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WALT DISNEY'S CLASSIC

THE ARTISTOCATS

G GENERAL AUDIENCES
All Ages Admitted

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TECHNICOLOR®

WALT DISNEY
PICTURES

Presents

THE ARISTOCATS

"The Aristocats" sung by Maurice Chevalier

Produced by

WOLFGANG REITHERMAN
WINSTON HIBLER

Directed by

WOLFGANG REITHERMAN

Story

LARRY CLEMMONS

VANCE GERRY	KEN ANDERSON
FRANK THOMAS	ERIC CLEWORTH
JULIUS SVENDSEN	RALPH WRIGHT

Based on a story by Tom McGowan and Tom Rowe

Directing Animators

MILT KAHL	OLLIE JOHNSTON
FRANK THOMAS	JOHN LOUNSBERY

Production Design

KEN ANDERSON

Character Animation

HAL KING	ERIC LARSON
ERIC CLEWORTH	JULIUS SVENDSEN
FRED HELLMICH	WALT STANCHFIELD
DAVE MICHENER	

Effects Animation

DAN MacMANUS	DICK LUCAS
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VOICE TALENTS

PHIL HARRIS
(O'Malley)

EVA GABOR
(Duchess)

STERLING HOLLOWAY
(Roquefort)

SCATMAN CROTHERS.....SCAT CAT
PAUL WINCHELL.....CHINESE CAT
LORD TIM HUDSON.....ENGLISH CAT
VITO SCOTTI.....ITALIAN CAT
THURL RAVENSCROFT.....RUSSIAN CAT
DEAN CLARK.....BERLIOZ
LIZ ENGLISH.....MARIE
GARY DUBIN.....TOULOUSE
NANCY KULP.....FROU-FROU
PAT BUTTRAM.....NAPOLEON
GEORGE LINDSEY.....LAFAYETTE
MONICA EVANS.....ABIGAIL
CAROLE SHELLEY.....AMELIA
CHARLES LANE.....LAWYER
HERMIONE BADDELEY.....MADAME
RODDY MAUDE-ROXBY.....BUTLER
BILL THOMPSON.....UNCLE WALDO

MUSIC

GEORGE BRUNS

ORCHESTRATION

WALTER SHEETS

SONGS

"The Aristocats"
"Scales and Arpeggios"
"She Never Felt Alone"
Written by
RICHARD M. SHERMAN
and
ROBERT B. SHERMAN

"Thomas O'Malley Cat"
Sung by Phil Harris
Written by
TERRY GILKYSON

"Ev'rybody Wants To Be A Cat"

Written by
FLOYD HUDDLESTON
and AL RINKER

LAYOUT

DON GRIFFITH
BASIL DAVIDOVICH
SYLVIA ROEMER

BACKGROUND

AL DEMPSTER
BILL LAYNE
RALPH HULETT

PRODUCTION MANAGER

DON DUCKWALL

SOUND

ROBERT O. COOK

FILM EDITOR

TOM ACOSTA

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

ED HANSEN
DAN ALGUIRE

MUSIC EDITOR

EVELYN KENNEDY

RUNNING TIME: 1 HOUR, 18 MINUTES

"THE ARISTOCATS"**Production Information**

A family of French felines finds action, adventure and a whole lot "amour" when they are named heirs to their mistress' millions in Walt Disney Pictures' animated classic "The Aristocats." Purr-formances by top notch vocal talents, a trio of memorable tunes by the Academy Award-winning Sherman Brothers and stylish animation by a seasoned staff of Disney veterans helped make "The Aristocats" a tremendous success upon its initial release in 1970 and a timeless treat for the generations that have followed.

"The Aristocats" was Disney's 20th full-length animated feature and the first to be produced in its entirety following the death of Walt Disney in 1966. Based on an original story by Tom McGowan and Tom Rowe, this was also one of the few cartoon features that was not based on a legend, fairy tale or classic children's story.

Against the backdrop of turn-of-the-century Paris, the Disney creative team developed a veritable catalogue of charismatic characters for the project and then found the ideal actors to portray them. Eva Gabor toplines the cat cast with her vocalization of Duchess, the aristocratic heir

to a wealthy estate. Veteran singer/actor Phil Harris, who had proven to be one of the "bear necessities" in the studio's previous animated hit "The Jungle Book" with his interpretation of Baloo, returned to the Disney fold to lend his voice to a Casanova cat-about-town with the moniker of O'Malley. Another Disney favorite, Sterling Holloway, provided the distinctive dialogue for Roquefort, a self-styled Sherlock Holmes mouse.

Other cast members include Hermione Baddeley as the fanatic feline fancier Madame Bonfamille; Scatman Crothers as Scat Cat, the leader of a hip alley cat band; Roddy Maude-Roxby as Edgar, the greedy butler-turned-catnapper; Pat Buttram and George Lindsey as the tireless canines Napoleon and Lafayette, and Nancy Kulp (of "Beverly Hillbillies" fame) as a carriage horse named Frou-Frou. Paul Winchell is the voice of the Chinese cat and Thurl Ravenscroft (best known as the g-r-r-eat voice behind Frosted Flakes' Tony the Tiger) vocalizes the Russian cat.

One of Hollywood's most familiar and enduring character actors, Charles Lane (now 82), speaks for Paris' oldest lawyer, Monsieur Hautecourt, while Gary Dubin, Dean Clark and Liz English comprise the youthful trio of purloined pets.

"The Aristocats" boasts one additional casting coup. France's most popular singer, Maurice Chevalier, was lured out of retirement to record the film's title tune. The

internationally renowned boulevardier said he took the assignment out of "respect for Walt Disney."

THE DISNEY TRADITION

The death of Walt Disney in 1966 left a gap that could never be filled, but his hand-picked successors were determined to carry on the tradition of animation he had established. Co-producers Winston Hibler and Wolfgang "Woolie" Reitherman, who also directed "The Aristocats," had the support and combined talent of a finely honed production team composed of artists who had served an average of 25 years each with the studio.

Supervising animator Frank Thomas (co-author of Disney Animation: The Illusion of Life with fellow animator Ollie Johnston) observed at the time, "We were all so well trained in Walt's way of thinking that even if we didn't match his personal inspiration we would still produce something Walt would have been proud of."

The late Woolie Reitherman commented back in 1970 that Disney had been weaning his animation team to work more on their own for some time. "Starting with 'Sleeping Beauty' in 1959," said Reitherman, "through 'Jungle Book' a few years ago, which was the last cartoon to which Walt actively contributed, each new animation project was completed more and more without him."

Despite the absence of Walt Disney, story and production design supervisor Ken Anderson remembers "We found ourselves asking 'How would Walt react to this?' or 'What would Walt do?' The important thing was that we were able to solve the problems without him."

Today, more than 20 years after his death, the organization that Walt Disney founded continues to prosper and be synonymous with quality animation. The studio remains committed to the animation medium and recently announced that it would be producing more animated product than ever before under a new accelerated schedule that will release a new feature every 18 months. The 1986 release of "The Great Mouse Detective" proved to be a commercial and critical success and the studio is currently in production on its next full length animated feature, "Oliver and the Dodger." The latter, a contemporary American version of "Oliver Twist" using dogs and cats and featuring the voices of Bette Midler and Billy Joel, is due for release in 1988.

A CAT'S EYE VIEW OF PARIS

Nearly 900 painted backgrounds were created over a period of 18 months for "The Aristocats" under the supervision of veteran background artist Al Dempster and his team of six painters. These background paintings were meticulously researched and painstakingly executed to

heighten the film's artistic and dramatic effect and to provide the proper physical arena for a mysterious catnapping.

To authentically capture the charm of turn-of-the-century Paris, as reflected by the buildings and countryside of the period, the artists referred to several hundred periodicals and books. Dempster also drew on his own personal experience from the recent past when he had spent a month painting in Paris.

One of the biggest challenges facing the background artists was to create a color scheme for the settings that would complement the characters and action. This was particularly difficult given the various colors of the kittens -- white, orange and gray -- and the large amount of nighttime action.

THE MUSIC

"The Aristocats" incorporates a wide assortment of music running the gamut from French-themed orchestrations to swinging jazz. Also featured are five delightful new songs.

Disney staff composer George Bruns was responsible for creating the 55 minutes of background underscoring and orchestrations heard throughout the 78-minute film. A bagpipe-like instrument called a musette used in combination with strings and woodwinds helped give a French flavor to

the score. The second half of the film is heavily jazz influenced and was the result of a jam session with Hollywood's best studio musicians.

Three of the five songs heard in "The Aristocats" were written by a songwriting duo that was not exactly new to the Disney studio. Robert and Richard Sherman have been responsible for composing such Disney standards as "It's a Small World," "Let's Get Together" and all the Academy Award-winning music for "Mary Poppins." Their association with the studio began in 1959 when Annette recorded their first hit "Tall Paul." This eventually led to an eight-year contract with Disney during which time they provided songs for more than 28 films and television programs.

The Sherman Brothers' work on "The Aristocats" includes the title tune sung by that inimitable French crooner Maurice Chevalier. Forty years prior, Chevalier had sung a tune in his debut Hollywood film entitled "Laughing In The Sunlight, Loving in the Moonlight." Ironically, that song was written by the Shermans' father, Al.

The two other songs written by the Shermans include "She Never Felt Alone" and "Scales and Arpeggios," the latter a kitten-on-the-keys lesson in melody making.

Terry Gilkyson wrote the "Thomas O'Malley Cat" song specifically to fit singer Phil Harris' unique style and delivery. The songwriter was an old pro at this having previously written "The Bare Necessities" for Harris' Baloo character in "The Jungle Book."

The coolest cat musicians in all cartoondom join together in a jazz jam session on "Ev'rybody Wants To Be A Cat" (written by Floyd Huddleston and Al Rinker). Scatman Crothers as Scat Cat leads an international contingent of felines on a psychedelic parade through Paris in this merry musical moment.

THE VOICE CAST

PHIL HARRIS, a veteran of almost 60 years as a stage, screen and radio personality, brings a lot of himself to the character of O'Malley the alley cat. His warm, comfortable, kicked-back demeanor also proved to be a real inspiration to the Disney animators on such characters as Baloo in "The Jungle Book" and another bear named Little John in the 1973 animated feature "Robin Hood." It was Walt Disney himself who suggested Harris for the part of Baloo after hearing him perform at a Palm Springs benefit.

Harris was born in Linton, Indiana on June 24, 1904 but grew up in Nashville, Tennessee where he acquired his famous southern drawl. His parents were performers with tent stock companies and taught him the fundamentals of music at an early age.

In 1929, Harris relocated to San Francisco and formed his own band. Following a three year gig at the St. Francis Hotel, the band moved into a regular slot at the Ambassador Hotel's popular Coconut Grove nightclub in Los Angeles.

Harris made his film debut in the 1933 feature film "Melody Cruise" and went on to appear in such other motion pictures as "Buck Benny Rides Again" (1940), "Wabash Avenue" (1950), "Here Comes The Groom" (1951), "The Glenn Miller Story" (1954), and "The High And The Mighty" (1954).

A long time association with comedian Jack Benny began in 1936 when Harris became a regular on his radio show and lasted into the fifties when Benny went into television. In 1946, Harris and his wife, actress Alice Faye, started their own radio program on NBC.

The Harrises make their home in Palm Springs, California. Harris maintains an active schedule of travel and golf.

EVA GABOR is purr-fectly cast as a cunning cat named Duchess. The popular star of the long running television series "Green Acres" proved to have such a flair for animated voice overs that she was brought back as one of the lead mice (Bianca) in the studio's 1977 hit "The Rescuers." She found both her roles for Disney to be "simply marvelous, dahling."

Miss Gabor has been active in the entertainment business since the mid 1940s. In addition to a half-dozen successful years on the Broadway stage in such hits as "Happy Tune," "Present Laughter," "Blithe Spirit" and "Tovarich," her numerous motion picture credits include "Royal Scandal" (1945), "The Last Time I Saw Paris" (1954),

"Artists and Models" (1955), "Gigi" (1958), "Don't Go Near The Water" (1958), "The Truth About Women" (1958), and "Youngblood Hawke" (1964).

Currently, Miss Gabor divides her time between acting stints on stage and television talk show appearances, lecturing and running her multi-million dollar wig manufacturing business.

STERLING HOLLOWAY's distinctive voice speaks for the mouse, Roquefort, a self-styled sleuth who attempts to solve the catnapping. Holloway began his career on Broadway in the 1920s and switched to Hollywood with the coming of sound films. Having appeared in more than 60 films, he has supplied the voices in Disney cartoons for such varied characters as a bear, stork, pelican, skunk, cat, snake, car, lion, penguin, house and even a hot stove. His favorite characterization has been Winnie the Pooh. He currently lives in Laguna Beach, California.

HERMIONE BADDELEY, the late English character actress who played the scrambled Irish maid in Disney's "The Happiest Millionaire," created the voice for Madame Bonfamille, the millionairess whose unorthodox will triggers the plot. Miss Baddeley, who became the sensation of the London stage at age 15, appeared in a long succession of hit plays and musicals. She made her screen debut in 1947 and received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress for

her performance in "Room At The Top." Her other film credits include "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," "Midnight Lace" and "Mary Poppins." She passed away in 1986.

A regular on the old NBC "Laugh-In" series, **RODDY MAUDE-ROXBY** essays the part of Edgar, the greedy butler who catnaps the Aristocats in hopes of obtaining their destined inheritance.

CHARLES LANE, whose career boasts hundreds of film and TV credits (usually cast as a curmudgeon), is featured as Monsieur Hautecourt, the family's loyal lawyer. His motion picture appearances include "Arsenic and Old Lace," "The Music Man," "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" and "The Ugly Dachshund." At age 82, Lane has no thoughts of retiring and recently completed a stint on the miniseries "War and Remembrance," reprising his role of Admiral Stanley from "Winds of War." When not acting, this popular screen stalwart can be found at the local golf course near his home in Los Angeles.

SCATMAN CROTHERS, who died last year at the age of 76, purrs for Scat Cat. Scatman's name is derived from his unusual style of scat-singing, developed in the speakeasies and nightclubs of the 1930s and on radio and recordings of the 1940s. The popular singer/actor gained national attention on the hit sitcom "Chico And The Man" and went on

to a starring role in the miniseries "Roots." His film credits include "Lady Sings The Blues," "Hello Dolly," "The Great White Hope," "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," "The Shootist" and "Silver Streak." One of Crothers' final roles was in the 1985 Disney feature "The Journey of Natty Gann."

The members of Scat Cat's band are **PAUL WINCHELL**, the Chinese cat; **VITO SCOTTI**, the Italian cat; **LORD TIM HUDSON**, the English cat, and **THURL RAVENSCROFT**, the Russian cat. **MONICA EVANS** and **CAROLE SHELLEY**, two bright English actresses best known for their roles as sisters, supply the hysterical voices of two daffy geese known as the Gabble Sisters. These characters were based partially on the Pigeon Sisters whom Monica and Carole created for the Broadway (and later for TV) production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

NANCY KULP, of "The Beverly Hillbillies" fame, neighs the dialogue for Frou-Frou, the carriage horse, for whom **RUTH BUZZI** sings. Miss Kulp began acting in 1951 when a casting director spotted her on an interview for a secretarial job at 20th Century Fox. Since then, she has appeared in numerous films, including "A Star is Born," Disney's "The Parent Trap" and some 350 TV shows.

The three kittens are: **GARY DUBIN**, who plays Toulouse, a painter yearning to be a tough alley cat; **DEAN CLARK**, who speaks for Berlioz, a musical kitten that enjoys catching

his sister's tail in the piano keys; and **LIZ ENGLISH** as Marie, a dignified little lady ready to fight her brothers to prove it.

THE SYNOPSIS (Not For Publication)

Madame Bonfamille (Hermione Baddeley), a kind, elderly, eccentric millionairess, wills her entire estate to her cats: Duchess (Eva Gabor), and her three kittens, Marie (Liz English), Toulouse (Gary Dubin) and Berlioz (Dean Clark).

The butler (Roddy Maude-Roxby) overhears Madame dictating to her elderly lawyer friend, Monsieur Hautecourt (Charles Lane), that upon the demise of her cats, the fortune shall be redirected to her faithful butler, Edgar. Normally a benign individual, Edgar's avarice gets the best of him and he decides to eliminate the feline heirs.

That night Edgar drugs the cats and sets out to drown them in the countryside. Before he reaches the river, farm dogs Napoleon and Lafayette begin chasing him. Startled, Edgar loses control of his motorbike and flees leaving the cat basket behind, along with his hat and umbrella. He hastily returns to Paris.

When Madame Bonfamille discovers the cats missing, she becomes despondent and initiates a search for them. Edgar realizes he must retrieve the incriminating evidence that he left behind.

In the meantime, Duchess and her kittens awaken to meet Thomas O'Malley, an adventurous alley cat. Attracted to Duchess, O'Malley agrees to escort the family back to Paris. They run across two daffy geese who join their pilgrimage.

By nightfall the weary clan reaches the city. O'Malley offers his pad for the night, only to find Scat Cat and his alley pals in the midst of a boogie jam session. Delighted, they all join in.

Across town, Edgar sneaks out of the house, but is followed by Roquefort (Sterling Holloway), a little mouse disguised like Sherlock Holmes. Sleuth Roquefort makes an unsuccessful attempt to hang onto Edgar's motorbike as it speeds through the city.

The next day, Edgar's champagne toast to his "perfect crime" is interrupted by the surprise return of the cats. Catching them off guard, Edgar captures the felines in a sack which he throws into a heavy piece of luggage destined for Timbuktu.

Alarmed, Roquefort finds O'Malley, who instructs the puss-illanimous mouse to fetch Scat Cat's gang while he dashes to the rescue.

The alley cats arrive just in time and the cat-aclysm begins. As they free Duchess and the kittens, Edgar is booted by Frou-Frou, the carriage horse, into the trunk, which is locked and picked up by freighters.

Ecstatic at the return of her precious pets, Madame Bonfamille invites O'Malley and his friends to remain

residents. Madame adds a new clause to her will creating a home for the homeless cats of Paris.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF DISNEY ANIMATED FEATURES

1937

"SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS"

1940

"PINOCCHIO"

1940

"FANTASIA"

1941

"DUMBO"

1942

"BAMBI"

1943

"SALUDOS AMIGOS"

1945

"THE THREE CABALLEROS"

1946

"MAKE MINE MUSIC"

1947

"FUN AND FANCY FREE"

1948

"MELODY TIME"

1949

"THE ADVENTURES OF ICHABOD AND MR. TOAD"

1950

"CINDERELLA"

1951

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

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1953
"PETER PAN"

1955
"LADY AND THE TRAMP"

1959
"SLEEPING BEAUTY"

1961
"101 DALMATIANS"

1963
"THE SWORD AND THE STONE"

1967
"THE JUNGLE BOOK"

1970
"THE ARISTOCATS"

1973
"ROBIN HOOD"

1977
"THE MANY ADVENTURES OF WINNIE THE POOH"

1977
"THE RESCUERS"

1981
"THE FOX AND THE HOUND"

1985
"THE BLACK CAULDRON"

1986
"THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE"

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NOTES