



The Magic Behind the Voices: A Who's Who of Cartoon Voice Actors

By Tim Lawson, Alisa Persons

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The Magic Behind the Voices is a fascinating package of biographies, anecdotes, credit listings, and photographs of the actors who have created the unmistakable voices for some of the most popular and enduring animated characters of all time.

Drawn from dozens of personal interviews, the book features a unique look at thirty-nine of the hidden artists of show business. Often as amusing as the characters they portray, voice actors are charming, resilient people-many from humble beginnings-who have led colorful lives in pursuit of success. *Beavis and Butthead* and *King of the Hill*'s Mike Judge was an engineer for a weapons contractor turned self-taught animator and voice actor. Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson) was a small town Ohio girl who became the star protégé of Daws Butler-most famous for Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound, and Quick Draw McGraw. Mickey Mouse (Wayne Allwine) and Minnie Mouse (Russi Taylor) are a real-life husband-and-wife team. Spanning many studios and production companies, this book captures the spirit of fun that bubbles from those who create the voices of favorite animated characters.

In the earliest days of cartoons, voice actors were seldom credited for their work. A little more than a decade ago, even the Screen Actors Guild did not consider voice actors to be real actors, and the only voice actor known to the general public was Mel Blanc. Now, Oscar-winning celebrities clamor to guest star on animated television shows and features.

Despite the crushing turnouts at signings for shows such as *Animaniacs*, *The Simpsons*, and *SpongeBob Squarepants*, most voice actors continue to work in relative anonymity. *The Magic Behind the Voices* features personal interviews and concise biographical details, parting the curtain to reveal creators of many of the most beloved cartoon voices.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Perhaps not surprisingly, cartoon voice actors are overshadowed by their visual embodiments. This book is an earnest attempt to bring the profession more respect by profiling 40 of the biggest names in the business. Lawson and Persons, a freelance writer and animator, respectively, are ever-sunny in their approach; they don't editorialize or provide an in-depth history of the trade. Rather, they simply illuminate an often-ignored corner of show business. Some of the industry's giants—Daws Butler (Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound); Mel Blanc (Bugs Bunny, Barney Rubble)—get their due, but the more intriguing profiles are those of lesser-known performers. The authors unearth Paul Frees, the flamboyant, eccentric, practical-joking voice for many *Rocky and Bullwinkle* characters, who routinely wore firearms to the studio. They introduce one-note actors, too, like Nicole (Jaffe) David, creator of Velma on *Scooby Doo*, who left the show in 1974 and is now John Travolta's agent. The book isn't just concerned with the past, though; there are profiles of Mike Judge (*King of the Hill*), Dan Castellaneta (*The Simpsons*) and John Kricfalusi (*Ren and Stimpy*). Though not always scintillating, this gold mine of information for animation fans will serve as a solid reference work on the field.

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Review

"this clever tribute informs and entertains...Lawson and Persons have taken a fresh approach. A nice addition to film/animation collections." -- *Library Journal Reviews, November 15, 2004*

From the Publisher

A biographical encyclopedia of the actors who gave voice to SpongeBob Squarepants, Beavis and Butthead, Bart and Homer Simpson, Bugs Bunny, Mickey Mouse, and many, many more

Boasts an impressive who's who lineup of voice actors for Yogi Bear, Scooby Doo, the Jetsons, Snow White, Popeye, Betty Boop, Pinkeye, the Brain, Underdog, and more

Features detailed information on 39 voice actors

Features photographs of the voice actors and comprehensive lists of each actor's performance credits

Delivers the zany and fun spirit of these special actors who, until recently, weren't acknowledged

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nathan Herr:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled The Magic Behind the Voices: A Who's Who of

Cartoon Voice Actors can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Anthony Anderson:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Magic Behind the Voices: A Who's Who of Cartoon Voice Actors, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

George Hughes:

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Chris Manley:

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