

CGT 540 Advanced Topics in Animation

Short Animation Critique

“It’s Got Me Again”

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The short, animated film I chose for my critique is "It's Got Me Again". This black and white cell animated film was created for the newly developed "Merrie Melodies" series. The film itself was produced by Warner Brothers in 1932 with a running length of 7:09 minutes. It was animated by Isadore Freleng and Thomas McKimson and was directed by Rudolph Ising. The film was nominated in 1933 for best short subject animation.

The plot centers around a singular mouse that emerges from its mouse hole and make his way around a mousetrap to wind up a gramophone. Once the music starts, other mice come out from the mouse hole to dance and sing in celebration. A series of comical scenes involving different instruments in the house being played by the mice over the popular song "It's Got Me Again" by Bernice Petkere. Later, in the film a hungry evil cat sees what is going on inside the house and makes his way down from the chimney to wreak havoc. The cat eventually corners the head mouse only to be saved by the other mice who take the musical instruments and make them weapons to fend off the feline intruder.

The first act is the beginning of the gramophone dancing of the mice. The Catalyst is the beginning of the music produced from the wound-up gramophone. The turning points involve the cat spotting the action going on inside the house as well as the cat cornering the main mouse. The climax is the counterattack via the mice and the weaponized musical instruments. The final confrontation is the final attack: a machine gun of needles firing from the gramophone eventually hitting the cat who finally decides to jump through the glass window to finally flee from the fight. The resolution is the final "hurray" celebration of the victory by the army of mice.

The character's (mice) motivation is having a good time. The obstacle for the character's (mice) is a killer cat which interrupts the fun and threatens their lives. The final conflict of the character is survival: getting rid of the cat using the instruments inside the home.

Technologically, it's very simple cell animation that's been use for years before the film was produced. Animation principles are such as exaggeration (cat gets roasted by flame thrower 6:33), follow-through (swing of the grandfather Clock 0:40), and plenty of squash and stretch (mouse goes through the Tuba 1:09).

My personal review is a solid 4 out of 5 stars. It's good old fashion fun with mice having a great time during a cold and rainy night. Good old fashion violence ensues with an over-the-top ending. I've enjoyed the simplicity and light-heatedness of the show.