

ANIMATION PIONNIERS



Emile Reynaud (1844-1918)

Research scientist in optic, he invented the praxinoscope in 1877. This became the praxinoscope theater that allowed him to make live public performances.

His first show at Musée Grévin in Paris on October 28th 1892 was a huge success.

Between 1892 and 1900, he gave more than 10 000 screenings for about 500 000 people. But the birth of cinematographe will lead to the death of the optical theater. He died in misery in 1918

[*Pauvre Pierrot- 1892*](#)



Louis and Auguste Lumière (1864 – 1948)

After the discovery of Edison's kinétoscope, Louis and Auguste Lumiere invented the first camera. The first public screening of cinematograph happened in Paris on december the 28th 1895.

[*The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station- 1895*](#)



Emile Cohl (1857-1938)

Famous caricaturist (student of André Gill), magician, graphic designer, photographer, journalist, Emile Courtet started in 1907 at Gaumont as « cinématographist » when he was 50 .

On August 17th 1908, at the Théâtre Le Gymnase in Paris, he presented Metamorphosis (Fantasmagorie), a two minutes black and white film that was considered the first animated cartoon.

He moved to Fort Lee (suburb of New York) between 1912 and 1914.

He created more than 300 very short animated films (hand drawn and stop motion)

He died in misery in 1938, one day before the famous Georges Méliès.

[Fantasmagorie- 1908](#)



J. Stuart Blackton (1875 – 1941)

He came to the US with his family from Sheffield, England, in 1885 at age 10, settling in New York.

He worked as a reporter for the New York Evening World newspaper, and became interested in the film business.

He shot several movies including some of the first animation tests : The Haunted Hotel (1907), Humorous Phases of Funny Faces (1906)

He died in a car accident in California in 1941.

[Humorous phases of funny faces- 1906](#)



Winsor McCay (1869-19340)

He was a famous comic artist and and animator. His work influenced many other artists such as Moebius or Miyasaki. He started animation after seeing the films of Emile Coh. His movie Gertie the Dinosaur is the first one to have a character with a real personality.

[Little Nemo- 1910](#)

