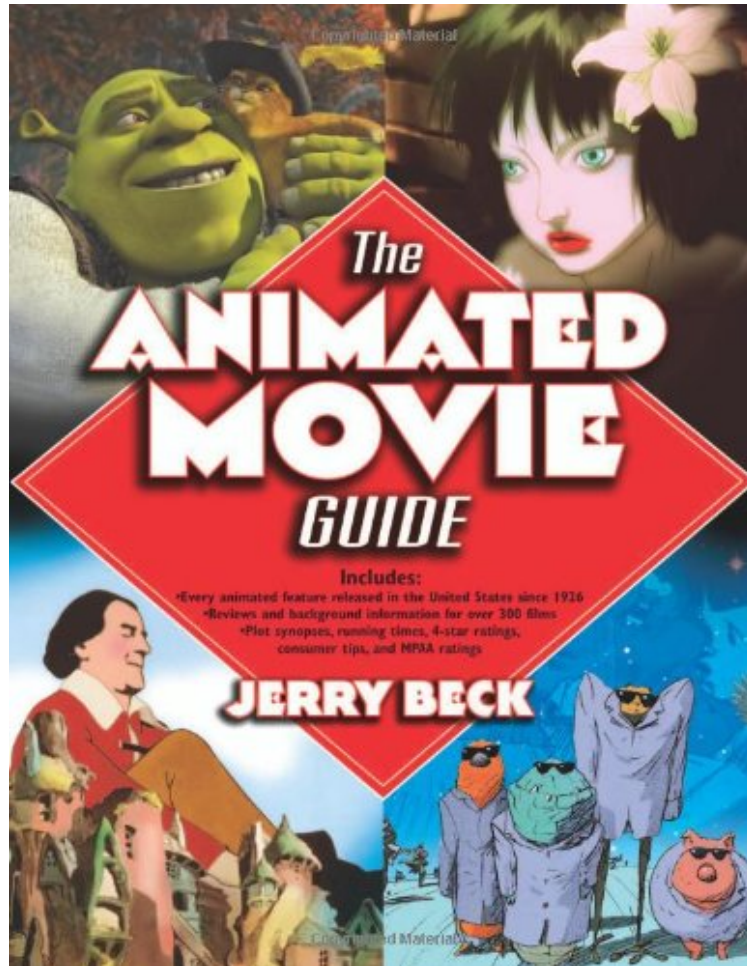


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## The Animated Movie Guide

*Jerry Beck*

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**Jerry Beck : The Animated Movie Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Animated Movie Guide:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Must-Have Guide for Animated Feature Films By Dan S This book is both a tremendous resource for animation buffs and a casual introduction to the history of animation for general fans. It has a complete entry of every animated movie released in American theaters through 2004-ish. The films are sorted alphabetically, but there's a reference at the beginning which lists the films in chronological order. The most useful and entertaining part of each entry is the review and rating. While I didn't agree with every single rating, the concise evaluation and analysis was always grounded in excellent knowledge of the film, its production, and its place in the grander scheme of the history of animation. Jerry Beck is the key editor and most prominent writer, but other contributing writers chime in their thoughts. The writing is very solid, and I don't recall ever noticing moments of poor editing or sloppy writing as you often find in big, sprawling guides such as these For the readers who know

their animation history, every film also has a pretty extensive credit list including the obvious -- director, writer -- as well as a long list of contributing animators. Every film also includes a paragraph-or-two synopsis of the film and, often, a screenshot from the movie. If I had a complaint, it would be that the layout is not particularly pretty or easy on the eyes. The screenshots are small and monochrome. The text is relatively small and almanac-like. But this isn't meant to be a big, illustrated compendium. It's more of a reference book, albeit a fun one. There are a few "bonus features" along with the main section on the films -- bits about foreign animation and TV movies. These are interesting, though not as compelling or in-depth as the main section. Also, the fact that it's now seven years old slightly hinders its utility. Animation has so radically transformed in the last ten years that I feel like some of the perspective on some films would have changed. It also would be nice to read these writers' takes on Wall-E, Fantastic Mr. Fox, and the like. (Jerry Beck's web-site has a constantly updated chronological list, but no updated entries on recent films.) But this is really an essential for any fan of animation. It can be read cover-to-cover as a primer on animated film's history, flipped through to read analysis on recognizable films, or just left on a coffee table for idle moments. It really is that good, useful, and well-written.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars  
By DEBORAH NOT REALLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR BUT IT WELL DO  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Animated Movie Guide  
By Michael Forrester  
Full of in - depth, complete, and insightful reviews for any lover of animation. I would whole-heartedly recommend this book to anyone.

Going beyond the box-office hits of Disney and Dreamworks, this guide to every animated movie ever released in the United States covers more than 300 films over the course of nearly 80 years of film history. Well-known films such as Finding Nemo and Shrek are profiled and hundreds of other films, many of them rarely discussed, are analyzed, compared, and catalogued. The origin of the genre and what it takes to make a great animated feature are discussed, and the influence of Japanese animation, computer graphics, and stop-motion puppet techniques are brought into perspective. Every film analysis includes reviews, four-star ratings, background information, plot synopses, accurate running times, consumer tips, and MPAA ratings. Brief guides to made-for-TV movies, direct-to-video releases, foreign films that were never theatrically released in the U.S., and live-action films with significant animation round out the volume.

From Booklist That Walt Disney did not invent cartoons is deftly demonstrated in this attractive and comprehensive guide to more than 300 animated films that have been theatrically released in the U.S. Author Beck is one of the creators of Animation magazine, has written articles and books on his subject, has taught at UCLA and NYU, is a consultant for Cartoon Network, and has served as vice president for animation for Nickelodeon Movies. He maintains two Web sites: <http://www.cartoonresearch.com>, and, to keep this guide up-to-date, <http://www-animatedmovieguide.com>, which is made of very brief entries. The descriptions for the films include release date, credits, plot synopsis, commentary, and a star rating system--from zero stars for films that are "Pure Torture" to four for a masterpiece. Entries place each film into both artistic and historical context. Beck's comment sections are interesting, and his editorializing is amusing and insightful. He describes films from all of the major and relatively unknown studios, running the gamut from the most vapid of children's fare (My Little Pony) to the adult features of the swinging 1970s, such as Ralph Bakshi's X-rated Fritz the Cat. Japanese anime is one of the most popular forms of animation for children and adult, with anime clubs becoming active on many college and university campuses, and the entries on anime are particularly informative for the novice. Beck includes a chronological list of all 308 features, from 1926's The Adventures of Prince Achmed, which is based upon stories from the Arabian Nights, to Sky Blue, a popular South Korean science fiction story. There are three appendixes: "Limited Release Animated Features," "Top 60 Animated Features Never Theatrically Released in the United States," and "Top 20 Live-Action Films Featuring Great Animation." A good choice for collections of popular culture, film studies, and graphic arts, this will also be a popular title for fans of animated film and parents who want quality entertainment for the kids. Lisa Johnston  
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Deserves a spot on any movie aficionado's book shelf." Animation Magazine