



The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents  
***Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation***

**Celebrating the legacy of Walt's "Nine Old Men," together with the animators they inspired**

**San Francisco, April 19, 2018** –The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to announce its newest upcoming special exhibition, *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation*, on view to the public from May 17, 2018 through January 7, 2019. Guest-curated by Don Hahn, Academy Award®-nominated producer of *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) and *The Lion King* (1994), this unique exhibition will celebrate the distinctive talents and contributions of The Walt Disney Studios' most celebrated artists playfully dubbed the "Nine Old Men" by Walt, the famed nine were: Les Clark, Marc Davis, Ollie Johnston, Milt Kahl, Ward Kimball, Eric Larson, John Lounsbery, Wolfgang Reitherman, and Frank Thomas.

*Masters of Animation* will feature an array of artwork and family mementoes from each of the Nine Old Men, including sketchbooks, caricatures, and snapshots, as well as original art from the classic films *Pinocchio* (1940), *Bambi* (1942), *Peter Pan* (1953), *Lady and the Tramp* (1955), and *Sleeping Beauty* (1959). "We are honored to work with Don Hahn," said Kirsten Komoroske, executive director of The Walt Disney Family Museum. "He has comprehensive and personal knowledge of the work of Walt's core animators and has created an immersive experience for our visitors." Personal art, paintings, sculptures, flip-books, and hundreds of original animation drawings will all be on display, alongside documentary interviews with these masters of animation as well as rarely seen pencil tests and final color scenes that showcase their genius.

In conducting his extensive research on the Nine Old Men, Hahn sat down with each of the animators' families for in-depth discussions, unearthing details about the unique backgrounds and personalities of the men behind iconic Disney characters and films. "This exhibition presented a rare chance to work with the families of the Nine Old Men, who opened their homes and collections to us," said Hahn. "This gives us a chance to show a spectacular collection of personal artifacts and ephemera—items never seen by the public—that help tell each animator's individual story and reveal how they collectively elevated character animation to an art form."

With hundreds of objects on display, most of which have been generously loaned to the museum by the Walt Disney Animation Research Library, by Disney Legend and animator Andreas Deja, or are from the museum's own extensive collection of artwork, visitors will have the opportunity to view rarely exhibited and never-before-seen artworks.

The Nine Old Men had an enduring influence on The Walt Disney Studios' culture and animation techniques. Their work and mentorship helped nurture a new generation of animators and filmmakers, including Don Hahn and Andreas Deja, and others such as Brad Bird, Tim Burton, Brenda Chapman, Ron Clements, Glen Keane, John Lasseter, John Musker, and Floyd Norman.

*Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation* is organized by The Walt Disney Family Museum and will be presented in the Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall from May 17, 2018 through January 7, 2019. Support provided by Google.

**ABOUT DON HAHN**

Don Hahn is producer of The Walt Disney Studios' worldwide phenomenon *The Lion King* (1994) and the animated classic *Beauty and the Beast* (1991)—the first animated film to be nominated for an Academy Award® in the Best Picture category. Hahn is executive producer of the acclaimed DisneyNature films *Earth, Oceans, African Cats*, and *Chimpanzee*, and Disney's live-action feature *Maleficent* (2014), starring Angelina Jolie. His other credits include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996), *Fantasia/2000* (1999), *The Emperor's New Groove* (2000), and *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* (2001). His books on animation, art, and creativity include the bestseller *Brain Storm*, the acclaimed art series *Drawn to Life*, and the recently released *Before Ever After: The Lost Lectures of Walt Disney's Animation Studio*. Hahn holds two honorary doctorate degrees, and serves on the board of directors of PBS SoCal and the Advisory Committee of The Walt Disney Family Museum.

**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 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, *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation*, is the 23rd original exhibition organized by the museum since 2012, and will be on view from May 17, 2018 to January 7, 2019 in the Diane Disney Miller Exhibition Hall.

**Hours:** Open Wednesday through Monday: 10am to 6pm, last entry at 4:45pm. 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:** General admission ticket: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors & students, \$15 youth (ages 6 to 17)  
General admission + special exhibition combo ticket: \$30 adults, \$25 seniors & students, \$15 youth  
Special exhibition stand-alone ticket: \$9 all levels, free for youth under 17  
Museum admission is free for members and children under 5

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

**Contact:** 415.345.6800 | [waltdisney.org](http://waltdisney.org) | [waltdisney.org/9OM](http://waltdisney.org/9OM)

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**Media Contact:**

Victoria Rainone  
415.400.4214  
[press@wdfmuseum.org](mailto:press@wdfmuseum.org)

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