



## A SHREK CHRONOLOGY

- Nov 14th 1907** American cartoonist, sculptor and latterly children's author William Steig is born in Brooklyn, New York, to Polish-Jewish immigrants from Austria. His father, Joseph, was a house painter and his mother, Laura, was a seamstress.
- 1923** Steig graduates from Townsend Harris High School at the age of 15, but doesn't complete any of the three colleges that he attends, admitting that he had "a defective education."
- 1930** Steig sells his first cartoon to The New Yorker, having started to draw when his family suffered from financial problems during the Great Depression. The cartoon has a prison inmate telling another, "My son's incorrigible, I can't do a thing with him!"
- 1944** A book of Steig's cartoons, entitled *Small Fry* is published. The New York Times says: "What they prove to the parents and elders is that 8-year-olds do not change from one generation to another, that the world of childhood is compounded of miniature terrors and glorious daydreams, and that Mr. Steig - not to put too fine a point upon it - is wonderful."
- 1968** William Steig publishes his first children's book, entitled *CDB!*, which uses letters to represent words (hence, *CDB!* becomes "See the Bee"). This is followed by *Roland the Minstrel Pig*, beginning a career of books that are peopled with animals.
- 1990** *Shrek*, about a young ogre who finds the ogre of his dreams when he leaves home, is published for the first time, written and illustrated by William Steig. The name of the central character is derived from the German/Yiddish word 'schreck', literally meaning 'fear, terror'.
- 2001** The animated film of *Shrek* is released by DreamWorks Animation, starring the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz. The film will go on to become an international success, closing in the cinema to a worldwide gross of nearly \$500M.
- 2001** *Shrek* wins an Oscar®, in the new Academy Award category of 'Best Animated Feature'.
- 2003** William Steig dies at the age of 95, in Boston, USA. His prolific output has generated more than 25 children's books, even though he only started writing them in his 60's! On one occasion he said: "I think I feel a little differently than other people do. For some reason I've never felt grown up", which perhaps helps to explain his interest in this area of publishing. Steig's passing is noted on the end credits of *Shrek 2*, with 'In Memory of William Steig, 1907-2003'.
- 2004** *Shrek 2*, is released, followed by *Shrek the Third* (2007) and *Shrek Forever After* (2010). Several other shorter *Shrek* projects are completed, including *Shrek 4-D* (2004), a ride at Universal Studios and *Shrek the Halls* (2007), a Christmas special. *Shrek* is one of the highest grossing film series of all time.
- Dec 14th 2008** **SHREK THE MUSICAL** opens at the Broadway Theatre in New York City, starring Brian d'Arcy James as Shrek, Daniel Breaker as Donkey and Sutton Foster as Princess Fiona. The show is described as 'true happiness' by the New York Times and "enormous fun" by the Wall Street Journal.
- July 25th 2010** **SHREK THE MUSICAL** launches its North American tour in Chicago starting a 60 city, two year tour of the US. tour in Chicago starting a 60 city, two year tour of the US.
- June 14th 2011** **SHREK THE MUSICAL** has its UK premiere at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, starring Nigel Lindsay as Shrek, Richard Blackwood as Donkey, Nigel Harman as Lord Farquaad and Amanda Holden as Princess Fiona.