

Loony

from page B3

cells, and drawings, hang the work of notable animators Fritz Freleng and Robert McKimson.

Jones, Freleng, McKimson along with Tex Avery and Bob Clampett — working in the Warner Brothers Studios — collaborated in inventing Looney Tunes, a stable of some of the most familiar cartoon characters in American movie history. The creative team oversaw the stories, animation, production and editing of hundreds of classic cartoons.

In the early years of animation, Disney Studios focused on full-length animated features, such as "Steamboat Willie," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Pinocchio," and "Fantasia."

Whereas Disney pushed the medium, the artists at Warner Brothers were pushing their own humor, creating cartoons shorts, said Jones, where the only standard was that they had to be

funny to the creators.

Because of tight budgets, the animators at Warner Brothers ground out an assembly line of characters and short films, which ran prior to the main attraction in movie theaters.

"We made cartoons for ourselves," said Jones. "All of us grew up during the Depression. We were just trying to make people laugh."

Along the way, however, they — with animators at Disney and Hanna-Barbera — created an art form that as much as any incorporates distinctive American values of technology and pure escapism.

Not so loony

Like all animators, Jones pays homage to Disney for pushing an art form that goes to the other side of make-believe to create reality from the celluloid standard of human emotion.

In animation art, reality is not only suspended, it's obliterated. Yet the world of Bugs Bunny and his wacky friends isn't all slapstick.

With the international success of Disney's "The Lion King," prime-time acceptance of "The Simpsons" and the appeal of The Cartoon Network, even Walt Disney might be surprised at how pervasive animation has become.

Perhaps it all seems a little loony. But who's to say? We live in an age where people believe "if it's on TV, it must be true."

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"We found it much easier to humanize animals than to humanize humans," said Jones.

Who else but Bugs Bunny and his puppeteer Jones could break the elitist barriers of the art world? Remember: this was the same team, along with Elmer Fudd who made Wagner's "Der Ring Des Nibelungen" accessible in their breakthrough, "What's Opera, Doc?"

That 1957 film was the first animated short subject included into the National Film Registry. Maybe animation art isn't so loony, after all. "What's up, doc?" just might be more of a rhetorical reminder that adults take the world much too seriously.

And that just might be a bit of wisdom worth collecting.



Serious cartooning: Marc Scaglione (left) convinced his father, Albert Scaglione, to exhibit the works of legendary animators, including Chuck Jones, creator of some of the most endearing cartoon characters in American pop culture.

Presence

from page B3

way to overcome his deafness." Like his sense of rhythm, perspective comes easily to Mody.

He asks: Why do anything for any other reason than out of love?

A balanced view

From an early age, the Mody knew that their son was endowed with a sophisticated sense of rhythm. While other kids were pounding on toys, he was keeping time by drumming with the nearest available sticks.

While other kids gave up on their Legos, Mody persisted until he completed building what he set out to build.

The persistence, said Mody, comes from his father, an engineering manager with Robert Bosch, who immigrated from India 14 years ago.

The ability to create visual metaphors to go along with music, he said, was inherited from his mother, Julie, a writing teacher at Oakland University.

From his ancestors and how they all figure into his musicianship. Apparently, the tributary of generational talent coalesce every time he pulls up a seat and runs his fingers across the ivory keys.

"He has a wide repertoire," said Morelock. "Sanjay is a natural performer and communicator."

As a teacher, Morelock's intent is not to throw too much at the young pianist. That's more difficult than it sounds.

In just three months, Mody learned, memorized and performed the complete 16 two-part inventions of Bach.

"We're still laying the foundation," said Morelock.

The musical foundation will be built, Mody hopes, that will lead

him to Juilliard School of Performing Arts in six years.

By then, Mody will be a little more filled in, taller and probably walking with the swagger of a teenager.

But his steady hands and nimble fingers will never really change.

"I don't want to sound like some of the people I meet who say, 'I used to play piano. I wish I still were playing.' That doesn't make any sense to me."

Only a 12-year-old could imagine a life without regrets.

To be young, gifted. And so wise, way to overcome his deafness.

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from his mother, Julie, a writing teacher at Oakland University.

Then, the young Mody goes on to list all the traits he's inherited from his ancestors and how they all figure into his musicianship.

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ART BEAT

Please send information to Oakland County Art Beat, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Or via e-mail, send items, story ideas and tips to: FProvensano@cc.ohio.com

CHANGES SET FOR THIS YEAR'S

ART IN THE PARK
The 24th annual Common Ground Sanctuary Art in the Park will include more artists and an expanded layout.

The fair will be held 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 12-13 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham, between Bates and Merrill streets.

This year's outdoor fair features the works of 170 artists from 30 states and Canada. In addition, the fair includes children's artistic activities, a silent art auction, disabled students' artwork showcase, entertainment, and refreshments.

Art in the Park has been rated among the top 200 fine art shows in the nation by Sunshine Artist magazine. Meanwhile, the National Association of Independent Artists has ranked the show as the 24th best fine art

exhibit in the country.

Part of the proceeds from the fair benefits the programs of the Common Ground Sanctuary. The programs include a 24-hour telephone crisis intervention line, victim assistance services and basic shelter services.

THIS WEEK'S "SOMEWHERE IN TIME" HIGHLIGHTS

"Somewhere in Time," an eclectic weekday radio program will broadcast past programs featuring familiar personalities and some nostalgic music.

The program, which airs 5:30 p.m. Mondays on WDTR-FM (90.9) will feature the following topics:

■ Monday, Aug. 10 — Walt Strony, playing a hybrid pipe organ

■ Tues., Aug. 11 — Actor Carroll O'Connor sings and talks about the 1930s.

■ Wed., Aug. 12 — Broadcast devoted to listeners' requests.

■ Thurs., Aug. 13 — Taped show of DJ Russ Morgan as host of "Somewhere in Time."

■ Fri., Aug. 14 — Taped show of Bing Crosby hosting "Command Performance" for troops.

FRIDAY SPECIAL
Fish & Chips
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"We're having a big revival of tiles. A lot of architects and builders are using them. Tiles are as big now as during the Arts and Crafts movement."

Livonia tile makers Nancy Guido and Diane Dunn will join the Coopers and Raes for the Aug. 16 fair presented by Pewabic Pottery. Other artists include Deborah Hecht and Sarah Frank of Bloomfield Hills; Elaine Goldman and Debbie Liberman, Southfield; Dianne Stewart,

Historic beginnings

Founded in 1903 at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement by Mary Chase Perry Stratton and Horace Caulkins, Pewabic Pottery offers classes, lectures, workshops, tours, exhibits, and the production of handcrafted vessels and architectural tile for public and private installation.

Located on East Jefferson across from Waterworks Park east of downtown Detroit, Pewabic has created installations for Christ Church at Cranbrook, Holy Redeemer, Detroit's Guardian Building, Scott Fountain on Belle Isle, the People Mover sta-

tions, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Nebraska State Capitol and the New York Metro Transit Authority's Herald Square.

"There was a period during the Depression when people couldn't afford handmade tile," said Sandra Koukoulis, "but today, nationally, tile has grown; it's huge."

The fair is a great way for people to see as much tile as possible. It's endless what you can do with tile, the styles and the subject matter. It's collectible, functional, and can be used for murals, back splashes, tables. It's not only something you put on the floor."

With Your Friends
Good 'Ole Days
August 7-16

- 98¢ Bowling
- 98¢ Shoe Rental*
- 98¢ Hot Dog*
- 75¢ Soft Drink*

* You must participate in bowling to be eligible for these specials.

Return to the Good 'Ole Days at these locations:

CENTURY BOWL 7345 Highland Road Waterford (248) 666-4700	SUPER BOWL 45100 Ford Road Canton (734) 459-6070	SKORE LANES 22255 Ecorse Road Taylor (313) 291-6220
MERRI-BOWL 30950 Five Mile Road Livonia (734) 427-2900	PLUM HOLLOW 21900 W. Nine Mile Southfield (248) 353-6540	TROY LANES 1950 E. Square Lake Rd. Troy (248) 879-8700

Call the bowling center for times and lane availability.

Wizard of Oz
August 18 • 12 Noon
Tickets Just \$10 Pavilion/\$5 Lawn

On sale now at The Palace Box Office and all **JOSEPH MERCY** locations.
Charge: (248) 645-6668.
Discounts available for groups of 15 or more.
Call (248) 377-0100 for information.

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Send your name & address on a post card to:
Simon Birch/O&E, PO BOX 1069, Birmingham, MI 48012.
All entries must be received by Thursday, August 13.
Fifty winners will be drawn at random from all entries received.

OPENS NATIONWIDE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11