

= William Hanna =

William Denby " Bill " Hanna (July 14 , 1910 ? March 22 , 2001) was an American animator , director , producer , voice actor , and cartoon artist , whose film and television cartoon characters entertained millions of people for much of the 20th century .

After working odd jobs in the first months of the Depression , Hanna joined the Harman and Ising animation studio in 1930 . During the 1930s , Hanna steadily gained skill and prominence while working on cartoons such as Captain and the Kids . In 1937 , while working at Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer (MGM) , Hanna met Joseph Barbera . The two men began a collaboration that was at first best known for producing Tom and Jerry and live action / animated hybrid films . In 1957 , they co @-@ founded Hanna @-@ Barbera , which became the most successful television animation studio in the business , producing programs such as The Flintstones , The Huckleberry Hound Show , The Jetsons , Scooby @-@ Doo , The Smurfs , and Yogi Bear . In 1967 , Hanna ? Barbera was sold to Taft Broadcasting for \$ 12 million , but Hanna and Barbera remained heads of the company until 1991 . At that time , the studio was sold to Turner Broadcasting System , which in turn was merged with Time Warner in 1996 ; Hanna and Barbera stayed on as advisors .

Hanna and Barbera won seven Academy Awards and eight Emmy Awards . Their cartoons have become cultural icons , and their cartoon characters have appeared in other media such as films , books , and toys . Hanna ? Barbera 's shows had a worldwide audience of over 300 million people in their 1960s heyday , and have been translated into more than 28 languages .

= = Personal life = =

William Hanna was born to William John and Avice Joyce (Denby) Hanna on July 14 , 1910 in Melrose , New Mexico . He was the third of seven children and the only son . Hanna claimed there was no " war between the sexes " nor sibling rivalry in their home . Hanna described his family as " a red @-@ blooded , Irish @-@ American family " . His father was a construction superintendent for railroads as well as water and sewer systems throughout the western regions of America , requiring the family to move frequently .

When Hanna was three years old , the family moved to Baker City , Oregon , where his father worked on the Balm Creek Dam . It was here that Hanna developed his love of the outdoors . The family moved to Logan , Utah , before moving to San Pedro , California , in 1917 . During the next two years they moved several times before eventually settling in Watts , California , in 1919 .

In 1922 , while living in Watts , he joined Scouting . He attended Compton High School from 1925 through 1928 , where he played the saxophone in a dance band . His passion for music carried over into his career ; he helped write songs for his cartoons , including the theme for The Flintstones . Hanna became an Eagle Scout as a youth and remained active in Scouting throughout his life . As an adult , he served as a Scoutmaster and was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America with their Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1985 . Despite his numerous career @-@ related awards , Hanna was most proud of this Distinguished Eagle Scout Award . His interests also included sailing and singing in a barbershop quartet . Hanna studied both journalism and structural engineering at Compton City College , but had to drop out of college with the onset of the Great Depression .

On August 7 , 1936 , Hanna married Violet Blanch Wogatzke (Born : July 23 , 1913 , Died July 11 , 2014 .) , and they had a marriage lasting 64 years and they had two children , David William and Bonnie Jean , and seven grandchildren . In 1996 , Hanna , with assistance from Los Angeles writer Tom Ito , published his autobiography ? Joe Barbera had published his two years earlier .

= = Early career = =

After dropping out of college , Hanna worked briefly as a construction engineer and helped build the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood . He lost that job during the Great Depression and found another at a car wash . His sister 's boyfriend encouraged him to apply for a job at Pacific Title and Art , which produced title cards for motion pictures . While working there , Hanna 's talent for drawing became

evident , and in 1930 he joined the Harman and Ising animation studio , which had created the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies series . Despite a lack of formal training , Hanna soon became head of their ink and paint department . Besides inking and painting , Hanna also wrote songs and lyrics . For the first several years of Hanna 's employment , the studio partnered with Pacific Title and Art 's Leon Schlesinger , who released the Harman @-@ Ising output through Warner Bros. When Hugh Harman and Rudolph Ising chose to break with Schlesinger and begin producing cartoons independently for Metro @-@ Goldwyn @-@ Mayer (MGM) in 1933 , Hanna was one of the employees who followed them .

Hanna was given the opportunity to direct his first cartoon in 1936 ; the result was To Spring , part of the Harman @-@ Ising Happy Harmonies series . The following year , MGM decided to terminate their partnership with Harman @-@ Ising and bring production in @-@ house . Hanna was among the first people MGM hired away from Harman @-@ Ising to their new cartoon studio . During 1938 ? 39 , he served as a senior director on MGM 's Captain and the Kids series , based upon the comic strip of the same name (an alternate version of the Katzenjammer Kids that had resulted from a 1914 lawsuit) . The series did not do well ; consequently , Hanna was demoted to a story man and the series was canceled . Hanna 's desk at MGM was opposite that of Joseph Barbera , who had previously worked at Terrytoons . The two quickly realized they would make a good team . By 1939 they had solidified a partnership that would last over 60 years . Hanna and Barbera worked alongside animation director Tex Avery , who had created Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny for Warner Bros. and directed Droopy cartoons at MGM .

= = Tom and Jerry = =

In 1940 , Hanna and Barbera jointly directed Puss Gets the Boot , which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best (Cartoon) Short Subject . The studio wanted a diversified cartoon portfolio , so despite the success of Puss Gets the Boot , Hanna and Barbera 's supervisor , Fred Quimby , did not want to produce more cat and mouse cartoons . Surprised by the success of Puss Gets the Boot , Hanna and Barbera ignored Quimby 's resistance and continued developing the cat @-@ and @-@ mouse theme . By this time , however , Hanna wanted to return to working for Ising , to whom he felt very loyal . Hanna and Barbera met with Quimby , who discovered that although Ising had taken sole credit for producing Puss Gets the Boot , he never actually worked on it . Quimby then gave Hanna and Barbera permission to pursue their cat @-@ and @-@ mouse idea . The result was their most famous creation , Tom and Jerry .

Modeled after the Puss Gets the Boot characters with slight differences , the series followed Jerry , the rodent who continually outwitted his feline foe , Tom . Hanna said they settled on the cat and mouse theme for this cartoon because : " We knew we needed two characters . We thought we needed conflict , and chase and action . And a cat after a mouse seemed like a good , basic thought . " The revamped characters first appeared in 1941 's The Midnight Snack . Over the next 17 years Hanna and Barbera worked almost exclusively on Tom and Jerry , directing more than 114 highly popular cartoon shorts . During World War II they also made animated training films . Tom and Jerry relied mostly on motion instead of dialog . Despite its popularity , Tom and Jerry has often been criticized as excessively violent . Nonetheless , the series won its first Academy Award for the 11th short , The Yankee Doodle Mouse (1943) ? a war @-@ time adventure . Tom and Jerry was ultimately nominated for 14 Academy Awards , winning 7 . No other character @-@ based theatrical animated series has won more awards , nor has any other series featuring the same characters . Tom and Jerry also made guest appearances in several of MGM 's live @-@ action films , including Anchors Aweigh (1945) and Invitation to the Dance (1956) with Gene Kelly , and Dangerous When Wet (1953) with Esther Williams .

Quimby accepted each Academy Award for Tom and Jerry 's without inviting Hanna and Barbera onstage . The cartoons were also released with Quimby listed as the sole producer , following the same practice for which he had condemned Ising . When Quimby retired in late 1955 , Hanna and Barbera were placed in charge of MGM 's animation division . As the studio began to lose more revenue due to television , MGM soon realized that re @-@ releasing old cartoons was far more

profitable than producing new ones . In 1957 , MGM ordered Hanna and Barbera 's business manager to close the cartoon division and lay off everyone by a phone call . Hanna and Barbera found the no @-@ notice closing puzzling because Tom and Jerry had been so successful .

= = Television = =

During his last year at MGM , Hanna branched out into television , forming the short @-@ lived company Shield Productions with fellow animator Jay Ward , who had created the series Crusader Rabbit . Their partnership soon ended , and in 1957 Hanna reteamed with Joseph Barbera to produce cartoons for television and theatrical release . The two brought different skills to the company ; Barbera was a skilled gag writer and sketch artist , while Hanna had a gift for timing , story construction , and recruiting top artists . Major business decisions would be made together , though each year the title of president alternated between them . A coin toss determined that Hanna would have precedence in the naming of the new company , first called H @-@ B Enterprises but soon changed to Hanna ? Barbera Productions . Barbera and Hanna 's MGM colleague George Sidney , the director of Anchors Aweigh , became the third partner and business manager in the company , and arranged a deal for distribution and working capital with Screen Gems , the television division of Columbia Pictures , who took part ownership of the new studio .

The first offering from the new company was The Ruff & Reddy Show , a series which detailed the friendship between a dog and cat . Despite a lukewarm response for their first theatrical venture , Loopy De Loop , Hanna ? Barbera soon established themselves with two successful television series : The Huckleberry Hound Show and The Yogi Bear Show . A 1960 survey showed that half of the viewers of Huckleberry Hound were adults . This prompted the company to create a new animated series , The Flintstones . A parody of The Honeymooners , the new show followed a typical Stone Age family with home appliances , talking animals , and celebrity guests . With an audience of both children and adults , The Flintstones became the first animated prime @-@ time show to be a hit . Fred Flintstone 's signature exclamation " yabba dabba doo " soon entered everyday usage , and the show boosted the studio to the top of the TV cartoon field . The company later produced a space @-@ age version of The Flintstones , known as The Jetsons . Although both shows reappeared in the 1970s and 1980s , The Flintstones was far more popular .

By the late 1960s , Hanna ? Barbera Productions was the most successful television animation studio in the business . The Hanna ? Barbera studio produced over 3000 animated half @-@ hour television shows . Among the more than 100 cartoon series and specials they produced were : Atom Ant , Augie Doggie and Doggie Daddy (an imitation of the earlier Spike and Tyke MGM cartoons) , Jonny Quest , Josie and the Pussycats , Magilla Gorilla , Pixie and Dixie and Mr. Jinks , Quick Draw McGraw , and Top Cat . Top Cat was based on Phil Silvers 's character Sgt. Bilko , though it has been erroneously reported that Sgt. Bilko was the basis for Yogi Bear . The Hanna ? Barbera studio also produced Scooby @-@ Doo (1969 ? 1986) and The Smurfs (1981 ? 1989) . The company also produced animated specials based on Alice in Wonderland , Jack and the Beanstalk , Cyrano de Bergerac as well as the feature @-@ length film Charlotte 's Web (1973) .

As popular as their cartoons were with 1960s audiences , they were disliked by artists . Television programs had lower budgets than theatrical animation , and this economic reality caused many animation studios to go out of business in the 1950s and 1960s , putting many people in the industry out of work . Hanna ? Barbera was key in the development of limited animation , which allowed television animation to be more cost @-@ effective , but also reduced quality . Hanna and Barbera had first experimented with these techniques in the early days of Tom and Jerry . To reduce the cost of each episode , shows often focused more on character dialogue than detailed animation . The number of drawings for a seven @-@ minute cartoon decreased from 14 @,@ 000 to nearly 2 @,@ 000 , and the company implemented innovative techniques such as rapid background changes to improve viewing . Reviewers criticized the change from vivid , detailed animation to repetitive movements by two @-@ dimensional characters . Barbera once said that their choice was to adapt to the television budgets or change careers . The new style did not limit the success of their animated shows , enabling Hanna ? Barbera to stay in business , providing employment to many

who would otherwise have been out of work . Limited animation became the standard for television animation , and continues to be used today in television programs such as The Simpsons and South Park .

In 1966 , Hanna ? Barbera Productions was sold to Taft Broadcasting (renamed Great American Communications in 1987) for \$ 12 million . Hanna and Barbera remained at the head of the company until 1991 . At that point , the company was sold to the Turner Broadcasting System for an estimated \$ 320 million , which itself merged with Time Warner , owners of Warner Bros. , in 1996 . This began a close association with the Cartoon Network . Hanna and Barbera continued to advise their former company and periodically worked on new Hanna ? Barbera shows , including The Cartoon Cartoon Show series and hit silver screen versions of The Flintstones (1994) and Scooby @-@ Doo (2002) .

= = Death = =

Hanna died of throat cancer on March 22 , 2001 , in North Hollywood , Los Angeles , California . After his death , Cartoon Network aired a 20 @-@ second segment with black dots tracing Hanna 's portrait with the words " We 'll miss you ? Cartoon Network " fading in on the right @-@ hand side . This same type of tribute was done for Chuck Jones in 2002 and Hanna 's partner , Joseph Barbera in 2006 , when each of them died . However , Barbera , unlike the other two , had an audio clip of his voice playing in his Cartoon Network tribute . Hanna is buried at Ascension Cemetery in Lake Forest , California .

= = Legacy = =

Most of the cartoons Hanna and Barbera created revolved around close friendship or partnership ; this theme is evident with Tom and Jerry , Yogi Bear and Boo Boo , Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble , Ruff and Reddy , The Jetsons family and Scooby @-@ Doo and Shaggy Rogers , as well as Cartoon Network characters that Hanna @-@ Barbera created such as Johnny Bravo and Carl , Cow and Chicken and their schoolmates Flem and Earl , I.M. Weasel and I.R. Babboon , Dexter and his supercomputers , and the Powerpuff Girls . These may have been a reflection of the close business friendship and partnership that Hanna and Barbera shared for almost 60 years . Professionally , they balanced each other 's strengths and weaknesses very well , but Hanna and Barbera traveled in completely different social circles . Hanna 's personal friends primarily included other animators ; Barbera tended to socialize with Hollywood celebrities . Their division of work roles complemented each other but they rarely talked outside of work since Hanna was interested in the outdoors and Barbera liked beaches , good food and drink . Nevertheless , in their long partnership , in which they worked with over 2000 animated characters , Hanna and Barbera rarely exchanged a cross word . Barbera said : " We understood each other perfectly , and each of us had deep respect for the other 's work . "

Hanna is considered one of the all @-@ time great animators and on a par with Tex Avery . Hanna and Barbera were among the most successful animators on the cinema screen and successfully adapted to the change television brought to the industry . Leonard Maltin says the Hanna ? Barbera team " [may] hold a record for producing consistently superior cartoons using the same characters year after year ? without a break or change in routine . Their characters are not only animated superstars , but also a very beloved part of American pop culture " . They are often considered as Walt Disney 's only rivals as cartoonists .

Hanna and Barbera had a lasting impact on television animation . Cartoons they created often make greatest lists . Many of their characters have appeared in film , books , toys , and other media . During the 1960s their TV shows had a worldwide audience of over 300 million people and have since been translated into more than 20 languages . The works of Hanna and Barbera also have been recognized for their music , such as The Cat Concerto (1946) and Johann Mouse (1952) , called " masterpieces of animation " in part due to their use of classical music .

In all , the Hanna ? Barbera team won seven Academy Awards and eight Emmy Awards , including

the 1960 award for The Huckleberry Hound Show , which was the first Emmy awarded to an animated series . They also won these awards : Golden Globe for Television Achievement (1960) , Golden IKE Award ? Pacific Pioneers in Broadcasting (1983) , Pioneer Award ? Broadcast Music Incorporated (1987) , Iris Award ? NATPE Men of the Year (1988) , Licensing Industry Merchandisers ' Association Award for Lifetime Achievement (1988) , Governors Award of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (1988) , Jackie Coogan Award for Outstanding Contribution to Youth through Entertainment Youth in Film (1988) , Frederic W. Ziv Award for Outstanding Achievement in Telecommunications ? Broadcasting Division College ? Conservatory of Music University of Cincinnati (1989) , stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1976) , several Annie Awards , several environmental awards , and were recipients of numerous other accolades prior to their induction into the Television Hall of Fame in 1994 . In March 2005 the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and Warner Bros. Animation dedicated a wall sculpture at the Television Academy 's Hall of Fame Plaza in North Hollywood to Hanna and Barbera . Hanna 's archive audio of Tom Cat 's screams have been reused recently in the new 2014 Tom and Jerry Show .