



The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents
Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja

Dynamic Exhibition Features Animator Behind Memorable Disney Villains Jafar and Scar

San Francisco, CA, February 22, 2017—The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to introduce an original exhibition of works from one of the most accomplished and versatile character animators working today, Andreas Deja. On view from March 23 to October 4, 2017, *Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja* will showcase original works on paper and maquettes of Deja's most iconic Disney characters, from menacing villains such as Scar and Jafar to larger-than-life muscle men like Gaston and Hercules, and the much beloved Mama Odie and Lilo Pelekai.

In addition to his work for The Walt Disney Studios, Deja is known for independent projects, including his upcoming short film *Mushka*. The film—featuring a young girl and her tiger in “a story of love and sacrifice set in Russia”—is animated in a colored pencil style. Art from *Mushka* is showcased in this new exhibition, along with Deja's Disney application portfolio and wire-frame sculptures.

In 1967, when Deja was 13 years old and living in Germany, Walt Disney's *The Jungle Book* inspired him to become an animator for the Walt Disney Animation Studios. He wrote the company a now well-known letter to inquire about the application process, and he began to realize the dedication and skill it would take to get there.

“The day I received a letter back from Walt Disney Productions expressing the necessity to become a master in the mechanics of drawing, it lit a fire in me to truly become an outstanding animator,” said Deja. “After years of art school and dedicating my personal time to studying animal anatomy and behavior, I was accepted into the animation training program at The Walt Disney Studios in August 1980 and didn't look back once.”

Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja is organized by The Walt Disney Family Museum and is being presented in the Theater Gallery from March 23 to October 4, 2017.

###

ABOUT ANDREAS DEJA

Andreas Deja first applied for a job as a Disney animator at the age of 10. Born in Poland and raised in Germany, he remembers writing to The Studios immediately after seeing *The Jungle Book*. The Studios wrote back to explain there were no openings but that they were always on the look-out for new talent. This offered him the encouragement he needed and the motivation to work hard towards that goal. At the age of 20, after completing his studies, he applied again and this time he was accepted. Deja completed several tests and went on to do early character design, costume research, and animation for *The Black Cauldron* (1985), *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986), *Oliver & Company* (1988), and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988).

While working on *The Little Mermaid* (1989), Deja oversaw the animation of King Triton, a powerful figure that required expert skills in draftsmanship and acting ability. For Disney's Academy Award®-winning animated musical *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), he served as the supervising animator for the first of his many Disney villains, the very pompous and narrow-minded Gaston.

Deja continued to explore his darker side by designing and animating the evil vizier, Jafar, for Disney's animated-musical hit *Aladdin* (1992). He went on to supervise the animation of the power-hungry villain, Scar, in *The Lion King* (1994), which has become one of The Walt Disney Studios' most successful films, which became The Walt Disney Studios' most successful animated film at the time of its release, and quickly earned a place as one of the industry's biggest films of all time.

For his next assignment, Deja relocated to the Walt Disney Animation Studios' Paris animation facility for a stint overseeing the animation of Mickey Mouse in *Runaway Brain*, the first new Mickey short since 1953 and an Oscar® nominee in 1996 for Best Animated Short. Following that, he returned to Burbank where he took on the challenging assignment of bringing life and personality to the title hero in Disney's 35th full-length animated feature, *Hercules* (1997). He went on to design and supervise the animation for the charming and unpredictable little Hawaiian girl, Lilo in *Lilo & Stitch* (2002), hailed as one of the Studios' most entertaining and imaginative features.

Deja contributed animation for several characters in Disney's live-action/animated musical *Enchanted* (2007), and served as one of the supervising animators on Goofy's big-screen return in the short film *How to Hook Up Your Home Theatre* (2007). He was a supervising animator on Disney's hand-drawn animated feature, *The Princess and the Frog* (2009). Deja supervised the animation of Tigger for a new Winnie the Pooh feature, which was released theatrically in 2011.

In 2007, he was honored with the Winsor McKay Award from ASIFA-Hollywood (the International Animated Film Association). In 2015, he was named a Disney Legend by The Walt Disney Company. At present time, Andreas Deja is working on his own independent animated short films, including *Mushka*, and contributes regularly animation related material on his blog, "Deja View."

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Walt Disney Family Museum presents the fascinating story and achievements of Walt Disney, the man who raised animation to the level of fine art, transformed the film industry, tirelessly pursued innovation, and created a global yet distinctively American legacy. Opened in October 2009, the 40,000 square foot facility features the newest technology along with a vast collection of historic materials and artifacts to bring Disney's achievements to life, myriad interactive galleries presenting early drawings and animation, movies, music, listening stations, a spectacular model of Disneyland and much more. The museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in the scenic Presidio of San Francisco.

The Walt Disney Family Museum has created many world-class exhibitions, such as *Disney and Dalí: Architects of the Imagination*; *MAGIC, COLOR, FLAIR: the world of Mary Blair*; and *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*, several of which have traveled to other museums around the world. The most recent, *Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja*, is the seventeenth exhibition organized by the museum since 2012. The museum will present its eighteenth exhibition, *Awaking Beauty: The Art of Eyvind Earle*, open May 28, 2017 through January 8, 2018.

Hours: 10am to 6pm, Wednesdays through Monday; closed on Tuesdays and the following public holidays: January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Early closure at 4pm on December 24 and December 31.

Tickets: Museum admission is free for members and children 5 and under
General admission: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors and students, and \$15 youth ages 6 to 17

Where: The Presidio of San Francisco, 104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94129

Contact: 415-345-6800 | waltdisney.org | waltdisney.org/deja-view
facebook.com/wdfmuseum | twitter & instagram: @wdfmuseum

Media Contacts:

Victoria Rainone

p: 415.660.9971

press@wdfmuseum.org

###

THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM® DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC. | © 2017 THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM | THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.