

The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents  
***Walt Disney's The Jungle Book: Making a Masterpiece***

**Comprehensive exhibition guest-curated by Disney Legend Andreas Deja takes an in-depth look at the legacy of Walt's groundbreaking final animated film**

**San Francisco, April 20, 2022**—The Walt Disney Family Museum is delighted to announce the opening of its next major special exhibition, *Walt Disney's The Jungle Book: Making a Masterpiece*, in celebration of the beloved Disney animated classic's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Guest-curated by acclaimed animator and Disney Legend Andreas Deja, *Walt Disney's The Jungle Book: Making a Masterpiece* will debut on Thursday, June 23, 2022 in the Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall.

The exhibition will explore the creative complexities behind the making of *The Jungle Book* (1967), including the unique personalities of each character and their voice actor counterparts, the rich artwork and use of cutting-edge animation techniques, the memorable soundtrack of original songs by the Sherman Brothers and Terry Gilkyson, the impact of Walt's passing during production, and the film's enduring popularity and influence decades after its initial release.

"The first Disney film I ever saw as a kid was *The Jungle Book*, and it immediately changed my life. I was overcome with sheer joy by the world of drawings and paintings, songs and characters that came alive in front of me. That awe-inspiring magic I experienced never left me—it sent me on my quest to become a Disney animator," says guest curator, Andreas Deja. "It is an honor of a lifetime to work with the staff of The Walt Disney Family Museum on such an extensive and important exhibition. I believe visitors will be delighted by the beauty of this animated masterpiece and fascinated by the details of its unique production process."

In the early 1960s, after finishing his work on *The Sword in the Stone* (1963), story artist Bill Peet brought Rudyard Kipling's 1894 children's novel *The Jungle Book* to Walt Disney's attention, proposing it as their 19<sup>th</sup> animated feature film. By 1962, Peet and the Studios' Animation Department had already written an early treatment for *The Jungle Book*, established initial character designs, and devised a rough idea for the iconic song "The Bare Necessities." However, multiple complications arose throughout the making of the film that threatened to shut down production altogether—most notably, how to faithfully adapt Kipling's collection of stories. Dissatisfied with the dark and dramatic tone that had initially been developed, Walt insisted on distancing the animated production from the original source material and creating a lighter musical-comedy aimed at the family demographic. Despite these early disagreements and challenges, as well as Walt's passing in 1966, the film was completed and released in 1967—the last animated feature that Walt personally oversaw—to enormous worldwide success.

*The Jungle Book* ultimately reinvigorated the confidence and determination of The Walt Disney Studios, inspiring its leaders, staff, and artists to continue to entertain audiences through the production of animated films without Walt, while continuing to pay tribute to his life and legacy.

Over 300 rare artworks and ephemera will be on view throughout this immersive special exhibition, including original animation drawings and cels on loan from animation enthusiast and collector Mike Glad, retired Disney Creative Director and animator David Pacheco, and Deja's own collection. An array of maquettes, model sheets, pencil tests, story sketches, concept art, behind-the-scenes photos and documents, American

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and international movie posters, and merchandise will also be on display, as well as archival film clips and interviews.

To enhance their experience, younger visitors and the young-at-heart will also be invited to immerse themselves further in the exhibition through in-gallery interactive elements and engaging wildlife and film-themed activities.

“As always, it has been an absolute pleasure to collaborate with Andreas Deja. His first curatorial project for the museum was in 2014 with the original exhibition, *Leading Ladies and Femme Fatales: The Art of Marc Davis*. In 2019, his second curatorial project and major special exhibition, *Mickey Mouse: From Walt to the World*, attracted a record number of visitors,” says Kirsten Komoroske, Executive Director of The Walt Disney Family Museum. “We are honored and humbled to continue this dynamic partnership and friendship with Andreas and, in this stunning and informative exhibition, to highlight some never-before-seen works from his own personal collection.”

Running concurrently with this exhibition, The Walt Disney Family Museum is also honored to present its first Cause Awareness exhibition, *Creative Conservation: The Art of Endangered Animals*. In partnership with five wildlife sanctuaries located around the world, this exhibition features abstract and pawprint creations by rescued and rehabilitated animals, including panthers, tigers, vultures, chimps, and bears, complemented by watercolor wildlife paintings by Andreas Deja. All artworks will be available to purchase through the museum's website, with proceeds supporting the wildlife sanctuaries and their important work. *Creative Conservation* will open to the public on Friday, April 22 in the museum's Lower Lobby and Theater Gallery, and is free to view for all museum ticketholders.

*Walt Disney's The Jungle Book: Making a Masterpiece* will be on display in the Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall from Thursday, June 23, 2022 through Sunday, January 8, 2023. Ticket reservation details will be available soon at [waltdisney.org/jungle-book](http://waltdisney.org/jungle-book).

## ABOUT ANDREAS DEJA

After seeing *The Jungle Book* (1967) as a child, Andreas Deja remembers immediately writing to The Walt Disney Studios and asking for a job as an animator. In 1980, he was encouraged to apply upon showing his work to one of Walt's "Nine Old Men," Eric Larson. Deja went on to do early character design, costume research, and animation for *The Black Cauldron* (1985), *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986), and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988). He also oversaw the animation of King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* (1989), and served as the supervising animator for such infamous Disney villains as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), Jafar in *Aladdin* (1992), and Scar in *The Lion King* (1994). He was then given the opportunity to create some much-loved heroes and heroines, including the titular character in *Hercules* (1997), Lilo of *Lilo & Stitch* (2002), and Mama Odie in *The Princess and the Frog* (2009). In 2007, Deja was honored with the Winsor McCay Award from ASIFA-Hollywood, the International Animated Film Society, and was later named a Disney Legend in 2015. The Walt Disney Family Museum celebrated his prolific career with the exhibition *Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja* in 2017. Deja is currently working on *Mushka*, his own independent animated short film.

**ABOUT THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM**

The Walt Disney Family Museum presents the fascinating story and achievements of Walt Disney, the man who raised animation to an artform, 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 innovative technology alongside a vast collection of historic materials and artifacts that bring Disney's achievements to life. There is a myriad of interactive galleries, which present 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*; *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*; *Mickey Mouse: From Walt to the World*; and *The Walt Disney Studios and World War II*, several of which have traveled to other museums around the world. The most recent, *Walt Disney's The Jungle Book: Making a Masterpiece*, is the 34th original exhibition organized by the museum since 2012, and will be on view from June 23, 2022 through January 8, 2023 in the Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall.

- Hours:** The Walt Disney Family Museum is open Thursdays through Sundays: 10am to 5:30pm, with last entry at 4:30pm. Closed Mondays through Wednesdays and on the following public holidays: January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.
- Where:** The Presidio of San Francisco, 104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94129.
- Tickets:** Main Museum ticket: \$25 adults; \$20 seniors & students; \$15 youth.  
Special Exhibition ticket: \$20 adults; \$15 seniors & students; \$5 youth.  
Main Museum add-on: \$15 for all.  
Museum admission is free for members, children under 5, and active and retired military personnel, as well as their spouses/dependents with valid ID.
- Contact:** 415.345.6800 | [waltdisney.org](http://waltdisney.org) | [waltdisney.org/jungle-book](http://waltdisney.org/jungle-book)
- Follow:** [facebook.com/wdfmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/wdfmuseum) | Twitter & Instagram: @wdfmuseum
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