

### **1. 'Fantasmagorie' (1908)**

Animated and directed by Émile Cohl

Running time 1:20 min

An animated film by French caricaturist, cartoonist and animator Émile Cohl. It is one of the earliest examples of hand-drawn animation, and considered by many film historians to be the very first animated cartoon. Despite appearances the animation is not created on a blackboard but rather on paper, the blackboard effect achieved by shooting each of the 700 drawings onto negative film. The title is a reference to the "fantasmograph", a mid-19th century variant of the magic lantern that projected ghostly images on to surrounding walls.

### **2. 'Felix Finds Out (1924)**

Felix the Cat series, directed by Otto Messmer

Produced by Pat Sullivan Cartoons

Running time 9:04 min

After Felix gets his friend in trouble for not doing his homework, Felix tries to make amends by finding out for him "What makes the moon shine?"

### **3. Cartoonland Mysteries (1936)**

Documentary by Walter Lantz

A behind the scenes look at the entire process of early 20<sup>th</sup> century animation, by cartoonist and studio owner Walter Lantz.

### **4. 'All Wet' (1927)**

Oswald the Lucky Rabbit series, directed by Walt Disney

Studio: Walt Disney

Running time 6:47 min

Oswald was Walt Disney's original cartoon star. He lost the rights to Oswald in 1928 and subsequently created the very famous (and similar looking!) Mouse we all know today. In this short Oswald is working a hot dog stand and tries to impress a lady!

### **5. 'Koko's Earth Control' (1928)**

The Inkwell Imps starring Koko the Clown and Fitz the Dog, directed by Dave Fleischer

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 5:48 min

The short begins with Max Fleischer at his drawing board, inking in Koko and Fitz running across an animated earth, until they find the "Control of Earth" station. Inside, the duo begin carelessly toying around with its controls, with Koko trying to stop Fitz from pulling the lever that will end the earth.

### **6. 'Swing, You Sinners' (1930)**

Bimbo the Dog series, directed by Dave Fleischer

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 8:16 min

'Swing, You Sinners' was the first of many Fleischer Studios cartoons that mixed surrealism, cartoon ghosts & goblins, and hot jazz. While other studios built their cartoons around fairy tale stories or topical gags, the Fleischers constructed cartoons in the same way jazz music was constructed... statement of the theme, a series of variations and a big finish.

### **7. 'Gypped In Egypt' (1930)**

Aesop's Fables series, directed by John Foster and Mannie Davis

Produced by Van Beuren Studios

Running time 8:31 min

Waffles and Don nap in a hammock supported by a walking camel's legs. When they awaken and spot a pool of water, the camel wants his share but Waffles impulsively grabs the animal's neck and bashes him dead! A horrific giant sphinx nearby chides Waffles: "You killed him!" Waffles tries to repent, but to no avail; the sphinx magically transports Waffles and Don into a pyramid.

### **8. 'Bimbo's Initiation' (1931)**

Talkartoon series, directed by Dave Fleischer

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 6:00 min

Bimbo is walking down the street when he suddenly disappears down an open manhole. He lands in an underground clubhouse of a secret society. The leader asks Bimbo if he'd like to be a member, but Bimbo refuses and is sent through a series of dangerous events. A pre-censorship Betty Boop features and a weird amount of butt slapping occurs in this one.

### **9. 'Popcorn' (1931)**

Directed by Paul Terry and Frank Moser

Produced by Terrytoons

Running time 5:46 min

A (non-Disney approved) mouse couple go out for a bicycle ride along a beachfront amusement park, encounter a Haunted House AND a rogue lion but that doesn't get in the way of their day out! This animation is definitely lighter in tone than many of its contemporaries from Fleischer Studios and Van Beuren.

### **10. 'Spooks' (1931)**

Flip the Frog series, directed by Ub Iwerks

Produced by Ub Iwerks

Running time 7:56

During a night time thunderstorm, Flip and his horse head for shelter. An old shed disappears in a strong gust. They trudge up a hill, where they stumble into a mansion haunted by crazy skeletons and undergo a series of adventures.

### **11. 'The Wild Goose Chase' (1931)**

Aesop's Fables series, directed by John Foster and Mannie Davis

Produced by Van Beuren Studios

Running time 6:09 min

The cartoon starts with a trio of frogs with banjos, singing the song 'Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella' and creatures in the wild are shown what they do during the rainy weather. A boy cat tries to cheer up his girl cat friend, they go look for a pot of gold in a castle in the sky and that's where it begins to get strange...

## **12. 'Snow White'**

Betty Boop series, directed by Roland Crandall

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 7:06 min

This 1933 cartoon featuring Cab Calloway is Betty Boop's forty-third cartoon appearance. It is remarkable for having been animated by a single individual, Roland Crandall, and is considered one of the best cartoons ever made. A stand out scene is Koko the Clown singing 'St James Infirmary Blues'. During the scene Koko is rotoscoped over film footage of Cab Calloway dancing, it's a memorable sequence and quite disturbing!

## **13. 'The Lumber Champ' (1933)**

Pooch the Pup series, directed by Walter Lanz

Produced by Walter Lanz Productions

Running time 8:23 min

Woodcutter Pooch falls in love with a girl painting pictures in the woods. His boss promptly takes the girl for himself and so Pooch embarks on a heroic rescue! Filled with lots of visual gags and fun music. The song 'The Cute Little Things You Do' is prominently featured on the soundtrack.

## **14. 'Ha! Ha! Ha!' (1934)**

Betty Boop series, directed by Dave Fleischer

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 6:29 min

When Koko the Clown comes out of Max Fleischer's inkwell and eats a chocolate candy bar, he gets a painful toothache. Seeing that Koko is in extreme pain, Betty takes the suffering clown to the dentist's office. She tries to pull his

bad tooth, but she turns up the laughing gas tanks too high, and very soon, Betty, Koko and the whole city are reduced to uncontrollable laughter.

### **15. 'Red Hot Mamma' (1934)**

Betty Boop series, directed by Dave Fleischer

Produced by Fleischer Studios

Running time 6:46 min

Betty Boop, sleepless on a freezing night, builds a nice hot fire which proves too much of a good thing; in a dream she visits Hell, sings "Hell's Bells," and makes Hell freeze over! This was one of the last Betty Boop cartoons released before the Hays Act was passed in 1935. The Hays Act was created to "clean up" the media. It censored movies and cartoons, transforming Betty Boop into a wholesome and, compared to her former self, rather uninteresting character.



Curated by Coby Walsh [www.cobywalsh.co.uk](http://www.cobywalsh.co.uk)

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