

SUBJECT INDEX:

## DISNEY

"Once again one is left wondering why there should be such an unbridgeable gulf between the brilliant professionalism and sometimes innovative genius of the Disney animated films, and the dull artlessness of the majority of their live-action pictures" – Philip French, **The Times**, on "**No Deposit, No Return**" (76)

While I would agree with J.R.R. Tolkien's declared "heartfelt loathing" of the output of this studio, and of the conservative "family values" it so religiously espouses, there is simply no ignoring Disney as America's closest approximation to a producer of commercial films for children, and as a studio which has provided generations of child actors since Bobby Driscoll (their first) with feature work. None of the huge Disney catalogue can be counted as children's films in the stricter sense - they are made with too much of an eye to the sensibilities of parents. "Family viewing" is the best American kids can hope for, whereas European, Canadian, Australian and Indian children have long enjoyed a healthy output of material made expressly for them.

The hard right politics of dear old "Uncle Walt" have been well attested to, and his exploitation of the talented animators who worked for him. His legacy is a billion-dollar commercial behemoth diversifying into television, publishing, merchandising and of course theme parks, and it too seems to be governed by an ethos as reactionary as the FBI under Hoover.

Whether or not one shares Disney's view of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck as national treasures, there's no disputing that his early animated features won the hearts of millions, becoming both a benchmark for excellence in film animation and a staple of cinema entertainment for families around the globe. Their wholesome, often painfully naïve, world vision sweetened by a fabric of lush colour, humour, motion and singalong melodies, the Disney classics from "**CINDERELLA**" (50) to "**JUNGLE BOOK**" (67) represented American cultural imperialism at its most benign and self-confident. Walt Disney himself died in XXXX, and after him the corporation relaxed into a factory for mass production mediocrity – doing for children's minds and sensibilities what McDonalds does for their nutrition.

Animation falls outside the scope of this archive, so the Disney feature-length fairy tales are not reviewed. However, no critique of the studio's ethos can ignore the cultural vandalism expressed by its repackaging of world children's classics into bland, Americocentric musical adventures for the small minded.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND., PETER PAN, THE JUNGLE BOOK –

Consider for example the animated feature "PETER PAN" ('53). To begin with, Disney casts the voice of 16-year old Bobby Driscoll as Peter, making "the boy who wouldn't grow up" into a teen whose voice has already broken. And then the plot - which revolves not around the wish to preserve simple boyhood heroism and adventure lust, but around female jealousies, as Wendy, Tinkerbell, sundry mermaids and indian squaw Tiger Lily all vie for the amorous attentions of Peter. It is not sufficient that the characters, storyline and philosophy of the original have all been horribly deformed in Disney's hands (Tinkerbell rescuing Peter from a bomb), but the young children in the audience must be tricked into enduring a nauseating sermon on the virtues of motherhood, and a hero who is anything but averse to being fawned over by (shudder) girls!

Take "SNOW WHITE", "CINDERELLA", or any of the more recent crop of animated features - "THE LITTLE MERMAID", "HIAWATHA", "THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST", "THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME", "HERCULES" - and you'll find they are all, without exception, essentially gushing teen romances, the very antithesis of storylines calculated to delight a child audience. These are unalloyed heterosexist propaganda, the Disney corporation perennially preaching (sexless) courtship at its audience, but courtship tales decked out with magic, funny creatures, and basic slapstick as a sweetener to younger viewers. Disney propagandises The Family.

|      |                                                                                                   |      |                                                                                                                                            |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1940 | {Pinocchio} : Animation<br><i>Dickie Jones</i> = voice of Pinocchio                               | 1966 | <b>Follow Me, Boys!</b><br><i>Kurt Russell</i>                                                                                             |
| 1950 | <b>Treasure Island</b><br><i>Bobby Driscoll</i>                                                   | 1967 | <b>A Boy Called "Nuthin"</b> [TV]<br><i>Ronny Howard, Donna Butterworth</i>                                                                |
| 1953 | {Peter Pan} : Animation<br><i>Bobby Driscoll</i> = voice of Peter                                 | 1968 | <b>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang</b><br><i>Anthony Michael Hall</i>                                                                              |
| 1956 | <b>Westward Ho the Wagons!</b><br><i>Cubby O'Brien, Tommy Cole, Karen Pendleton, Doreen Tracy</i> |      | <b>My Side of the Mountain</b><br><i>Teddy Eccles</i>                                                                                      |
| 1957 | <b>Old Yeller</b><br><i>Tommy Kirk, Kevin Corcoran</i>                                            | 1969 | <b>Rascal</b><br><i>Billy Mumy</i>                                                                                                         |
| 1959 | <b>Moochie of the Little League</b> [TV]<br><i>Kevin Corcoran</i>                                 |      | <b>Ride a Northbound Horse</b> [TV]<br><i>Michael Shea</i>                                                                                 |
| 1960 | <b>Chartreuse Caboose</b> [?]<br><i>Mike McGreevey</i>                                            | 1970 | <b>The Boy Who Stole the Elephant</b> [TV]<br><i>Mark Lester, Christopher Shea</i>                                                         |
|      | <b>Moochie of Pop Warner Football</b> [TV]<br><i>Kevin Corcoran</i>                               |      | <b>Menace on the Mountain</b> [TV]<br><i>Mitch Vogel, Eric Shea, Jodie Foster</i>                                                          |
|      | <b>Swiss Family Robinson</b><br><i>Kevin Corcoran, Tommy Kirk</i>                                 | 1971 | <b>Bedknobs and Broomsticks</b>                                                                                                            |
|      | <b>Toby Tyler, or Ten Weeks With a Circus</b><br><i>Kevin Corcoran</i>                            |      | <b>The Boy From Dead Man's Bayou</b> [?]<br>[TV] <i>Mitch Vogel</i>                                                                        |
|      | <b>The Clown and the Kid</b> [?]<br><i>Mike McGreevey</i>                                         |      | <b>Million Dollar Duck</b><br><i>Lee Harcourt Montgomery</i>                                                                               |
| 1962 | <b>Almost Angels</b><br><i>Sean Scully, Vincent Winter</i>                                        |      | <b>The Biscuit Eater</b><br><i>Johnny Whitaker, George Spell</i>                                                                           |
|      | <b>Disneyland After Dark</b><br>(promotional documentary)                                         |      | <b>Napoleon and Samantha</b><br><i>Johnny Whitaker, Jodie Foster</i>                                                                       |
|      | <b>The Mooncussers</b><br><i>Kevin Corcoran</i>                                                   |      | <b>The Castaway Cowboy</b><br><i>Eric Shea</i>                                                                                             |
|      | <b>The Prince and the Pauper</b><br><i>Sean Scully</i>                                            |      | <b>The Whiz Kid and the Mystery at Riverton</b> [TV]<br><i>Eric Shea, Clay O'Brien, Kim Richards</i>                                       |
|      | <b>Sammy the Way-Out Seal</b><br><i>Billy Mumy, Mike McGreevey</i>                                |      | <b>The Boy Who Talked to Badgers</b> [TV]<br><i>Christian Juttner</i>                                                                      |
| 1964 | <b>Emil and the Detectives</b>                                                                    | 1972 | <b>Pablo and the Dancing Chihuahua</b><br><i>Armando Islas</i>                                                                             |
|      | <b>Mary Poppins</b><br><i>Karen Dotrice, Matthew Garber</i>                                       | 1973 | <b>Call it Courage</b><br><i>Evan Temarii</i><br>Short made for TV: Polynesian boy and his dog are stranded on a cannibal-infested island. |
|      | <b>The Three Lives of Thomasina</b><br><i>Karen Dotrice, Vincent Winter</i>                       |      | <b>One Little Indian</b><br><i>Clay O'Brien, Jodie Foster</i>                                                                              |
|      | <b>A Tiger Walks</b><br><i>Pamela Franklin, Kevin Corcoran</i>                                    | 1974 | <b>The Castaway Cowboy</b><br><i>Eric Shea</i>                                                                                             |
|      | <b>Treasure in the Haunted House</b> [?]<br><i>Billy Mumy, Mike McGreevey, Roger Mobley</i>       |      |                                                                                                                                            |

1976 **Born to Run**  
*Robert Bettles*  
Australia

**Escape From the Dark**

**No Deposit, No Return**  
*Brad Savage*

**Ride a Wild Pony**

**The Whiz Kid and the Carnival Caper**  
[TV] *Eric Shea, Clay O'Brien, Kim Richards*

**The Last Flight of Noah's Ark**  
*Ricky Schroder, Tammy Lauren*

1977 **Freaky Friday**  
*Jodie Foster*

1978 **Candleshoe**  
*Jodie Foster*

1982 **Beyond Witch Mountain**

**Tex**

1983 **Something Wicked This Way Comes**

**Tiger Town** [TV]  
*Justin Henry, Noah Moazezi*

1985 **The Blue Yonder** (aka "Time Flyer")  
[TV] *Huckleberry Fox*

**The BRAT Patrol** [TV]  
*Sean Astin, Jason Presson*

**The Leftovers** [TV] :

**Return to Oz**  
*Fairuza Balk*

**The Thanksgiving Promise** [TV]  
*Jordan Bridges*

**Bigfoot** [TV]  
*Adam Carl, Candace Cameron* [?]

**14 Going On 30** [TV]

1988 **A Friendship in Vienna** [TV]

1989 **Cheetah**  
*Keith Coogan, Lucy Deakins*

**Honey, I Shrank the Kids**

1990 **The Little Kidnappers** [TV]  
*Charles Miller, Leo Wheatley*

1992 **Honey, I Blew Up the Kid**

**3 Ninjas**  
*Michael Treanor, Max Elliott Slade, Chad Power*

**The Adventures of Huck Finn**  
*Elijah Wood*

**Heidi** [2x TV]  
*Noely Thornton*

**Angels in the Outfield**  
*Joseph Gordon-Levitt*

**Blank Check**  
*Brian Bonsall*

**Heavyweights**

**Shaggy Dog** [TV]

**The Whipping Boy** [TV]  
*Nic Knight*

**Captains Courageous** (?) [TV]  
*Kenny Vadas, Kar-Erik Eriksen*

1996 **First Kid**  
*Brock Pierce*

1997 **Honey, We Shrank Ourselves**

**Jungle 2 Jungle**  
*Sam Huntington*

19 **Almost Home** (?)  
TV sitcom spinoff of "The Torkelsons"

19 **Brand Spanking New Doug**  
TV series [presumed Disney]

19 **Kids of the Round Table**

19 **A Promise Made** :

19 **The Sinbad Show** (?) : Tv sitcom

19 **Stick With Me Kid** : [TV series]  
*Kristopher Milnes*

19 **The Torkelsons** (?) : [TV sitcom ?]

19 Looking for Miracles

~ 85 titles ~