



## Hollywood: Her Story November 2021 ENewsletter Animated Movies

Women have played significant roles in animated movies throughout their history. In addition to serving as inkers, animators, directors, and voice actresses, women wrote the music for these movies and developed pivotal technology. They championed the creation of the Annie Awards and were instrumental in advocating for Oscars recognizing achievement in animation. Let's learn about these women and their contributions.



In the 1930s, “the girls” (inkers and painters of thousands of fragile, combustible cels) worked tremendously long hours to produce *Snow White* for Walt Disney. They could be seen collapsed on the lawn, in the ladies’ lounge, and sometimes under their desks from working 85 hours a week. One said, “When I’d take my clothes off, I’d be in the closet, and I couldn’t figure it out: am I going to sleep or am I getting up?”



Voice actress **June Foray** had more than 300 credits during her 80-year long career. She voiced Lucifer in the 1950 movie *Cinderella*, Rocky the Flying Squirrel and Natasha Fatale in *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, and hundreds more. She established the Annie Awards, which were the first awards to celebrate accomplishments in animation. She lobbied for twenty years for the successful establishment of the Best Animated Feature Oscar. In 2012, at age 94, she became the oldest entertainer to win an Emmy Award for her work as Mrs. Cauldron on *The Garfield Show*. Comparing her to Mel Blanc, the voice of many animated characters, it was said, “June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc. Mel Blanc was the male June Foray.”



The 2009 movie *Avatar* wouldn't have been as successful without the use of the Real D 3D technology that electrical engineer **Dr. Kristina Johnson** invented. The technology is now the world's largest 3D platform. Dr. Johnson was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2015 for this contribution.



Director and animator **Jennifer Yuh Nelson** was the first woman to solely direct an animated film with *Kung Fu Panda 2* which had box office sales of more than \$665 million. Nelson was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Film Oscar for that movie. In 2016, she directed *Kung Fu Panda 3* which had worldwide box office sales of more than \$500 million.



Writer, animator, and director **Brenda Chapman** was the first woman to win an Oscar in the Best Animated Feature category, sharing the Oscar for the movie *Brave*. The first woman to serve as a director for an animated movie, Chapman co-directed the 1998 animated film *The Prince of Egypt*. She worked as an artist for Disney movies, including *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. For *The Lion King*, Chapman was the first woman to serve as head of story for an animated feature film.



Songwriter and lyricist **Kristen Anderson-Lopez** shared the 2014 Best Music, Original Song Oscar with her husband Robert Lopez for the song “Let it Go” from the movie *Frozen*. They won an Oscar in the same category in 2018 for the song “Remember Me” from the movie *Coco*. Anderson-Lopez also won Annie Awards for Music in a Feature Production for *Frozen* and for *Coco*. She had been nominated for Annie Awards in the same category for *Frozen II* and *Winnie the Pooh*. Anderson-Lopez has also won two Grammy Awards for her work on *Frozen* including Best Song Written for Visual Media.



Writer and director **Jennifer Lee** not only won the Best Animated Feature Film Oscar in 2014 for *Frozen*, she was also the first female director whose feature film earned more than \$1 billion in gross box office revenue. The first female director of a Walt Disney Animation Studios feature film, Lee also wrote and directed *Frozen II* which earned \$1.5 billion in box office revenues. She had made a name for herself with *Wreck-It Ralph* in 2012.



**Bonnie Arnold** became co-president of feature animation for Dreamworks Animation in 2015. That year, she shared a Best Animated Feature Film nomination for *How to Train Your Dragon*. The films that she has produced include *Toy Story*, *Tarzan*, *Over the Hedge* and three movies in the *How to Train Your Dragon* sequence with a total of \$2.2 billion in box office revenues.



Producer and visual effects artist **Nicole Paradis Grindle** was nominated for the 2016 Best Short Film, Animated Oscar for *Sanjay's Super Team*. Her production credits include *The Incredibles*, *Monster University*, *Toy Story 3*, *Incredibles 2* and others.

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

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