

First week - Introduction

- 1) *How Walt Disney Cartoons Are Made* (1937) [**Excerpt**] Live-action documentary on the different steps involved in making a Disney cartoon, made to explain the process behind *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* for RKO executives; they liked it so much they released it theatrically with extra footage of the premiere to promote the film [Not included in this excerpt]. Because the feature was released city by city, this would have been the first chance many people would have had to see any bit of it. This later was shown on the *Disneyland* television program in the 1950s.
- 2) Excerpt from *The Story of the Animated Drawing* originally shown on *Walt Disney's Disneyland* TV program, 1955. Walt Disney discusses and demonstrates 19th century optical devices that created the illusion of motion (he gets some details wrong); included is an excerpt from an animated cartoon shown in Emile Reynaud's Théâtre Optique (circa 1894).
- 3) Excerpt from *Tricks of Our Trade* episode (1957) of *Walt Disney's Disneyland* TV program explaining the reasons for developing the multi-plane camera and the way it worked to create the illusion of depth within the animated image. The excerpt shows only the standard process of photographing cels and demonstrates that a single cel can be perceived if it is significantly different from the surrounding cels – in this case, an earlier figure of Mickey walking a path can be seen when apparently two cels stuck together and the mistake was never noticed by the camera operator or Walt.
- 4) *Animated Motion: Part 1* (Norman McLaren, Grant Munro, 1976, NFBC) Explanation of tempo in animated films. An assistant moves a disc across a field at different speeds measured by different positions on the field, from two to one thousand. What we saw demonstrates that one can distinguish a single frame if it is different from its context. It also demonstrates the tediousness and repetition that lies behind animated images.
- 5) *Pasadena Freeway Stills* (Gary Beydler, 1974) Sixteen millimeter film of a ride down the Pasadena Freeway is printed as individual photos and then reanimated as the filmmaker places each one in a taped square in the center of the screen. The frequency of the photos increases to 24 per second to recapture the original film motion while the filmmaker's hands move into essentially time-lapse photography mode. A demonstration of how live-action film is also a form of animation as well as a demonstration of how different sorts of time can appear in the same shot or sequence.

For further or repeat viewings

All five parts of *Animated Motion* can be found on the National Film Board of Canada's web site in their Animation collection.

Pasadena Freeway Stills can be found on YouTube.