

FLOWERS AND TREES

1932

Production number US 3
Animation: 3 March-6 April 1932
Delivered: 13 July 1932
Technicolor

Director Burt Gillett

Music Bert Lewis or Frank Churchill
The score includes excerpts from Anton Rubinstein's "Kamenoi-Ostrow" (1850s) for the main title; Mendelssohn's Overture to *Ruy Blas* (1839) for the awakening forest; Alfred Margis' "Valse bleue" (1897) as the harp plays for flowers and birds; Chopin's "Funeral March" (1839) for the lily and stump; Schubert's "The Erl King" ("Erlkönig", 1815) for the tree fight; Rossini's *William Tell* Overture (1829) for the stump on fire; "The Campbells Are Coming" (trad.) as flames chase the centipede; Beethoven's Symphony no. 6 ("Pastorale", 1808) as the forest recovers; and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" (1826) for the finale.

Voices Marion Darlington, Esther Campbell (birds)

Animation Dave Hand crew: Charles Hutchinson, Hardie Gramatky, Fred Moore, Bill Mason, Joe D'Igalo, Frank Tipper, Ham Luske, Frank Kelling, Ed Love (birds, daisies, flames, caterpillar, assorted trees)
Jack King (boy and girl trees: awakening)
Tom Palmer (stump awakens; boy and stump duel)
Norm Ferguson (boy and girl trees: dancing sequence; old stump grabs girl)
Dick Lundy (stump starts fire, gloats, is attacked by flames)
Les Clark (boy and girl trees: proposal and wedding)
Dave Hand animated most of the film, partly by himself and partly with apprentices.



The hero threatened by flames. On the opposite page, flowers and birds sounding the fire alarm. As the camera pans quickly past the background trees, many viewers fail to notice the expressive "faces" painted on the tree trunks.
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Scenes with apprentice Fred Moore include the caterpillar awakening, trees running, and rain putting out the last of the flames. Ham Luske animated a mother with little bushes escaping flames, and a bird's nest on fire.

Synopsis The woods awaken in spring; a budding romance between boy and girl saplings is threatened by a withered tree stump who wants the girl for himself. Repulsed by the boy in a duel, the stump seeks revenge by setting the forest on fire. Flames pursue the flowers and trees, and ultimately destroy the stump himself. Birds douse the blaze by punching holes in nearby rain clouds, the forest recovers and the young lovers wed.

Working title "Trees and Flowers"

Note This is the first three-strip Technicolor cartoon, the first Silly Symphony to depict an actual death, the first to use an all-classical score, and Disney's first Academy Award winner.

Length 703 ft. (7:49)

Negative cost \$15,887.26

Los Angeles opening 15-29 July 1932 at Grauman's Chinese with Robert Z. Leonard's *Strange Interlude* (MGM), the first two weeks of the feature's six-week run

Announced release 30 July 1932 (United Artists)

New York opening 1-7 September 1932 at the Roxy with David Butler's *Down to Earth* (Fox)

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Awards & nominations Academy Award for Best Cartoon Short Subject, 1931-32

TV premiere "The Story of the Silly Symphony" segment of *Disneyland*, 19 October 1955
This was a 209-foot abridgment of the original film. A more complete version was shown on the *Mickey Mouse Club*, 11 March 1958.

16mm release March 1973 in *Milestones in Animation*

Video & laser release *Disney's Best of 1931-1948*, Cartoon Classics, vol. 5, Walt Disney Home Video, 167 (1983 [video]; 1988 [laser])

DVD release *Silly Symphonies*, Walt Disney Treasures, Disney DVD, 23087 (2001)

References Herring, "The Cartoon Colour-Film" (1933), 86-87
Sherie, "Poetry in Celluloid" (1933), 77-78
Neupert, "A Studio Built of Bricks: Disney and Technicolor" (1986), 33-40
Thomas and Johnston, *Too Funny for Words* (1987), 58, 205