



You are cordially invited to

# **The Animation Guild's Annual Party**

**Friday, January 9, 2015 ★ 7 pm-11 pm**

**Autry National Center of the American West**

**4700 Western Heritage Way**

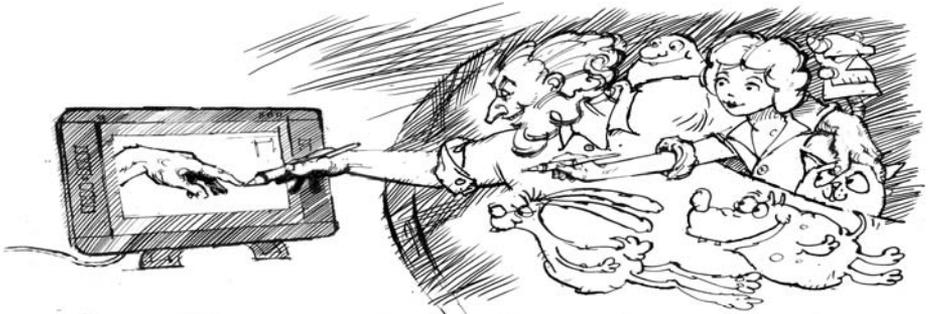
**Griffith Park, Los Angeles**

**Free admission ★ Free food ★ Free parking**

**Cash bar ★ Free soft drinks**

**No RSVP necessary**

**Open to the communities of animation and labor**



# PEGBOARD

ANIMATION GUILD AND AFFILIATED ELECTRONIC AND GRAPHIC ARTS  
Los Angeles, California, December 2014 Vol. 43, Nº. 12

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Anyone that finds steady work in the entertainment business has to consider themselves lucky. For me to have spent 16 years in the business, 13 of them under a union contract, was good fortune and a fulfillment of a childhood desire. When I saw the movie “Tron”

I assumed that someday all movies would be made using computers as an essential component. (Little did I realize how much of that movie was animated by hand!)

So, it’s with a heavy heart that I announce I’m leaving the business. I have accepted a position at Autodesk in Montreal. I hope to continue helping an industry I love, but now as a developer of software tools that help artists do their best work. I will be working to see the technology of the industry improve so that artists spend more of their time on creative work, as well as be better able to produce their own independent work.

This means I must resign my position as President of the Guild. My successor will be chosen at the January general membership meeting. Vice President Jack Thomas has agreed to run, and my hope is that your decision in January supports the goals of our guild for many years to come.

We are on the cusp of one of the most important negotiations we have had in our guild history. The segment of our industry called “new media” has grown from an experimental frontier to one of the key distribution modalities in the entertainment landscape. Hulu and Amazon and Netflix did not produce series television when the new media agreement was made in 2012. These internet “networks” now produce content equal to major media companies like HBO and

the Disney Channel. It is hard to argue that artists working on these productions work under conditions less than their “traditional distribution” counterparts because their marketplace is untested. On the contrary, digital distribution has proven to be lucrative for many entertainment producers.

I also note that many unions support payroll deduction for their membership dues and for political action committees. I would strongly suggest that our guild be permitted to do the same. This can provide both convenience and greater political strength.

The guild represents more animation artists today than it has in its history. We are stronger than ever before. I am sorry that I cannot be there with you as you face the producers in 2015, but I will be with you in spirit. If you happen to use any of the tools I will be working on, I hope that in some small way I can help you put your best work forward.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as an officer of the guild these many years. Thank you for your support and for the great work you continue to produce.

- *Nathan Loofbourrow*

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## **Contract Holidays in 2015**

MLK Jr. Day - *Dreamworks and Nick Only* - (January 19)  
President’s Day (February 16)  
Good Friday - *Not Dreamworks and Nick* - (April 3)  
Memorial Day (May 25)  
Independence Day - Observed (July 3)  
Labor Day (September 7)  
Thanksgiving and the day after (November 27 and 28)  
Christmas (December 25)

Your employer may schedule other days off; contact your supervisor or human resources department for details.

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the animation guild

IATSE LOCAL 839

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS!

This month sees the departure of President Loofbourrow and Bob Foster from the Executive Board leaving two openings on the Executive Board that qualifying member of the local have the opportunity to fill. According to Article 6, Section 9(a) of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Local, the presidential vacancy has to be filled at the January General Membership meeting:

*(a) President.* In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next regular Membership meeting. At that meeting, a By-Election shall be held by secret ballot to fill the position of President. The President thus elected shall serve the remainder of the term of the previous President.

President Loofbourrow took office in January of 2014. His term was to end at the next Officer Election which will be held in the fall of 2016. The member who is elected to be President at the January Membership meeting will serve the remainder of the two years on this term.

To fill Brother Foster's vacated seat on the Board, Article 6, Section 9(e) of the Constitution and By-Laws states that the Executive Board shall nominate and vote on qualifying members at the January Executive Board meeting. The January Executive Board meeting will be held in the evening of Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

*(e) Other Officers.* In the event a vacancy occurs in the position of Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, or Executive Board member, the Executive Board shall set a date for nominations to fill the vacancy. Said nominations shall be held no sooner than at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

In the event there is only one nominee, the election may take place at the nomination meeting. Otherwise, the election shall take place at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting following the nominations, and the newly

*(see EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS on page 6)*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS**

*(continued from page 5)*

elected officer shall be sworn in as soon as is practical.

In order to hold a position on the Executive Board, a member must meet the eligibility criteria as defined in Article 6, Section 1(i):

*(i) Eligibility.* To be eligible for office, a member must have first joined, or transferred into this Local, at least two years previous to this date of nomination; must have been active in this Local for a period of twelve months previous to the date of nomination, and must have been in good standing in this Local for a period of two years previous to this date of nomination, and must not be disqualified from holding Guild office under any applicable Government law.

Therefore, members who wish to be considered for either of the open positions must have become an active member of the local and not have been suspended or taken Honorable Withdrawal at any time since January 25, 2013. It is important to remember that a member paying their initiation fee is not considered an active member, but rather a member in the process of joining and therefore not eligible for being an Officer of the local.

Any member interested in checking if they qualify to hold an Officer position can call the local during normal business hours, Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 5:00pm. Any member who is interested in taking the open position on the Executive Board should contact Steve Hulett by phone (818-845-7500) or email ([shulett@animationguild.org](mailto:shulett@animationguild.org)) no later than January 5, 2015. Any member who is interested in running for the office of President of the local, should plan on attending the January General Membership meeting on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00pm to submit their name as a candidate.

**BOOKMARK  
THE TAG BLOG**

[animationguildblog.blogspot.com](http://animationguildblog.blogspot.com)



## “B.O.O” PUSH

The Times reports:

DreamWorks has decided to push back the release date for “B.O.O.: Bureau of Other Worldly Operations,” one of two original movies (rather than sequels) planned for next year, two people close to the studio said.

One person said DreamWorks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg was unhappy with the progress of the film, while another said the decision had more to do with the competitive landscape the studio faces next summer. Pixar also will release its movie “Inside Out” in June.

- <http://839iat.se/dreamworks-happenings>

The story I got from staffers during a trek through the studio last week was that the story needs work. A recent presentation of the feature to lead creatives and execs indicated weaknesses, and so the shift in release dates maybe isn't a surprise, eh?

*A note to the uninitiated:* In Animationland, stories almost always need “tweaking”. Sometimes a whole lot of major league tweaking.

Pixar's orphan movie “The Good Dinosaur” has a new parent — and a new story..

First-time feature director Peter Sohn, an artist at the studio in Emeryville, Calif., since 2000, unofficially took over the film a few months after Pixar executives removed its first director, Bob Peterson, amid creative concerns in the summer of 2013.

Over the last year, Sohn has been quietly streamlining the story, a buddy comedy about a teenage dinosaur and a human boy, in preparation for a November 2015 release.

- <http://839iat.se/pixar-happenings>

- Steve Hulett



Shortly before I was hired, the Guild was preparing to hold another Officer election. Brother Massie republished a letter from David Brain in the September 2010 Pegboard. Dave had just retired from the industry after forty-one years and also stepped down from his Executive Board position after five terms. In his letter, Dave

shares his thoughts on why our Union exists and makes a plea for the right person to fill his vacant seat. I share parts of his letter here now to inspire you to consider participating as an Executive Board member as well. For his full letter, read the September 2010 Pegboard at this link:

<http://839iat.se/sept2010-pegboard>

I have watched the nature of the studios we work for change as they became divisions of conglomerate corporations. We used to be considered ongoing assets and family. Now the corporations consider its management corps as its family. We are “talent” hired or contracted to fill a present need. The corporation’s assets are its copyrighted material and entities.

If the animation people who started this union felt it was important and worked to establish it, how much more important it must be now. This is why I have served on the Executive Board for five terms.

Service on the Executive Board isn’t for everyone. You must believe in the rights of labor and collective bargaining as strongly as the corporations believe in their license to hold copyright. Copyright isn’t a natural law. It’s a legal construct and it makes imperative the right of employees to bargain collectively. Additionally, you must be in a situation to be absent from your family a few evenings a month. You must care enough about your workplace situation to listen patiently to others information and opinions about it and speak your own mind clearly and effectively.

So I’m probably addressing just a few when I ask you to attend the general membership meeting and have yourself placed in nomination.

You probably know whether this request addresses you or not. If it does, don’t shy away.

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# This Month in Animation History

by Tom Sito

Dec. 1, 1951 - MIT scientists booted up the TX-0 Computer. Called the Tixo, it was the first computer that could do more than one program at a time. It also had the first computer screen and first light pen. The TX-2 was used to write the first animation program Sketchpad, and the first interactive game Spacewar, both in 1962.

Dec. 1, 1953 - Ex-Esquire magazine art director and frustrated cartoonist Hugh Hefner published the first issue of Playboy Magazine. It featured a centerfold of actress Marilyn Monroe. She joked to the press "I had nothing on but the radio!" Playboy went on to employ a lot of cartoonists, including Harvey Kurtzman, Alberto Vargas, Rowland Wilson, Arnold Roth, Gahan Wilson and Dean Yeagle.

Dec. 2, 1935 - Animator Marc Davis' first day at Walt Disney Studios.

Dec. 3, 1934 - Lee Blair, Disney artist and brother of Preston Blair, Disney artist, married Mary Browne Robinson, Disney artist. She became the most famous of them as Mary Blair.

Dec. 4, 1941 - *Mr. Bug Goes to Town* opened. It was Max Fleischer's last gamble to keep up with Walt Disney and keep his studio alive. However the events of Pearl Harbor three days after not only sunk the American Navy, but also Hoppity's box office which put Max out of business.

Dec. 6, 1915 - Max Fleischer patented the rotoscope. This system enabled you to film an actor then draw the cartoons over the still frames of the live action to achieve a realistic motion. (an early form of Motion Capture) Max would film his brother Dave in a clown suit then draw Koko the Clown over him.

Dec. 6, 1964 - Rankin Bass' TV special *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*' broadcast for the first time.

Dec. 7, 1941 - The Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor brings America into World War II.

Dec. 8, 1941 - The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, The LA civil defense command placed anti-aircraft guns on the Walt Disney Studio lot because of it's proximity to the aircraft plant of Lockheed (Burbank Airport). Walt Disney himself was turned away at the front gate for not wearing his identity badge.

Dec. 9, 1965- Bill Melendez's *A Charlie Brown Christmas* TV special premiered. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* has run every year since - a 49 year run.

Dec. 9, 1968 - Dr. Douglas Engelbart of Stanford held "The Mother Of All Demos" at Brooks Hall in SF. He demonstrated the first prototype

computer workstation, using hot keys, a printer and an internet connection to Stanford, 40 miles away. Engelbart also invented the computer mouse and coined the term “on-line”.

<http://839iat.se/mother-of-demos>

Dec. 9, 1994 - Disney feature animators in Burbank moved into their new animation building designed by Robert Stern, topped by a big Mickey wizard hat.

Dec. 11, 1970 - Walt Disney's *The Aristocats* premiered.

Dec. 11, 2009 - Walt Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* opened.

Dec. 12, 1952 - The first Screen Actors Guild Strike took place. President Walter Pidgeon, Dr. Morbius in *Forbidden Planet*, had movie stars hit the bricks to win television and commercial residuals.

Dec. 13, 1940 - Fleischer's Popeye cartoon *Eugene the Jeep* premiered. The Thimble Theater character would give its name to the new army General Purpose vehicle - G.P. or “Jeep”.

Dec. 13, 1971 - Disney's film *Bedknobs and Broom Sticks* opened.

Dec. 14, 1913 - Cartoonist Johnny Gruelle entertained his dying daughter by making up stories involving her rag dolls. After her passing, friends urged Gruelle to publish them. The Raggedy Ann stories were born.

Dec. 14, 1957 - Hanna Barbera's first TV cartoon, *Ruff and Ready*, premiered.

Dec. 14, 1983 - Disney Studio released the short film *Frankenweenie*, done by a young artist named Tim Burton.

Dec. 15, 1966 - Walt Disney died at age 65. A heavy cigarette smoker, he suffered from lung & lymph cancer and respiratory failure. He was alone in the room at Saint Joseph's when he died. In his hand was a piece of paper with the name “Kurt Russell” written on it.

Dec. 16, 1978 - The Disney short *The Small One*, directed by Don Bluth, premiered.

Dec. 16, 2009 - Roy E. Disney, the Disney nephew who oversaw the animation resurgence of the 1990s, passed away.

Dec. 17, 1969 - Walt Disney Studios re-released *Fantasia*. It was embraced by hippy stoners who liked to get high during screenings. It was the first time the movie ever actually turned a profit.

Dec. 18, 1939 - Max Fleischer's animated classic *Gulliver's Travels* premiered.

Dec. 18, 1964 - DePatie-Freleng's *The Pink Phink*, the first Pink Panther cartoon short, premiered.

Dec. 18, 1966 - Chuck Jones' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* premiered.

Dec. 18, 1984 - Pixar's first short *The Adventures of Andre and Wally-B* premiered at Siggraph Minneapolis. Directed by Alvy Ray Smith and animated by John Lasseter.

(see THIS MONTH IN ANIMATION HISTORY on page 14)

## THIS MONTH IN ANIMATION HISTORY

(continued from page 13)

Dec. 18, 1998 - Dreamworks feature cartoon *The Prince of Egypt*, or as it was known in Hollywood "The Zion King", debuted.

Dec. 19, 1914 - Earl Hurd patented animation 'cels' (celluloids) and backgrounds. Before this cartoonists tried drawing the background settings over and over again or slashed the paper around the character and tried not to have it walk in front of anything. By the late 1990's, most cels & cel paint had been replaced by digital imaging.

Dec. 19, 1958 - Walt Disney Productions holiday special *From All of Us, to All of You* premiered.

Dec. 19, 1974 - The first personal computer went on sale. The computer came in a kit that you had to build and it cost \$397. The following year two kids at Harvard named Bill Gates and Paul Allen created a programming language for it called BASIC.

Dec. 19, 2001 - Peter Jackson's film *The Lord of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Ring* opened. Massive, software developed for crowd animation, was developed for the film.

Dec. 20, 1968 - *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day* premiered.

Dec. 21, 1937 - Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* had its grand premiere at the Cathay Circle Theater. The first feature length American cartoon, it became the box office champ of 1938, mostly with low price kiddie matinee tickets.

Dec. 21, 1971 - Richard William's animated TV special *A Christmas Carol* premiered. Alastair Sim reprised his role as Scrooge for the production.

Dec. 21, 2012 - The Walt Disney Company spent \$4.06 billion to buy Lucasfilm, ILM and the Star Wars franchise rights. George Lucas retired to do philanthropic pursuits.

Dec. 23, 1935 - Walt Disney sent a detailed memo to art teacher Don Graham outlining his plans for retraining his animators to do realistic feature films.

Dec. 24, 1925 - The London Evening News published a story "In which we are introduced to Winnie the Pooh, and some Bees." by A.A. Milne. The first Winnie the Pooh book came out the following year.

Dec 24, 1937 - The Walt Disney short *Lonesome Ghosts* premiered.

Dec. 25, 1955 - Chuck Jones' *One Froggy Evening* premiered. Director Steven Spielberg called it the "Citizen Kane of Cartoons." "The Michigan Rag" was written by Chuck Jones & Mike Maltese specifically for the cartoon.

Dec. 25, 1963 - Walt Disney's *The Sword in the Stone* released.

Dec. 26, 1939 - Walt Disney Animation moved from Hyperion to the Burbank Studio lot. The buildings are designed like hospital

wards, so in case he hits economic trouble, Disney could sell them to the planned St. Joseph's Hospital across the street. Animator Ward Kimball said it was the first time he worked in a studio where all the furniture matched.

Dec. 28, 1895 - In Paris at the Grande Cafe des Capuchines, the Lumiere brothers combined Edison's kinoscope using George Eastman's roll film, with a lantern projector and showed a motion picture to an audience in a theater. They called their device a Cinematograph, hence the word Cinema is born. At a performance that first week was magician Georg Melies. He was inspired to find ways to apply his magic tricks to filmmaking, spawning the art of Visual Effects.

Dec. 28, 1914 - THE FIRST TRUE CHARACTER ANIMATION - Windsor McCay's *Gertie the Dinosaur* premiered as part of a vaudeville act. Up to then most U.S. animations were attempts to bring popular newspaper comic characters to life, but Gertie was a new character. Some critics had wondered if animated characters weren't some kind of man in a special suit, so McCay drew a dinosaur, a character that couldn't possibly be impersonated by any living thing.

Dec. 29, 1913 - Cecil B. DeMille telegraphed his partners back in New York "*Flagstaff no good for our purpose. Have proceeded to California. Want authority to rent a barn in a place called Hollywood for \$75 a month.*" His partner Sam Goldwyn cabled back: "*Rent barn on month to month basis.*

*Do not make long commitment.*" This initiative by DeMille is considered the true beginning of the movie industry in Hollywood.

Dec. 29, 1964 - The filming model of the starship U.S.S. Enterprise was delivered to the set of the pilot episode by model maker Rick Datin, Jr. It was based on a design created by Star Trek production artist Walter "Matt" Jefferies.

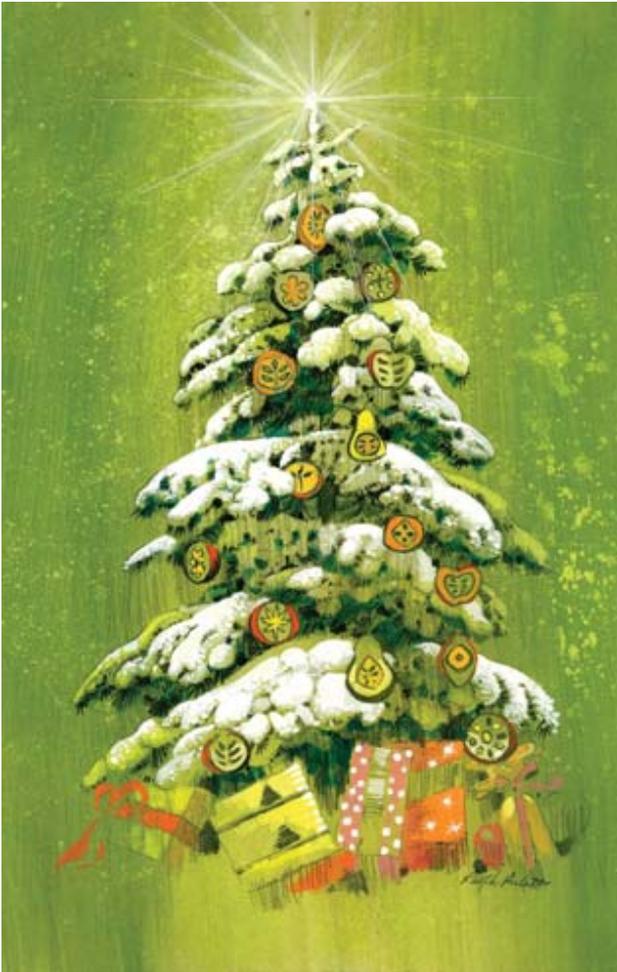
Dec. 29, 1968 - Animator Bill Tytla died at age 64, from complications of a stroke.

Dec. 30, 1988 - The Pixar short *Tin Toy* released. It is the first CG short to win an Oscar.

Dec. 31, 1995 - The last Calvin and Hobbes comic strip by Bill Waterston.

Birthdays: George Méliès, James Thurber, Walt Disney, Fritz Lang, Nick Park, Clarence Nash, Richard Fleischer, Elzie Seegar (Popeye), E. H. Shepard (the original illustrator of Winnie the Pooh), Edvard Munch, Daryl Zanuck Jr., Bart Simpson, Leonard Maltin, Diane Disney Miller, Phil Roman, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Harry Shearer, Glenn McQueen, Howard Beckerman, Linwood Dunn, Stan Lee, Rick Farniloe, Duncan Marjoribanks, Rudyard Kipling, Henri Matisse.

- Tom Sito



**Gallery 839 presents**

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Ralph Hulett Christmas Cards  
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Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm**



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# INTERESTING LINKS

## **TOP BLOG POSTS**

Conspiracy: <http://839iat.se/more-wage-fixing>

The Futility of Forecasting the Future: <http://839iat.se/forecast-futile>

Only One Solution: <http://839iat.se/dreamworks-solition>

## **INDUSTRY NEWS**

CUT! DreamWorks' script needs rewrite, say investors:  
<http://839iat.se/dreamworks-concerns>

The Hack at Sony Pictures Entertainment:  
<http://839iat.se/sonyhack-wired>  
<http://839iat.se/sonyhack-cnet>  
<http://839iat.se/sonyhack-thr>

Disney, DreamWorks & Sony Hit with New, Consolidated Lawsuit:  
<http://839iat.se/consolidated-suits>

27 Animated Features To Look For in 2015: <http://839iat.se/2015-animation>

DHX Acquires Nerd Corps To Create 700-Employee Canadian Mega-Studio:  
<http://839iat.se/canada-mega-animation>

Mouse in Transition by Steve Hulett now available in print:  
<http://839iat.se/mouse-transition-amazon>  
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