

It all started with a...

An Animation Classic

Based on the popular 1956 children's book by Dodie Smith, this charming story of spotted dogs and puppies-puppies became perennial and beloved favorite with Walt Disney's animated feature film production of '101 Dalmatians.'

The 17th animated feature film from the Walt Disney Studios, many historians believe this to be one of Disney's finest animated films as his animators had perfected their craft and the studio's Animation Department was at the height of their success.

'101 Dalmatians' was the first of Disney's animated features to be set in a contemporary context. This imaginatively animated telling is a wonderful mixture of fantasy, comedy, sentiment, adventure, suspense and an extraordinary number of spots!

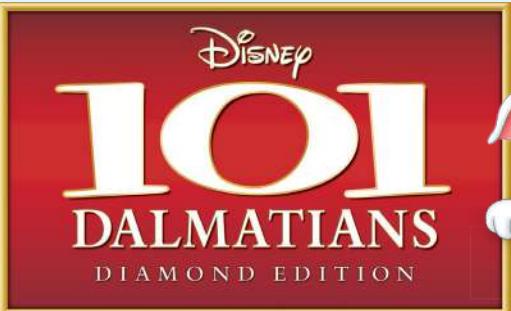


To ease the daunting task of continuity for millions of spots across an entire feature length film it was the technical genius of longtime Disney collaborator, Ub Iwerks who adapted the Xerox process to create 'Xerography.' This technique not only made it possible to consider making a movie with 101 spotty dogs, but it also reduced the number of steps in transferring the animator's drawings to the finished film. At the time of its release in 1961, 101 Dalmatians received unanimous critical adoration and box office success. The subsequent reissues have proved continually successful with each new generation of puppy-lovers!

The legendary Marc Davis was the master artist behind the lines of Cruella De Vil. One of Walt Disney's Nine Old Men of Animation, Davis captured the comic creepiness of La DeVil from her biologically impossible frame to her flamboyant fashion sense. Madame DeVil was the only character in the history of Disney Animation to have been exclusively drawn by one artist throughout the entire production.



Three people were key in shaping Cruella into such an iconic villainess ^a Bill Peet -Disney's legendary story man, Betty Lou Gerson ^a the source of Cruella's booming voice, and Marc Davis. Character actress Mary Wickes provided filmed live-action movements as a reference. "I had several partial models in mind when I drew Cruella," declared Davis, "including Tallulah (Bankhead) and one woman I knew who was just a monster. She was tall and thin and talked constantly ^a you never knew what she was saying, but you couldn't get a word in edgewise. What I really wanted to do was make the character move like someone you wouldn't like."



The Puppies

Spots, spots and even more spots! It is estimated 6,429,952 animated Dalmatian spots appear on screen during the course of this film. Individually, Pongo, our hero, has 72 spots, Perdita, his love, 68 and each of the 99 puppies has 32.



Legendary animator Frank Thomas recalls that drawing the dogs was one of his most difficult assignments. "The Dalmatians were complicated and tough to draw because of their sleek-haired bodies. The character design required accurately drawn bones, muscles and structure instead of a more caricatured approach. We brought lots of dogs to the Studio and filmed their every movement so that we could study them frame by frame and make sketches as we went along."

Production

Bill Peet, credited with adapting Dodie Smith's popular children's book, became the first writer in the Studios history to receive sole credit for creating a screenplay for an animated feature. Due in part to Peet's inspired storytelling and the ability of the Disney animators to create characters that were entertaining, with credible personalities and emotions, 101 DALMATIANS is regarded as one of the studio's most successful and memorable motion pictures.

101 Dalmatians utilized the talents of over 150 studio artists during the three years it was in production. Directorial chores were divided among Disney veterans Wolfgang Reitherman, Clyde Geronimi and Hamilton Luske.

The spots and all other color effects required 800 gallons of very special paint weighing nearly five tons. In other words, enough paint to dress the exteriors of 135 average homes. Nearly 1,000 different shades of color were created from secret formulas in the Disney Studio Paint Lab. It is estimated that nearly 1, 218,750 pencils were used by artists during the course of production.



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