

WALT DISNEY



## childhood

**Walter Elias Disney** was born on **December 5, 1901** to **Elias Disney**, of **Irish-Canadian** descent, and **Flora Call Disney**, of **German-American** descent, in **Chicago's Hermosa community area** at **2156 N. Tripp Ave.** <sup>[13][9]</sup> **Walt Disney's** ancestors had emigrated from **Cowran, County Kilkenny** in Ireland. **Arundel Elias Disney**, great-grandfather of **Walt Disney**, was born in **Kilkenny, Ireland** in **1801** and was a descendant of **Hughes** and his son **Robert d'Isigny**, originally of **France** but who travelled to **England** with **William the Conqueror** in **1066**. <sup>[4]</sup> The **d'Isigny** name became **Anglicised** as **Disney** and the family settled in the village now known as **Norton Disney**, south of the city of **Lincoln**, in the county of **Lincolnshire**





## Teenage years

In 1917, Elias acquired shares in the O-Zell jelly factory in [Chicago](#) and moved his family back there. <sup>[12]</sup> In the fall, Disney began his freshman year at [McKinley High School](#) and began taking night courses at the [Chicago Art Institute](#). <sup>[13]</sup> Disney became the cartoonist for the school newspaper. His cartoons were very patriotic, focusing on [World War I](#). Disney dropped out of high school at the age of sixteen to join the [Army](#), but the army rejected him because he was underage. <sup>[14]</sup>



## Hollywood

**Disney and his brother pooled their money to set up a cartoon studio in Hollywood.<sup>[12]</sup> Needing to find a distributor for his new Alice Comedies – which he started making while in Kansas City,<sup>[20]</sup> but never got to distribute – Disney sent an unfinished print to New York distributor Margaret Winkler, who promptly wrote back to him. She was keen on a distribution deal with Disney for more live-action/animated shorts based upon *Alice's Wonderland***





# First academy award



- In 1932, Disney received a special Academy Award for the creation of "Mickey Mouse", whose series was made into color in 1935 and soon launched spin-off series for supporting characters such as Donald Duck, Goofy, and Pluto; Pluto and Donald would immediately get their individual cartoons in 1937, <sup>[32]</sup> and Goofy would get solo cartoons in 1939 as well. <sup>[33]</sup> Of all of Mickey's partners, Donald Duck—who first teamed with Mickey in the 1934 cartoon, Orphan's Benefit—was arguably the most popular, and went on to become Disney's second most successful cartoon character of all time

# Planning Disneyland

- **On a business trip to Chicago in the late-1940s, Disney drew sketches of his ideas for an [amusement park](#) where he envisioned his employees spending time with their children. He got his idea for a children's theme park after visiting [Children's Fairyland](#) in [Oakland, California](#). This plan was originally meant for a plot located south of the Studio, across the street. The original ideas developed into a concept for a larger enterprise that was to become [Disneyland](#). Disney spent five years of his life developing Disneyland and created a new subsidiary of his company, called [WED Enterprises](#), to carry out the planning and production of the park. A small group of Disney studio employees joined the Disneyland development project as engineers and planners, and were dubbed [Imagineers](#)**
- **When describing one of his earliest plans to [Herb Ryman](#) (who created the first aerial drawing of Disneyland which was presented to the [Bank of America](#) while requesting for funds), Disney said, "Herbie, I just want it to look like nothing else in the world. And it should be surrounded by a train."<sup>[90]</sup> Entertaining his daughters and their friends in his backyard and taking them for rides on his [Carolwood Pacific Railroad](#) had inspired Disney to include a railroad in the plans for Disneyland.**



## Disney animation today

**Traditional hand-drawn animation**, with which Walt Disney started his company, was, for a time, no longer produced at the **Walt Disney Animation Studios**. After a stream of financially unsuccessful traditionally-animated features in the early 2000s, the two satellite studios in **Paris** and **Orlando** were closed, and the main studio in **Burbank** was converted to a computer animation production facility. In 2004, Disney released what was announced as their final "traditionally animated" feature film, **Home on the Range**. However, since the 2006 acquisition of **Pixar**, and the resulting rise of **John Lasseter** to Chief Creative Officer, that position has changed, and the 2009 film **The Princess and the Frog** has marked Disney's return to traditional hand-drawn animation.



