

David Gerstein

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Personal Background

Date of birth: February 6, 1974

Marital status: single

Health: excellent

Citizenship: United States of America

- Comics writer, editor, and graphic designer specializing in the humor field; more than fifteen years of experience with the Walt Disney Standard Characters (Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Scrooge McDuck, Goofy, Silly Symphonies group)
- Historian and archivist on numerous animation- and comics-related projects, including many years at full-time archivist position (Archival Editor, Disney Comics, Gemstone Publishing); have also written for licensed reference books on Warner Bros. and other animated properties

Specialties

- Branding and identity, character development for comics
 - Market research, in-depth understanding of humor comics readers in the North American and European markets
 - Experienced in targeting individual comics products at the children's audience, the collectors' audience, or both
 - In-depth knowledge of animation history, with special focus on 1920s-1950s short cartoons
 - In-depth knowledge of international Disney comics, with ability to translate from multiple languages into American Disney idiom
 - Maintain a large personal archive of Disney comics reference material upon which various publishers have drawn; comprehensive knowledge of available Disney comics line art stats in various European archives
 - Graphic design, Photoshop
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Experience

Freelance Editor/Writer

Fantagraphics Books

2010 – Present

- Series Editor (with Publisher Gary Groth) for *Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse by Floyd Gottfredson* (aka "The Floyd Gottfredson Library"), an award-winning, chronological collection of *Mickey Mouse* newspaper comics by Mickey's definitive writer/artist
 - Working with Disney Publishing Worldwide's Dept of Global Art and Design Development to recover, organize, and remaster Disney's collection of Gottfredson daily and Sunday strip materials
 - Working with Groth to compile the volumes' interior contents; researching, recovering, and restoring extensive Gottfredson background material and minutiae
 - Writing extensive editorial copy for the volumes, generally providing insight into the history of certain stories, characters, and Gottfredson collaborators
 - Commissioning, supervising, and editing text copy by other Disney and Gottfredson scholars, including Thomas Andrae (*Carl Barks and the Disney Comic Book: Unmasking the Myth of Modernity*), Floyd Norman (later comics successor to Gottfredson), and Warren Spector (creator of *Disney Epic Mickey* video game)
 - *The Floyd Gottfredson Library* was a winner in the 2012 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards—Best Archival Collection/Project: Strips
 - *The Floyd Gottfredson Library* was a nominee in the 2012 Harvey Awards—Best Domestic Reprint Project
 - *The Floyd Gottfredson Library* was a nominee in Disney Consumer Products' 2011 Quality Product Awards—Halo Division
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Freelance Researcher

The Library of Congress

2012

- Worked with colleague Tom Stathes and Nitrate Film Vault Manager George Willeman to locate and identify rare and otherwise lost animated films among the Library's holdings
 - Located several previously undiscovered titles among the films we inspected, including *Down On the Phoney Farm* (1915), the debut of Paul Terry's Farmer Al Falfa.
 - Wrote an annotated list of our new discoveries, in which many of the rarest films were marked for permanent preservation
 - The paid research job was a continuation of earlier volunteer work for the Library, in which I had located the lost Disney film *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1922), since preserved and shown at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival
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Freelance Writer
Insight Editions
2010

- Wrote more than a dozen pages of text copy for *The 100 Greatest Looney Tunes Cartoons* (2010), working under project manager Jerry Beck, a prominent animation scholar
 - My research texts covered various cartoons starring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and other classic animation stars, either summarizing the cartoons themselves or providing commentary on their history and significance
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Freelance Writer
The Walt Disney Company
2009 – Present

- Writing “Good Mousekeeping,” an ongoing series in the studio’s official fan magazine, *Disney twenty-three*. The series reprints 1930s Disney comics created for commercial magazine publication, together with my annotations and background history
 - Writing occasional lengthier feature articles for *Disney twenty-three* and the associated D23 website, including “Walt’s Six Older Men” (*twenty-three*, Spring 2012) and “A Match of Mouse and Menace” (D23 website, October 2009)
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Freelance Writer/Research Assistant
BOOM! Studios
2009 – 2011

- Helped to coordinate *Mickey Mouse Classics: Mouse Tails*, *Donald Duck Classics: Quack Up*, *Walt Disney’s Valentine’s Classics*, *Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories Archives* and other collector-themed volumes under editors Christopher Burns and Christopher Meyer
 - Worked with my editors to compile the publications’ interior contents, researching and helping BOOM! to acquire standout Disney comics material from around the world
 - Performed similar duties for BOOM!’s standard monthly *Donald Duck*, *Uncle Scrooge* and *Mickey Mouse* comics (2010-2011), particularly in the latter half of their license period
 - Was often responsible for translating, rewriting, lettering and/or restoring European and vintage American comic stories once received in-house; personally wrote English dialogue for more than twenty stories (complete list available on request), enhancing humor and incorporating traditional Disney idiom
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Freelance Editor/Writer
Egmont Serieforlaget Norway
2004 – Present

- Editor/project manager for *Walt Disney's Christmas Jubilee Present* annual (2004-present), *Walt Disney's Hall of Fame* annual (2009), *Mickey Mouse and Goofy* annual (2010-present), and *Uncle Scrooge* annual (2011) under Managing Editor Egil Lyder and Brand Editor Merete Skar
 - Co-editor and co-author of *The Katzenjammer Kids: 100 Years In Norway* (2011), the first comprehensive history of this classic comic strip, under Managing Editor Haakon Isachsen
 - Contributing editor for oversized anthologies: *Walt Disney's Hall of Fame: Dick Kinney and Al Hubbard* (2009) and *Walt Disney's Hall of Fame: Floyd Gottfredson Vol. 2* (2010) under Managing Editor Solveig Thime and Brand Editor Tonje Tornes
 - Working with my higher-ups to select the publications' interior contents, researching standout Disney comics material from around the world
 - Writing extensive editorial copy for all publications on which I work, generally providing insight into the history behind certain stories, Disney characters, and Disney writers and artists
 - Managing colorists and working with affiliate publishers to acquire and prepare the individual stories
 - Remounting the stories (2007-present) from traditional upright comic book page layout into the annuals' special landscape format
 - Plotted and scripted an original Disney comic book story featuring Oswald the Lucky Rabbit (for *Walt Disney's Christmas Jubilee Present* 11, 2011)
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Freelance Writer
Egmont Creative A/S
2004 – 2009

- Plotted and scripted original Disney comic book stories featuring characters such as Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Goofy, and Fethry Duck (complete list available on request)
 - With Lars Jensen, continued the Donald and Fethry "Tamers of Nonhuman Threats" ("TNT") science fiction series initiated during my editorial tenure
 - Researched and wrote extensive editorial copy for *The Big Black Book of Donald Duck* (2008) and *The Big Black Book of Magica De Spell* (2009) archival volumes
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Archival Editor
Gemstone Publishing
2004 – 2009

- Worked with Editor-In-Chief John Clark to select stories and compile interior contents for many comic books and TPBs, including *Uncle Scrooge* 347-383 and *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 662-698

- Researched standout Disney comics material from around the world, often by visiting the vaults and archives of other Disney licensees
 - Managed select trades of material, talent, and resources with many of these licensees
 - Was often responsible for translating, rewriting, coloring, lettering and/or restoring European stories once received in-house; personally wrote English dialogue for more than 75 stories (complete list available on request), enhancing humor and incorporating traditional Disney idiom
 - Scripted original Disney comic book stories for Gemstone, adapting then-current Standard Characters feature films: *Mickey Donald Goofy: The Three Musketeers* and *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas*
 - Wrote numerous text features for the Gemstone comics and the company's online webzine, generally providing insight into the history of certain stories, characters, and creators
 - Project manager, editor, and author for *Mickey and the Gang: Classic Stories in Verse* (2005), annotated compendium of 1930s Disney comics features created for commercial magazine publication
 - Originator and project manager for *Walt Disney Treasures* comics TPB series, companion to same-named Walt Disney Home Video DVD series
 - Provided auxiliary research to producers of *Treasures* DVD series, including Leonard Maltin and Theo Gluck; work included locating and helping to recover formerly lost Oswald the Lucky Rabbit silent cartoons
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Freelance Writer
Harper Design International
 2004

- Wrote 17 pages of text copy for *Animation Art: From Pencil to Pixel* (2004), working under project manager Jerry Beck, a prominent animation scholar
 - My research texts covered studios such as Pat Sullivan (Felix the Cat), Warner Bros., Walt Disney, and Columbia/Screen Gems
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Disney Comics Story Editor
Egmont Creative A/S
 1997 – 2004

- Supervised plot ideas, synopses, and scripts under Editor-In-Chief Anna Maria Vind and Creative Director Byron Erickson
- Managed writers such as Lars Jensen, Michael T. Gilbert, Stefan Petrucha, and Sarah Kinney
- Collaborated intensively with Jensen and artist Flemming Andersen in a branded series workshop, creating the Donald and Fethry Duck science fiction feature "Tamers of Nonhuman Threats" ("TNT"), which continues to date
- Also edited several thousand pages of traditional Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Donald, and Scrooge McDuck stories
- Continued to plot and script my own original Disney comic book stories while in-house

- Created an in-house comics database, in the process gaining a broad understanding of which golden age Disney comics still survived in line art photostat form – and in which publishers’ archives
 - Project manager/editor for *Walt Disney’s Christmas Jubilee Present* annual (2001-2003), produced by Egmont Creative for Egmont Serieforlaget Norway. I would later continue editing this series directly for Serieforlaget.
 - Wrote “Disney Comics: Back to Long Ago,” an extensive history of the medium for Swedish fanzine *Bild och Bubbla* 4/2003; first English printing in Gemstone’s *Comic Book Marketplace* 103 (2003)
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Freelance Writer
Dorling Kindersley
2003

- Wrote over 20 pages of text copy for *Looney Tunes: The Ultimate Visual Guide* (2003) as research assistant to credited author Jerry Beck
 - My texts analyzed and covered the histories of cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, the Tasmanian Devil, and the Three Bears
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Freelance Writer
Gladstone Publishing
1993 – 1998

- Translated foreign-produced Disney comics from German, Dutch, and British English into American English, enhancing humor and incorporating traditional Disney character idiom
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Freelance Writer
Egmont Creative A/S
1993 – 1997

- Plotted and scripted original Disney comic book stories featuring characters including Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, Fethry Duck, and the Big Bad Wolf
 - Trained by Creative Director Byron Erickson; established in-depth working knowledge of Disney characters’ personalities and various types of story structure
 - Wrote “The Donald Duck Universe Guide” and “The Mickey Mouse Universe Guide,” extensive resources on the Disney Standard Characters and their environments
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Freelance Writer
Fantagraphics Books
1995 – 1996

- Researched, wrote the introduction and appendices to, and selected the entire contents for *Nine Lives to Live* (1996), a retrospective book of Felix the Cat newspaper comics
 - Conducted related research at the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art and the Museum of Modern Art, New York
 - Was one of the first to research the scrapbooks of prominent 1920s film distributor Margaret Winkler
 - My research led to the expansion of the accepted Felix silent filmography, incorporating newly discovered release records; have continued this research to date, adding information that has become common knowledge today
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Freelance Writer
DC Thomson & Co Ltd.
1994 – 1996

- Plotted and scripted several stories for *The Beano* comic featuring characters such as Rasher and Les Pretend
 - Rewrote several Thomson comics in American idiom for United States publication
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Freelance Writer
Disney Comics, Inc.
1992 – 1993

- Translated foreign-produced Disney comics from German into American English, enhancing humor and incorporating traditional Disney character idiom
 - This studio folded (1993) before my translations could be published; they instead appeared in print via Gladstone Publishing (see above), for whom I continued the same type of work
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Education

Williams College
History, Cultural History, English
1992 – 1996

- Graduated Cum Laude with BA degree in History
- Cumulative GPA 3.38; Dean's List 4 out of 6 semesters

The University of Edinburgh
History, English
1994 – 1995

- Junior year abroad (see Williams College for degree and graduation information)
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References

Ken Shue

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- A letter of recommendation from Prof. Singham is available from my college credentials file. Please query the Office of Career Counseling, Williams College, Williamstown, MA 01267; phone (413) 597-2311.
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