

The Animated Film Encyclopedia: A Complete Guide to American Shorts, Features and Sequences, 1900 – 1999. 2nd ed. Edited by Graham Webb. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2011. 509p. alkaline \$125 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-4985-9).

The Animated Film Encyclopedia is, as stated in the volume's introduction, "an alphabetical listing of every American theatrical cartoon released from 1900 through 1999" (1). While the first edition of this title concluded at 1979, this new edition has been updated to include theatrical cartoons released throughout the entirety of the twentieth century. Thanks to the expanded time range, the encyclopedia now includes cartoons and live-action features which utilize computer generated imagery, such as *Jurassic Park*.

The entries are arranged by cartoon title and range from the early and obscure to the modern and well-known. Here readers will find information on little known cartoons (some of which no longer exist) such as 1925's *Air Cooled*, in which "The animals join forces to help farmer Al Falfa's dirigible take flight" (9), alongside more recent features which have become part of contemporary popular culture, such as *Toy Story* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

In addition to feature presentations, the volume also includes entries on individual shorts for the many animated series which were an integral part of the movie going experience earlier in the twentieth century. Entries are included for all episodes of long-running series such as Felix the Cat, Looney Tunes, Merrie Melodies, Mickey Mouse, Mighty Mouse, Popeye the Sailor, Superman, Tom and Jerry, Woody Woodpecker, and many others.

Each entry in *The Animated Film Encyclopedia* includes the cartoon's release date, studio of origin, credits, running time, and a brief synopsis of its plot. Although no biographical information is given, the encyclopedia includes an index of contributors which will allow readers to locate individuals within the credits of specific cartoons. A helpful feature is the appendix, which lists twentieth century American theatrical cartoon series and provides lists of all individual shorts for each series.

The Animated Film Encyclopedia may inevitably be compared to Jeff Lenburg's *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons, third edition* (Checkmark Books, 2009). Lenburg's volume covers cartoons created for television as well as theatrical releases and is therefore broader in scope; however, it is not as thorough in its coverage of theatrical cartoons. Unlike *The Animated Film Encyclopedia*, *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons, third edition* does not provide synopses of individual episodes of animated shorts. Lenburg's volume does, however, provide historical overviews of each series. It is recommended that libraries purchase both titles for the best coverage of this subject.

The Animated Film Encyclopedia is recommended for both academic and public libraries.—Edward Whatley, *Instruction and Reference Librarian, Georgia College, Milledgeville, Georgia*

The Baby Boomer Encyclopedia. By Martin Gitlin. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 231p. acid free \$55 (ISBN: 978-0-3133-8218-5). E-book available (ISBN: 978-0-3133-8219-2), call for pricing.

Martin Gitlin's *Baby Boomer Encyclopedia* is a fun read, especially if you fall into one of the categories that the Library of Congress has supplied as one of the subject headings for this work: "Middle-aged persons—United States—Encyclopedias." Gitlin's stated purpose was "to broadly encapsulate the generation" (vii) and to "[inform] later generations about their Baby Boomer parents and [to give] Boomers insight into their generation." (vii) With nearly one hundred entries, there is a lot of information to support these goals. Under the entry for "Games" (77) are descriptions of chicken fights and red rover. The TV show M*A*S*H has an entry, as does Ronald Reagan. The entire book is a short trip (see also "LSD" (119–20)) down that well-worn path, Memory Lane. Entries are generally at least a page in length, although some are longer. Most entries have at least two citations for "further reading." A brief chronology opens the encyclopedia beginning with the end of World War II in 1945 and the birth of the first babies of the baby boom in 1946 and continuing through 2010 when the first baby boomers reached retirement age. An alphabetical list of entries is provided at the beginning, as is a topical list. Topics include "Arts and Culture," "Events," "Family," "Music," and "Politics and Activism," among others. Scattered black and white photographs provide illustrations.

As with any encyclopedia of this nature, there is always the problem articulated by Bob Seger: "So much more to think about / Deadlines and commitments / What to leave in, what to leave out" (*Against the Wind*, 1980). Gitlin indicates that he chose topics "based on relevancy to the generation as a whole" (vii). This is understandably a huge task and will, perforce, be rather hit or miss. At only 231 pages, it is nearly impossible to be completely comprehensive. However, while there are essays on various topics such as "Aging" (3), "Career Changes" (23), and "Marriage and Infidelity" (131) there are rather conspicuous absences. The Cold War is mentioned in passing but doesn't get its own entry. If worried parents coupled with school children practicing what to do when "the Big One comes" didn't shape the baby boomers, what did? Steve Martin, the Monkees, *I Love Lucy*, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, *The Flintstones*, and the campus shootings of 1970 are among the many notable gaps. The selections seem to reflect the author's personal preferences, less than a sense of scholarship. Happily, the "Space Race and Moon Landing" (178–80) made the cut, but Neil Armstrong does not merit his own entry.

The Baby Boomers Encyclopedia provides an interesting way to pass an afternoon and is useful to look up information on what may have been favorites for a reader, but other works are more useful to the reference collection. *The St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, edited by Tom and Sara Pendergast (St. James, 2000), and the Salem Press's titles *The*