

Did you know about the woman in the window of *The Rescuers*? In the 1977 Disney movie, for two frames, you could see her. Not a cartoon woman. An actual photo of an actual woman who is actually... yeah.

But why is she here, and what does this say about a long history about myths of sneaky saucy secrets hidden in plain sight.

When *The Rescuers* was released on VHS in January 1999, it had to be recalled 3 days later because someone found the hidden woman. This VHS is actually a re-release from a 1992 version but there wasn't a woman in that version, meaning the 1999 version worked off a different print of the film. Disney assured this version wasn't played in the cinemas but what if the woman in the window had been hiding the entire time and no-one noticed her for twenty years. In fairness it's only two frames in the whole film, so it's very blink-and-you-miss-it, so it's understandable in the cinema screen you might not notice. But on a VHS when you can pause and rewind? Now that'll expose the truth. Albeit through the judder and static. Hey, any port in a storm.

Any version you see now post-1999 will have had the background edited to remove the woman, including on the Disney+ version. But she was there.

So what happened here? How did a photo of a real life topless woman end up in this Disney animated film? There's no way to know for sure but let's explore the theories. It couldn't have been done by an animator as the integration of backgrounds comes in during the post production phase aka compositing which is where you take all the individual elements and put them all together. There would have also have been an editor reviewing the tape, making tweaks to timing and sound mixing. Then there's screen tests, dailies, final reviews - those whose job it was to spot mistakes or errors in the animation. Basically there were a *lot* of people who either completely failed to notice this erotic easter egg, or, theory number one: they were all in on the joke.

IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL...

Maybe the intention was to hide something in the scene and wait for someone in the team to spot it, like a game of what's wrong with this picture. Not intending to go public, but it just slipped through. This isn't unprecedented.

For example, there's a rumoured story that in the 50s to 60s, where the studio team screened an early sequence of a film to Walt Disney himself. Disney was reportedly extremely good at spotting animation errors so the team hid a single frame of a naked woman in the film to see if he noticed it. And he did.

What happened next is widely debated.

Either he found the idea jolly funny and everyone had a big laugh about it. Or he turned around and fired everyone on the spot.

This is often retold that it was a birthday film made for Walt Disney instead or it wasn't a naked girl but it was Mickey Mouse or Walt Disney doing the dirty deed. Everyone being fired

is a popular theory which hinges on the widely known stereotype that Walt Disney was a tyrannical boss and a massive prude.

Which would be weird because in the 1946 film "Make Mine Music", which Walt Disney produced, it featured some, albeit very mild, female nudity. So clearly Walt didn't mind that much. This sequence has been edited out in subsequent releases, but "Make Mine Music" is still, as of this recording, the only Disney movie in the animated canon not available on Disney+.

I think we've all heard some version of this tale of Walt Disney and the hidden naked woman before.

Writer Charlie Shows recounts this story first hand.

He asked what the hell a picture of a naked woman was doing in the middle of a Mickey Mouse cartoon. Since nobody could think of a more inventive answer, we just told Walt the truth — that we wanted to see if he could really spot a mistake on a single frame of running film.

Walt looked pleased. He had succeeded in catching the mistake, and he was proud of his keen eye. So instead of firing us all, Walt laughed off the incident by remarking, "If that gal had had any clothes on, I wouldn't have paid any attention to her."

This would seem to confirm the story really happened. But Charlie Shows has a reputation for embellishment.

Disney historian, Jim Korkis said:

While Shows had many significant accomplishments as a writer for a variety of studios over the decades, his tendency to overstate his contribution to many projects diminished the validity of all of his claims.

It appears that Charlie Shows has a known history of claiming credit for things he didn't do and involvement in things that never happened. And that's a shame, because he was still a good writer. But perhaps he felt his body of work wasn't enough so he felt compelled to resort to embellishment, which is a bit sad really.

So this brings into question, did this naked woman story actually happen? And if it did, was Charlie Shows actually there?

It should be noted that no one else in this infamous screening, no other animator, not even Walt Disney himself, has ever shared this story themselves. And for such a noteworthy anecdote, you'd think someone would have mentioned it. But the only recorded account of this screening ever actually happening is Charlie Shows and we have no idea if he's lying or not.

So if there's any element of this story that's actually true, we may never know. My gut says probably not but then my gut says lots of things. I should probably get that looked into.

Whatever the case may be, given he died in 1966, Walt Disney's eagle eye wasn't around to spot the naked woman in *The Rescuers*. Or should I say Albatross eye. So maybe, instead of a game of seeing if it gets noticed, it was never meant to be noticed at all.

INCOGNITO MODE

Hey, did you hear? In Roger Rabbit, when Benny the cab crashes, and if you pause it right and look carefully, you can spot a secret joke someone put in. Jessica Rabbit is not wearing any underwear. Like The Rescuers, this is another instance of it being only spotted on VHS tapes but also laserdisc. The problem is, even with the most high quality footage at the time - it's still not all that clear if there's anything to see. The skirt definitely wafts open and does appear to show something, but it's impossible to see what it is. So was this upskirt really a secret joke?

It's possible that whatever's there is just a colouring mistake in the painting stage. Maybe it was meant to be a shadow, or part of her skirt or whatever, but it was simply painted the wrong colour. Given there were 55 minutes worth of animated shots, each at 24 hand drawn frames of animation in the movie, mistakes will happen. Like what's up with this brick, I feel like a weasel should be holding that.

Basically if this was sneaked in as a secret joke - it's not a very good one. It's way too subtle.

In Fight Club there's the scene about sneaking adult material into movies using the projectors. Basically film reels would sometimes come in separate parts, and there's a mark in the film, aka the cigarette burn, telling the projectionist to time up the next film reel as seamlessly as possible. With the control of the movie handed to the projectionist, it just takes someone a little experienced with photo developing and editing to slip in something to go completely unnoticed other than as a private joke.

Obviously in The Rescuers case, this is something baked into the movie itself, the same is true for The Exorcist and The Ring, unless whoever edited this specific version of the VHS added it in like Tyler Durden. But it goes to show people love hiding subliminal stuff, especially if they don't belong in these films.

Proof of projectionists actually doing this is scarce other than anecdotal stories since the point of it was to not be noticed. But I did find one story that's definitely not subtle at all. In 1921, a projectionist was fired from one of Berlin's top premiere cinemas. So during a regular film screening, he changed the reel to a pornographic movie, locked the door to the projection room, and then left the cinema. How did the audience react? A journalist present reported the following:

Describing the impression that the new film made on the decent and tidy part of the audience is not possible. For this new film was an accumulation of the most horrific pornographic scenes imaginable, such as one could hardly believe that any human being would lower himself to record. The audience was gripped by an incredible excitement. The orchestra immediately stopped playing. Shouts sounded that the show had to stop. Hysterical screams echoed from a box. The outraged crowd crowded towards the exits. However, many ladies remained seated and thus provoked indignant protests from the decent part of the audience through their shameless behavior.

That's some bad ass girlbosses right there, they were probably like "hang on, I wanna see where this goes".

So yeah, not subtle at all, but it does lead into the "disgruntled employee" narrative. This comes up a lot in these kinds of urban myths. Someone was about to be fired so they got their preemptive revenge by hiding something somewhere undetected.

For example, on the home video VHS cover for The Little Mermaid. The cast surround this golden castle and one of the spires is clearly a big ol' penis. And then the story around it became, disgruntled Disney artist, about to be laid off, hid the willy in plain view in an act of spite.

We'd love for that to be true, a middle finger to the mouse, an act of rebellion and we're all in on the secret. But no. The artist was not a Disney artist, so he was never about to be fired. He was hired for a lot of the merchandise for The Little Mermaid and had little time to complete this particular image, and so hurried the background detail late in the night and drew a cock by mistake. I guess you could call it - SLOP-PENIS!

And there's this scene during the wedding where the priest has an erection. Aha! Disgruntled employee was about to be fired so they- Nope, it's his knee, it's just his knee. Occam's Razor strikes again, but Disney did remove it anyway, just in case.

I don't know if a disgruntled employee hid the woman in The Rescuers since every other known example can be easily explained away. Plus I think a disgruntled employee would just, you know, quit. So what else can it be?

In The Lion King, when Simba lays on the cliff, the dust spells the word SEX! It doesn't, it's supposed to spell SFX, as in a reference to "special effects". Disney has also removed it just in case.

This however now leads to the conspiracy theory that Disney are actually purposely trying to warp the minds of children.

THINK OF THE CHILDREN!

The Lion King had a talking picture book, you know the kind with the buttons that make different noises. And if you pressed on Rafiki, he would say:

To many, this sounded like: "Squashed bananas up his arse."

What he's actually saying is: "Asante sana. Squash banana."

Because it loops it kinda runs together, kinda like squashed bananas up your arse. I feel like if my son squashed a banana up his arse because a talking monkey told him, I've probably done something wrong as a parent.

Likewise, in Aladdin, he apparently says:

"Good teenagers take off their clothes"

This got a lot of parents upset. In 1995, one mother referred to this film as "a toddler introduction to porn". Actually a toddler's introduction to porn is Blippi and his ~~nude Harlem Shake poop video~~.

Anyway, because this Aladdin line is garbled and whispered, it's hard to tell what he's actually saying. The second half is obviously "take off and go". But the first half is unclear. The script says "Good Kitty", a Disney's spokesman said it was "Good tiger", it doesn't sound like either to me.

Does he say “good teenagers” or are we just hearing what we’re told to hear, like the supposed satanic messages when playing certain songs backwards?

In this instance, it may be more likely the line was a result of bad sound mixing. Listen again, and imagine he’s saying “C’mon good kitty” but on “kitty” another line saying “Psst, take off and go” is heard.

So the “good teenagers” is weirdly just the words “good kitty” and “psst” mixed together.

We can speculate what happened, but Disney decided to remove this ambiguity, and edit the scene on any current version you see today. He says:

“C’mon good kitty”

and then the rest of the line fades out.

The bad faith argument that Disney is trying to brainwash or indoctrinate children with this sort of stuff is funny to look back on as all being dumb and silly and in the past. But it’s happening right now.

A Florida teacher was under investigation for showing *Strange World* to her class. The mere presence of an openly gay character fell under the Don’t Say Gay bill. Remember when I made that video about the absurdity of Moral Panics and how it’s weaponised by politicians seeking power? So who’s really the brainwashed ones, hmm?

Anyway! Back to the silly video. It’s highly doubtful the woman was placed in *The Rescuers* on purpose to secretly warp the minds of children or some spiteful employee about to be fired. Whoever put her in there in the 70s was probably long gone from Disney’s employment by the 90s, and no-one was going to own up now. A private joke or game gone awry or a cascading failure from those in charge? How could this have happened remains a mystery to this day.

Another mystery is, who is this woman anyway? It’s possible she’s just one of thousands of adult movie actresses at that time, perhaps a photo cut out of a *Playboy* magazine or, maybe more disturbingly, this could be an early example of revenge porn. Perhaps she’s the partner, or an ex of a Disney employee who, in petty retaliation, snuck her photo in so he can have the last laugh. It’s an awful notion but it might explain why no-one has been able to identify her yet. It is very likely that this person, professional model or otherwise, has had no idea they’ve been in a Disney movie this entire time.

The fact is this, this is a result of a bygone era. As movies are made digitally, it’s harder to sneak stuff in without anyone noticing, be it an elaborate in-joke, disgruntled employee or secret attempt at brainwashing children.

So sorry, there’s no sex act hidden in a drawing in Boo’s room. But less chance doesn’t mean ZERO chance.

In 2017, an episode of *Maya The Bee*, a Netflix animated series, had to be pulled and replaced after a very clear image of a cock and balls were seen on the side of a tree log. Looks like it’s got wood!

So who knows? Maybe there’s more hidden boobs, balls, butts and other body parts still waiting to be found and exposed.