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# The Nine Old Men: Lessons, Techniques, And Inspiration From Disney's Great Animators



## Synopsis

Learn from the men who changed animation forever Walt Disney's team of core animators, who he affectionately called his "Nine Old Men," were known for creating Disney's most famous works, as well as refining the 12 basic principles of animation. Follow master animator and Disney legend Andreas Deja as he takes you through the minds and works of these notable animators. An apprentice to the Nine Old Men himself, Deja gives special attention to each animator and provides a thoughtful analysis on their techniques that include figure drawing, acting, story structure, and execution. The in-depth analysis of each animator's work will allow you to refine your approach to character animation. Rare sequential drawings from the Disney archives also give you unprecedented access and insight into the most creative minds that changed the course of animation. Instruction and analysis on the works of each of the Nine Old Men broaden your creative choices and approaches to character animation Original drawings, some never-before-seen by the public are explored in depth, giving you behind-the-scenes access into Disney animation history Gain first-hand insight into the foundation of timeless characters and scenes from some of Disney's most memorable feature and short films

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andreas Deja was ten years old when he first applied for a job as a Disney animator. The Walt Disney Studios wrote back to Deja telling him that they had no openings, but were always on the lookout for new talent. At the age of 20, he applied again and was accepted. This launched a long

and successful career with Disney. Deja has left his mark on some of the most memorable and successful Disney animated features and shorts. His early work includes animation and character design for *The Great Mouse Detective*, *Oliver & Company*, and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. In addition, he is known for his animation of some of Disney's most evil villains: Gaston, Jafar, and Scar. The list of memorable characters continues with King Triton, Mickey Mouse, Hercules, Lilo, Goofy, Tigger, Mama Odie, and Juju. In 2006, at the 35th Annie Awards, Deja was awarded the Winsor McCay Award for outstanding contribution to the art of animation. In 2015, he was named a Disney Legend by the Walt Disney Company. Presently, Deja is working on his own independent animated short films and is actively involved in his animation-related blog, *Deja View*.

Simply Brilliant! This book could NOT have been written by ANYONE else. Andreas KNEW almost all of them. So these are FACTS, not opinions. I worked at Disney Animation many years ago. And I have been waiting along time for a book like this! The way Andreas fills the page with heartfelt stories, and techniques and using negative space to fill with beautiful images. BREATHTAKING! If you're a fan of a Walt Disney, Andreas Deja or animation you MUST buy this book! I can't wait to sit down and start sketching! Not that I can hold a candle to any of these artists. But you can't help to be utterly inspired. Thank you Andreas! A legend animator creates a legendary book!!!

The Nine Old Men, the key animators of the 1940's and 50's, continue to inspire many up and coming animators. Andreas Deja, one of the leading Disney animators of the Renaissance era, knew and was taught by most of the Nine Old Men and writes about their careers and contributions to Disney Animation. Unlike Canemaker's earlier book which chronicled the lives of the Nine Old Men, Deja focuses on their skills and animation style while providing many animation sketches of a few scenes from a given film. I love the craft of these animation drawings. For up and coming animators, this should provide inspiration and insight on how to approach various animation aspects. Deja has hinted on writing about the other "earlier generation" of Disney animators as well as coffee table books on individual animators such as Milt Kahl (which would be a real treat). A great read for animators and Disney enthusiasts.

I waited a good long time for this book to finally come out. I have been fascinated with Disney's 9 old men and their work for quite some time. I also have been following Andreas Deja's blog, also being a big fan of his storied life's work. I finally received my copy of the book and was not disappointed at all! What a great resource for fans of traditional 2D animation this book is! The

insights of Andreas Deja are like no other, he knew these men and worked closely with most of them during his apprenticeship and career with Disney. If you are a fan of Disney, this book is a must have. If you know someone who aspires to be an animator, again this book is a must!!!

Wow! What a beautiful book! I love the way it is organized. Each chapter is a mini-biography of each animator. I found it fascinating to learn about each animator's personality, background, and which characters they animated in various Disney films. This book is filled with beautiful photos and sketches. It made me think it would be fun to write a new Disney movie and incorporate at least one character from each animator as an homage to them. I love the preface, too. Thank you, Andreas, for writing this wonderful book!

I've been waiting forever for this book!! It's so beautiful! I was not disappointed with its content! Detailed sketches of each artist and great, applicable background stories for any artist wanting to make themselves legendary

Love love love this book! I have been a long-time fan of the Nine Old Men and of Andreas Deja's blog, and I know this will be one of my go-to books from here on out. This book is *\*all\** about the art. There is artwork on every page and layouts that compliment the drawings. Plus pages and pages of rough animation drawings in sequence for each of the Nine Old Men. The drawings are gorgeous, and it is so great to see them in sequence on the page (and numbered so you can imagine the timing and inbetweens!) If you're a Disney fan, a hand-drawn animation fan, or just a fan of beautiful things, this book is no-brainer.

By: Joshua Garfinkle: I purchased this book for one of my children. The book is coffee table quality, with a nice cover, and has kept my 17 year old enthralled for hours.

Still in the process of reading this gem but it's a good read. Very inspiring.

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