

THE FIRST MICKEY MOUSE CARTOON

WITH SOUND

“STEAMBOAT WILLIE”

November 28, 1928

The first Mickey Mouse cartoon produced that included synchronized sound. Another Mickey Mouse production, “Plane Crazy”, was shown first in May of 1928, but as a silent film.

To test the audience acceptance of picture together with sound, Walt Disney gathered the wives and friends into a screening room and attempted to play the film with live sound from an adjoining room.

As Walt Disney recalled:

“A couple of boys could read music and one of them could play a mouth organ. We put them in a room where they could not see the screen and arranged to pipe their sound into the room where our wives and friends were going to see the picture. The boys worked from music and sound effects score. After several false starts, sound and action got off with the gun. The mouth organist played the tune, the rest of us in the sound department blamed tin pans and blew slide whistles in the beat. The synchronism was pretty close.

The effect on our little audience was nothing less than electric. They responded almost instinctively to this union of sound and motion. I thought they were kidding me. So they put me in the audience and ran the action again. It was terrible, but it was wonderful! And it was something new!”