



photo: Wolf Erbrach, Wuppertal 2008.



photo: Tony Burrett, Weston SM, 1962.

Geoff Dunbar's interest in animated films began at an early age, always fascinated by the work of the Walt Disney Studios he studied the early cinematic processes avidly. Leaving school at the age of 15 and working in a series of jobs, saving enough money to purchase an 8-mm movie camera and teaching himself the rudiments of moving drawings, on the strength of these early attempts Geoff secured himself a trainee position at the renowned "Film Producers Guild" in London England where he honed his skills not only as an Animator but as a Designer and Director.

Geoff Dunbar's debut film was based on the sketches of "Toulouse Lautrec" and was recognized with a "Palm D'or" at the Cannes film festival 1975.

Geoff then set up his own production studio in the newly converted creative quarter of the Covent Garden flower market also in London.

It was in this environment that the much acclaimed "UBU" was made a 20 minute interpretation of "Alfred Jarry's" anarchic "Grande Guignol" Geoff used a vibrant staccato style of animation to convey the avande garde play and a brilliant guttural sound track created by Terry Brown with music by Laurie Scott-Baker.

"UBU" received a "Golden Bear" at the Berlin film festival 1980 and the "Grand Prix" at Ottawa in the same year.

It was these early successes that attracted the attention of Paul McCartney who invited Geoff to collaborate on a musical short based on the beloved English character "Rupert the Bear" a daily newspaper strip. The outcome of this was a best selling video and chart topping record also winning a "BAFTA" for the year 1984.

Following this came "Daumier's Law" another artistic short based on the work of "Honore Daumier" the French caricaturist with Sir Paul McCartney's inspired music.

"Daumier's Law" won a "BAFTA" in 1992 and "La Spiga D'oro" at Valladolid in the same year and was directors choice at Cannes, after this came "Tropic Island Hum" and "Tuesday" making up the acclaimed "The McCartney Music and Animation Collection"

"The Cunning Little Vixen" followed, an animated version of "Leos Janacek's" magical opera with Maestro Kent Nagano as musical director with the Deutches Symphonie Orchester and support from the European Opera Center BBC2 and Opus Arte.

"The Cunning Little Vixen" received much critical acclaim and continues to be a DVD best seller around the world re-recorded in several languages including the original Czech.

Geoff is also the illustrator and co-author of "High in the Clouds" a children's book by Sir Paul McCartney and Philip Ardagh.

