighted retailers did not order enough dolls to meet demand." This is based on a 1995 incident in which venues and toy stores failed to order sufficient Buzz Lightyear toys to meet demand. Only 60,000 were initially ordered, but over six million have been sold since.

236. While Hamm is flipping through channels at high speeds, you can catch a glimpse of past Pixar shorts, like *Luxo Jr.* (1986), *Red's Dream* (1987), *Tin Toy* (1988), and *Knick Knack* (1989). Among the shorts are commercials that

mentioned R2-D2. Morris, new to producing, worked with Burt at *Industrial Light & Magic* on the three *Star Wars* prequel films and the re-releases of the original *Star Wars* trilogy.

256. When EVE is first scanning on Earth, she **scans the engine compartment of the Pizza Planet Truck.**

257. **Mike Wazowski is one of the characters in WALL•E's collection of objects.** He appears behind WALL•E when he first wakes up.

258. **Elissa Knight, a producer's assistant, provided the voice of EVE.** She only had to record words like *WALL•E*, *EVE*, *Plant*, *Directive*, *No*, *Earth*, *Name*, *Ohhh*, *Classified*, *Crap*, and *Love You*. It was planned for her to be only the stand-in voice, but Andrew Stanton liked it, so her lines were kept in the film. She also voices Tia in the *Cars* films. After recording her lines, Ben Burt ran her voice through a synthesizer program called "Kyma."

DISNEY PRINCESS COLLECTION

Disney Princess is a *Disney Company* franchise based on fictional characters featured in the Disney character lineup. When they started the Disney Princess Collection, eight princesses already existed: **Snow White, Cinderella, Aurora, Ariel, Belle, Jasmine, Pocahontas, and Mulan.** They have released dolls, sing-along videos, many other children's products, apparel, food products, bedding, coloring books, activity sets, adhesive bandages, Halloween costumes, food containers, and over 30,000 other items featuring the Disney Princesses.

Disney's Consumer Products division hired Andy Mooney in December 1999 to help stop the decline in merchandise sales. Mooney attended a Disney on Ice show and noticed little girls dressed as princesses. They weren't character-specific; it was just princess garb, like homemade dresses that looked like cheap Halloween costumes. He realized the vast demand for princess products. He pitched the idea to Disney in January 2000, saying they needed a princess product line and could make higher-quality outfits than those available. Then, the *Disney Princess Collection* was born.

In 2007, Mooney helped the Disney Global Creative team create *Disney's Fairy Tale Weddings* line of wedding dresses, inspired by Disney princesses. *Disneyland* would also see the opening of the *Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique* in *Fantasyland*, where little girls could get a makeover to become a princess for a small fee. Packages can cost up to \$500. There is also one at *Magic Kingdom* in *Disney World*. Later, packages were added to turn boys into knights, princes, or pirates.

After Disney released the Princess items, they became a huge success. Disney's merchandise sales went from \$300 million in 2001 to \$3 billion by 2006. There are well over 30,000 princess products featuring the princess characters. The franchise is now valued at a reported \$45 billion and earns over \$4 billion annually. This makes it the fifth highest-grossing media franchise as of 2026. Pokémon is number one, followed by Mickey Mouse & Friends, Winnie the Pooh, and Star Wars.

264. Merida was **the first princess to break the Disney Princess “mold”**:

 She was the first and only princess to have her movie produced by Pixar.

 She was the first not to have a love interest.

 She was the first not to star in a musical.

 She is also the first not to be inspired by another movie, a book, or a real-life person.

Aladdin (1992)

Disney's 31st theatrically released animated film.

Released: November 25, 1992

FUN FACTS

265. Princess Jasmine is the **only Disney Princess to kiss the movie's villain**. Though not an official Disney Princess, Anna almost did in *Frozen* (2013), but it didn't happen.

266. The dialogue Robin Williams used for the peddler in the film's opening was **mainly improvised**. Jeffrey Katzenberg suggested putting a bunch of junk on a table and having Robin play around with it to see what he came up with. One hour of dialogue was recorded for that one-and-a-half-minute scene.

267. Jafar was **initially more hot-tempered**, while Iago was a cool, haughty British type. The filmmakers felt that giving Jafar a short temper made him less menacing, so they switched the two characters' personalities.

268. The scene where the guards chase Aladdin and end up falling into a large pile of manure nods to *Back to the Future* (1985), when **Biff and the other bullies chase Marty McFly** and crash into a pile of manure. Aladdin's personality and look were initially based on Michael J. Fox, who starred in the *Back to the Future* films.

269. Linda Larkin, then about 21, voiced Jasmine. She has voiced Jasmine in almost everything Disney has produced featuring the character, including 10 movies, 6 television series, 13 video games, and 9 shorts. (see photo of my meeting her at Concord Mouse-Con in 2019)



270. At the movie's end, Genie turns into a tourist wearing a Goofy hat and a Hawaiian shirt, **impersonating Robin Williams**. Williams was in a short called *Back to Neverland* (1989) at Disney-MGM Studios, now Disney's Hollywood Studios. The short showed the audience how animation worked. In it, the tourist "Robin" is part of a crowd and is selected by Walter Cronkite, who uses Robin's voice to illustrate the different stages of animation. Robin talks about Peter Pan and Captain Hook before he is turned into a Lost Boy in a catsuit and sent to Neverland. This is funny because Williams would later play Peter Pan in the movie *Hook* (1991), even though he had already been cast. This was also Robin's first time voicing a character for Disney. The short was a little late in the game for explaining animation, because by then animation was switching to scanning cells into a computer and using the computer to paint them rather than doing it by hand. *The Rescuers Down Under* (1990) was the first Disney animated

included the pumpkin, the fairy godmother, and the glass slipper. The Brothers Grimm then rewrote it in 1812.

288. You can hear the “Goofy holler” stock sound when the King and the Grand Duke fall from the chandelier.

289. Eleanor Audley voiced Lady Tremaine. She also voiced Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) and Madame Leota in *The Haunted Mansion*, and was also the live-action reference model for the animators.

Frozen (2013)

Disney’s 53rd theatrically released animated film.

Released: November 22, 2013, limited, and nationwide November 27, 2013

Rereleased: January 31, 2014 (the sing-along version)

FUN FACTS

290. At the Wandering Oaken’s Trading Post and Sauna, you can spot a plush-looking **Mickey Mouse sitting on a shelf** when Anna walks toward the “winter stock.”

291. Idina Menzel (Elsa) and Kristen Bell (Anna) **both auditioned for the role of Rapunzel** for the animated film *Tangled* (2010). Idina was cast as Elsa based on her recordings of “Rapunzel,” and Kristen was cast based on a recording of “Part of Your World” from *The Little Mermaid* (1989).

292. The film *The Snow Queen* (2012) **was released in U.S. theaters only one month earlier.** The Russian animation company *Wizart Animation Studios* produced it, and it was released in Russian theaters in December 2012, one year before *Frozen*. Many have believed this film is a mockbuster of *Frozen* and have boycotted it. Some theatergoers mistook it for *Frozen* when going to the theater to see it, much like patrons did with *Antz* (1998) for *A Bug’s Life* (1998). The promoters of *The Snow Queen* even gave it the tagline “Discover the magical story which inspired *Frozen*” to capitalize on the Disney version. This wasn’t entirely incorrect. Disney’s version was inspired by the original story, just like this film was. The truth is, *The Snow Queen* began production in 2007 and was shelved when they learned Disney was also making its own version in 2008. Disney delayed development, so *Wizart Animation Studios* resumed production in 2010 and completed the film in under three years. There are no similarities between *Frozen* and *The Snow Queen* beyond their shared roots in Hans Christian Andersen’s story. It ultimately won five awards at several film festivals and award shows. *The Snow Queen* was the first film produced by *Wizart Animation*. Because of its massive success around the world, primarily in Russia, they made several sequels: *The Snow Queen 2: The Snow King* (2015), *The Snow Queen 3: Fire and Ice* (2016), *The Snow Queen 4: Mirrorlands*



HOME VIDEO DISNEY PRINCESS FILMS

The movies in this section were direct-to-home video releases. They were initially released on VHS and then on DVD as technology progressed. These are only the sequels/prequels/midquels (interquels) to the princess movies and Aladdin. As stated earlier, *Aladdin* isn't a princess movie.

PREQUEL: A movie set before the events of another film.

SEQUEL: This film occurs in sequence after the previous one, part two or three.

MIDQUEL: Sometimes called an interquel. A midquel is a movie that occurs between the events of two or more other movies.

Here is a list of all the Disney Princess movies released on home video, ranked by fan ratings. The ratings from *IMDb.com* are on a 1-10 scale, and the R.T. column is from *RottenTomatoes.com*. These are all listed in this section alphabetically.

MOVIE	YEAR	IMDB	R.T.
<i>Aladdin and the King of Thieves</i>	1996	6.3	50%
<i>The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning</i>	2008	6.1	57%
<i>Cinderella III: A Twist in Time</i>	2007	6.0	61%
<i>Beauty and the Beast 2: The Enchanted Christmas</i>	1997	5.9	55%
<i>The Return of Jafar</i>	1994	5.8	40%
<i>Mulan II</i>	2004	5.6	43%
<i>The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea</i>	2000	5.5	45%
<i>Disney Princess Enchanted Tales: Follow Your Dreams</i>	2007	5.2	53%
<i>Cinderella II: Dreams Come True</i>	2002	5.0	32%
<i>Beauty and the Beast 4: Belle's Tales of Friendship</i>	1999	4.9	-
<i>Beauty and the Beast 3: Belle's Magical World</i>	1998	4.8	71%
<i>Pocahontas II: Journey to a New World</i>	1998	4.8	28%

Aladdin and the King of Thieves (1996)

Home Video Release: August 13, 1996

FUN FACTS

356. This film had a **new soundtrack**, unlike *The Return of Jafar* (1994), which reworked music from *Aladdin* (1992).
357. Genie says, just before the wedding starts, "*They're heeeere.*" **The line is from the horror film *Poltergeist* (1982)**, in which the little girl, Carol Anne Freeling, sees the entity come through the television and wake up her parents.
358. At one point, **Genie turns into an elderly woman who resembles Mrs. Doubtfire** from the 1993 film of the same name, *since* Robin Williams played both characters.

WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Walt Disney Pictures started as the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* in 1923. They started out making hybrid short films called the *Alice Comedies*. This series included 57 shorts produced between 1923 and 1927. They featured a live-action little girl named Alice superimposed over an animated background with animated characters. Four actresses played Alice over the years: Virginia Davis, Margie Gay, Dawn O'Day, and Lois Hardwick. This series introduced Disney's first recurring character, Julius the Cat, and introduced Peg Leg Pete in the 14th episode in 1925, although he was named Bootleg Pete at the time. Yes, he is Pete from *Steamboat Willy* and *Goof Troop*, as Goofy's neighbor.

In 1926, the animation studio was moved to Hyperion Ave, where it was renamed *Walt Disney Studios*. It was renamed again in 1929 to *Walt Disney Productions*. On April 1, 1983, *Walt Disney Pictures* was spun off from *Walt Disney Productions* to diversify and avoid being lumped in with the animation studio. This studio produces the live-action films.

True-Life Adventures

This was Disney's first step into making live-action films. In 1947, Walt Disney began producing a series of live-action animal documentaries called *True-Life Adventures*, in which a film crew traveled to the Pribilof Islands in Alaska to film seals. This was before they began producing live-action films with actors. Although the first seven were short films, the next set of seven were feature-length. Generally, short films are released in theaters as a double bill with a full-length movie, but *On Seal Island* (1948), *In Beaver Valley* (1950), and *Water Birds* (1952) were shown in theaters on their own.

Live-Action Films

Live-Action films have been around for a long time. The first film, *Roundhay Garden Party* (1888), was filmed at 7 frames per second and lasted only 3 seconds. Since then, movies have grown longer and begun to incorporate animation, stop-motion, special effects, and sound. Disney strove throughout to make bigger and better projects. In 1950, Walt Disney began producing live-action films starring actors, starting with *Treasure Island* (1950). Before this, some films included live-action segments, such as *Fantasia* (1940) and *The Three Caballeros* (1945), but they were mostly animated. *Song of the South* (1946) is another hybrid film that combines live-action and animated segments. This also followed the live-action documentaries from *True-Life Adventures*.

Live-Action Hybrid Films

Disney's first full-length hybrid film was *Fantasia* (1940). A hybrid film combines live-action and animated segments, much like Disney's early works with the Alice Comedies. In *Fantasia*, there is only a brief moment when the silhouette of Mickey Mouse runs up the podium stairs to shake hands with composer Leopold Stokowski. A hybrid would need more overlap between the two genres than a single moment. The first actual film was *The Three Caballeros* (1944). Singer Aurora Miranda, the younger sister of Carmen Miranda, the singer who inspired the *Chiquita* logo of a woman wearing a basket of fruit on her head, is superimposed over the animated scene with Donald Duck. Donald, Jose, and

TRUE-LIFE ADVENTURES

In 1947, Walt Disney began producing a series of live-action animal documentaries called *True-Life Adventures*, in which a film crew traveled to the Pribilof Islands in Alaska to film seals. This was before they began producing live-action films with actors. Although the first seven were short films, the next set of seven were feature-length. Generally, Disney released short films in theaters as a double bill with a full-length movie, but *On Seal Island* (1948), *In Beaver Valley* (1950), and *Water Birds* (1952) were shown on their own. James Algar directed all but two of the films, wrote ten of them, and Winston Hibler narrated all of them. The 1975 film *The Best of Walt Disney's True-Life Adventures* was just a compilation of previous films.

FILM	TIME	DIRECTOR	WRITER	NARRATOR
SHORT FILMS				
Seal Island (1948)	27 min	James Algar	Winston Hibler	
Beaver Valley (1950)	32 min	James Algar	Lawrence Watkins	Winston Hibler
			Ted Sears	
Nature's Half Acre (1951)	33 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
The Olympic Elk (1952)	27 min	James Algar		
			Ted Sears	
			Winston Hibler	
Water Birds (1952)	30 min	Ben Sharpsteen	Winston Hibler	
			Ted Sears	
			William Otis	
Bear Country (1953)	33 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
Prowlers of the Everglades (1953)	32 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
FULL-LENGTH FILMS				
The Living Desert (1953)	69 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
The Vanishing Prairie (1954)	71 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
The African Lion (1955)	75 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
Secrets of Life (1956)	70 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
Perri (1957)	75 min	Paul Kenworthy	Winston Hibler	
		Ralph Wright		
			Felix Salten	
White Wilderness (1958)	72 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
Jungle Cat (1960)	69 min	James Algar		Winston Hibler
The Best of Walt Disney's True-Life Adventures (1975)	89 min	James Algar		
			Winston Hibler	
			Ted Sears	

The *True-Life Adventures* series was discontinued in 1960 after 12 years. Because these films were so popular, Walt Disney wanted to add a section for them to his new *Disneyland Park*. The famous first concept art map of *Disneyland* was drawn in 1953 by Herb Ryman, who also drew it in one weekend. His map had a True-Life Adventureland. It was located where *Tomorrowland* is now. It was going to fit snugly between *Main Street, U.S.A.*, and *World of Tomorrow*, later renamed *Tomorrowland*. Imagineer Bill Evans convinced Walt to relocate it to its current location so that the grove of eucalyptus trees behind City Hall could serve as the backdrop for their *Jungle River Boat Ride*, later renamed the *Jungle Cruise*. The

407. Joshua Meador animated the cartoon paintbrush used in the film. He also animated a paintbrush for the *Aquarela do Brasil* (*Watercolor of Brazil*) segment of *Saludos Amigos* (1943) and *An Adventure in Art* (1958), an episode on *The Magical World of Disney* (1957-1958).

The Vanishing Prairie (1954)

Released: August 17, 1954

FUN FACTS

- 408. The film's director was James Algar.** He also directed the *Sorcerer's Apprentice* segment of *Fantasia* (1940), *Bambi* (1942), *The Wind in the Willows* (1949), and *The Legend of Lobo* (1962). He directed all six full-length *True-Life Adventures* films and six of the seven short films.
- 409. The music in the film was composed by Paul Smith. Some of the music was reused in *Westward Ho, the Wagons* (1956), given lyrics by Gil George, and renamed "*Pioneer's Prayer*." It was sung in the movie by Bill Lee, who was the stand-in for George Reeves's singing voice.**
- 410. After Roy E. Disney, the son of Roy O. Disney and nephew of Walt Disney, graduated from college, he began working on this film for the *Disney Company*.** He became an assistant editor on this film after Walt Disney saw footage of a duck landing on a frozen lake and sliding along, but the footage ended before it hit anything. He asked Roy Disney to find the missing footage, then searched millions of feet of footage to no avail. A team was sent back out to film more ducks landing on the frozen ponds and sliding, footage that was used in the movie.
-

White Wilderness (1958)

Released: August 12, 1958

FUN FACTS

- 411. This is the film that led everyone to believe that lemmings commit mass migration and, in turn, can commit suicide** by jumping off cliffs or swimming across impossibly large bodies of water. People thought this was fact until the 1982 *CBC Television* (*Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*) series *The Fifth Estate* (1975-present) aired an episode investigating it. Instead of filming lemmings in the Arctic jumping into the Atlantic Ocean as they claimed, they filmed them in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, jumping into a lake. Because lemmings don't live in southern Alberta, Disney paid kids in Churchill, Manitoba, to collect hundreds of them for transport. Since it is a myth that they commit mass suicide, they wouldn't jump off the cliff, so they were placed on a turntable just off camera that spun around, flinging them off the cliff. The freelance photographer and filmmaker, James R. Simon, was the one credited as the responsible party for the mass killings of the lemmings. The *Disney Company* has stated that it did not know that he would do any of that.
- 412. Although not directly cited as the inspiration, the *Lemmings* (1991) video game from Scotland's *DMA Design* gaming company featured characters that followed each other,** even if they fell off a cliff, walked into sawblades,

LIVE-ACTION FILMS

Here is a list of live-action films, excluding hybrid, live-action remakes, *True-Life Adventures*, and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, going back to 1950. Disney's first live-action film was *Treasure Island* (1950).

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1954)	Lt. Robin Crusoe, U.S.N. (1966)
A Far Off Place (1993)	Magic Camp (2020)
A Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995)	Man of the House (1995)
A Tiger Walks (1964)	Max Keeble's Big Move (2001)
A Wrinkle in Time (2018)	McFarland, USA (2015)
Absent-Minded Professor, The (1961)	Meet the Deedles (1998)
Adventures of Bullwhip Griffin, The (1967)	Midnight Madness (1980)
Adventures of Huck Finn, The (1993)	Mighty Ducks, The (1992)
Air Bud (1997)	Mighty Joe Young (1998)
Air Bud: Golden Receiver (1998)	Million Dollar Arm (2014)
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (2014)	Million Dollar Duck, The (1971)
Almost Angels (1962)	Miracle (2004)
Amy (1981)	Miracle of the White Stallions (1963)
Angels in the Outfield (1994)	Misadventures of Merlin Jones, The (1964)
Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again (1979)	Monkey's Uncle, The (1965)
Apple Dumpling Gang, The (1975)	Monkeys, Go Home! (1967)
Around the World in 80 Days (2004)	Moon Pilot (1962)
Artemis Fowl (2020)	Moon-Spinners, The (1964)
Babes in Toyland (1961)	Mr. Magoo (1997)
Barefoot Executive, The (1971)	My Favorite Martian (1999)
Bears and I, The (1974)	Napoleon and Samantha (1972)
Bedtime Stories (2008)	National Treasure (2004)
Benji the Hunted (1987)	National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007)
Better Nate Than Ever (2022)	Never a Dull Moment (1968)
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (2008)	Never Cry Wolf (1983)
BFG, The (2016)	Newsies (1992)
Big Green, The (1995)	Night Crossing (1982)
Big Red (1962)	Nikki, Wild Dog of the North (1961)
Biscuit Eater, The (1972)	No Deposit, No Return (1976)
Black Hole, The (1979)	Noelle (2019)
Blackbeard's Ghost (1968)	North Avenue Irregulars, The (1979)
Blank Check (1994)	Now You See Him, Now You Don't (1972)
Boatniks, The (1970)	Nutcracker and the Four Realms, The (2018)
Bon Voyage! (1962)	Odd Life of Timothy Green, The (2012)
Bridge to Terabithia (2007)	Old Dogs (2009)
Candleshoe (1977)	Old Yeller (1957)
Castaway Cowboy, The (1974)	One and Only Ivan, The (2020)
Cat from Outer Space, The (1978)	One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band, The (1968)
Charley and the Angel (1973)	One Little Indian (1973)
Charlie, the Lonesome Cougar (1967)	One Magic Christmas (1985)
Cheaper by the Dozen (2022)	One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing (1975)
Cheetah (1989)	Operation Dumbo Drop (1995)
Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, The (2008)	Pacifier, The (2005)
Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The (2005)	Parent Trap, The (1961)
College Road Trip (2008)	Parent Trap, The (1998)
Computer Wore Tennis Shoes, The (1969)	Pollyanna (1960)
Condorman (1981)	Popeye (1980)
Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (2004)	Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010)
Cool Runnings (1993)	Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004)
Country Bears, The (2002)	Princess Diaries, The (2001)

Flight of the Navigator (1986)

Released: August 1, 1986

FUN FACTS

606. **This was originally an independent film** being produced by *Viking Film*. This was the first movie Disney signed on to distribute in North America after the hiring of Michael Eisner. *Viking Film*, a Norwegian production company, went bankrupt while this movie was in production. This prompted Disney to step up and cover the film's costs.
607. It is essential to know that the film's director, Randal Kleiser, also directed *Grease* (1978) because **the song “You’re the One That I Want” is playing on the car radio** at the beginning of the film. It is just after Jeff gets out of the car to play with his friends.
608. **One prop ship was sent to Disney’s Hollywood Studios at Disney World**, where it could be seen on the Studio Backlot Tour before the tour closed in 2014. The other prop ship, the one used to depict the spaceship in its elongated form, was sent to *Magic Kingdom’s Tomorrowland* and now cools guests with mist as the *Cool Scanner*. (see photo)



Flora & Ulysses (2021)

Released: February 19, 2021

FUN FACTS

609. **The comic shop owner is named Stanlee** in honor of Stan Lee, the late Marvel comic book writer.
610. The film's director, Lena Khan, is **the first Muslim to direct a Disney movie**. Her only other film was *The Tiger Hunter* (2016).
611. Ben Schwartz, Danny Pudi, Kate Micucci, and Bobby Moynihan all appear in the film. **They all voiced Dewey, Huey, Webby, and Louie, respectively, in the animated series DuckTales** (2017-2021).

Flubber (1997)

Released: November 26, 1997

FUN FACTS

612. **This film is a reboot of *The Absent-Minded Professor* (1961), and the fifth film in the franchise**. The original was followed by three sequels before this film: *Son of Flubber* (1962), *Disney's The Absent-Minded Professor* (1988), and *Disney's The Absent-Minded Professor: Trading Places* (1989). The last

LIVE-ACTION HYBRIDS

What is a live-action hybrid? These movies use live-action footage and either overlay animation or insert animation. *A Trip to the Moon* (1902) is considered the first hybrid film, although by today's standards, it had no added animation. Georges Méliès's film made crossing genres possible. The 1900 film *The Enchanted Drawing* is the first to have an animated character, or stop-motion, to be more precise, interact with a live-action actor.

Walt Disney and his brother, Roy Disney, founded the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* in October 1923 after *Laugh-O-Gram Studio* went bankrupt. *Laugh-O-Gram's* last project was the short *Alice's Wonderland* (1923). Walt kept the unedited reels of Alice with him when he moved to Los Angeles to live with Roy and shop the project around until he found *Winkler Pictures* to distribute it, along with the other shorts that would follow. This was when Walt and his brother started the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* to produce the *Alice Comedies*. These short films were set in an animated world featuring a live-action little girl, first played by Virginia Davis, whose footage was overlaid onto the animated background, and who interacted with animated characters. Julius the Cat, Disney's first recurring character, would appear in almost all the shorts. Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and Mickey Mouse came after Julius. Pegleg Pete also made his first appearance in *Alice Solves the Puzzle* (1925), the 15th short in the series. In 1926, the *Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio* was renamed *Walt Disney Studio*. It was renamed again in 1929 to *Walt Disney Productions*. It lasted until 1986, when it separated from the parent company and became its own branch, Walt Disney Feature Animation, to differentiate it from television animation. In 2007, John Lasseter renamed it *Walt Disney Animation Studios*. It is the world's longest-running animation studio.

Disney's first full-length hybrid film was *Fantasia* (1940). However, there is only a brief moment when the silhouette of Mickey Mouse runs up the podium stairs to shake hands with composer Leopold Stokowski. A hybrid would need more overlap between the two genres than a single moment. The first actual film was *The Three Caballeros* (1944). Singer Aurora Miranda, the younger sister of Carmen Miranda, the singer who inspired the *Chiquita* logo of a woman wearing a basket of fruit on her head, is superimposed over the animated scene with Donald Duck. Donald, Jose, and Panchito would fly through the air on a colorful Mexican serape rug over a live-action background. One of Disney's most popular hybrid films is *Mary Poppins* (1964), in which Mary Poppins and the children enter animated worlds.

The hybrid genre also includes stop-motion animation with live action, as in *James and the Giant Peach* (1996), which alternates between a few minutes of animation and a few minutes of live action. Some hybrid films aren't true hybrids because live action and animation don't share the screen. *The Reluctant Dragon* (1941) is a live-action film with animated scenes that don't interact with or overlay the live action.

It's tricky to identify them nowadays, given that fantasy characters are almost always computer-animated. *G-Force* (2009) is considered Disney's first hybrid, featuring computer-animated characters overlaid on a live-action background. But

1189. The various heads used for Jack Skellington in *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) were reused for the skeleton pirate's head in this film. The sculptors, Shelley Daniels and Randy Dutra, sculpted 400 two-inch Jack heads in clay with different facial expressions, then created a rubber mold of each head before casting them in polyurethane plastic resin.

The Jungle Book (2016)

This film is in the *Live-Action Remakes* section on page 212.

Although this is a live-action film, Mowgli and some set pieces are the only live-action elements; the rest are computer-animated.

The Lion King (2019)

This film is in the *Live-Action Remakes* section on page 212.

Although this is a photorealistic animated film, it is included in this section because it blends live-action visuals with animation, even though it is computer-generated.

Mary Poppins (1964)

Released: August 27, 1964

FUN FACTS

1190. In 1965, just after returning from the World's Fair, Walt founded *MAPO*. *MAPO* was founded with profits from **M**ary **P**oppins and was known as the *Manufacturing and Production Organization*. **They produced all the prototypes and finished products for the Audio-Animatronics in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* attraction.** After the attraction's opening, a souvenir magazine was sold in the park. *MAPO* was credited with prototyping, testing, developing, and fabricating the Audio-Animatronics characters and systems.

1191. **Karen Dotrice and Matthew Garber had to do many retakes of their scenes with Dick Van Dyke** because he was always clowning around, making the children laugh when the cameras weren't rolling. He could immediately return to character for the next take, while the children took longer.

1192. **Walt first discovered Julie Andrews in the 1962 production of *Camelot*.** Walt went backstage and told her he wanted to cast her as Mary Poppins. She said she would like to, but she was pregnant. Walt then told her, "*That's okay. We'll wait.*" That is when Julie gave birth to her first daughter, Emma Walton, on November 27, 1962. Emma became an actress and a children's book author, with a series of books titled *Dumpy the Dumptruck*, *The Very Fairy Princess*, and others.

Mary Poppins Returns (2018)

Released: December 19, 2018

FUN FACTS

1193. **This film's \$130 million budget was 127% more than the \$103 million box-office earnings of the first *Mary Poppins* (1964).**

DISNEY'S LIVE-ACTION REMAKES

Like it or not, Disney has produced more live-action “remakes” of its animated films in recent years. This isn’t anything new. Disney made their first remake in 1994 with their live-action version of *The Jungle Book* (1994).

In 2019, Disney released five live-action “remakes”: *Dumbo*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, and *Lady and the Tramp*. This is excessive, especially since we fans want new content. Disney was scheduled to release six new titles in 2020, but the *2020 COVID-19 Pandemic* delayed their releases to 2021.

Calling these films “remakes” isn’t entirely accurate. When referring to content we already know, i.e., characters, places, or stories, there are several types of films: remakes, sequels, prequels, reboots, or reimaginings. I’ll start you off with some terminology so we are on the same page. For a more detailed definition with examples, [see the glossary at the back](#).

REMAKE: When a studio decides to remake one of its previously existing works. For example, Disney produced *The Lion King* (2019), which had the same storyline as *The Lion King* (1994), and *101 Dalmatians* (1996) was a live-action version of *101 Dalmatians* (1961).

REBOOT: This is different than a remake. This revises a previously told story, presenting it with a different storyline, characters, and other elements. This term mostly refers to a movie in a series.

REIMAGINING: This is when they remake a movie but tell the story differently, a retelling. *Mulan* (2020) is an excellent example. It is the story of Mulan, like their 1998 animated film, but there is no Mushu, no singing, and no Shang, and Mulan is the “chosen one.” This tells the story based on the source material but is entirely different.

PREQUEL: A movie set before the events of another film that has already been made. *The Little Mermaid: Ariel’s Beginning* (2008) is the third movie in the series but takes place before the events of *The Little Mermaid* (1989), showing Ariel as a young mermaid in Atlantica.

SEQUEL: This is a film that occurs sequentially after the previous film. All 35+ movies in the *MCU* are great examples of that. A minor example would be *The Rescuers Down Under* (1990), which follows the events of *The Rescuers* (1977).

SPIN-OFF: This movie centers on characters or elements from another movie and gives them their own film, rather than being part of the series. A good example is the *Star Wars* films, and the standalone *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), which also serves as a prequel to the Han Solo character.

Here is a list of all the live-action “remakes” from Disney. In this section, I will continue to cover films through 2022.

scenes. The scene in *Mary Poppins* (1964), in which Mary Poppins and Burt danced with the penguins, was also filmed there.

1267. Some of the shots of **Baby Baloo were of Ed Gale in a bear suit**. Ed is the little person who played Howard T. Duck in the first-ever Marvel movie, *Howard the Duck* (1986). He would later be the stunt double for Chucky in *Child's Play* (1988) and Tasha, the baby *Saurolophus* dinosaur in *Land of the Lost* (1991-1992).

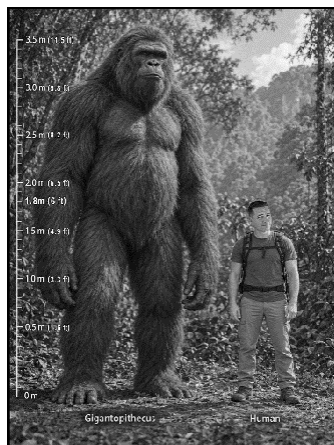
The Jungle Book (2016)

Released: April 15, 2016

REMAKE

FUN FACTS

1268. **The Gigantopithecus was used in place of the orangutan** for King Louie in this version of the story. Gigantopithecus is an extinct ape related to the orangutan. The theory is that they were built more like gorillas and stood between 9 and 12 feet tall. It is difficult to say how tall they were because paleontologists have only ever found the creature's teeth and mandibles (jawbone). Its existence is only speculative. (see example image created by AI from when I last encountered one)



1269. **Neel Sethi as Mowgli is the only real element in the movie**, aside from some physical props and plants. All the animals and scenery were digitally animated. Even though this film is listed as live-action, it is really an animated film with real elements added, like a hybrid. For example, when Mary Poppins and the children entered the chalk painting with Bert, everything around them was animated, except for them.
1270. After directing this film, **Jon Favreau directed the live-action version of *The Lion King* (2019)**. Before this, he directed *Iron Man* (2008) and *Iron Man 2* (2010). In the *MCU*, he plays the character Happy Hogan, Tony Stark's driver.
1271. **Rocky the Rhino was a vision-impaired rhino who Walt Disney cut from the original animated film** because he thought there were already enough action sequences. Rocky was to appear with the vultures and be animated by Floyd Norman. He finally appears in this film.
1272. **Some of the shots in the film mirror the animated classic**, such as when Mowgli walks through the jungle past the waterfall or when he is held tightly in Kaa's grasp before the giant snake attempts to swallow him.

1331. Although the wolves in the chase scene were real, they didn't look scary, so the VFX team used CGI in post-production to add their snarling muzzles.
1332. After Dave wakes up as a kid in the film's opening and turns off his Buzz Lightyear alarm clock, you can see Pluto in his pencil cup above his pillow.

Pirates of the Caribbean

The first *Pirates of the Caribbean* film was based on the attraction in *Disneyland* and *Disney World* with the same name. This was Disney's fourth attempt at making a movie based on a previously existing attraction. Most attractions are based on previously existing movies. The first three were *Tower of Terror* (1997), *Mission to Mars* (2000), and *The Country Bears* (2002). The last two didn't fare too well at the box office, and the first was released on television. Disney decided to make its fifth film, *The Haunted Mansion* (2003), alongside *Pirates*, as their film schedule overlapped for three months, from December 2002 through March 2003. *Haunted Mansion* did well in the theaters, doubling its production budget, but didn't do nearly as well as *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

This is the 4th highest-grossing film franchise of all time based solely on the first five films in the series. The three franchises that rank above the *Pirates* films are:

👤 *Avatar* series (three films) with \$6.74 billion.

👤 *Jurassic Park* series with \$4.998 billion.

👤 *Middle-earth* series (*The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*) with \$4.96 billion.

The number-one franchise of all time is the *Marvel Cinematic Universe*, with 37 films as of 2026. Across all franchises, *Pirates* ranks 17th as of 2026. Until Disney releases a 6th film in the franchise or a reboot of the *Pirates* universe, its standing could drop if new releases of *Shrek*, *Twilight*, or *The Lion King* movies come out.

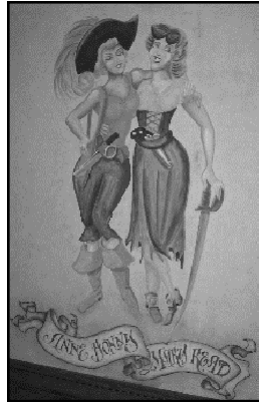
In this section, I cover fun facts about the five *Pirates of the Caribbean* films and the 2011 short film *Tales of the Code: Wedlocked*. *Wedlocked* was released as a special feature on the 15-disc Blu-Ray box set. When referring to the films, I will remove "*Pirates of the Caribbean*" and use their subtitles instead, such as "*Curse of the Black Pearl*," "*At World's End*," etc. Also, POTC stands for *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

General Pirates Fun Facts

1333. As of 2023, *The Curse of the Black Pearl*, *Dead Man's Chest*, and *At World's End* hold 5th, 6th, and 7th place for highest-selling DVDs for non-animated films. Home video sales of physical media began to decline in 2010 as the digital era began. The exception to that was *Frozen* (2013). *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* (2010) is the last live-action film to make the list. After that, physical media sales started to drop.

The *Lady Washington* was designed by marine expert Ray Wallace, who also designed the *Sailing Ship Columbia*, along with Admiral Joe Fowler, the construction boss for *Disneyland* and general manager for ten years after the park's opening. The *Sailing Ship Columbia* stands in as the *Black Pearl* during *Disneyland's* nighttime show, *Fantasmic!*

1345. **The pirate flag, also called the Jolly Roger, that flies on the Black Pearl is the flag of “Calico” Jack Rackham.** He lived from 1682 to 1720 and married the infamous redheaded female pirate, Anne Bonny. Pirate Mary Read was also on their ship and was friends with Bonny. It has been said that the two swords under the skull represent the two women on his ship. Paintings of Read and Bonny are displayed on the wall as guests enter the POTC building at *Disneyland*. Rumors circulated in 2025 that the next installment of the POTC franchise would revolve around Anne Bonny, the redheaded pirate from Ireland.



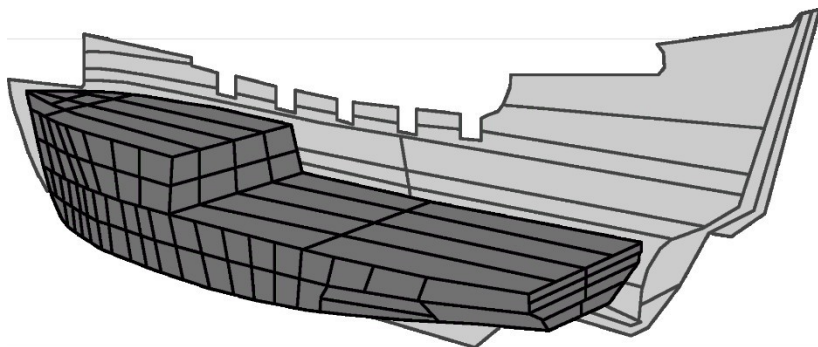
1346. **The mast with the crow's nest on the sinking ship that Jack Sparrow steps off of in the movie's opening was given to a local tavern** on Saint Vincent Island. The bar owner is an extra in the movie, a woman walking down the street holding a parasol. She ended up cementing it into the ground inside the tavern to prevent it from getting stolen.
1347. When the *Black Pearl* and crew attack Port Royal, **the last cannon shot creates a hidden Mickey-shaped cloud** of smoke. On the *Disneyland* attraction, you can see the Hidden Mickey in the stone wall below the cannon on the fort.
1348. **The Wilhelm Scream stock audio can be heard** when Captain Barbosa's men battle the soldiers aboard the *HMS Dauntless*. When Pintel and Ragetti run up the stairs, Pintel slaps a soldier across the face, and the sound can be heard.
1349. **Zoe Saldaña briefly appears as Anamaria.** She was cast after appearing in *Center Stage* (2000), *Get Over It* (2001), *Crossroads* (2002), and *Drumline* (2002). She would later become one of Hollywood's more prominent celebrities, starring as Uhura in the three *Star Trek* (2009-2016) films, Neytiri in three *Avatar* (2009-2025) films, and Gamora in half a dozen *Marvel Studios* films. Other significant films include *Guess Who* (2005), *The Losers* (2010), *Colombiana* (2011), *The Book of Life* (2014), and *I Kill Giants* (2017). The films she has starred in from her top four franchises (*MCU*, *Avatar*, *Star Trek*, and *Pirates*) have earned \$15.91 billion worldwide, making her Hollywood's most profitable actor and surpassing Scarlett Johansson and Samuel L. Jackson.

POTC: Dead Man's Chest (2006)

Released: July 7, 2006

FUN FACTS

1350. Stellan Skarsgård was **the only member of Davy Jones's crew to have makeup applied to resemble Bootstrap Bill**. All the other actors wore MOCAP suits, and their makeup and appearances were digitally completed. Skarsgård would spend about 4 hours a day with the makeup department.
1351. Because the original *Black Pearl* was just a set built on top of a barge for *Curse of the Black Pearl*, production decided to make a workable ship so it could be moved around on its own, rather than needing to be towed around. **The Sunset served as the hull for the *Black Pearl* overlay**. It was a propeller-driven craft that once serviced oil derricks (oil wells) in the *Gulf of Mexico* and was docked in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Production designer



Rick Heinrichs and his crew took eight months to build this ship. The dark grey was the original ship, and the light grey was the set. It was used in *Dead Man's Chest* and *At World's End*, and it looks like the *Black Pearl*. Since the *Black Pearl* wasn't used in *On Stranger Tides*, the ship was repainted and redesigned to resemble *Queen Anne's Revenge*, Blackbeard's ship.

1352. Mackenzie Crook, who portrays **Ragetti**, **had to wear a special contact lens over his right eye** to make it look like a protruding wooden eye. He said it didn't hurt but was uncomfortable.
1353. **The actors were actually in the bone cage, running through the jungle and swinging through the air**. A crane swung them through the air, and the actors were strapped inside the cage for the rolling sequence. For the faraway shots with the cage rolling fast, they used dummies.
1354. Jack Sparrow says to Davy Jones, "*Oi! Fishface! Lose something? Eh? Scungilli! Got it. Come to negotiate, eh, have you, you slimy git? Look what I got. I got a jar of dirt, I got a jar of dirt, and guess what's inside it?*" **He calls him *Scungilli*, a type of sea snail used in cooking**.
1355. **Large jet engines dispersed the thick fog around the set**. Special effects supervisor Allen Hall joked that they bought up the world's supply of fog fluid.

about the production. All vehicles entering the studio or location were subject to inspection. If a visitor or anyone took photos on their phone or tablet, the images were deleted. The production used lockboxes to keep all production vehicle keys locked when not in use.

1395. Javier Bardem winning the *Best Actor Award* for Anton Chigurh in *No Country for Old Men* (2007) didn't save him from being **nominated for Worst Supporting Actor for the role of Captain Salazar** at the *Golden Raspberry Awards*. He lost to Mel Gibson in *Daddy's Home 2* (2017).

MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT

On August 31, 2009, Disney announced their decision to purchase *Marvel Entertainment*. The Marvel stockholders didn't approve the merger until December 31, 2009. Disney bought *Marvel Entertainment* for \$4.24 billion. Stan Lee, the creator of many Marvel characters, was once chairman of Marvel Entertainment and was instrumental in selling the company's characters to Disney. The films have earned Disney \$34.85 billion as of September 2026.

With this new franchise in its arsenal, Disney made one of the most complex universes in cinematic history. As of late 2026, Disney has released or will release 38 films and 19 television series, all tied together in one giant story called the *MCU*, or the *Marvel Cinematic Universe*. They have also released several Marvel television series on *Netflix* and several animated series on *Disney XD*.

“What about the X-Men?”

In 1994, Marvel sold the film rights to the **X-Men** to *20th Century Fox*. They made a separate deal for the **Fantastic Four** and **Daredevil**. The stipulation was that *Fox* had to exercise its rights with the characters; otherwise, the property-use rights would revert to *Marvel*. After *Fox* made *Daredevil* (2003) and *Elektra* (2005), it failed to use the characters in any other projects. So, the characters returned to *Marvel*, and Disney produced the *Netflix* television series *Daredevil* (2015-2018).

Because of the stipulations, Disney wasn't allowed to use any characters from the X-Men universe or coin the term “mutant,” as that was reserved for the X-Men films. *20th Century Fox* owned *New World Pictures*, the company that produced the first X-Men film, *Generation X* (1996), and only starred secondary X-Men characters like Jubilee, Banshee, Emma Frost, and Skin. Years passed, and *Fox* would lose the X-Men if it didn't exercise its rights to the characters. After years of trying to make an X-Men film, they released *X-Men* (2000) and gave us all the main characters we expected, like Wolverine, Cyclops, Jean Grey, Professor X, and Storm. Since then, they have released:

<i>X2: X-Men United</i> (2003)	<i>Deadpool</i> (2016)
<i>X-Men: The Last Stand</i> (2006)	<i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i> (2016)
<i>X-Men Origins: Wolverine</i> (2009)	<i>Logan</i> (2017)
<i>X-Men: First Class</i> (2011)	<i>Deadpool 2</i> (2018)
<i>The Wolverine</i> (2013)	<i>X-Men: Dark Phoenix</i> (2019)
<i>X-Men: Days of Future Past</i> (2014)	<i>The New Mutants</i> (2020)

Avengers rescued her and reversed the transfer. Later, Tony was tricked into making the AI program that would run Jocasta.

1425. When Wanda and Pietro find Ultron in Sokovia, **he sits in a chair under a red blanket**. This nods to his guise as the Crimson Cowl in *The Avengers* #54, published in July 1968. In the comic, he wears a red cloak, and no one sees who is under the cloak until he reveals himself as Ultron for the first time.

AVENGERS: ENDGAME (2019)

FILM #22 IN THE MCU

Released: April 26, 2019

FUN FACTS

1426. Jeremy Renner, who plays Clint Barton, broke both arms while filming *Tag* (2018). He was climbing a stack of chairs when the rigging broke and sent him to the ground; he even got back up and did a second take. He continued filming the movie either wearing casts covered with green-screen sleeves or removing them during filming. **He filmed his scenes for *Avengers: Endgame* while his broken arms were still healing**, and he sometimes experienced pain while performing arm movements with his bow and arrow and other stunts.
1427. The brief all-female team-up moment during **the final battle, when Spider-Man hands the gauntlet to Captain Marvel, didn't even have Tom Holland in it**. Holland wasn't on set when they filmed their "female empowerment" scene; a stand-in actor wore a mocap suit. Holland acted out his parts, and later they digitally added the women.
1428. When Steve Rogers and Tony Stark go back in time, and Steve sees Peggy Carter through the window, **the music is the same as when Steve goes into the ice** in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. The music will play again when old Steve gives Sam Wilson his shield at the end of the movie.
1429. **The film's director, Joe Russo, has a cameo** as the first openly gay character in the *MCU*. He is in Steve Rogers' support group. Some fans reacted negatively to this moment because they wanted the first openly gay character to be a superhero, or at least have a prominent supporting role. Since *Thor: Ragnarok* and *Captain Marvel*, fans have hung onto the fact that Valkyrie and Carol Danvers are gay characters, along with Bucky Barnes and Carol's friend Maria Rambeau. This is fan speculation until it is confirmed in the Fourth or Fifth Phase of the *MCU*. Both directors felt it was important for one of them to play the part to show they were okay with an openly gay character in the *MCU*. Some fans also didn't like the fact that Joe played a gay character since he is straight in real life.
1430. **Howard the Duck has a cameo in the final fight scene**. You can see him in the background behind Wasp when she first shows up.
1431. When Steve removes his shield from his art portfolio to hand it to Sam, it is a nod to the comics, where **Steve keeps his shield in his portfolio when he isn't Captain America**. They showed him drawing in *Captain America: The First Avenger* and then again in a deleted scene from *The Avengers*. Steve was quite the artist.

(2016) included Hulk, Doctor Strange, Nightmare, Man-Thing, Warwolf (War-Wolf), and others. Warwolf in the Hulk movie is different from Werewolf in this movie. Man-Thing previously appeared in the film *Man-Thing* (2005)

1592. Jack Russell as the Werewolf made his **first comic appearance in February 1972** in *Marvel Spotlight* #2. Dr. Ted Sallis, who is Man-Thing, first appeared in *Savage Tales* #1 in January 1971.

1593. While Elsa fights Liorn, **the main theme from *Psycho* (1960) plays**, specifically the well-known part from the shower scene when Marion is stabbed.

LUCASFILM LTD. LLC

George Lucas, owner and creator of *Lucasfilm Ltd.*, sold his company to Disney for \$4.05 billion on October 30, 2012. They spent a year and a half working on the deal. George decided to retire and reached an agreement. George also received \$40 million in Disney shares, making him the second-largest non-institutional shareholder, after Steve Jobs's trust. Steve Jobs received \$4.14 billion from his share of *Pixar* and holds a 7% stake in Disney. This buyout was Disney's third-largest deal. It became the fourth-largest deal in 2019. They spent \$19.7 billion on *Capital Cities/ABC* (*American Broadcasting Company*) in September 1996, \$7.6 billion on *Pixar Animation Studios* in May 2006, and \$71.3 billion on *20th Century Fox* in March 2019.

Along with *Lucasfilm Ltd.*, Disney acquired the rights to several other *Lucasfilm* subsidiaries.

- ***Industrial Light & Magic* (ILM)** – Established in 1975, this subsidiary was created specifically for *Star Wars* production because George Lucas wanted to create groundbreaking special effects that he couldn't do anywhere else, since the effects department at *20th Century Fox* shut down.
- ***Skywalker Sound*** – Established in 1975 as *Sprocket Systems*, it was headed by Ben Burtt to create the sound effects for *Star Wars*. When it was relocated to *Skywalker Ranch* in 1987, the name was changed to *Skywalker Sound*.
- ***Lucasfilm Games* (*LucasArts* from 1990 to 2021)** - Established in May 1982 and known as the *Game Group*, it produced video games. It initially began as a computer division of *Lucasfilm* in 1979, with part of it used for computer graphics, the part that would eventually become *Pixar*.
- ***Lucasfilm Animation*** - This branch was established in 2003 and was created to produce animated features and television series, starting with *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* in 2008 and its related series.

After the purchase, Disney opted to leave its headquarters in its current location: ILM is in the San Francisco Presidio, and *Skywalker Sound* and *Lucasfilm* are in Marin County.

With the buyout, Disney acquired an extensive film catalog, including three franchises: *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Willow*. *Star Wars* is by far the largest, followed by *Indiana Jones*.

Year	Film	Box Office
1973	<i>American Graffiti</i>	\$140 million
1977	<i>Star Wars</i>	\$775.5 million
1979	<i>More American Graffiti</i>	\$15 million
1980	<i>The Empire Strikes Back</i>	\$547.9 million
1981	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>	\$389.9 million
1983	<i>Return of the Jedi</i>	\$475.3 million
1983	<i>Twice Upon a Time</i>	—
1984	<i>Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom</i>	\$333.1 million
1985	<i>Latino</i>	—
1985	<i>Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters</i>	\$20,758
1986	<i>Labyrinth</i>	\$11.6 million
1986	<i>Howard the Duck</i>	\$48 million
1988	<i>Willow</i>	\$57.3 million
1988	<i>Tucker: The Man and His Dream</i>	\$19.7 million
1988	<i>The Land Before Time</i>	\$84.4 million
1989	<i>Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade</i>	\$474.2 million
1994	<i>Radioland Murders</i>	\$1.3 million
1999	<i>Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace</i>	\$1.027 billion
2002	<i>Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones</i>	\$649.4 million
2005	<i>Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith</i>	\$850 million
2008	<i>Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull</i>	\$790.6 million
2008	<i>Star Wars: The Clone Wars</i>	\$68.3 million
2012	<i>Red Tails</i>	\$50.4 million
2015	<i>Strange Magic</i>	\$13.7 million
2015	<i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i>	\$2.064 billion
2016	<i>Rogue One: A Star Wars Story</i>	\$1.055 billion
2017	<i>Star Wars: The Last Jedi</i>	\$1.333 billion
2018	<i>Solo: A Star Wars Story</i>	\$393.1 million
2019	<i>Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker</i>	\$1.074 billion
2023	<i>Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny</i>	\$375.1 million

This section of the book is divided into three sections. One covers the *Star Wars* films, one covers the *Indiana Jones* films, and one covers the rest of the *Lucasfilm* films. For now, this book does not include the television series produced by *Lucasfilm*.

STAR WARS

The *Star Wars* film franchise began with the release of *Star Wars* in 1977. It was later renamed *Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope* when it was re-released in 1981 after the 1980 release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, because that was subtitled as *Episode V*. At the time George Lucas was creating the first film, he had an idea of other films in the series, but they wouldn't be able to happen until this film was released and it became such a huge hit. As of 2024, it is the third-highest-grossing film franchise of all time, despite having fewer films than some of the other franchises below it. In this section, I will refer to the *Star Wars* films by their subtitles, such as *A New Hope* and *Return of the Jedi*, rather than titles like *Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi* (1983). Unlike other sections in this book, the *Star Wars* films are listed by release date rather than chronologically or alphabetically.

Trilogy, he was given the first name Sheev in the canon novel *Tarkin*, published in June 2015.

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV – A NEW HOPE

Released: May 25, 1977

Rerelease: July 1978, August 1979, April 1981, August 1982, and January 1997.

FUN FACTS

1628. **Twentieth Century Fox wasn't sure about how popular this film would be.** They believed *The Other Side of Midnight* (1977), starring Susan Sarandon, would be the summer money maker. That movie made less than \$25 million. In *A New Hope*'s initial release, which lasted until December, it made \$94.8 million.
1629. **Ben Burtt is credited with sound effects work on over 90 films,** video games, and television series. Some of these would include: *Death Race 2000* (1975), *The Milpitas Monster* (1976), *Star Wars* (1977), *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1978), *More American Graffiti* (1979), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *The Dark Crystal* (1982), *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), *The Adventures of André and Wally B.* (1984) (Pixar's first short film), *Howard the Duck* (1986) (Marvel's first comic book movie), *Willow* (1988), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), *Always* (1989), *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* (1999), *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith* (2005), *WALL-E* (2008), *BURN-E* (2008), *Up* (2009), *Star Trek* (2009), *Super 8* (2011), *Red Tails* (2012), *Lincoln* (2012), *Star Trek Into Darkness* (2013), *Escape from Planet Earth* (2013), and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015).
1630. There were two prop handles made for the film. One prop handle **sold to the Seattle Museum of Pop Culture in 2012 for \$250,000.** That sale made it one of the most valuable prop weapons ever made. A *Ghostbusters II* (1989) Proton Pack sold for \$130,000, Frodo's Sting Sword from *The Lord of the Rings* (2001) sold for \$65,000, and the most valuable prop weapon ever sold was Harrison Ford's gun from *Blade Runner* (1982), which raked in \$270,000.
1631. **Robert Englund, who became Freddy Krueger in the *Nightmare on Elm Street* films, was down at the studio in the late '70s to audition for *Apocalypse Now*** (1979) for *American Zoetrope*. George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola founded *American Zoetrope*. Lucas used the company for *THX 1138* (1971) and *American Graffiti* (1973) before he built *Lucasfilm* into a substantial company with *Star Wars* (though he also used *Lucasfilm* for *American Graffiti*). After Englund auditioned for *Apocalypse Now*, the production company sent him across the hall to audition for the role of Han Solo. They took a Polaroid photo of him and sent him on his way. The role went to Harrison Ford, who also appeared in *Apocalypse Now*. When Englund left the casting office, he noticed the signs for Luke Skywalker's audition. He went home and found his roommate lying on the couch, watching *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Englund told his couch-surfing friend about the role and

two children. Their first child, Sasha Rebecca Spielberg, later became an actress and musician and appeared in *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE (1989)

3rd FILM IN THE SERIES

Released: June 17, 2016

FUN FACTS

1739. **The events of this movie take place in 1938.**
1740. A five-year gap separated the films because **Steven Spielberg was unhappy with how *Temple of Doom* turned out.** Fans criticized it as too dark and gruesome.
1741. **Filming began on May 16, 1988,** in the Tabernas Desert in Spain.
1742. **Director Steven Spielberg turned down directing roles in *Big* (1988) and *Rain Man* (1988)** to fulfill his promise to George Lucas and complete the *Indiana Jones* trilogy.
1743. George Lucas had an early script written by Diane Thomas. She wrote *Romancing the Stone* (1984). **It was about Indy being in a haunted castle in Scotland.** Steven Spielberg ultimately rejected this because he said it was too similar to his movie *Poltergeist* (1982), which he wrote. Sadly, 39-year-old Thomas died in a car crash shortly after she completed this script.
1744. **Steven Spielberg had Sean Connery in mind when he suggested adding a father-and-son aspect to the movie.** James Bond inspired Spielberg's version of Indy when he pitched the film idea to Lucas in 1977. While writing the script, he didn't initially tell George Lucas, so he wrote the character as a crazy, eccentric father who was strict with his son. After they cast Connery, they rewrote the character as a softer-spoken, slightly clumsy man for comic relief. Spielberg was a massive fan of Connery because of his role in the James Bond films, particularly *Never Say Never Again* (1983), his last Bond film, although he voiced Bond in the video game *James Bond 007: From Russia with Love* (2005).
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INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (2008)

4th FILM IN THE SERIES

Released: May 22, 2008

FUN FACTS

1745. George Lucas was inspired to write this movie after getting the idea of **an older Indy from Harrison Ford's guest appearance as an Indy in the 1950s** in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* (1992-1993). He appeared in episode five of season two of the 22-episode series.
1746. **George Lucas began working on this new film in 1993** and had screenwriter Jeb Stuart, who wrote *Die Hard* (1988) and *The Fugitive* (1993), write a script, which he did from October 1993 to May 1994. Lucas wanted a 1950s-style alien B-movie. When he pitched the idea to Steven Spielberg and Harrison Ford, they both hated it. Over the following years, Jeffrey Boam, the

OTHER LUCASFILM MOVIES

Although *Lucasfilm* is best known for *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*, it has produced many other films across several genres, including animated, comedy, biographical, and foreign-language films. Although *Willow* (1988) and *Captain EO* (1986) feel like they are a part of the *Star Wars* universe, they aren't. George Lucas was involved in experimental filmmaking and continually sought to develop new and better ways to make films, using special effects and a distinctive style. He also helped out his friends who needed production backing for their projects. A handful of films used *Lucasfilm* for production and didn't include George Lucas himself, and vice versa.

Not all of the preexisting *Lucasfilm* movies are owned by Disney now. Some of them still belong to other distributors. I will still include fun facts for all of them, but it doesn't mean they belong to Disney. Here is a list of films that do not belong to Disney, along with why, at least from what I can uncover. GL is for George Lucas.

FILM	DISTRIBUTOR	REASON
<i>American Graffiti</i> (1973)	<i>Universal Pictures</i>	GL sold the script to <i>Universal</i> for \$775,000.
<i>More American Graffiti</i> (1979)	<i>Universal Pictures</i>	As a sequel, <i>Universal</i> owns the rights.
<i>Twice Upon a Time</i> (1983)	<i>Warner Bros. Pictures</i>	GL came on board as executive producer.
<i>Latino</i> (1985)	<i>Cinecom Pictures</i>	GL owed the director a favor; the director served as a visual consultant on <i>American Graffiti</i> . He funded the post-production. <i>Cinecom</i> owned it, but has since shut down.
<i>Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters</i> (1985)	<i>Warner Bros. Pictures</i>	GL was an executive producer on the film because he wanted to work with Francis Ford Coppola.
<i>Labyrinth</i> (1986)	<i>Shout! Studios</i>	GL was an executive producer, financial backer, and creative supporter of Jim Henson. <i>Shout! Studios</i> have distribution rights as of 2024.
<i>Tucker: The Man and His Dream</i> (1988)	<i>Paramount Pictures</i>	GL was an executive producer and a financial backer for Coppola.
<i>The Land Before Time</i> (1988)	<i>Universal Pictures</i>	GL served as an executive producer and collaborated with executive producer Steven Spielberg.
<i>Radioland Murders</i> (1994)	<i>Universal Pictures</i>	GL was the film's executive producer and writer.

American Graffiti (1973)

Released: August 11, 1973

FUN FACTS

1757. After George Lucas finished writing and directing *THX 1138* (1971), executive producer **Francis Ford Coppola challenged him to write and direct a movie that would appeal to all audiences.** *THX 1138* is a sci-fi film

1835. **George Lucas approached Ron Howard while Howard was at *Industrial Light & Magic***, where they were working on the digital effects for *Cocoon* (1985), which he directed. Lucas asked him to direct this film, which he accepted. Howard was a lead in Lucas's film *American Graffiti* 12 years prior. Howard would return to *Lucasfilm* in 2018 to direct *Solo: A Star Wars Story*.
1836. ***Industrial Light & Magic* created digital morphing for this movie.** In one scene, Willow changes a goat into an ostrich, a peacock, a tortoise, a tiger, and then into a woman.
1837. **225 to 240 little people were needed for filming**, setting a record for the most "little people" cast in a single movie. *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) only used 124 little people for Munchkin Land.
1838. **The Death Dogs were puppets with animatronic heads for close-up shots.** In scenes where they needed to run, they used young Rottweilers in costumes and rubber masks. You will notice that no one else appears in the shot while they are running, as everyone was cleared off the set to avoid accidents.

BONUS SECTIONS IN UPCOMING BOOKS

Each volume of my upcoming books will include one or two bonus sections available only in that volume. This is because the sections are too small to be split into multiple volumes. These are the sections I am working on so far; I may add more later. I am including a few fun facts for each section so that this book has an even number of facts in total, because my OCD requires it.

THE MUPPETS STUDIO

On November 20, 1958, Jim Henson and Jane Nebel, who would later marry Jim, founded *Muppets, Inc.* They produced one film, *Time Piece* (1965), and created puppets for commercials, variety shows, and a few films. They were discovered by the new show *Sesame Street* (1969-present) in 1968 and tasked with creating and manipulating puppets for the soon-to-be hugely popular children's show, which would run for well over half a century.

It has gone through several name changes since its founding, including *Henson Associates, Inc.* (ha!) from 1976 to 1987, *Jim Henson Productions, Inc.* from 1987 to 1997, and *The Jim Henson Company* from 1997 to the present.

In August 1989, Jim Henson and Disney CEO Michael Eisner announced plans to buy out *Jim Henson Productions* for \$150 million. The sale would not include the *Sesame Street* characters. It would permit a 15-year contract with Jim Henson to provide his creative services. Before a deal could be made, on May 16, 1990, Jim Henson died suddenly of organ failure caused by streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, which was induced by *Streptococcus pyogenes pneumonia*. The deal fell through, and the Henson family retained the company. The attraction *Muppet*Vision 3D* opened in *Disney's Hollywood Studios* in 1991 and was Jim Henson's last major project; it was the final project in which he voiced Kermit the

DISNEY FAIRIES

Disney Fairies is a 2005 franchise centered on Tinker Bell, adapted from the character Tink in the 1953 animated film *Peter Pan* and subsequently adopted as a company mascot. Walt made Tinker Bell the official mascot of *Disneyland* instead of Mickey Mouse, fearing adverse reactions to the park. He didn't want his prized mouse to be associated with the downfall of his park, so he decided to use Tink as the promotional character.

Beyond the fictional fairy character created by J. M. Barrie, the franchise introduces numerous new characters. It expands considerably on the limited information the author provided about the fairies and their home, Neverland. The stories refer to the characters as "Never Fairies." The franchise includes children's books and other merchandise, a website (*fairies.disney.com*), and a computer-animated Tinker Bell film series featuring the character and several Disney fairies as supporting and recurring characters.

The book series began with the release of the *Fairy Dust Trilogy: Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg* (2005), *Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand* (2007), and *Fairies and the Quest for Never Land* (2010).

Shortly after the release of the first book in the trilogy, *Random House* began printing shorter novels, titled *Tales of Pixie Hollow*, based on the fairies, starting in 2006. *Random House* printed 28 books through 2012, ending the run.

Step Into Reading began publishing a 13-book series through *Random House/Disney Publishing* in 2008. The series was designed to help children read by increasing in difficulty from book to book. The series ended in 2012.

Random House published a series of books for 6- to 10-year-olds titled *The Never Girls*. The stories followed the adventures of four human girls who discovered a portal to Pixie Hollow. The 13 books were published between 2013 and 2016, and two standalone books were published in 2016 and 2017. A six-book sequel series titled *Finding Tinker Bell: A Never Girls Adventure* was published from 2018 to 2020 and followed the girls as they searched for the missing Tinker Bell on Shadow Island. *Disney The Never Girls: The Graphic Novel* was published by *RH Disney* from 2023 to 2024 and includes three graphic novels and comic books.

In addition to films and television specials, Disney developed several video games for PC (*Windows* and *Mac*), *Xbox 360* and *Xbox One*, *iPhone/iOS*, *LeapFrog*, *Nintendo DS*, and other platforms. No new Disney Fairies-specific games have been produced since 2014; only games that include Tinker Bell and/or her friends have been released.

PC (Windows)/Mac

1. *Pixie Hollow* (2008–2013) (PC/Mac)
2. *Disney Fairies: Tinker Bell's Adventure* (2010) (PC/Mac)
3. *Disney Fairies: Hidden Treasures* (2013)
4. *Disney The Pirate Fairy: Zarina's Pixie Dust Experiments* (2014)
5. *Disney The Pirate Fairy: Pixie Dust Powers* (2014)
6. *Disney Fairies: Tinker Bell's Adventure* (2014) (PC/Mac)

FUN FACTS

1841. In *Tinker Bell* (2008), when Tinker Bell delivers the music box to Wendy Darling, **you can hear it playing “You Can Fly” from *Peter Pan* (1953).**
1842. In *Tinker Bell* (2008), Fawn was voiced by America Ferrera, but was replaced by Angela Bartys for the following four films. **Ginnifer Goodwin took over the role of Fawn in *Tinker Bell and the Legend of the NeverBeast* (2014) because they wanted a more energetic, braver interpretation of the character, as she was the film’s primary character.**

THE DISNEY AFTERNOON

Although *Walt Disney Pictures* had been making live-action series, they hadn’t ventured into the animated realm. Walt felt it wasn’t cost-effective to allocate financial and manpower resources to produce something that would take so much time and air only on television, given that the quality would suffer. The company founded *Walt Disney Television* in 1983 to handle television series and made-for-TV movies. After Michael Eisner was hired as CEO of *The Walt Disney Company* in 1984, he said he wanted to produce animated television series. His pilot project was an animated series about gummy bears, the gelatin-based candy, which he announced to the writers at a meeting at his house. The writers were told they couldn’t use any major Disney characters in these shows. As a result, *Disney Television Animation* was founded as a subsidiary of *Walt Disney Television*. The first two shows produced were *Adventures of the Gummi Bears* (1985-1991), created by writer Jymn Magon, and *The Wuzzles* (1985), created by Fred Wolf; both aired on the same day. Their goal was to produce high-quality, beautifully animated shows that would compel their rivals to improve their production standards.

Gummi Bears initially aired on *NBC*, and *The Wuzzles* aired on *CBS*. *DuckTales* aired through broadcast syndication, meaning any broadcast network that leased the show distributed it. *Chip ‘n Dale: Rescue Rangers* and *TaleSpin* aired on *The Disney Channel* and later through broadcast syndication. *The Disney Afternoon* block of shows aired in syndication beginning September 10, 1990. The other shows in the block would premiere there. *The Disney Afternoon* ended its run on August 29, 1997.

The Disney Afternoon block of shows.

SHOW	OnAir	OffAir
<i>Adventures of the Gummi Bears</i>	1985	1991
<i>DuckTales</i>	1987	1990
<i>Chip ‘n Dale Rescue Rangers</i>	1989	1992
<i>TaleSpin</i>	1990	1994
<i>Darkwing Duck</i>	1991	1993
<i>GoofTroop</i>	1992	1993
<i>Bonkers</i>	1993	1994
<i>Aladdin</i>	1994	1996
<i>Gargoyles</i>	1994	1996
<i>Shnookums & Meat Funny Cartoon Show</i>	1995	1995
<i>The Lion King’s Timon & Pumbaa</i>	1995	1997
<i>Quack Pack</i>	1996	1997
<i>Mighty Ducks: The Animated Series</i>	1996	1997

will continue sharing fun facts, updates, discoveries, and news about the progress of the upcoming volumes.

If you would like additional copies of this book, please visit *DisneyGuy.org*.

Most importantly, thank you for reading. A project like this only means something if people on the other side of the page enjoy discovering these stories as much as I enjoyed finding them. After nine years of research, writing, rewriting, and more fun facts than I could count, knowing that you chose to spend some of your time with this book makes all of that work worthwhile.

There are still a lot of movies left to explore, a lot of facts left to uncover, and a lot of pages left to write. So, until the next volume, keep watching movies, keep discovering new things, and never stop asking: “*Do you like Disney fun facts?*”

Thank you for coming along on this journey.

—Joshua C. Shaffer

GLOSSARY

A113—“A113” is a *Pixar*, Disney, and Marvel inside joke or “Easter Egg.” *A113* was the room number at the *California Institute of the Arts* (*CalArts*) that many Disney animators attended. *Walt Disney established CalArts in 1961* to train the next generation of animators. It merged two existing institutes: *Chouinard Art Institute* (founded in 1921) and the *Los Angeles Conservatory of Music* (established in 1883). The school is located in Valencia, California, just one hour north of *Disneyland*. Disney, Marvel, and *Pixar* use A113, but other films have used it as well, including *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* (2011), which Brad Bird directed. In the movie, there is a class ring with a needle in the center; the ring’s side says “A113.” Other films to include are *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013), *The Iron Giant* (1999), *Terminator Salvation* (2009), *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* (2014), *Space Jam: A New Legacy* (2021), and many others. Several MCU films feature it, including *The Avengers* (2012), *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017), and *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014). John Lasseter’s office room number at *Walt Disney Animation* was A113.

A113 first appeared in the pilot episode of the short-lived television series *Family Dog* (1993). The pilot episode was part of the series *Amazing Stories* (1985-1987), which aired on February 16, 1987, and was titled “*The Family Dog*.” It was the series’ only animated episode. Brad Bird wrote and directed the episode; later, it became a series in 1993. The series credited Brad Bird as the creator. Steven Spielberg and Tim Burton produced it, Danny Elfman scored the music, and Dennis Klein, Paul Dini, and Sherri Stoner wrote it. Stoner modeled Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* (1989) and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (1991). In that pilot episode, Brad Bird was the first to use the A113 as a license plate on the back of the robber’s van.

The first Disney movie to feature A113 was *The Brave Little Toaster* (1987). The door number on the Master’s apartment is A113. You can see it when he leaves with Chris for the cabin, and again when Toaster and the gang arrive at the apartment. Lampy even says, “*A-one thirteen. This is it.*” This came out a few

Luxo Jr./Luxo Lamp/Luxo Sr.—This lamp appears in a handful of *Pixar* films that originated in the short *Luxo Jr.* (1986). It was inspired by a short film that John Lasseter animated in 1977 while attending *CalArts*. He wrote, directed, and animated the film *Lady and the Lamp* (1979), which depicts lamps with human characteristics, much like Luxo Sr. and Luxo Jr. The real *Luxo Company*, founded in 1934 in Norway, created the “Luxo L-1” lamp in 1937. This would inspire Luxo Sr., which John Lasseter had on his desk, in the short *Luxo Jr.* (1986). *Luxo* has the L-1 model on its website for \$200, or \$370 with an LED light. Luxo Sr., but red, was the lamp that knocked Buzz Lightyear out the window in *Toy Story* (1995).

MCU—This is the *Marvel Cinematic Universe*. This cinematic adventure comprises dozens of movies and television series, beginning with the release of *Iron Man* in 2008. Over nearly two decades, these movies and shows have introduced hundreds of characters, all connected to one giant story. Other popular characters include Captain America, Hulk, Thor, Black Widow, Nick Fury, Hawkeye, Black Panther, Captain Marvel, Star-Lord, and many others. Until Disney bought 20th Century Fox in 2019, Disney wasn’t allowed to use any of Marvel’s X-Men characters because Fox held the rights. Sony also has the rights to Spider-Man and characters from the *Spider-Man* comics. They struck a deal with Disney to use Spider-Man in the *MCU* films.

Midquel—This is sometimes called an interquel. A midquel is a movie that occurs between the events of two or more other movies. *Bambi II* (2006) takes place after he leaves, after his mother dies, and before he returns as an adult buck in the first film. Others would be *Tarzan II* (2005) and *Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas* (1997).

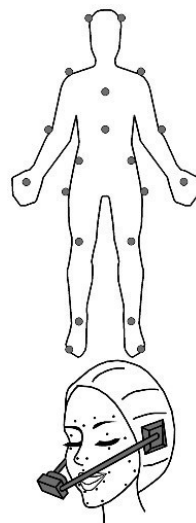
Mocap—The term mo-cap or mocap is used when referencing a Motion Capture Suit or Facial Optical Motion Capture.

- With a Motion Capture Suit, the actor wears a skin-tight suit with markers all over it—sometimes they look like ping-pong balls. The camera records the actor’s movement, and later, a “skin” can be applied to the actor on-screen. Sometimes, the suits are adorned with shapes the computer can recognize.

Example: In *Avengers: Endgame*, Tom Holland wore a motion-capture suit to record his movements digitally. The character Quentin Beck wore one in *Spider-Man: Far From Home* so that his computer program could add Mysterio’s skin over him for the projections.

- With Facial Optical Motion Capture, one or several small cameras are placed on the actor’s head via a helmet, with rods coming off to hold the cameras in place. Many dots are placed around the actor’s face so that the computer can track the actor’s facial movements and translate them into the character’s movements.

Examples: Mark Ruffalo had to do this for Hulk, and Josh Brolin had to do this for Thanos. The actors’ faces created the final characters’ facial features and movements.



To Be Continued...