

= Beauty and the Beast ( 1991 film ) =

Beauty and the Beast is a 1991 American animated musical romantic fantasy film produced by Walt Disney Feature Animation and released by Walt Disney Pictures . The 30th film in the Walt Disney Animated Classics series and the third in the Disney Renaissance period , it is based on the French fairy tale of the same name by Jeanne @-@ Marie Leprince de Beaumont , who was also credited in the English version as well as in the French version , and ideas from the 1946 French film directed by Jean Cocteau . Beauty and the Beast focuses on the relationship between the Beast ( Robby Benson ) , a prince who is magically transformed into a monster as punishment for his arrogance , and Belle ( Paige O'Hara ) , a beautiful young woman whom he imprisons in his castle . To become a prince again , Beast must win her love in return otherwise he remains a monster forever . The film also features the voices of Richard White , Jerry Orbach , David Ogden Stiers , and Angela Lansbury .

Walt Disney first attempted unsuccessfully to adapt Beauty and the Beast into an animated feature film during the 1930s and 1950s . Following the success of The Little Mermaid ( 1989 ) , Disney decided to adapt the fairy tale , which Richard Purdum originally conceived as a non @-@ musical . Disney chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg eventually discontinued the idea and ordered that the film be a musical similar to The Little Mermaid instead . Beauty and the Beast was directed by Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise , with a screenplay by Linda Woolverton story first credited to Roger Allers . Lyricist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken wrote the film 's songs . Ashman , who additionally served as an executive producer on the film , died of AIDS @-@ related complications eight months before the film 's release , and the film was dedicated to his memory .

Beauty and the Beast premiered as an unfinished film at the New York Film Festival on September 29 , 1991 , followed by its theatrical release as a completed film at the El Capitan Theatre on November 22 . The film was a box office success , grossing \$ 425 million worldwide . Beauty and the Beast received positive reviews ; it won the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture ? Musical or Comedy and became the first animated film to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture . It won the Academy Award for Best Original Score and Best Original Song for its title song . In 2002 , Beauty and the Beast was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress for being " culturally , historically , or aesthetically significant " .

In April 1994 , Beauty and the Beast became Disney 's first animated film to be adapted into a Broadway musical . The success of the film spawned two direct @-@ to @-@ video follow @-@ ups : Beauty and the Beast : The Enchanted Christmas ( 1997 ) and Beauty and the Beast : Belle 's Magical World ( 1998 ) . This was followed by a spin @-@ off television series , Sing Me a Story with Belle . An IMAX version was released in 2002 that included " Human Again " , a new five @-@ minute musical sequence . After the success of the 3 @-@ D re @-@ release of The Lion King , the film was reissued in 3 @-@ D in 2012 . In 2014 , it was announced that a live @-@ action remake was in the works , and is scheduled for release in March 2017 .

= = Plot = =

An enchantress , disguised as an old beggar , offers a rose to a young prince , in exchange for shelter in his castle from the cold , but the prince refuses . For his arrogance , the enchantress transforms him into a beast and places a spell on the castle . She gives him a magic mirror that enables him to view faraway events , along with the enchanted rose that she had offered . To break the spell , the prince must learn to love another and earn her love in return before the rose 's last petal falls on his 21st birthday . If he fails , he will remain a beast forever .

Ten years later , a young bookworm girl named Belle is bored of her village life and seeks excitement . Because of her nonconformist ideals , she is ridiculed by everyone except her father Maurice an odd inventor , the town bookseller , and an arrogant , vain ; muscular hunter named Gaston . Despite being popular with the townsfolk , Gaston is determined to marry Belle . She repeatedly rejects his advances .

Maurice and his horse Phillipe get lost in the forest while traveling to a fair to present his wood

@-@ chopping machine . After being chased by a pack of wolves , he comes across the Beast 's castle . Inside , he meets Lumière the candlestick , Cogsworth the clock , Mrs. Potts the teapot , and her son Chip the teacup . However , the Beast quickly discovers and detains Maurice . After Phillipe leads Belle to the Beast 's castle , she offers to take her father 's place . Over her father 's objections , the Beast accepts Belle 's offer . While Gaston sulks over Belle 's rejection , Maurice returns to town but is unable to convince the others to save Belle from the Beast .

The Beast sulks in his room when Belle refuses to have dinner with him that night . Despite this , Lumière offers her a meal . While he and Cogsworth also give her a tour of the castle , she wanders into the forbidden West Wing . When the Beast inadvertently chases her into the forest by frightening her in frustration , Belle encounters the pack of wolves . After the Beast is injured while fending them off , Belle thanks him for saving her life . He begins to develop feelings for her while she nurses his wounds and he delights her by showing his extensive library . While the two begin to bond , Gaston pays Monsieur D 'Arque to send Maurice to the town 's insane asylum if Belle refuses Gaston 's proposal again .

Sharing a romantic evening together , Belle tells the Beast she misses her father . He lets her use his magic mirror to see him . She sees Maurice dying in the woods trying to reach the castle . The Beast lets her go out to save him and he gives her the mirror to remember him by . She finds Maurice and brings him home . As Gaston is about to bring Maurice to the insane asylum , Belle proves Maurice 's sanity by showing the Beast with the mirror . Realizing Belle loves the Beast , Gaston convinces the villagers that the Beast is a man @-@ eating monster and leads them to the castle to kill him .

Having stowed away into Belle 's baggage , Chip helps Maurice and Belle escape from confinement . Gaston fights the Beast while the servants fend off the villagers . The Beast initially is too depressed to fight back , though perks up after seeing Belle return to the castle . He battles and defeats Gaston in battle on the rooftops , though spares his life by ordering him to leave before he reunites with Belle . Refusing to lose , Gaston mortally wounds the Beast , but falls to his death after losing his footing . Belle professes her love for the Beast , who dies before the last rose petal falls . With the spell broken , the Beast is revived and transformed into his human form , and each of his servants also resumes their human form with the castle restored to its former glory . Belle is last seen dancing with him in the ballroom as everyone else watches in delight .

= = Voice cast = =

Paige O 'Hara as Belle ? A bibliophilic and beautiful young girl who seeks adventure , and offers her own freedom to the Beast in return for her father 's . In their effort to enhance the character from the original story , the filmmakers felt that Belle should be " unaware " of her own beauty and made her " a little odd . " Wise recalls casting O 'Hara because of a " unique tone " she had , " a little bit of Judy Garland , " after whose appearance Belle was modeled . James Baxter and Mark Henn served as the supervising animators for Belle .

Robby Benson as The Beast ? A young prince who is transformed into a beast by a beautiful enchantress as punishment for his arrogance . He has the head structure and horns of an American bison , the arms and body of a bear , the ears of a deer , the eyebrows of a gorilla , the jaws , teeth , and mane of a lion , the tusks of a wild boar and the legs and tail of a wolf . Chris Sanders , one of the film 's storyboard artists , drafted the designs for the Beast and came up with designs based on birds , insects , and fish before coming up with something close to the final design . Glen Keane , supervising animator for the Beast , refined the design by going to the zoo and studying the animals on which the Beast was based . Benson commented , " There 's a rage and torment in this character I 've never been asked to use before . " The filmmakers commented that " everybody was big fee @-@ fi @-@ fo @-@ fum and gravelly " while Benson 's voice had the " big voice and the warm , accessible side " and that " you could hear the prince beneath the fur . "

Richard White as Gaston ? A vain hunter who vies for Belle 's hand in marriage and is determined not to let anyone else win her heart . Gaston 's supervising animator , Andreas Deja , was pressed by Jeffrey Katzenberg to make Gaston handsome in contrast to the traditional appearance of a

Disney villain , an assignment he found difficult at first . In the beginning , Gaston is depicted as more of a narcissist than a villain , but later he leads all the villagers to kill the beast , enraged that Belle would love a Beast more than him .

Jerry Orbach as Lumière ? The kind @-@ hearted but rebellious maître d 'hôtel of the Beast 's castle , who has been transformed into a candlestick . He has a habit of disobeying his master 's strict rules , sometimes causing tension between them , but the Beast often turns to him for advice . He is depicted as flirtatious , as he is frequently seen with the Featherduster and immediately takes a liking to Belle . A running gag throughout the movie is Lumière burning Cogsworth . Nik Ranieri served as the supervising animator for Lumière .

David Ogden Stiers as Cogsworth ? The head of the household staff and Lumière 's best friend , who has been transformed into a clock . He is extremely loyal to the Beast so as to save himself and anyone else any trouble , often leading to friction between himself and Lumière . Will Finn served as the supervising animator for Cogsworth . Stiers also narrates the prologue .

Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Potts ? The castle cook , turned into a teapot , who takes a motherly attitude toward Belle . The filmmakers went through several names for Mrs. Potts , such as " Mrs. Chamomile , " before Ashman suggested the use of simple and concise names for the household objects . David Pruiksma served as the supervising animator for Mrs. Potts .

Bradley Michael Pierce as Chip ? Mrs. Potts ' son , who has been turned into a teacup . Originally intended to have only one line , the filmmakers were impressed with Pierce 's performance and expanded the character 's role significantly , eschewing a mute Music Box character . Pruiksma also served as the supervising animator for Chip .

Rex Everhart as Maurice ? Belle 's inventor father . The citizens call him crazy , but his loyal daughter believes he will be famous one day . Ruben A. Aquino served as the supervising animator for Maurice .

Jesse Corti as LeFou ? Gaston 's often abused yet loyal sidekick . Chris Wahl served as the supervising animator for Lefou .

Hal Smith as Philippe ? Belle 's Belgian horse . Russ Edmonds served as the supervising animator for Philippe .

Jo Anne Worley as the Wardrobe ? The castle 's authority over fashion , and a former opera singer , who has been turned into a wardrobe . The character of Wardrobe was introduced by visual development person Sue C. Nichols to the then entirely male cast of servants , and was originally a more integral character named " Madame Armoire . " Wardrobe is known as " Madame de la Grande Bouche " ( Madame Big Mouth ) in the stage adaptation of the film , and is the only major enchanted object character we do not see the human form of in the film . Tony Anselmo served as the supervising animator for the Wardrobe .

Mary Kay Bergman and Kath Soucie as the Bimbettes ? A trio of village maidens who constantly fawn over Gaston , known as the " Silly Girls " in the stage adaptation .

Brian Cummings as the Stove ? The castle 's chef who has been transformed into a stove .

Alvin Epstein as the Bookseller ? The owner of a book shop in Belle 's home town .

Tony Jay as Monsieur D 'Arque ? The sadistic warden of the Asylum de Loons . Gaston bribes him to help in his plan to blackmail Belle .

Alec Murphy as the Baker ? The owner of a bakery in Belle 's home town .

Kimmy Robertson as the Featherduster ? A maid and Lumière 's sweetheart , who has been turned into a feather duster . She is unnamed in the 1991 film ( listed as Featherduster in the credits ) ; Babette is the name given to this character later in the 1994 stage adaptation of the film , and Fifi in 1998 's Beauty and the Beast : Belle 's Magical World .

Frank Welker as the Footstool ? The castle 's pet dog turned into a footstool .

= = Production = =

= = = Early versions = = =

After the success of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in 1937 , Walt Disney sought out other stories to adapt into feature films , with Beauty and the Beast being among the stories he considered . Attempts to develop the Beauty and the Beast story into a film were made in the 1930s and 1950s , but were ultimately given up because it " proved to be a challenge " for the story team . Peter M. Nichols states Disney may later have been discouraged by Jean Cocteau having already done his version .

Decades later , during the production of Who Framed Roger Rabbit in 1987 , the Disney studio resurrected Beauty and the Beast as a project for the satellite animation studio it had set up in London , England to work on Roger Rabbit . Richard Williams , who had directed the animated portions of Roger Rabbit , was approached to direct , but declined in favor of continuing work on his long @-@ gestating project The Thief and the Cobbler . In his place , Williams recommended his colleague , English animation director Richard Purdum , and work began under producer Don Hahn on a non @-@ musical version of Beauty and the Beast set in 19th century France . At the behest of Disney CEO Michael Eisner , Beauty and the Beast became the first Disney animated film to use a screenwriter . This was an unusual production move for an animated film , which is traditionally developed on storyboards rather than in scripted form . Linda Woolverton wrote the original draft of the story before storyboarding began , and worked with the story team to retool and develop the film .

= = = Script rewrite and musicalization = = =

Upon seeing the initial storyboard reels in 1989 , Walt Disney Studios chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg ordered that the film be scrapped and started over from scratch . A few months after starting anew , Purdum resigned as director . The studio had approached Ron Clements and John Musker to direct the film but turned down the offer saying they were " tired " after just having finished directing Disney 's recent success The Little Mermaid . Disney then hired first @-@ time feature directors Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale . Wise and Trousdale had previously directed the animated sections of Cranium Command , a short film for a Disney EPCOT theme park attraction . In addition , Katzenberg asked songwriters Howard Ashman and Alan Menken , who had written the song score for The Little Mermaid to turn Beauty and the Beast into a Broadway @-@ style musical film in the same vein as Mermaid . Ashman , who at the time had learned he was dying of complications from AIDS , had been working with Disney on a pet project of his , Aladdin , and only reluctantly agreed to join the struggling production team . To accommodate Ashman 's failing health , pre @-@ production of Beauty and the Beast was moved from London to the Residence Inn in Fishkill , New York , close to Ashman 's New York City home . Here , Ashman and Menken joined Wise , Trousdale , Hahn , and Woolverton in retooling the film 's script . Since the original story had only two major characters , the filmmakers enhanced them , added new characters in the form of enchanted household items who " add warmth and comedy to a gloomy story " and guide the audience through the film , and added a " real villain " in the form of Gaston .

These ideas were somewhat similar to elements of the 1946 French film version of Beauty and the Beast , which introduced the character of Avenant , an oafish suitor somewhat similar to Gaston as well as inanimate objects coming to life in the Beast 's castle . The animated objects were , however , given distinct personalities in the Disney version . By early 1990 , Katzenberg had approved the revised script , and storyboarding began again . The production flew story artists back and forth between California and New York for storyboard approvals from Ashman , though the team was not told the reason why .

= = = Casting and recording = = =

Disney had originally considered casting Jodi Benson from The Little Mermaid as Belle . They eventually decided upon Broadway actress and singer Paige O 'Hara in favor of having a heroine who sounded " more like a woman than a girl " . According to co @-@ director Kirk Wise , O 'Hara was given the role because she " had a unique quality , a tone she would hit that made her special "

, reminiscent to that of American actress and singer Judy Garland . O 'Hara , who , after reading about the film in The New York Times , competed for the role against 500 hopefuls , believes the fact that lyricist Howard Ashman admired her cast recording of the musical Show Boat proved integral in her being cast .

= = = Animation = = =

Production of Beauty and the Beast was to be completed on a compressed timeline of two years rather than the traditional four @-@ year Disney Feature Animation production schedule ; this was due to the loss of production time spent developing the earlier Purdum version of the film . Most of the production was done at the main Feature Animation studio , housed in the Air Way facility in Glendale , California . A smaller team at the Disney @-@ MGM Studios theme park in Lake Buena Vista , Florida assisted the California team on several scenes , particularly the " Be Our Guest " number .

Beauty and the Beast was the second film , after The Rescuers Down Under , produced using CAPS ( Computer Animation Production System ) , a digital scanning , ink , paint , and compositing system of software and hardware developed for Disney by Pixar . The software allowed for a wider range of colors , as well as soft shading and colored line effects for the characters , techniques lost when the Disney studio abandoned hand inking for xerography in the late 1950s . CAPS also allowed the production crew to simulate multiplane effects : placing characters and / or backgrounds on separate layers and moving them towards / away from the camera on the Z @-@ axis to give the illusion of depth , as well as altering the focus of each layer .

In addition , CAPS allowed easier combination of hand @-@ drawn art with computer @-@ generated imagery , which before had to be plotted to animation paper and then xeroxed and painted traditionally . This technique was put to significant use during the " Beauty and the Beast " waltz sequence , in which Belle and Beast dance through a computer @-@ generated ballroom as the camera dollies around them in simulated 3D space . The filmmakers had originally decided against the use of computers in favor of traditional animation , but later , when the technology had improved , decided it could be used for the one scene in the ballroom . The success of the ballroom sequence helped convince studio executives to further invest in computer animation .

= = = Music = = =

Ashman and Menken wrote the Beauty song score during the pre @-@ production process in Fishkill , the opening operetta @-@ styled " Belle " being their first composition for the film . Other songs included " Be Our Guest , " sung ( in its original version ) to Maurice by the objects when he becomes the first visitor to eat at the castle in a decade , " Gaston , " a solo for the swaggering villain , " Human Again , " a song describing Belle and Beast 's growing love from the objects ' perspective , the love ballad " Beauty and the Beast , " and the climactic " The Mob Song . " As story and song development came to a close , full production began in Burbank while voice and song recording began in New York City . The Beauty songs were mostly recorded live with the orchestra and the voice cast performing simultaneously rather than overdubbed separately , in order to give the songs a cast album @-@ like " energy " the filmmakers and songwriters desired .

During the course of production , many changes were made to the structure of the film , necessitating the replacement and re @-@ purposing of songs . After screening a mostly animated version of the " Be Our Guest " sequence , story artist Bruce Woodside suggested that the objects should be singing the song to Belle rather than her father . Wise and Trousdale agreed , and the sequence and song were retooled to replace Maurice with Belle . The film 's title song went through a noted bit of uncertainty during production . Originally conceived as a rock @-@ oriented song , it was changed to a slow , romantic ballad . Howard Ashman and Alan Menken asked Angela Lansbury to perform the song , but she didn 't think her voice was suited for the melody . When she voiced her doubts , Menken and Ashman asked her for at least one take , and told her to perform the song as she saw fit . Lansbury reportedly reduced everyone in the studio to tears with her

rendition , nailing the song in the one take asked of her . This version went on to win the Oscar for Best Original Song . " Human Again " was dropped from the film before animation began , as its lyrics caused story problems about the timeline over which the story takes place . This required Ashman and Menken to write a new song in its place . " Something There , " in which Belle and Beast sing ( via voiceover ) of their growing fondness for each other , was composed late in production and inserted into the script in place of " Human Again . "

Menken would later revise " Human Again " for inclusion in the 1994 Broadway stage version of Beauty and the Beast , and another revised version of the song was added to the film itself in a new sequence created for the film 's Special Edition re @-@ release in 2002 . Ashman died of AIDS @-@ related complications on March 14 , 1991 , eight months prior to the release of the film . He never saw the finished film , though he did get to see it in its unfinished format . Ashman 's work on Aladdin was completed by another lyricist , Tim Rice . Before Ashman 's death , members of the film 's production team visited him after the film 's well @-@ received first screening , with Don Hahn commenting that " the film would be a great success . Who 'd have thought it ? " , to which Ashman replied with " I would . " A tribute to the lyricist was included at the end of the credits crawl : " To our friend , Howard , who gave a mermaid her voice , and a beast his soul . We will be forever grateful . Howard Ashman : 1950 ? 1991 . " A pop version of the " Beauty and the Beast " theme , performed by Céline Dion and Peabo Bryson over the end credits , was released as a commercial single from the film 's soundtrack , supported with a music video . The Dion / Bryson version of " Beauty and the Beast " became an international pop hit and performed considerably well on charts around the world . The song became Dion 's second single to land within the top @-@ 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at number nine . The song peaked at number three on the Billboard Hot Adult Contemporary chart . In Canada , " Beauty and the Beast " peaked at number two . Outside of North America , the song peaked within the top ten in New Zealand and the United Kingdom , while peaking within the top twenty in Australia , Netherlands and Ireland . The song sold over a million copies worldwide . This version of the song was also nominated for Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the Grammys , and it won the Grammy for Dion and Bryson for Best Pop Duo / Group Vocal Performance .

= = Release = =

In a first @-@ time accomplishment for The Walt Disney Company , an unfinished version of Beauty and the Beast was shown at the New York Film Festival on September 29 , 1991 . The film was deemed a " work in progress " because roughly only 70 % of the animation had been completed ; storyboards and pencil tests were used in replacement of the remaining 30 % . Additionally , certain segments of the film that had already been finished were reverted to previous stages of completion . At the end of the screening , Beauty and the Beast received a 10 @-@ minute long standing ovation from the film festival audience . The completed film would also be screened out of competition at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival . The finished film premiered at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood on November 13 , 1991 , and went into wide release through Walt Disney Pictures on November 22 .

= = = Re @-@ issues = = =

The film was restored and remastered for its New Year 's Day , 2002 re @-@ release in IMAX theatres in a special edition edit including a new musical sequence . For this version of the film , much of the animation was cleaned up , a new sequence set to the deleted song " Human Again " was inserted into the film 's second act , and a new digital master from the original CAPS production files was used to make the high resolution IMAX film negative .

A sing along edition of the film , hosted by Jordin Sparks , was released in select theaters on September 29 and October 2 , 2010 . Prior to the showing of the film Sparks showed an exclusive behind @-@ the @-@ scenes look at the newly restored high definition animated classic and the making of her all @-@ new Beauty and the Beast music video . There was also commentary from

producer Don Hahn , interviews with the cast and an inside look at how the animation was created .  
A Disney Digital 3D version of the film , the second of a traditionally animated film , was originally scheduled to be released in US theatres on February 12 , 2010 , but the project was postponed . On August 25 , 2011 , Disney announced that the 3D version of the film would make its American debut at Hollywood 's El Capitan Theatre from September 2 ? 15 , 2011 . Disney spent less than \$ 10 million on the 3D conversion . After the successful 3D re @-@ release of The Lion King , Disney announced a wide 3D re @-@ release of Beauty and the Beast in North America beginning January 13 , 2012 .

= = = Home media = = =

The film was released to VHS on October 30 , 1992 as part of the Walt Disney Classics series , and was later put on moratorium on April 30 , 1993 ; it was not included in the Walt Disney Masterpiece Collection line . This version contains a minor edit to the film : skulls that appear in Gaston 's pupils for two frames during his climactic fall to his death were removed for the original home video release . No such edit was made to later reissues of the film . The " work @-@ in @-@ progress " version screened at the New York Film Festival was also released on VHS and Laserdisc at this time ; however , said version was the only one available on the latter format until the fall of 1993 when the completed theatrical version was released . This measure was to diminish the threat of video pirates making copies derived from the laserdisc ( which are not copy @-@ protected ) and selling them in international markets , where the film was yet to be available for home release .

Beauty and the Beast : Special Edition , as the enhanced version of the film released in IMAX / large @-@ format is called , was released on 2 @-@ Disc " Platinum Edition " DVD and VHS on October 8 , 2002 . The DVD set features three versions of the film : the extended IMAX Special Edition with the " Human Again " sequence added , the original theatrical version , and the New York Film Festival " work @-@ in @-@ progress " version . This release went to " Disney Vault " moratorium status in January 2003 , along with its direct @-@ to @-@ video follow @-@ ups Beauty and the Beast : The Enchanted Christmas and Belle 's Magical World .

The film was released from the vault on October 5 , 2010 as the second of Disney 's Diamond Editions , in the form of a 3 @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray Disc and DVD combination pack ; representing the first release of Beauty and the Beast on home video in high @-@ definition format . This edition consists of four versions of the film : the original theatrical version , an extended version , the New York Film Festival storyboard @-@ only version , and a fourth iteration displaying the storyboards via picture @-@ in @-@ picture alongside the original theatrical version . A two @-@ disc DVD edition was released on November 23 , 2010 . A 5 @-@ disc combo pack , featuring Blu @-@ ray 3D , Blu @-@ ray 2D , DVD and Digital copy , was released on October 4 , 2011 . The 3D combo pack is identical to the original Diamond Edition , except for the added 3D disc and digital copy . The Blu @-@ ray release went into the Disney Vault along with the two sequels on April 30 , 2012 .

A 25th anniversary Signature Edition will be available on Digital HD September 6 , 2016 and on Blu @-@ ray / DVD combo pack September 20 , 2016 .

= = Reception and legacy = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Review aggregation Rotten Tomatoes gives the film an approval rating of 93 % with an average of 8 @.@ 4 based on reviews from 103 critics . The website 's general consensus reads , " Enchanting , sweepingly romantic , and featuring plenty of wonderful musical numbers , Beauty and the Beast is one of Disney 's most elegant animated offerings . " CinemaScore reported that audiences gave the film a rare " A + " grade .

Awarding the film a perfect score of four stars , Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times compared Beauty and the Beast positively to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Pinocchio ,

writing , " Beauty and the Beast reaches back to an older and healthier Hollywood tradition in which the best writers , musicians and filmmakers are gathered for a project on the assumption that a family audience deserves great entertainment , too . " In 2001 Ebert again gave the IMAX re @-@ release a full 4 out of 4 stars . James Berardinelli of ReelViews rated the film similarly while hailing it as " the finest animated movie ever made " , writing , " Beauty and the Beast attains a nearly @-@ perfect mix of romance , music , invention , and animation . " The use of computer animation , particularly in the ballroom sequence , was singled out in several reviews as one of the film 's highlights . Hal Hinson of The Washington Post gave the film a positive review , calling the film " A delightfully satisfying modern fable , a near @-@ masterpiece that draws on the sublime traditions of the past while remaining completely in sync with the sensibility of its time . " Janet Maslin of The New York Times gave the film a positive review , saying " It is a surprise , in a time of sequels and retreads , that the new film is so fresh and altogether triumphant in its own right . " Dave Kehr of the Chicago Tribune gave the film three out of four stars , saying " Beauty and the Beast is certainly adequate holiday entertainment for children and their more indulgent parents ..... But the film has little of the technical facility , vivid characterization and emotional impact of Disney past . "

Jay Boyar of the Orlando Sentinel gave the film four out of five stars , saying " It 's not an especially scary movie , but right from the start , you can tell that this Beauty and the Beast has a beauty of a bite . " John Hartl of The Seattle Times gave the film three and a half stars out of four , saying " It 's exceptionally difficult to make an audience care for animated characters unless they 're mermaids or anthropomorphized animals or insects , yet the Disney animators , with a big assist from the vocal talents of a superb cast , have pulled it off . " Gene Siskel also of the Chicago Tribune gave the film four out of four stars , saying " Beauty and the Beast is one of the year`s most entertaining films for both adults and children . " Michael Sragow of The New Yorker gave the film a positive review , saying " It 's got storytelling vigor and clarity , bright , eclectic animation , and a frisky musical wit . " Eric Smoodin writes in his book Animating Culture that the studio was trying to make up for earlier gender stereotypes with this film . Smoodin also states that , in the way it has been viewed as bringing together traditional fairy tales and feminism as well as computer and traditional animation , the film 's " greatness could be proved in terms of technology narrative or even politics " .

Animation historian Michael Barrier wrote that Belle " becomes a sort of intellectual less by actually reading books , it seems , than by hanging out with them " , but says that the film comes closer than other " Disney @-@ studio " films to " accepting challenges of the kind that the finest Walt Disney features met " . David Whitley writes in The Idea of Nature in Disney Animation that Belle is different from earlier Disney heroines in that she is mostly free from the burdens of domestic housework , although her role is somewhat undefined in the same way that " contemporary culture now requires most adolescent girls to contribute little in the way of domestic work before they leave home and have to take on the fraught , multiple responsibilities of the working mother " . Whitley also notes other themes and modern influences , such as the film 's critical view of Gaston 's chauvinism and attitude towards nature , the cyborg @-@ like servants , and the father 's role as an inventor rather than a merchant . IGN named Beauty and the Beast as the greatest animated film of all time , directly ahead of WALL @-@ E , The Incredibles , Toy Story 2 , and The Iron Giant .

= = = Box office = = =

During its initial release in 1991 , the film was a significant success at the box office , with \$ 145 @,@ 863 @,@ 363 in revenues in North America and \$ 351 @,@ 863 @,@ 363 worldwide . It ranked as the third most @-@ successful film of 1991 in North America , surpassed only by the summer blockbusters Terminator 2 : Judgment Day and Robin Hood : Prince of Thieves . At the time Beauty and the Beast was the most successful animated Disney film release , and the first animated film to reach \$ 100 million in North America . In its IMAX re @-@ release , it earned \$ 25 @,@ 487 @,@ 190 in North America and \$ 5 @,@ 546 @,@ 156 in other territories for a worldwide total of \$ 31 @,@ 033 @,@ 346 . It also earned \$ 9 @,@ 818 @,@ 365 from its 3D re @-@ release overseas . During the opening weekend of its North American 3D re @-@ release in 2012 , Beauty and the Beast grossed \$ 17 @.@ 8 million , coming in at the No. 2 spot behind Contraband , and



achieved the highest opening weekend for an animated film in January . The film was expected to make \$ 17 @. @ 5 million over the weekend , however , the results topped its forecast and the expectations of box office analysts . The re @- @ release ended its run on May 3 , 2012 and earned \$ 47 @, @ 617 @, @ 067 , which brought the film 's total gross in North America to \$ 218 @, @ 967 @, @ 620 . It made an estimated \$ 206 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 in other territories for a worldwide total of \$ 424 @, @ 967 @, @ 620 .

= = = Accolades = = =

Alan Menken and Howard Ashman 's song " Beauty and the Beast " won the Academy Award for Best Original Song , while Menken 's score won the award for Best Original Score . Two other Menken and Ashman songs from the film , " Belle " and " Be Our Guest " , were also nominated for Best Original Song . Beauty and the Beast was the first picture to receive three Academy Award nominations for Best Original Song , a feat that would be repeated by The Lion King ( 1994 ) , Dreamgirls ( 2006 ) , and Enchanted ( 2007 ) . Academy rules have since been changed to limit each film to two nominations in this category , due to the consecutive unintentional failures of Dreamgirls and Enchanted to win the award . The film was also nominated for Best Sound and Best Picture . It was the first animated film ever to be nominated for Best Picture , and remained the only animated film nominated until 2010 , when the Best Picture field was widened to ten nominees , and it is the only animated film nominated for the award when it had five nominees . It lost the Best Picture award to The Silence of the Lambs . It became the first musical in twelve years to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Motion Picture of the Year following All That Jazz ( 1979 ) and the last one to be nominated until Moulin Rouge ! ( 2001 ) , ten years later . With six nominations , the film currently shares the record for the most nominations for an animated film with WALL @- @ E ( 2008 ) , although , with three nominations in the Best Original Song category , Beauty and the Beast 's nominations span only four categories , while WALL @- @ E 's nominations cover six individual categories . While The Little Mermaid was the first to be nominated , Beauty and the Beast became the first animated film to win the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture ? Musical or Comedy . This feat was later repeated by The Lion King and Toy Story 2 .

In 2002 , Beauty and the Beast was added to the United States National Film Registry as being deemed " culturally , historically , or aesthetically significant . " In June 2008 , the American Film Institute revealed its " Ten Top Ten " lists of the best ten films in ten " classic " American film genres based on polls of over 1 @, @ 500 people from the creative community . Beauty and the Beast was acknowledged as the 7th best film in the animation genre . In previous lists , it ranked number 22 on the Institutes 's list of best musicals and number 34 on its list of the best romantic American films . On the list of the greatest songs from American films , Beauty and the Beast ranked number 62 .

American Film Institute recognition :

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movies ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Passions ? No. 34

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Heroes and Villains :

Belle ? Nominated Hero

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Songs :

" Beauty and the Beast " ? No. 62

" Be Our Guest " ? Nominated

AFI 's Greatest Movie Musicals ? No. 22

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movies ( 10th Anniversary Edition ) ? Nominated

AFI 's 10 Top 10 ? No. 7 Animated film

= = Adaptations = =

= = = Broadway musical = = =

According to an article in The Houston Chronicle , " The catalyst for Disney 's braving the stage was an article by The New York Times theater critic Frank Rich that praised Beauty and the Beast as 1991 's best musical .... Theatre Under The Stars executive director Frank Young had been trying to get Disney interested in a stage version of Beauty about the same time Eisner and Katzenberg were mulling over Rich 's column . But Young couldn 't seem to get in touch with the right person in the Disney empire . Nothing happened till the Disney execs started to pursue the project from their end .... When they asked George Ives , the head of Actors Equity on the West Coast , which Los Angeles theater would be the best venue for launching a new musical , Ives said the best theater for that purpose would be TUTS . Not long after that , Disney 's Don Frantz and Bettina Buckley contacted Young , and the partnership was under way . " A stage condensation of the film , directed by Robert Jess Roth and choreographed by Matt West , both of whom moved on to the Broadway development , had already been presented at Disneyland at what was then called the Videopolis stage . Beauty and the Beast premiered in a joint production of Theatre Under The Stars and Disney Theatricals at the Music Hall , Houston , Texas , from November 28 , 1993 , through December 26 , 1993 .

On Monday , April 18 , 1994 , Beauty and the Beast premiered on Broadway at the Palace Theatre in New York City to mixed reviews . The show transferred to the Lunt @-@ Fontanne Theatre on November 11 , 1999 . The commercial ( though not critical ) success of the show led to productions in the West End , Toronto , and all over the world . The Broadway version , which ran for over a decade , received a Tony Award , and became the first of a whole line of Disney stage productions . The original Broadway cast included Terrence Mann as the Beast , Susan Egan as Belle , Burke Moses as Gaston , Gary Beach as Lumière , Heath Lamberts as Cogsworth , Tom Bosley as Maurice , Beth Fowler as Mrs. Potts , and Stacey Logan as Babette the feather duster . Many well @-@ known actors and singers also starred in the Broadway production during its thirteen @-@ year run including Kerry Butler , Debbie Gibson , Toni Braxton , Andrea McArdle , Jamie @-@ Lynn Sigler , Christy Carlson Romano , Ashley Brown , and Anneliese van der Pol as Belle ; Chuck Wagner , James Barbour , and Jeff McCarthy as the Beast ; Meshach Taylor , Patrick Page , Bryan Batt , Jacob Young , and John Tartaglia as Lumière ; and Marc Kudisch , Christopher Sieber , and Donny Osmond as Gaston . The show ended its Broadway run on July 29 , 2007 after 46 previews and 5 @,@ 461 performances . As of 2016 , it is still Broadway 's ninth longest @-@ running show in history .

= = = Live @-@ action film = = =

In June 2014 , it was announced that a live @-@ action film adaptation of the original film was in the works with Academy Award @-@ winning filmmaker Bill Condon ( Chicago , Dreamgirls , Gods and Monsters ) directing and Evan Spiliotopoulos writing the script . Condon originally planned on not only drawing inspiration from the original film , but he also planned to include most , if not all , of the Menken / Rice songs from the Broadway musical , with the intention of making the film as a " straight @-@ forward , live @-@ action , large @-@ budget movie musical " . In September 2014 , it was announced that Stephen Chbosky ( The Perks of Being a Wallflower ) will re @-@ write the script . In January 2015 , Emma Watson announced on her Facebook page that she will portray Belle in the new live action remake film . In March 2015 , Dan Stevens , Luke Evans , Emma Thompson , Josh Gad , Audra McDonald , and Kevin Kline joined the film as the Beast , Gaston , Mrs. Potts , LeFou , Garderobe , and Maurice , respectively . The following month Ian McKellen , Ewan McGregor , Stanley Tucci , and Gugu Mbatha @-@ Raw joined the cast as Cogsworth , Lumière , Cadenza , and Plumette , respectively . Composer Alan Menken will return to score the film 's music , with new material written by Menken and Tim Rice . In June 2015 , Menken said the film will not include the songs that were written for the Broadway musical . Filming began on May 18 , 2015 in London and production officially wrapped in August 2015 . The film is scheduled to be released on March 17 , 2017 .

= = Merchandise = =

Beauty and the Beast merchandise covered a wide variety of products , among them storybook versions of the film 's story , a comic book based on the film published by Disney Comics , toys , children 's costumes , and other items . In addition , the character of Belle has been integrated into the " Disney Princess " line of Disney 's Consumer Products division , and appears on merchandise related to that franchise . In 1995 , a live @-@ action children 's series entitled Sing Me a Story with Belle began running in syndication , remaining on the air through 1999 . Two direct @-@ to @-@ video followups ( which take place during the timeline depicted in the original film ) were produced by Walt Disney Television Animation : Beauty and the Beast : The Enchanted Christmas in 1997 and Beauty and the Beast : Belle 's Magical World in 1998 ; in contrast to the universal acclaim of the original , reception to the sequels was extremely negative . Disney on Ice produced an ice version of the movie that opened in 1992 in Lakeland , Florida . The show was such a huge commercial and critical success , touring around the world to sell @-@ out crowds , that a television special was made when it toured Spain in 1994 . The show ended its run in 2006 after 14 years .

= = = Video games = = =

There are several video games that are loosely based on the film : The first video game based on the film was titled Beauty and the Beast and is an action platformer developed by Probe Software and published by Hudson Soft for the NES . It was released in Europe in 1994 . Gaston is the final boss of the game because he wants to kill the Beast and marry Belle .

The second video game based on the film was titled Beauty & The Beast : Belle 's Quest and is an action platformer for the Sega Genesis . Developed by Software Creations , the game was released in North America in 1993 . It is one of two video games based on the film that Sunsoft published for the Genesis , the other being Beauty & The Beast : Roar of the Beast . Characters from the film like Gaston can help the player past tricky situations . As Belle , the player must reach the Beast 's castle and break the spell to live happily ever after . To succeed , she must explore the village , forest , castle , and snowy forest to solve puzzles and mini @-@ games while ducking or jumping over enemies . Belle 's health is represented by a stack of blue books , which diminishes when she touches bats , rats , and other hazards in the game . Extra lives , keys and other items are hidden throughout the levels . While there is no continue or game saving ability , players can use a code to start the game at any of the seven levels .

The third video game based on the film was titled ' Beauty & The Beast : Roar of the Beast and is a side @-@ scrolling video game for the Genesis . As the Beast , the player must successfully complete several levels , based on scenes from the film , in order to protect the castle from invading villagers and forest animals and rescue Belle from Gaston . The fourth video game based on the film was titled Disney 's Beauty and the Beast and is an action platformer for the SNES . It was developed by Probe Entertainment and published by Hudson Soft in North America in July 1994 and in Europe on February 23 , 1995 . The game was published by Virgin Interactive in Japan on July 8 , 1994 . The entire game is played through the perspective of the Beast . As the Beast , the player must get Belle to fall in love so that the curse cast upon him and his castle will be broken . The final boss of the game is Gaston . The Beast can walk , jump , swipe , stomp , super stomp , and roar , the last of which is used to both damage enemies and reveal hidden objects .

The fifth video game based on the film was titled Disney 's Beauty & The Beast : A Boardgame Adventure and is a Disney Boardgame adventure for the Game Boy Color . It was released on October 25 , 1999 .

The video game series Kingdom Hearts features a world based on the film , named " Beast 's Castle " , along with several of the film 's characters . In the first game , the world has been destroyed and Belle kidnapped by the Heartless , led by Maleficent , but the Beast travels to Maleficent 's stronghold and works with Sora to defeat Maleficent and rescue Belle and the other captured princesses . In Kingdom Hearts II , the world has since been restored following Ansem 's defeat , but Beast and Belle are having difficulties due to the enigmatic Xaldin of Organization XIII attempting to bring out the Beast 's darker side in order to turn him into a Heartless and a Nobody ,

but the Beast eventually comes to his senses and works with Sora once again to defeat Xaldin once and for all . In the game 's ending credits , the Beast turns back into the Prince . In Kingdom Hearts : 358 / 2 Days , the world is featured as a playable level but the story is not essential to the main plot . In Kingdom Hearts ? , the world is featured again and follows the plot of the movie more closely . The characters featured in the series are Beast , Belle , Lumiere , Gaston , Cogsworth , Mrs. Potts , Chip , Maurice and the Wardrobe . Gaston and Maurice do not appear until Kingdom Hearts ? , which takes place before the main series . After Gaston is defeated , the world 's primary antagonist becomes Xaldin , an original character created for the series , but who shares several traits with Forte , the main antagonist of Beauty and the Beast : The Enchanted Christmas .