

## Walt Disney and the place where dreams come true

Disney is a very well-known factory of dreams and nothing would have been possible if its creator had not had the vision to go beyond. Walter Elias Disney was born in 1901 and it was until 1911 that he developed a love for trains and this led his life in different ways. When

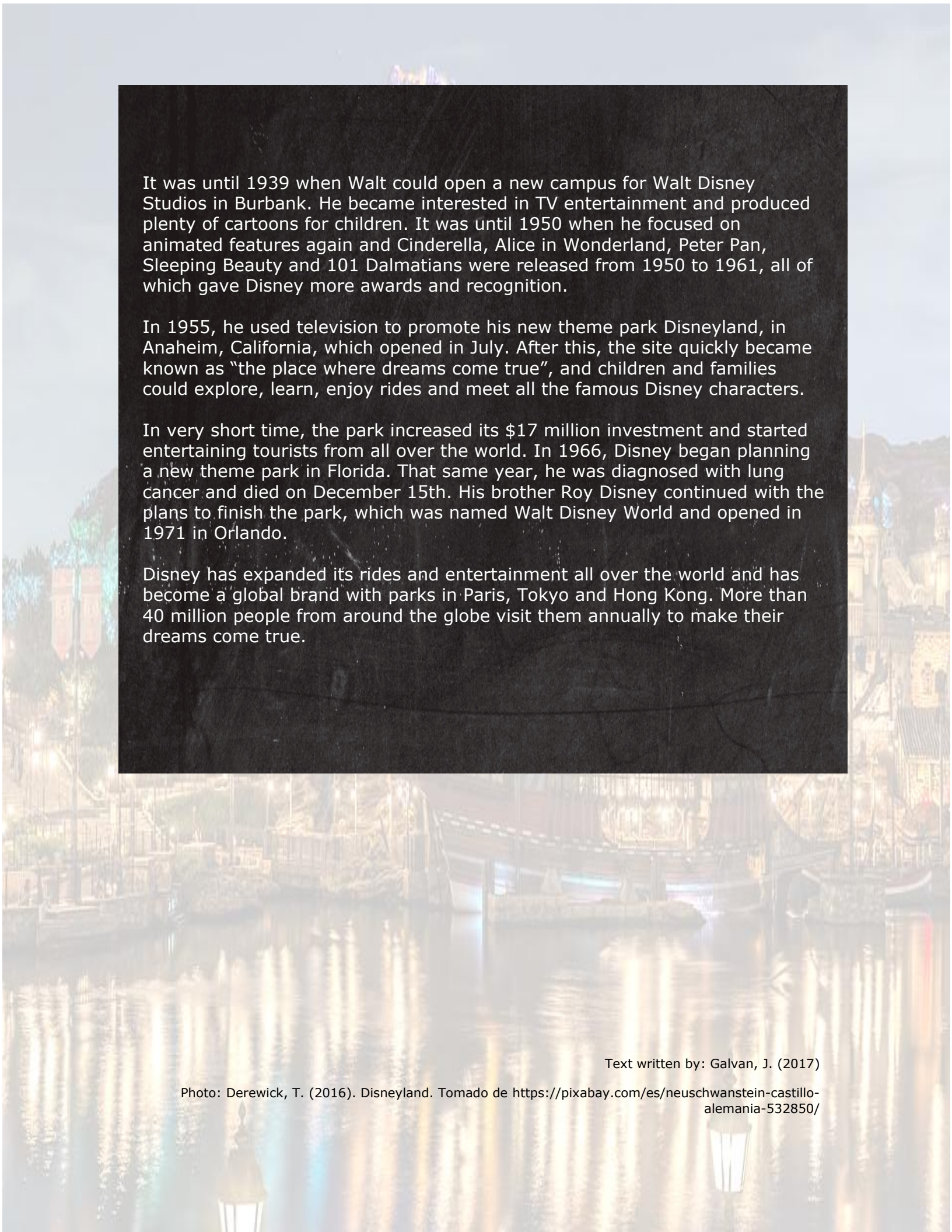


Walt was a teenager, he had summer job in the train route from Fort Madison and Marceline. He later joined the Red Cross and traveled to France to drive an ambulance. It was until he returned to his house, in Kansas City, that he became really interested in becoming a newspaper artist.

Before he was famous and rich, Walt Disney had to work hard. He worked at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio, where he met cartoonist Ub Iwerks. Disney experimented with cameras, and hand-drawn animation before he decided to open his own animation business. Walt made his own cartoons, called Laugh-O-Grams, which were very popular and he was able to buy his own studio. By the beginning of 1920's, the studio was burdened in debt and Disney was declared in bankruptcy.

A couple of years later, he and his animators produced three cartoons featuring a special character: Mickey Mouse. Walt was the voice of Mickey, and the cartoon became an instant sensation. In 1929, Walt Disney created Mickey's friends, Minnie, Donald, Goofy and Pluto, and the rest is just history.

Walt Disney created popular cartoons which became a commercial success. He then wanted to create films and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", the first full-length animated film ever, was screened in Los Angeles, in 1937. It was awarded eight Oscars and Walt completed four more movies after this, *Pinocchio* (1940), *Fantasia* (1940), *Dumbo* (1941) and *Bambi* (1942).



It was until 1939 when Walt could open a new campus for Walt Disney Studios in Burbank. He became interested in TV entertainment and produced plenty of cartoons for children. It was until 1950 when he focused on animated features again and Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and 101 Dalmatians were released from 1950 to 1961, all of which gave Disney more awards and recognition.

In 1955, he used television to promote his new theme park Disneyland, in Anaheim, California, which opened in July. After this, the site quickly became known as "the place where dreams come true", and children and families could explore, learn, enjoy rides and meet all the famous Disney characters.

In very short time, the park increased its \$17 million investment and started entertaining tourists from all over the world. In 1966, Disney began planning a new theme park in Florida. That same year, he was diagnosed with lung cancer and died on December 15th. His brother Roy Disney continued with the plans to finish the park, which was named Walt Disney World and opened in 1971 in Orlando.

Disney has expanded its rides and entertainment all over the world and has become a global brand with parks in Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong. More than 40 million people from around the globe visit them annually to make their dreams come true.

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