

George Pal

The UCLA Film and Television Archive collections include a large body of work by filmmaker George Pal (1908-1980). Included in the Archive's holdings are Puppatoons and other animated shorts, as well as Pal's science-fiction features including *DESTINATION MOON* (1950), *WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE* (1951) and *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS* (1953). This film collection is complemented by the George Pal Papers, consisting of Pal's scripts and artwork, held at UCLA's Arts Library.

Originally from Hungary, Pal came to Hollywood in 1940. At Paramount, he fully developed his Puppatoon technique for which he subsequently received an honorary Academy Award. The Puppatoons were animated wooden puppets set against papier-mâché and cardboard backgrounds. The puppets and backgrounds were intricately detailed and ornately decorated. The Puppatoons are an extension of Pal's unique imagination. One example was the Screwball Army--puppets composed of nuts and bolts which parodied a fictional totalitarian regime. Other Puppatoon creations were Jasper and his two



George Pal with one of his *Puppatoon* characters.

friends, Professor Scarecrow and Blackbird. These characters, who appeared in a number of Puppatoon shorts, are key examples of racist stereotyping of African-Americans in American popular culture.

Over time Pal's imagination drew him to

special effects. In the early fifties he became a producer--and eventually, director/producer--of science fiction and adventure films involving trick photography. Pal went on to win five Academy Awards for Special Effects.

George Pal

Films

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

Seven Faces of Dr. Lao (1964). Galaxy Productions. Director, George Pal. Writer, Charles Beaumont. Study Copy: VD476 M

Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962). MGM. Directors, Henry Levin and George Pal. Writers, Charles Beaumont, Hermann Gerstner, David P. Harmon, and William Roberts. Study Copy: VA11600 M.

War of the Worlds (1953). Producer, George Pal. Director, Byron Haskin. Writer, Barre Lyndon. Study Copy: VD636 M.

When Worlds Collide (1951). Producer, George Pal. Director, Rudolph Maté. Writer, Sydney Boehm. Study Copy: VD550 M.

Destination Moon (1950). Eagle Lion Classics (produced by George Pal). Director, Irving Pichel. Writers, Rip Van Ronke, Robert Heinlein, and James O'Hanlon. Study Copy: VA15501 M.

Puppetoons

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

Wilbur the Lion (1947) and *Bravo Mr. Strauss* (1943). Study Copy: VA3950 M.

And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street (1944). Study Copy: VA17602 M.

South Seas Sweethearts (year unknown) and *Jasper and the Haunted House* (1942). Study Copy: VA10898 M.

The Sky Princess (1942) and *Tubby the Tuba* (1947). Study Copy: VA17604 M.

George Pal Sample Reel, including: *Two Gun Rusty* (1944), *Western Daze* (1941), *Tubby the Tuba* (1947), *The Gay Knighties* (1941), *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* (1943), and *Good Night Rusty* (1943). Study Copy: VA14010 M.

Print Resources

(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)

Hickman, Gail Morgan. *The Films of George Pal*. South Brunswick, NJ: A.S. Barnes, 1977.

Related Resources

The Arts Library Special Collections unit of the UCLA Libraries Collection holds various materials related to George Pal in the George Pal Papers collection. For more information, please contact Arts Library Special Collections: (310) 825-7253.