Disney Influence

There are so many different things that Disney helped to influence in my life. I grew up watching Disney and enjoying things that were created and inspired because of Disney. Throughout my essay, I will cover many things that gave inspiration to me and helped put a smile on my face, begin to see the world differently, and helped give me a desire to create animations and content myself.

There was a trip to Disneyland I went on when I was younger (around the age of 6), but I also went a few times in middle school and high school. Going to Disneyland was such a great experience and Disney has so many fun creations within it, such as the art, rides, etc. The music is charming, the treats are so cute, and the designs on the rides and buildings just make people happy. It helps bring a lot of their creations come to life and make it feel more real. I even got to perform a couple times, one time on my orchestra trip and another on my choir trip.

Some of the movies are so very inspiring. I grew up loving all the princess movies. It had a lot of meaning to me as a child. The stories helped to inspire my imagination and come up with my own ideas of stories. As an adult, there continues to be more movies and content that Disney comes out that is impressive as well. The more I work on animation projects, the more I have an appreciation for all the work that goes into it.

I remember watching Popeye the Sailor growing up. It's crazy how it made so many kids want to eat spinach. It made me think about spinach as well as a child and I remember wondering what it tasted like. I figured it wasn’t as good as what Popeye made it seem considering it’s a vegetable, but I was still just curious about it. I ended up trying it and it still wasn’t my favorite, but I at least wanted to like it, which is pretty impressive a show could have that impact on me.

Pocahontas was one of the best movies I remember watching while growing up. I loved some of the music they used in it. The raccoon character, hummingbird, and great tree had so much personality to it and the animators did such an amazing job making them come alive and feel like real, living beings. I love the interaction between Pocahontas and John where she is helping him see a new view of things. It helped show people what they were doing by claiming the lands and the greed they had to try and take them, without thinking about the lives and homes that were being destroyed in the process. It helped introduce a culture America was not familiar with and see through the eyes of the people.

I loved Mulan as a child. One of my favorite songs from that movie was Reflection, because of the wonderful melody it carried and the meaning it offered. It helped the audience to see how Mulan was feeling when she couldn’t be the person her family wanted, and I think everyone has things about themselves or about their lives they wish they could change. This made her a relatable character in the sense that she wanted to feel proud of herself even though she was different. This was also great in helping America view a culture different from our own and even creates characters based off this culture, such as Mushu and her ancestral spirits.

I think one thing that I really liked about these culturally different movies, is the fact that they introduced me to something I hadn’t seen before and felt unique and fascinating. I’m someone who also really loved learning, so being able to see other cultures and how people interact within that culture is very interesting to me. Furthermore, the fact Disney helped to expose me to these cultures at a young age, is probably what helped me to be much more open minded and nonjudgmental of those who held different beliefs that me. Being different could be a good thing as showed in Disney content.

The Little Mermaid was a beloved movie of my childhood as well. I think one of my favorite concepts in the movie was the fact that she had turned back and forth between human and mermaid. Obviously, it came at a price to do so, but it still helped bring so much of my imagination to life. Thinking about living in the ocean was such a fun idea and I would dream up of my own stories on mermaids and what they might do as a mermaid. The story itself was well done too, having her be able to experience human life and not knowing common things that humans naturally know. It is quite ironic in the sense that she wished to be human so much, while it’s likely many people would love to try being a mermaid just as much. However, that probably just stems from the fact that we tend to want what we can’t have, especially if we never got to try it before.

WALL·E was such a creative movie. I think space is so interesting and the fact that they even had created what it might be like if humans had to live in space, true or not, was absolutely fantastic. It’s honestly quite humorous, but also a real eye opener to the issues we already have in society today. What happens in that movie honestly might not be far off from how human lives might go if we were in those circumstances. We already lose a lot of our time due to distractions on the internet, obesity continues to rise, and humans tend to be rather lazy if they are given the opportunity (at least that’s my opinion, I know I am this way and must make a substantial effort to make sure I don’t do this). For example, there’s a reason why a lot of people stopped working during Covid when the government started giving them money. People will be lazy if they can, because everyone prefers the easy way. I liked how they also gave technological machinery so much intelligence, to the point they had feelings. So many other great points to this movie, but I guess I shouldn’t make this paper too long.

Ratatouille was such a classic. I am such a foodie and anything to do with food is entertaining for me. It was so creative, and I love the classic line “anyone can cook.” I think this was very motivational and liked the lesson that people shouldn’t give up on their dreams just because they are not as good as someone else. Also, the fact that the rat is the one that can cook the best, helps to give the lesson that you shouldn’t judge someone based on appearances. You find talent in different places and sometimes where you are least expecting it.

In addition to theses movies that had a great impact on my life, there were also some games that I loved playing as well. One of the games from Disney that I probably played the most was Toon Town. It was such a fun game and I even many years later, I’ve come back to it to play it again for the feelings of nostalgia and impact it’s had on me. It was great for playing alone but also for playing with friends. Games like this just put me in a good mood when I was feeling down or stressed and even just helped if I was bored at times.

One other Disney game that I played as a child was My Disney Kitchen. I still remember how much I loved this game growing up. Within the game, you get to bake a cake for Mickey and Minnie or you can make them breakfast—eggs, pancakes, and bacon. You also got to play around with the kitchen, etc. Even though it wasn’t real cooking, I didn’t know how to cook as a child, so it felt like I got to experiment with cooking for once (putting popcorn and spaghetti in a blender inside the game and seeing what would happen) even though I hadn’t known anything about it. It was fun to be experimental on something that a child maybe couldn’t do in a real kitchen.

All in all, you might not think that animation or drawings could be that important. However, it’s truly what you do with them is what makes a difference. Perhaps a lot of it was luck, but either way, Walt Disney’s actions made a huge difference in my life, and the lives of many others. I am very grateful for this because it has helped me to become who I am today, and to help me grow a love for creativity and imagination. It helped to entertain me and shape my views on the world today. And I have Walt Disney to thank for helping making my childhood so great.