

Star of the North 15th Anniversary Celebration

The 15th Annual Celebration of the Star of the North was held April 21, 2007 at the Art Institutes International Minnesota. The AIIM is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.

Larry Laden introduced and welcomed AIIM's current president, Joe Marzano. Special thanks were given to Sam Grabarski and Roxanne Michelson for arranging the evening.

First to speak was Dave Wilharm, Head of animation. He gave a brief overview of the school. They have 11 bachelor's degrees in culinary, design, fashion/retail and animation.

Lafe Smith first talked about history and trends in animation – “Getting from Winsor McKay to Mater”.

1. Gertie the Dinosaur (1914)
2. The Silent Era (Alice stories, live action with cartoon. Max Fleischer (rotoscoping)) and Felix the Cat
3. Disney's Golden Age (Steamboat Willy – first sound)
4. Disney Innovations: Storyboarding, multicolor and multiplane camera
5. 40's brought us Warner Brothers
6. UPA's graphic revolution (most from Disney): Color, Line, Shape and Graphic.
7. Animation on TV (Flintstones, Huckleberry Hound)
8. 2nd Golden Age of Disney (Great Mouse Detective, Roger Rabbit, Little Mermaid, Pixar)

John Dege and Shannon Gilley then discussed the 12 principles of animation as described by Frank and Ollie. Some shorts from students were shown and very interesting graphs about the history animation in terms of box office sales, etc.

It was a great evening and Warren was “swirling” all night long.