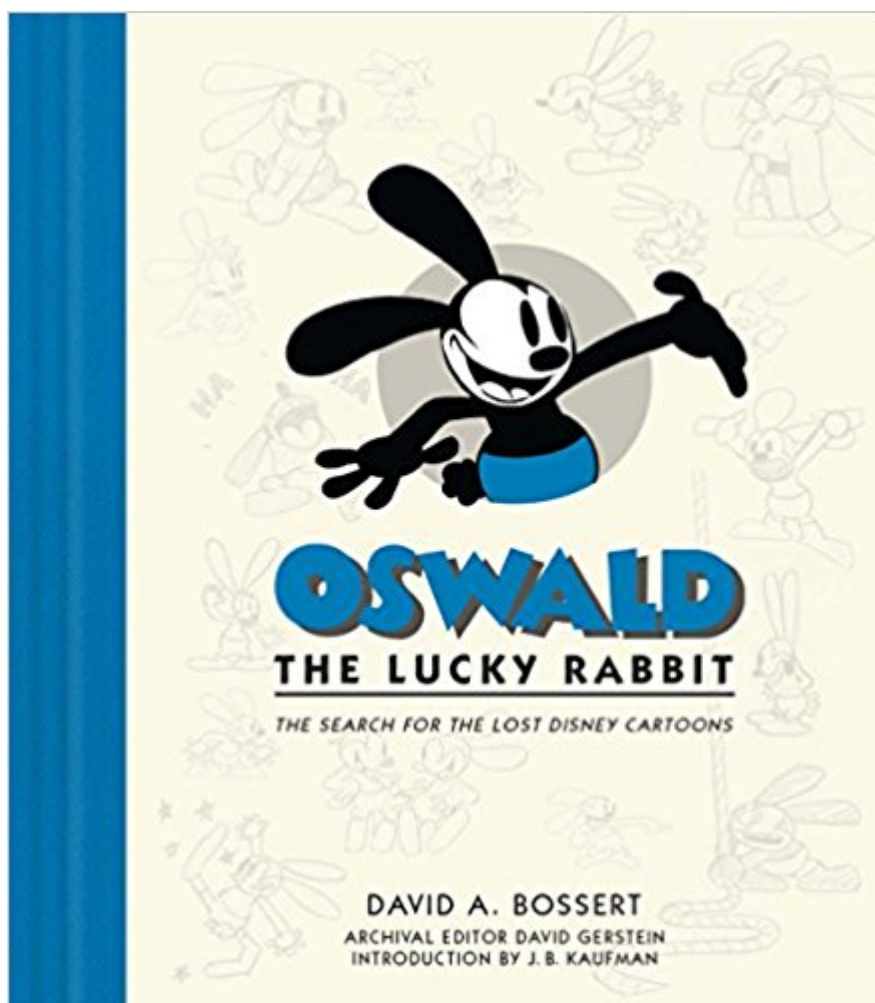


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# Oswald The Lucky Rabbit: The Search For The Lost Disney Cartoons (Disney Editions Deluxe (Film))



## Synopsis

Oswald the Lucky Rabbit was created in 1927 by Walt Disney and his team through twenty-six cartoon shorts. Not without fits and starts, the series and its impish title character were an instant hit with audiences. At the end of that initial run, Walt lost the contract to Oswald, which prompted the creation of Mickey Mouse. Over the years, Oswald became a footnote in the Disney story . . . until 2006, when The Walt Disney Company recovered rights to Walt's twenty-six shorts.

Behind-the-scenes, a complex and labor-intensive search developed for the physical film footage of some Oswald cartoons deemed "lost to time." For anyone interested in Disney origins, fascinated by early cinema, or entertained by a feisty little rabbit, this engaging and accessible volume delivers an in-depth look at Walt's first major animated success and the journey to reclaim the lost Disney films.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David A. Bossert is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, and author. He is a thirty-two-year veteran of The Walt Disney Company and is an independent producer and creative director. Dave is considered an authority and expert on Disney animation and history. He co-authored *Disney Animated*, which was named iPad App of 2013 by Apple and won a prestigious British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award. He is also the author of *Remembering Roy E. Disney: Memories and Photos of a Storied Life*; *An Animator's Gallery: Eric Goldberg Draws the Disney Characters*; and *Dali and Disney: Destino* The Story, Artwork, and Friendship Behind the Legendary Film; and *Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: The Search for the Lost Disney Cartoons*. You can connect with

Dave on social media and/or at [www.davidbossert.com](http://www.davidbossert.com).

I am really enjoying this book. I did not know very much about Oswald. Mickey Mouse is much better known, but Oswald is the real beginning. I have enjoyed learning about Oswald the character and thinking about how he relates to Mickey Mouse and what about Mickey comes from Oswald. There is a lot of very lovingly and carefully put together information in David's book. I look forward to discovering more as I spend more time with Oswald the Lucky Rabbit.

Awesome and informative book on Oswald! A must have for any animation history buff. Beautifully crafted with details on all of Walt Disney's Oswald the Lucky Rabbit shorts.

(This was posted at my website but I am adding it here on as well)"Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: The Search for the Lost Disney Cartoons" by Dave Bossert released on August 29th, 2017 and is timed for Oswald's 90th anniversary. I've been looking forward to this book for many months, and was delighted to be able to receive a copy a little early for a review. Before talking about what is within the pages, I just want to say that the book delivers in EVERY way. As a casual Oswald fan with some knowledge of the character's history, I was blown away by how much detail is in the book. At 176 pages, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: The Search for the Lost Disney Cartoons doesn't feel hefty like some books - it is nicely sized, but the writing is exhaustive and so well researched and detailed. Few words feel extraneous. If you've read my book reviews in the past, I tend to have some sort of criticism on many, but I really have none here. Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: The Search for the Lost Disney Cartoons is nicely presented with artwork of Oswald on the cover. There is no dust cover, which I don't personally care about. Bossert has written other books that we have purchased, including the fantastic Dali & Disney: Destino and Remembering Roy E. Disney that we interviewed him about a number of years ago. Bossert is a terrific writer and researcher. The book starts with a few pages detailing the 26 Oswald cartoons from 1927-1928 and whether they are lost or have been found. For example, 1928's Africa Before Dark was recently found, and is now on on the Bambi 70th Anniversary Blu-ray release. All of the Oswald shorts have their own "chapters" within the book. Some of them are longer than others, depending on what information was available. There are review quotes from a variety of people including author Didier Ghez, whose upcoming "They Drew as they Pleased Vol. 3" will be my next book review, I have that in hand. Film historian and author J.B. Kaufman writes the introduction, quickly mentioning the "historic recovery" of Oswald by the Walt Disney Studios (it is hard to believe it has been over 10 years since then).

Kaufman talks about how Oswald mirrored some of Walt's optimism and ingenuity, and that some gags and storylines eventually made their way into Mickey cartoons. After just 26 Oswald shorts, Walt lost the rights to Oswald (the character continued without him and Ub Iwerks). And so many years later, Dave Bossert suggested to the Walt Disney Studios that they should search for the lost Oswald cartoons. This has led to the collection of history that was thought to have been lost. The book begins before Oswald was created - with the origins of the Alice Comedies, which helped Walt and Roy establish the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio. Their good fortune started to turn when Margaret Winkler of Winkler Productions married Charles Mintz - eventually he took over Oswald in an underhanded way. Before that, Mintz was a thorn in Walt's side, and Bossert discusses that in detail. Oswald was created because Mintz and Universal wanted a new character - and specifically not a cat, since Felix and other cats were already popular. Walt and Ub Iwerks created Oswald in 1927. Until reading the book, I hadn't considered how quickly Mickey came to life after they lost Oswald - between 1927 and 1928 there were 26 Oswald cartoons, and Plane Crazy was created in 1928. There is also discussion in the book on the similarities between Mickey and Oswald. Back to Oswald - Universal and Mintz were disappointed in the first cartoon, "Poor Papa" and there are Western Union telegrams between Mintz and Walt Disney and then Walt with Roy. After 26 cartoons, Mintz didn't only take Oswald, but much of Walt's staff. And yet, even though Walt knew he was losing Oswald near the end of 26 shorts, he fulfilled that agreement. Fast forward many years, and Walt's daughter Diane Disney Miller tells Disney CEO Bob Iger that Oswald should return to the Walt Disney Company. And the book discusses the trade that was made possible through ESPN and Al Michaels. It is interesting to see the different Oswald versions in ads in the book. Oswald didn't always look the same in them. And remember the Walt Disney Treasures DVD series? In 2007, Disney had released Walt Disney Treasures: The Adventures of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, which archival editor David Gerstein consulted on. That included 13 of 26 Oswald shorts. But beginning in 2011, more shorts started being recovered by Bossert and Gerstein. Dave Bossert began that with a bid and win at an auction (funded by the Walt Disney Company) of Hungry Hoboes. A large portion of the book is dedicated to the films, beginning with the first created film though it wasn't the first released - Poor Papa. It took the Walt Disney Company until 2014 to acquire a copy of it. Throughout the pages of all 26 films, there is artwork and promotional images - sometimes scenes from the films. And occasionally there will be a full script, which is fun. One fact I thought was interesting is that Ortensia - Oswald's wife - only received that name in 2010 due to Epic Mickey (which I wasn't playing). I also didn't realize she was a cat. Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: The Search for the Lost Disney Cartoons is a well crafted book with a wealth of information. Dave

Bossert not only helped bring Oswald films back into the company fold, but now extends that to a thoughtfully written volume that will be a treat for Oswald and Disney history fans.

For anyone who is a fan of history, film, animation, and Disney then this is the book for you. The history of Walt Disney's first animated character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, is a story that is 90 years in the making. There's a lot that people don't know about Oswald and all of it can be found in this amazing book written by David Bossert. The book is separated into 5 distinct chapters where each section covers a different aspect of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit's History. The first section covers the origins of Oswald and what happened after Universal stole the rights from Walt Disney and the second section covers how the Disney company got the rights back through a special deal with NBC. The main highlight of this book is sections three and four of the book which goes over the search for the lost Oswald the Lucky Rabbit cartoons and the process used to restore and preserve the ones that remain. The last section gives very detailed descriptions of all 26 Oswald cartoons made using scripts, storyboards, and promotional artwork to help fill the gaps of the cartoons that are still missing. The book ends with an epilogue telling the reader which Oswald cartoons are still missing, how to identify them if they turn up, and how to contact the right parties if they are found.

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