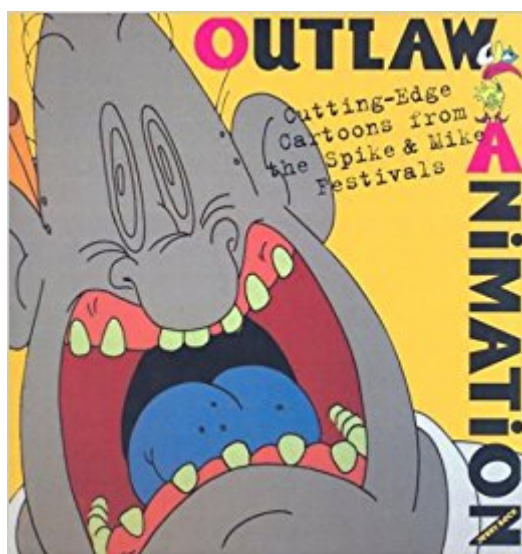


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Outlaw Animation: Cutting-Edge Cartoons From The Spike And Mike Festivals



Synopsis

The annual Spike & Mike Festival of Animation is the leading venue for the underground animation movement and has helped launch the careers of talents such as Nick Park and Peter Lord of Aardman ("Wallace & Gromit", "Chicken Run"), John Lasseter ("Toy Story", "Monsters, Inc"), Craig McCracken ("Powerpuff Girls") Mike Judge ("Beavis and Butt-head") and many other cutting-edge filmmakers. In this survey of the festival's influential work, animation historian Jerry Beck traces the evolution of the festival from a rock concert "filler" to its own arena-sized event that attracts half a million "toonheads" yearly. This volume is illustrated with frame grabs, rare production stills, original artwork and behind-the-scenes photographs, and features interviews with a number of the top underground animators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jerry Beck is an animation historian and the author of Warner Bros. Animation Art. The Fifty Greatest Cartoons, and other books and articles. Todd McFarlane is the creator of Spawn, the best-selling comic book, motion picture, and animated series, and the founder of McFarlane Toys, a leading creator of collectible action figures.

Usually animation books tend to focus upon the producers of animation - the Disneys, the Joneses and the Freelings. But little, except for a few videos and DVDs has focused upon the work of promoters. This book lovingly pays tribute to Spike Decker and Mike Gribble - two men who are

probably the most responsible for the reemergence of short animation in a world that had been stupefied by the pap that was passing for Saturday morning cartoons. The book is divided into three neat sections. First a history of Spike, Mike and their Festivals of Animation sets the stage and helps show the pair's growth and influence upon developing animators. Then Beck looks at what he considers the ten best pieces to come out of the festivals. Many of these animators have gone on to become household names producing regular animation shows on the Cartoon Network. He also highlights many of the other animators by showing off numerous still shots of their work. Finally for the third part he lets the animators speak for themselves, interviewing them on Spike and Mike, and the pair's role in nurturing emerging animators. This is a fascinating book for any fan of modern animation, especially those of us lucky enough to have seen many of the Spike & Mike Festivals. It is sad that we have lost Mike Gribble, but this book shows that his legacy lives on and continues to grow beyond Spike and Mike's wildest dreams.

Wonderful collection of some of the best of the best of independent animation. Recommend it highly for animation geeks and animation students looking to 'break the rules' and find their own voice.

As much as I like Jerry Beck I wish he hadn't sold himself out with this overly sanitized "Spike and Mike approved" version of their festival's history. Here we just get an extended regurgitation of Spike and Mike's self glorifying press release along with many pretty photographs. I used to attend this festival in my college days and have friends who've worked behind the scenes, so I really wished this book showed some actual guts. Where's the sex and the drugs and the seedy backstage goings-on at the festival? Why is there no mention of the festival's universal stunning decline in quality in recent years? Why is there no accounting for all the animators that allegedly refuse to submit work to, much less even speak to, this festival anymore? That's the book I'm still waiting to read! If you're a casual fan not interested in animation history and just want to look at pictures, I guess this book would be for you though.

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