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Growing from a cartoon studio to one of the largest media companies in the world, Disney has made its mark on people's lives, conjuring endless memorable adventures through television shows, movies, theme parks and more. To celebrate its centenary on Monday, The Straits Times executive artists **Billy Ker** and **Lee Yu Hui** journey through 100 enchanting facts that shaped its world.

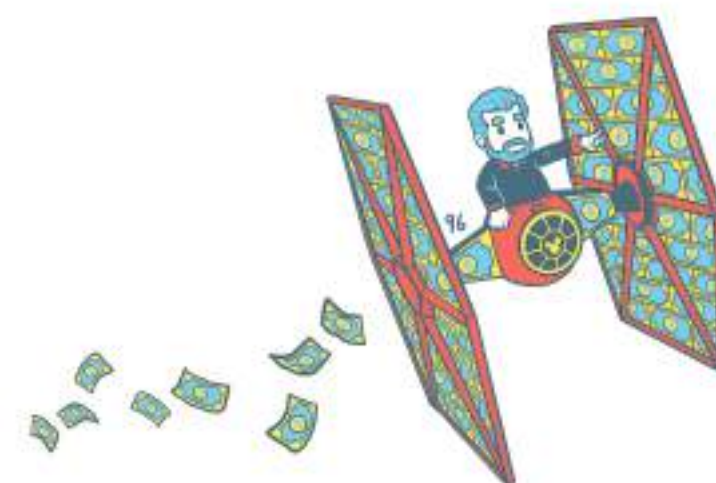
years of magic

HIDDEN MICKEYS

Disney's artists have hidden the icon of the famous mouse across Disneyland, from carpets and tiles to wallpaper and even a rock formation that lines up with the sun to create a projection on Mickey Mouse's birthday on Nov 18.

There are 100 hidden Mickeys in the illustration below. See if you can find them all.

Here's an example of a hidden Mickey.



ABOUT WALT DISNEY

- 1 American animator Walter Elias Disney was the first person to voice the Mickey Mouse character.
- 2 He never went to college, but had three honorary college degrees.
- 3 He was obsessed with trains and automobiles.
- 4 The last thing he wrote before he died on Dec 15, 1966, was a list of names, one of which was his favourite American actor Kurt Russell.
- 5 He worked with Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) on an animated short *Destino*, which was finally completed in 2003.
- 6 He rewarded his live-in housekeeper of 30 years with Disney shares as holiday bonuses. When she died in 1994, her estate was worth more than US\$9 million.
- 7 His ancestors came from Normandy, France. His family name was D'Isigny, which was later changed to Disney.
- 8 Before Walt Disney Animation Studios, he started another studio called Laugh-O-Gram Studio, which failed and went bankrupt.
- 9 He holds the record for the most Oscars won by an individual, with 22 competitive awards and four honorary awards.
- 10 Although a busy man, he made it a point to drive both his daughters, Diane and Sharon, to school every day.

ABOUT MICKEY & FRIENDS

- 11 Daisy Duck has taken on various occupations, from a newscaster to a clerk to even a secret spy.
- 12 Donald Duck had a joke political party in Sweden named after him. The Donald Duck Party received votes for more than 20 years before non-existent candidates were banned.
- 13 Disney's first breakout creation was not Mickey Mouse, but Oswald the Lucky Rabbit in 1927.
- 14 The voice actors of Mickey and Minnie Mouse - Wayne Allwine and Russi Taylor - were married in real life.
- 15 Mickey Mouse became the first animated character to have a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in 1978.
- 16 Mickey Mouse was originally named Mortimer Mouse, before Disney's wife Lillian urged him to change it.
- 17 Mickey Mouse debuted in 1928 as a silent character, which only whistled, laughed and squeaked. His first spoken words were "hot dogs" a year later.
- 18 In the first Disney cartoon to star Pluto, Pluto's Quin-puplets (1937), he has a wife named Fifi and they are parents to five pups.

19 In 2006, Disney's chief executive Bob Iger traded the contract of sportscaster Al Michaels to NBCUniversal for the rights to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, which were lost in 1928.

20 During the Covid-19 pandemic, Goofy starred in a 2021 animated short series titled *How To Stay At Home*.

ABOUT DISNEY PRINCESSES

- 21 Mulan from the 1998 movie has the highest kill count - almost 2,000 - of any character, including villains.
- 22 The animated film *Cinderella* (1950) rescued the studio from the brink of bankruptcy after World War II, costing US\$2 million to make and grossing more than US\$4 million on its initial release.
- 23 In *Sleeping Beauty* (1959), the argument between fairies Flora and Merryweather about the colour of Aurora's dress originated from the film-makers' real-life conundrum.
- 24 Adriana Caselotti, the voice of Snow White in *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs* (1937), was under a contract that forbade her from singing in other films or on the radio.
- 25 Ariel from *The Little Mermaid* (1989) is the only Disney Princess who becomes a mother, as seen in the 2000 direct-to-video sequel.
- 26 Pocahontas, from the 1995 movie of the same name, is the only Disney Princess based on a real-life historical figure.
- 27 Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* (1992) is the only Disney Princess who is not the titular character of her movie.
- 28 In the animated movie *Tangled* (2010), Rapunzel's hair is estimated to be more than 20m long.
- 29 Despite their popularity, Elsa and Anna from *Frozen* (2013) are not officially Disney Princesses.
- 30 In 2009's *The Princess And The Frog*, Tiana spends about half of her 44 minutes of screen time as a frog.
- 31 In some European countries, *Moana* (2016) is renamed *Vaiana* to avoid association with Italian adult film star Moana Pozzi.

32 According to a Disney survey, book lover Belle from *Beauty And The Beast* (1991) inspired many children, especially young girls, to read more.

33 Merida from Pixar's *Brave* (2012) is the only Disney Princess who does not sing in her movie.

34 Raya's roly-poly best friend Tuk Tuk in *Raya And The Last Dragon* (2021) is inspired by and named after Thailand's three-wheeled motorised vehicle.

ABOUT ANIMATED FILMS

- 35 There are 6,469,952 spots in total on the Dalmatian dogs and puppies in *One Hundred And One Dalmatians* (1961).
- 36 The barking of the dogs in 101 Dalmatians was created by the voice of Donald Duck, Clarence Nash.
- 37 American rapper MC Hammer's balloon pants in his music video for *U Can't Touch This* (1990) was an animation reference for *Aladdin*'s outfit.
- 38 The high score of *Fix-It Felix Jr* in *Wreck-It Ralph* (2012) is 120501, a reference to Disney's birthday, Dec 5, 1901.
- 39 Big Hero 6 (2014) was loosely based on a Marvel comic book series of the same name, in which Baymax is a green dragon.
- 40 In *Fantasia* (1940), there is a wizard named Yen Sid, which is Disney spelt backwards.
- 41 Lilo from *Lilo & Stitch* (2002) is voiced by Daveigh Chase, who played Samara Morgan in American horror film *The Ring* (2002).
- 42 Disney's Oscar statuette for *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs* was accompanied by seven smaller statuettes.
- 43 The talking doorknob was a new character created for Disney's adaptation of *Alice In Wonderland* (1951).

44 Disney was a huge fan of Figaro, Gennetto's cat in *Pinocchio* (1940), and pushed for him to be in as many scenes as possible.

45 Priscilla the sloth in *Zootopia* (2016) is voiced by American actress Kristen Bell, who is also the voice of Anna in *Frozen*.

46 Mrs Potts from *Beauty And The Beast* was originally named Mrs Chamomile, but it was deemed too difficult to pronounce.

47 The Beatles were supposed to play the four cultures in *The Jungle Book* (1967), but pulled out due to scheduling conflicts.

48 Hercules' Air Herc sandals in the 1997 movie are a reference to the popular Nike Air sneakers.

49 None of the roars in *The Lion King* (1994) were made by lions. American actor Frank Walker, who provided vocal effects for the movie, roared into a trash can and the sound was mixed with the roars of tigers.

50 Mirabel from *Encanto* (2021) wears glasses because a schoolgirl wrote a letter to Disney appealing for more bespectacled Disney Princesses.

51 Dumbo the elephant, from the 1941 movie of the same name, inspired the Dumbo Octopus' name - the fins on its mantle resemble Dumbo's ears.

52 The animated segments from *Enchanted* (2007) were done by a former Disney animator's own studio.

53 Canadian voice actor Peter Claver Cullen, who voiced Eeyore from the *Winnie The Pooh* franchise (1966 to present), is also the voice of Optimus Prime from *Transformers* (1984 to present).

ABOUT LIVE ACTION FILMS

55 P.L. Travers, author of the *Mary Poppins* series of books (1934 to 1988), was not a fan of the Disney adaptation because she felt the title character was too nice in the movie.

56 Mary Poppins' song *Feed The Birds*, from the 1964 movie, was Disney's favourite song.

57 The White Witch from *The Chronicles Of Narnia* series (2005 to 2010) originally had dark hair, but the prosthetic make-up supervisor's children said blonde would look better.

58 The film series *Pirates Of The Caribbean* was inspired by the Disneyland attraction of the same name.

59 *Pirates Of The Caribbean: The Curse Of The Black Pearl* (2003), the first movie in the series, was the first Disney film to be rated PG-13.

60 The cast of *Pirates Of The Caribbean: The Curse Of The Black Pearl* was taught how to fight with swords by fight choreographer Bob Anderson, who also worked on the original *Star Wars* films and played Darth Vader in some fight scenes.

61 The first host of *The Muppet Show* (1976 to 1981) was not Kermit the frog, but a humanoid sunglasses-wearing Muppet named Wally.

62 Miss Piggy was the most requested Muppet by guest stars of *The Muppet Show*.

ABOUT THEME PARKS

63 Plastic straws and balloons are prohibited at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park in Florida.

64 Disneyland California has a colony of feral cats which serve as natural pest control.

65 When Disneyland California opened in July 1955, it banned facial hair on employees in order to present a clean-cut image. This ban was lifted only in 2012.

66 Real skeletons were used in the original *Pirates Of The Caribbean* ride in Disneyland.

67 Disney World in Orlando, Florida, was evacuated after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks as there were fears the theme park would be a terrorist target.

68 A 71-year-old Hungarian circus performer named Tiny Kline was the first person hired to portray Tinkerbell in Disneyland.

69 Disney is the second-largest buyer of explosives after the United States' Department of Defence.

In the early days of Disneyland, there was a store called *Intimate Apparel*, Brassieres, Torsolettes which sold bras, corsets and petticoats.

70 The Haunted Mansion California opened, the summer heat melted the freshly laid asphalt. Those wearing heels soon found that their footwear was stuck to the pavement.

71 On the day Disneyland California opened, the summer heat melted the freshly laid asphalt. Those wearing heels soon found that their footwear was stuck to the pavement.

72 The drawbridge in front of the *Sleeping Beauty* Castle in Disneyland is fully functional.

ABOUT PIXAR ANIMATION

74 Animated film *Brave* (2012) was dedicated to Steve Jobs, co-founder and chief executive of Pixar, as well as Apple, who died in 2011 during the production of the film.

75 *Turning Red* (2022) is the first Pixar film to break the fourth wall, as Meilin addresses the audience directly.

76 Each emotion in *Inside Out* (2015) is a shape. For instance, Joy is star-shaped, Sadness is an inverted teardrop and Disgust takes the form of broccoli.

77 Sully from *Monsters, Inc* (2001) was the hairiest Disney character when he was created. It took around 12 hours to render a single frame of him.

78 Pixar's lamp mascot is named Luxo.

79 A113, which appears in all Pixar films, is a reference to the animation classroom where many Pixar employees got their start.

80 While working on *Ratatouille* (2007), animators kept pet rats for more than a year to study their movements.

81 The carpet in Sid's house in *Toy Story* (1995) has the same pattern as the carpet in the *Overlook Hotel* from *The Shining* (1980).

82 *Toy Story 2* (1999) was accidentally deleted, but fortunately, an employee working from home had a backup.

83 Charles Muntz, the villain in *Up* (2009), is named after Charles Mintz, the man who originally owned the rights to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit.

84 The trash compactor *Wall-E*, from the 2008 film of the same name, is short for Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class.

85 Animators made the guitar-playing scenes in the animated film *Coco* (2017) as accurate as possible, lining up finger positions with the music's actual chords.

ABOUT MARVEL STUDIOS

86 American actor Mark Ruffalo was French director Louis Leterrier's first choice to play the lead in *The Incredible Hulk* (2008), but the studio opted for American actor Edward Norton as he was more famous.

87 American actor Robert Downey Jr, who plays Iron Man, hid snacks all over the set when filming, so he could eat on screen.

88 British actor Tom Hiddleston, who plays Loki, originally auditioned to play Thor.

89 When filming the scene in *The Avengers* (2012) in which the Hulk slams Loki around, a rope was tied to Hiddleston's feet and yanked out from under him without letting him know when.

90 The late American comic book writer Stan Lee, creator of Marvel Comics, was interested in playing Thor's father Odin. The role eventually went to British actor Anthony Hopkins.

91 American actor Vin Diesel, who plays Groot in the *Guardians Of The Galaxy* trilogy (2014 to 2023), has a version of the script which decodes the meaning of his "I am Groot" lines.

92 British actor Tom Holland, who plays Spider-Man, prepared for his role by enrolling in a high school in the Bronx for a few days.

93 Marvel Studios gifted the Iron Man Stark Tower logo to Robert Downey Jr after he jokingly asked for it.

94 American actor Jeremy Renner, who plays Hawkeye in the *Avengers* movies, was trained by Olympic archers.

95 In *The Avengers* (2012) end-credits scene, American actor Chris Evans' face was intentionally blocked because he was keeping his beard for another film shoot.

ABOUT STAR WARS

96 When Disney bought the *Star Wars* franchise for US\$1.2 billion (\$55.47 billion) in 2012, it paid half in cash and half in stocks.

97 The *Star Wars*: *Galaxy's Edge* expansion at Disneyland in Anaheim marks the first time a complete Millennium Falcon has been built to scale.

98 *Galaxy's Edge* Droid Depot offers fans the chance to build their own droids, including Stormtroopers in the first season of *The Mandalorian*, as the production crew did not have enough costumes.