

Walter Lantz

Walter Lantz was born into an immigrant Italian family in New Rochelle, New York. A newspaper cartoonist during his teens, he became an animator with Gregory La Cava and then worked with the animation pioneers at Bray Studios. In the late twenties he moved to Hollywood, landing a job with Universal Pictures. In 1935 he started his own production company, striking a deal with Universal to provide cartoons on a regular basis. Five years later, Walter Lantz Productions became a completely independent company. Eventually, its activities expanded to other areas such as television and the merchandising of cartoon-related products.



Walter Lantz's Woody Woodpecker and friend.

Lantz created many popular cartoon characters, including the bird with the trademark laugh, Woody Woodpecker. The Film and Television Archive holds more than twenty-five of Walter Lantz' cartoon shorts, spanning the early 1930s to the 1960s. Many of the titles from the 1940s feature the Woody Woodpecker character. At Arts-Special Collections the Walter Lantz Archive (1940-1979) is available for research. It consists of 350 boxes, divided into three main areas. Part I contains animation cels

and models, storyboards and backgrounds. Part II is devoted to production materials, including research materials and notes, scripts, treatments, storyboard sketches, cutting continuities, publicity materials (clippings, stills). Part III is a collection of comic books featuring Walter Lantz cartoon characters.

UCLA's Music Library holds the Walter Lantz Music Collection, containing scores, parts and detail sheets for Woody Woodpecker cartoons and various commercials. It also features popular sheet music for use as source material for productions.

FILMS

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

Bandmaster (1931). Universal Pictures. Directors, Walter Lantz and Bill Nolan. Artists, Clyde Geronomi, Manuel Moreno, Ray Abrams, Fred Avery, Lester Kline, Chet Karrbers, and Pinto Colvig.
Study Copy: VD 755 M

Knock, Knock (1940). Universal Pictures. Director, Walter Lantz. Story, Ben Hardaway and Lowell Elliot. Artists, Alex Lovy and Frank Tipper. Study Copy: VD 755 M

Woody Woodpecker: The Cracked Nut (1941). Walter Lantz Productions. Director, Walter Lantz. Story, Ben Hardaway and Jack Cosgriff. Artists, Alex Lovy and Ray Fahringer.
Study Copy: VD 754 M

Musical Moments from Chopin (1947). Walter Lantz Productions. Director, Dick Lundy. Story, Ben Hardaway and Milt Schaffer. Animation, Laverne Harding and Les Kline.
Study Copy: VD 755 M

Well Oiled (1947). Walter Lantz Productions and Universal Pictures. Director, Dick Lundy. Story, Ben Hardaway and Milt Schaffer. Animation, Les Kline and Pat Mathews.
Study Copy: VD 754 M

Banquet Busters (1948). Walter Lantz Productions. Director, Dick Lundy. Story, Ben Hardaway, Jack Cosgriff. Animation, Les Kline and Pat Mathews. Study Copy: VD 754 M

Redwood Sap (1951). Walter Lantz Productions. Director, Walter Lantz. Animation, Ray Abrams, Don Patterson, Laverne Harding and Paul Smith. Study Copy: VD 754 M

I'm Cold (1954). Universal-International. Producer, Walter Lantz. Director, Tex Avery. Story, Homer Brightman. Animation, Ray Abrams, Don Patterson and Laverne Harding.
Study Copy: VA 1540 M

PRINT RESOURCES

(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)

Adamson, Joe. *The Walter Lantz Story: With Woody Woodpecker and Friends*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1985.

Lantz, Walter. *Walter Lantz Animation Art*. Universal City, CA: Walter Lantz Productions, 1990.

RELATED RESOURCES

The Arts Library Special Collections unit of the UCLA Libraries Collection holds various materials related to Walter Lantz in the Walter Lantz Animation Archive 1940-1979. For more information, please contact Arts Library Special Collections: (310) 825-7253