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The Portland Observer



Focus

It all began, and now continues. with a mouse.

After a decade in which animated entertainment has been celebrated in feature-length films and television se-

ries, animation's original form - cartoon shorts - is now coming into its own with the premiere of "Disney's MickeyMouseWorks" from Walt Disney Television Animation. The se-

ries premieres Saturday, May 1 (Noon ET/ 11 AM, PT) on ABC as part of the "Disney's One Saturday Morning" lineup.

"You could call this a series 70 years in the

making,'

said Charles

Hirschhorn.

president,

Walt Disney

Television.

"Mickey and

his pals con-

tinue to de-

light and en-

tertain fans

all over the

world - on

film, in our

broadcast

on

and



Forever sweethearts Donald & Daisy share romantic - and humorous moments in "Disney's Mickey MouseWorks." The new half-hour series, which features The Walt Disney Studies' best known stars, premieres May 1 (Noon ET/ 11 AM, PT) as part of the "Disney's One Saturday Morning" line-up on ABC.

tainment form in which they were created."

While the characters remain true to their roots, the proposed show breaks free from typical animated series (22-minute episodes) to present an inventive format of interwoven cartoon shorts of varying lengths (12, 7 1/2 and 6 minutes, and 90 seconds). Among the many delights is a landmark opening title seouence that merges computer-generated images and traditional character animation to guide viewers on a step-by-step "tour" of the studio that "creates" the "Mickey MouseWorks" cartoons. Produced by the award-winning digital entertainment design company, L@it2'd, the one-minute sequence features an abundance of "hidden" images retheme parks, lating to the series, its characters and the entire process of animation.

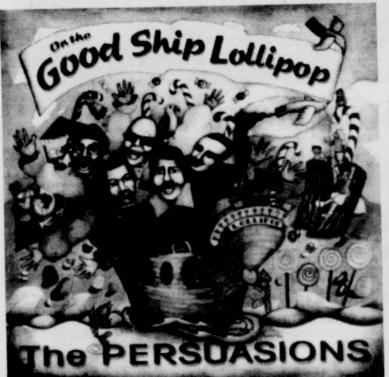
The 90-second shorts are characand cable ter-driven, fast and funny. For extelevision. ample, Mickey is always in a situation And now in where he must be heroic ("Mickey to a television the Rescue"); Minnie in a place where series featurher talent and diplomacy are quintesing these besential ("Maestro Minnie"); and Pluto loved Disney in circumstances that test his loyalty characters in and doggedness ("Pluto Gets The Paoriginal, allper"). Other 90-second titles include: new shorts the enter-"Donald's Dynamite," "Goofy's Ex-

treme Sports" and "Von Drake's House of Genius.

The 6- and 7 1/2-minute cartoons offer more room for humor, story and emotion, such as: well-meaning Mickey's mishaps after he bends the truth or cuts a corner; Donald waging war with Mickey, Goofy, his nephews or his own greatest adversary - himself; Goofy's classic "How To ..." instructional formula cartoons; a trip into Pluto's non-Mickey world, where bully Butch, desirable Dinah Dachshund and figments of the imagination are his primary focus; the adventures of benevolent Minnie and high-maintenance Daisy; and the wacky antics of Ludwig Von Drake. Greater fun ensues when combinations of the characters are tossed together in comically inherent situatons, like the odd jobs performed by the eager-to-work trio of Mickey, Donald & Goofy, who paint roller coasters or catch turkeys.

The "classics" of literature, stage and screen receive a special take in the 12-minute "Mouse Tales" shorts, retelling famous stories in a lighthearted, comic manner as performed by Mickey and the gang. "Mouse Tales" include Around the World in 80 Days, A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Nutcracker.

Come Aboard



The Good Ship Lollipop as The Persuasions navigate a cappella with crystal clear clarity in their children's release from Music For Little People. With Grammy nominated producer Leib Ostrow at the helm, Jerry, Joe, Jimmy and Jayotis chart a course for a delightful journey thru "kid-dom" with original and classic children's tunes such as

Teddy Bears' Picnic, I'm So Glad (I've Got Skin), Big Rock Candy Mountain and How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?

Regarded as an American musical institution, The Persuasions were discovered by Frank Zappa in 1961, long before Boyz were ever men and have performed virtually everywhere in the world having been paired with Liza Minelli, Bette Milder, Stevie Wonder, Lou Reed, Van Morrison, Paul Simon and B.B. King (to name a few) and opening for Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor. Bruce Springsteen and Roseanne Barr, at one time, opened for them. Their friend, Tom Waits, has said "These guys are deep sea divers - I'm just a fisherman in a boat".

Spike Lee featured them as the Godfather of a capella in his video production "Do It A Capella" and they were more recently made the exclusive subject of a feature length documentary "Spread The World" which opened commercially to rave reviews in California and New York, as well as being honored by the Smithsonian Institute.

Defying categorization, The Persuasions repertoire consists of over a thousand songs sung to ev-

ery type of music. Listen closely and you will swear there are instruments back there somewhere - but don't wager on it! It's just vocal magic setting the stage for a great adventure on a smooth sea of "good time", "great memories", and "just plain fun".



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