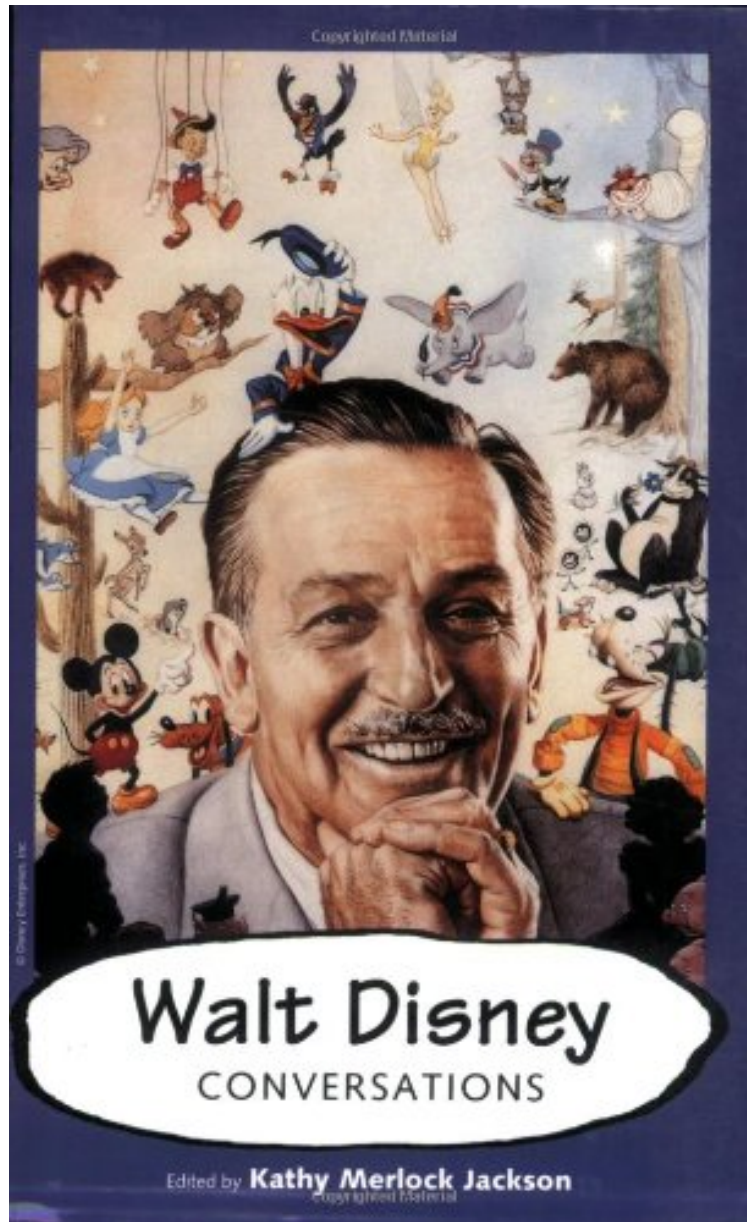


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Walt Disney: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series)

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From Brand: University Press of Mississippi : Walt Disney: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walt Disney: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Depends on what you are looking for . . .By Jimmy OmahaIt was difficult for me to decide between 3 stars and 4 stars on this book, but for me it was four. I had previously purchased two other books in this "Conversations" series on Carl Barks and Chuck Jones, and I felt like I needed Disney to complete my little collection. However, the conversations contained in this volume are mostly from well-choreographed radio interviews and magazine articles that do not show much beyond the corporate Walt Disney. In this respect I was disappointed. I am not disappointed that I purchased the book, though, as I believe I would look at its absence from my library as a "hole" that needs filling.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. In Walt Disney's Own WordsBy C. AyarsI have read several books written about the man Walt Disney, but this book compiles several of Walt Disney's speeches and interviews and presents Walt Disney in his own words. This has been a tremendous resource in the pursuit to understand one of the greatest minds of the 20th century.

The imagination of Walt Disney (1901-1966) is still seen in theme parks throughout the world bearing his name, on numerous live-action films and television specials, on toys and assorted merchandise, and on an international corporation known both for the high quality of its creative output and its ubiquity. *Walt Disney: Conversations* collects interviews and profiles of the man who created Mickey Mouse, and produced such full-length animated classics as *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *Fantasia*, *Bambi*, *The Lady and the Tramp*, *Dumbo*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Peter Pan*, and *Pinocchio*, along with countless short cartoons. Bringing together over twenty pieces from the late 1920s to the late 1960s, this book traces Disney's career from the early classic *Steamboat Willie* to the construction of Disneyland, and the live-action ventures *The Mickey Mouse Club* and *Mary Poppins*. *Walt Disney: Conversations* shows how Disney saw his productions as shapers of popular culture and reveals how firmly he understood the issues of his time. Featuring an interview conducted by producer Cecil B. DeMille, Disney's testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and rarely seen pieces from the Disney corporation's archives, *Walt Disney: Conversations* reveals a complex visionary whose impact on animation, live-action film, television, and theme parks has never been equaled.

From Publishers WeeklyJackson explores the man behind the Magic Kingdom, evoking Disney's folksy yet driven personality through interviews he gave and speeches he delivered between 1929 and 1966. From a *Ladies' Home Journal* celebrity profile (entitled "Mr. and Mrs. Disney") to an informative dialogue from the Disney archives, it's clear that Disney's leading quality was persistence. Though Disney was criticized for his films and underpaying employees, this work defends his taste and management style. Most interesting are the contradictory critiques of his work. Told his films are maudlin, Disney responds: "Millions of sentimentalists have taste as schmaltzy as mine." When slammed for the darker elements of his works (the witches, ogres and dragons), he claims all his films illustrate that "[I]f life is composed of lights and shadows, and we would be untruthful, insincere, and saccharine if we tried to pretend there were no shadows." Of particular note is Disney's testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, where he named suspected Communists. Aside from a brief intro, Jackson, a communications professor at Virginia Wesleyan College, doesn't put Disney's remarks in context, leaving readers to assemble a full portrait of the man on their own. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistAlthough these 19 interviews and profiles constitute a volume in the *Conversations with Comic Artists* series, Walt Disney wasn't much of a cartoonist, and although his name is attached to many beloved movies, he wasn't a filmmaker in any typical sense. As he readily admitted, his role was to get the best out of the talented staff he assembled to produce his animated classics. In that capacity, he became more famous than genuine movie directors, appearing on dozens of magazines' covers and hosting a weekly TV show. The pieces here range from a brief newspaper story from 1929 (the year after the first Mickey Mouse talkie, *Steamboat Willie*) to a magazine piece from 1966, the year Disney died. Editor Jackson dug deep for some of them, such as a 1938 radio interview conducted by Cecil B. DeMille, a 1941 pep talk to Disney studio employees, and Disney's 1947 testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee, in which he inveighed against the Communist infiltration of Hollywood. Of interest to fans and scholars alike. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedFrom the PublisherMore than twenty interviews spanning forty years of Disney's animation and filmmaking: * Provide the only book made up exclusively of Walt Disney's interviews and interview-based profiles * Appeal to readers and scholars interested in media, journalism, theme parks, in addition to animation and film * Include six images from Disney's archives * Feature an interview conducted by producer Cecil B. DeMille, Disney's testimony to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and two rarely seen pieces from the Disney corporations archives