

Will Vinton:

Five Oscar nominations

One Oscar win

Founded Will Vinton Studios

Founded Creative Conference

**Taught & inspired hundreds of
artists**

Why here?

**Why is Portland the city which
produced this extraordinary
artist-entrepreneur?**





BEGINNING THE GREATER MOVIE SEASON

8th Annual Paramount WEEK



The movies move! *Better pictures than you ever saw before are here!*

Paramount Week celebrates one glorious round of Paramount Pictures—a review of the ones you missed—a pre-view of the new!
"If it's a Paramount Picture it's the best show in town!"

PORTLAND joins in the Paramount Week Celebration!

AT THE FOLLOWING THEATERS:

Alhambra Theater—1359½ Hawthorne Ave.
 Bob White Theater—6512 Foster Blvd.
 Brooklyn Theater—672 Milwaukie St.
 Burnside Theater—290 Burnside St.
 Circle Theater—126 Fourth St.
 Clinton Theater—808½ Clinton St.
 Hudson's Colonial—Albina and Mississippi
 Echo Theater—1094 Hawthorne Ave.
 Graeper's Egyptian—Union Ave and Russell
 Empire Theater—289 Grand Ave.
 Gay Theater—805 Mississippi
 Granada Theater—E. 78th and Glisan
 Grant Theater—585 First St.
 Highway Theater—52d and Sandy Blvd.
 Ideal Theater—801½ Thurman
 Irvington Theater—14th and E. Broadway

RIVOLI

THEATER

WEEK STARTING SATURDAY,
 SEPTEMBER 5

MEIGHAN'S MIGHTIEST
 MASTERPIECE

THOMAS MEIGHAN

—in—
 "The Man Who Found
 Himself"

Adapted from the Original
 Screen Story by
 BOOTH TARKINGTON

PEOPLES

THEATER

WEEK STARTING SATURDAY,
 SEPTEMBER 5

THE COMEDY SENSATION OF
 THE SEASON

Bebe Daniels

and
 Rod LaRocque

—in—
 "WILD, WILD
 SUSAN"

Jefferson Theater—12th and Jefferson
 Laurelhurst Theater—E. 28th and Couch
 Venetian Theater—113 N. Jersey
 Novelty Theater—231 Morrison
 Portsmouth Theater—812 Lombard
 Powell Theater—703½ Powell
 Rex Theater—267 Morrison
 Rose Theater—Lombard and Mississippi
 Roseway Theater—70th and Sandy Blvd.
 Sellwood Theater—1620 E. 13th.
 Sunnyside Theater—1045½ Belmont
 State Theater—21st and Hoyt
 Victoria Theater—667 Alberta
 Villa Theater—E. 81st and Stark
 Woodlawn Theater—468 Dekum
 Yeager Theater—Lents Station

**Q: Where did Will
come from?**

A: Its complicated.



Robert Taylor

**I will make a two stage
argument that Portland
did nurture Will Vinton,
as an artist,
entrepreneur, and citizen.**

Part One:

Part One: Infrastructure

**Did Will have
infrastructure?**

1964: Teknifilm Lab

**From a paper presented to 1998 ASIFA
Conference**

in Seattle by Rose Bond

**“Northwest Animation: The Roots
of Creative Variance
The Portland Story, 1925 - 1976”**

“.....animation was virtually non-existent in Portland until the 1950's when several engineer/technicians built serviceable stands and began to animate local commercials.”

“The individual behind much of the work was a radio engineer turned filmmaker/inventor named Frank Hood.”

1964: Teknifilm Lab

1964: Teknifilm Lab

Founded by Frank Hood

1964: Teknifilm Lab

Founded by Frank Hood **who has
years of animation experience.**

1967: An Introduction to the American Underground Film: a unique fully illustrated handbook to the art of underground films and their makers is published.

UNDERGROUND FILM

GROUND FILMS AND THEIR MAKERS

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL \$2.25 IN CANADA \$2.70

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN

A UNIQUE, FULLY ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK TO THE ART OF UNDER

BY SHELDON RENAN / FOREWORD BY WILLARD VAN DYKE / D207 / A DUTTON



1967: An Introduction to the American Underground Film

**The author lectures at UC Berkeley,
Will Vinton's school.**

1967: An Introduction to the American Underground Film

The author, **who is from Portland,** lectures at UC Berkeley, Will Vinton's school.

1967: An Introduction to the American Underground Film

The author, **who is from Portland,** lectures at Will Vinton's school.

Will attends the lectures.

**The author, Sheldon Renan,
graduated Cleveland HS
in 1959.**

**He founded Pacific Film Archive
At UC Berkeley
in 1967.**





1969: Center For The Moving Image

1969: Center For The Moving Image

First film school in the PNW.

**Led by Andries Deinum, a nationally
recognized film scholar and educator.**



**Deinum is a filmmaker
himself.**

**He emphasizes filmmaking
as a way to explore the
world, express yourself,
and build community.**

**He does not emphasize
film as a commercial
product.**

1970: Portland Scribe

1970: Portland Scribe

Portland's underground newspaper had the unique status of being a G rated underground newspaper. It carried no X rated advertising.

Illustrated by future Oscar nominee Bill Plympton. Sold on the street by Matt Groening.

35¢ PORTLAND
Scribe
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 13 JUNE 24 - JULY 4, 1976

What's Goin' On!
Portland's most
complete music
and entertainment
calendar pp. 9-16

HOT DOG! FULL PAGE
COMICS INSIDE!

Seattle grand jury
gropes for evidence p3
Greenpeace ship
sails into Portland p5
Feeding the fun & profit
machine at Slabtown p6
Behind the 8 ball
bacchanal p10



1971: Northwest Film Study Center

1971: Northwest Film Study Center

**Founded by two Andries Deinum students
Brooke Jacobson and Bob Summers**



1971: Northwest Film Study Center

**Brooke Jacobson and Bob Summers
receive NEA funds provided by an
initiative authored by**

1971: Northwest Film Study Center

**Brooke Jacobson and Bob Summers
receive NEA funds provided by an
initiative authored by [Sheldon Renan](#).**

1971: Northwest Film Study Center

**One of four regional film centers
created by Renan's 1970 NEA
initiative.**

1973: The Movie House

1973: The Movie House

Randy Finley's second theater, patterned after his first in Seattle.

1973: The Movie House

Finley is one of the most gifted independent film entrepreneurs the world has ever seen.

1974: The Media Project

1974: The Media Project

Founded by Brooke Jacobson to support regional (what we now call “independent”) film by offering networking, distribution, and exhibition.

1964: Teknifilm Lab

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**1967: An Introduction to the American
Underground Film**

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1973: The Movie House

1974: The Media Project

**How does this fit in
with
Will Vinton?**

1968:

Will Vinton graduates high school in McMinnville, enters UC Berkeley

1971:

Will Vinton moves to Portland

1975:

Will Vinton wins Oscar

1964: Teknifilm Lab

**1967: An Introduction to the American
Underground Film**

1967: Will Vinton enters UC Berkeley

1969: Center For The Moving Image

1970: Portland Scribe

1971: Northwest Film Center

1971: Will Vinton moves to Portland

1973: The Movie House

1974: The Media Project

1975: Will Vinton wins Oscar

“The cultural ecology in Oregon led to an incredibly prolific and creative period of art animation in the late Seventies and Eighties. The components to that ecology include early pioneers, technical resources, schools, showcases, and the early work itself.”

Rose Bond

Part Two:

Culture

**Portland had independent
filmmakers right from the
very birth of cinema.**



**Our first film studio,
American Lifeograph,
opened in 1910.**

**That's before
Hollywood.**



KODAK

11



Lewis Moomaw (1889-1980)

FLAMES (1926)

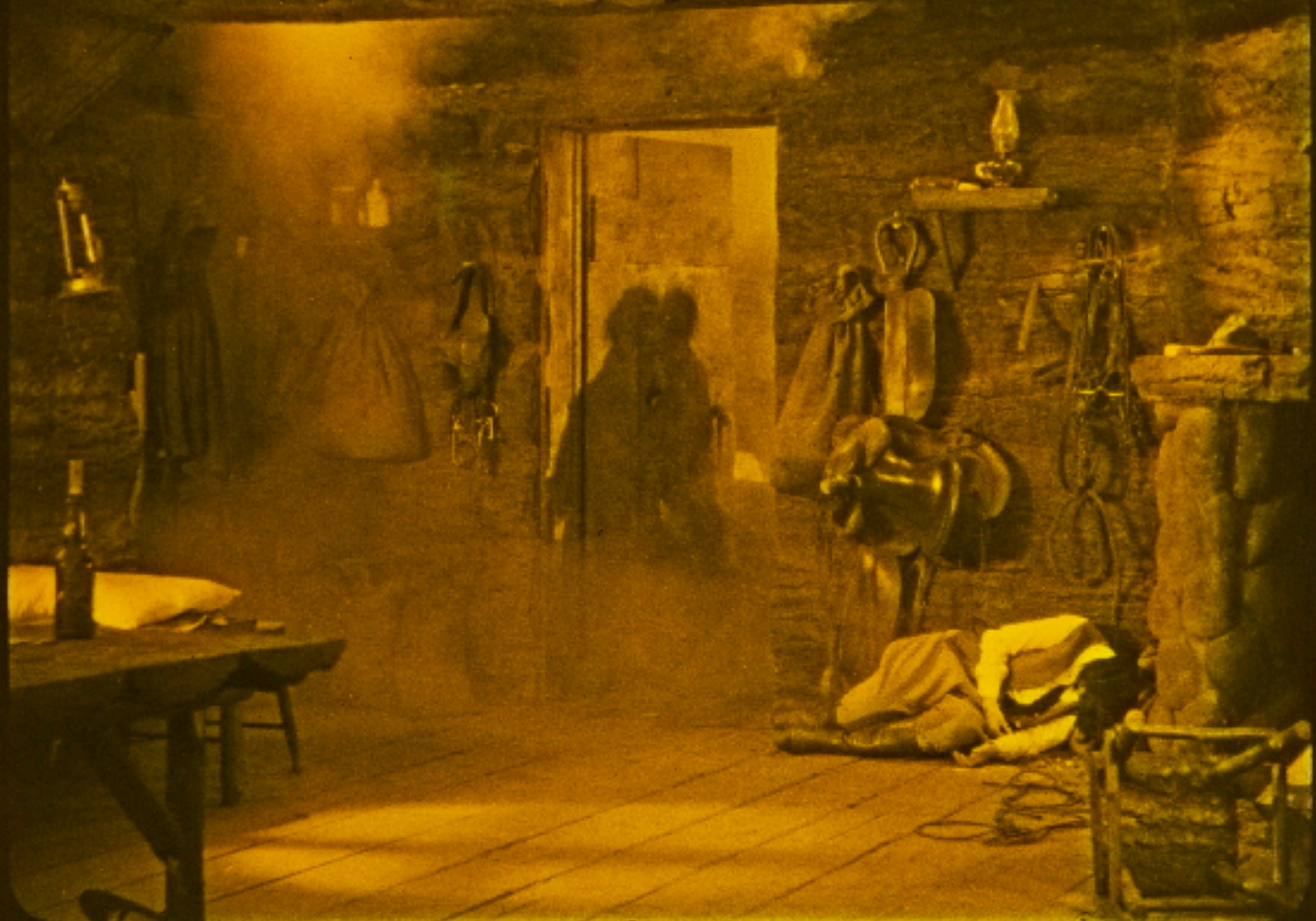
Dir: Lewis Moomaw

Scr: Alfred Cohn

Prod: Lewis Moomaw

**Starring: Jean Hersholt, Boris Karloff,
Eugene O'Brien, Virginia Valli**

NITRATE FILM



**If FLAMES marked the end of
Oregon's silent era independent
feature filmmaking....**

**...which sound era film marks the
return?**

Candidate #1

Property (1977)

Dir: Penny Allen

Scr: Penny Allen

Prod: Penny Allen



PROPERTY

A Penny Allen/Eric Edwards Film
A story about Portland, Oregon, in 1977. In color, 92 minutes.
© Copyright 1978, West Bank Productions, Inc.

Cast:

Lola Desmond, Corky Hubbert, Walt Curtis,
David Horowitz, Harold Johnson

Crew:

DP: Eric Edwards

Sound: Gus Van Sant

Set decoration: Henk Pander



PROPERTY

A Penny Allen/Eric Edwards Film
A story about Portland, Oregon, in 1977. In color, 92 minutes.
© Copyright 1978, West Bank Productions, Inc.

PROPERTY was a Sundance Prizewinner.

Also, prizewinner:

Northwest Film Festival
Maverick Film Festival, New York
Rotterdam Film Festival
Florence (Italy) Film Festival
Portuguese Film Festival
Hof Film Festival (Germany)
Sydney Film Festival
Moscow Film Festival
Cineprobe, Museum of Modern Art, New York

Cinémathèque Française, Paris, 2016;
Retrospective at Hollywood Theatre, Portland, 2015 ;
Retrospective at Metrograph, New York, 2017

Candidate #2

THE EXHIBITOR-MADE PICTURE THAT'S ROCKING THE BOAT!

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I recently had the opportunity to see "The Circle," and I wanted to drop you a line to say how much I enjoyed it for a variety of reasons, mostly it is a step in the right direction. Your efforts may open a whole new era for exhibitors in the most creative medium of them all, film. As you probably know the early film makers on the west and east coasts were mainly theatre owners who made and showed their own productions in their own theatres. It would be wonderful to see this thing start up again. If it doesn't, it certainly won't be due to any lack of work on your part.

Sincerely,
MORRIS WOKAD

1970 was EASY RIDER

1971 was JOE

1972 was BILLY JACK

1973

THE CIRCLE IS LOVE
THE CIRCLE IS CONFLICT
THE CIRCLE IS LAUGHS
THE CIRCLE IS TEARS
LIFE
DEATH

THE CIRCLE IS FREEDOM
THE CIRCLE IS CONFINING
THE CIRCLE IS THE START
THE CIRCLE IS THE END
THE CIRCLE IS NOW!

The Circle

PG

A TOMMYLYRE PRODUCTION STARRING:
Tom O'Connell, Mary McCormack, Chris Sanders and Tom Guha



EAST COAST PREMIERE OPENING Washington, D.C. This Month

"If the world hands you a lemon, squeeze it, and start a lemonade stand!"

Call—write—or wire for information: (505-227-0213) CIRCLE PRODUCTIONS

919 S.W. Taylor
Portland, Ore. 97205

THE CIRCLE (1972)

Dir: Tom Moyer, Jr

Scr: Tom Moyer, Jr

Prod: Tom Moyer, Jr



THE CIRCLE IS LOVE
THE CIRCLE IS CONFLICT
THE CIRCLE IS LAUGHS
CIRCLE IS TEARS
CIRCLE IS LIFE
CIRCLE IS DEATH
CIRCLE IS FREEDOM
THE CIRCLE IS CONFINING
THE CIRCLE IS THE START
THE CIRCLE IS THE END
THE CIRCLE IS NOW!

The Circle

PLUS COLOR
CO-HIT PETER SELLERS in

"I LOVE YOU ALICE B TOKLAS"

7:00 &
10:45

"Whatever money he spent to make the movie (and I can't believe it was much more than \$733.15) is down the tube."

—Doug Baker
OREGON JOURNAL

"The Federal government appropriates no relief money for such disasters."

—Doug Baker
OREGON JOURNAL

"... you can't just 'make a movie' by pointing the camera at a gaggle of people and pressing a trigger to activate the shutter."

—Doug Baker
OREGON JOURNAL

"... Tom Moyer Jr. ... deserves high praise for a sensitive, creative effort which brings a rare insight to all of us on what young people on the threshold of life are all about."

—John Salisbury, KXL News

"Applause is due Moyer, his actors and technicians ... a tender, moving romance story is delightfully real ... well worth seeing."

—Arnold Marks, Oregon Journal

"Acting in 'Circle' surprisingly good ... There are many laughs ... a very naturalistic comedy ..."

—Ted Mahar, The Oregonian

DECIDE WHO'S RIGHT, SEE 'THE CIRCLE' YOURSELF!!

THE CIRCLE (1972)

Produced, co-written and directed
by
Tom Moyer, Jr.

Photographed by
Will Vinton

"Circles"
Written by
Harry Chapin
Performed by
The New Seekers

Starring
Tim O'Callaghan
Tom Gohn
Carol Crittenden
Mary Schram
Jim Bosley
Alan Hirsch
Mark Allen
Mary Saracco
Dianna Ferrua
Joe Libonati
Gracie Hansen

Filmed in
Portland, OR

MPAA rating: PG
Running time: 95 minutes

Candidate #3

DEMENTIA (1953)

Dir: John Parker Jr

Scr: John Parker Jr

Prod: John Parker Jr



"This is a place where there is no love, no hope; in the pulsing, throbbing world of the insane mind, where only nightmares are real!"

**A no budget film shot MOS
(without sound), with a score by
George Antheil.**

**DEMENTIA (1953), Parker's only
film, was made in Los Angeles.**

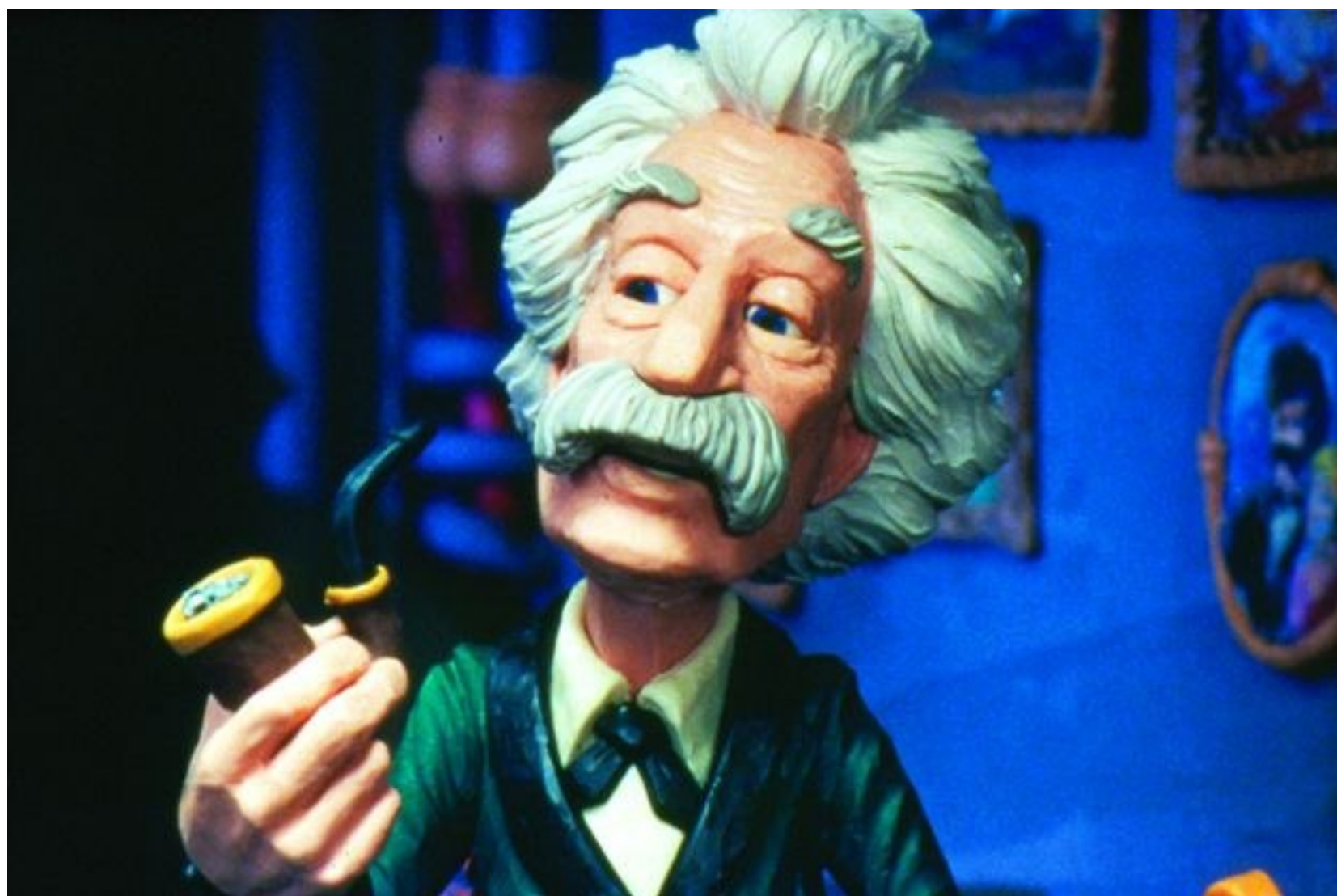
Candidate #4

The Adventures of Mark Twain (1985)

Dir: Will Vinton

Scr: Susan Shadburne

Prod: Will Vinton



Cast (voice artists):
James Whitemore, Dallas
MacKennon, Will Vinton, Billy Scream,
Craig Bartlett, Mark Gustafson.

**So, how do we determine
which of these four is the
film which marks the return
of Oregon's feature length
independent filmmakers?**

FLAMES (1926)

Feature length

Hollywood talent

Shot locally

Local crew

Local production company

National distribution

Director is the producer

DEMENTIA (1953)

Feature length

National distribution

Director is the producer

THE CIRCLE (1972)

Feature length

Shot locally

Local crew

National distribution

Director is the producer

PROPERTY (1977)

Feature length

Shot locally
Local crew

Director is the producer

THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN (1985)

Feature length

Hollywood talent

Shot locally

Local crew

Local production company

National distribution

Director is the producer

Will = the winner!

1964: Teknifilm Lab

1967: Sheldon Renan's book

1968: Will Vinton enters UC Berkeley

1969: Center For The Moving Image

1970: Portland Scribe

1971: Northwest Film Center

1971: Will Vinton moves to Portland

1973: The Movie House

1974: The Media Project

1975: Will Vinton wins Oscar

**1985: Will Vinton re-introduces independent
feature filmmaking to Portland**

**Will's success, as a
businessman and
as an artist**

**Will's success, as a
businessman and
as an artist
changes Portland**

**After Will, comes Bill Plympton,
Jim Blashfield, Gus Van Sant,
Joan Gratz, Chel White, Joanna
Priestley**

REMEMBER OUR FOUR CANDIDATES?

DEMENTIA (1953)

Made by Parker Jr, scion of theater chain owner

THE CIRCLE (1972)

Made by Moyer Jr, scion of theater chain owner

PROPERTY (1977)

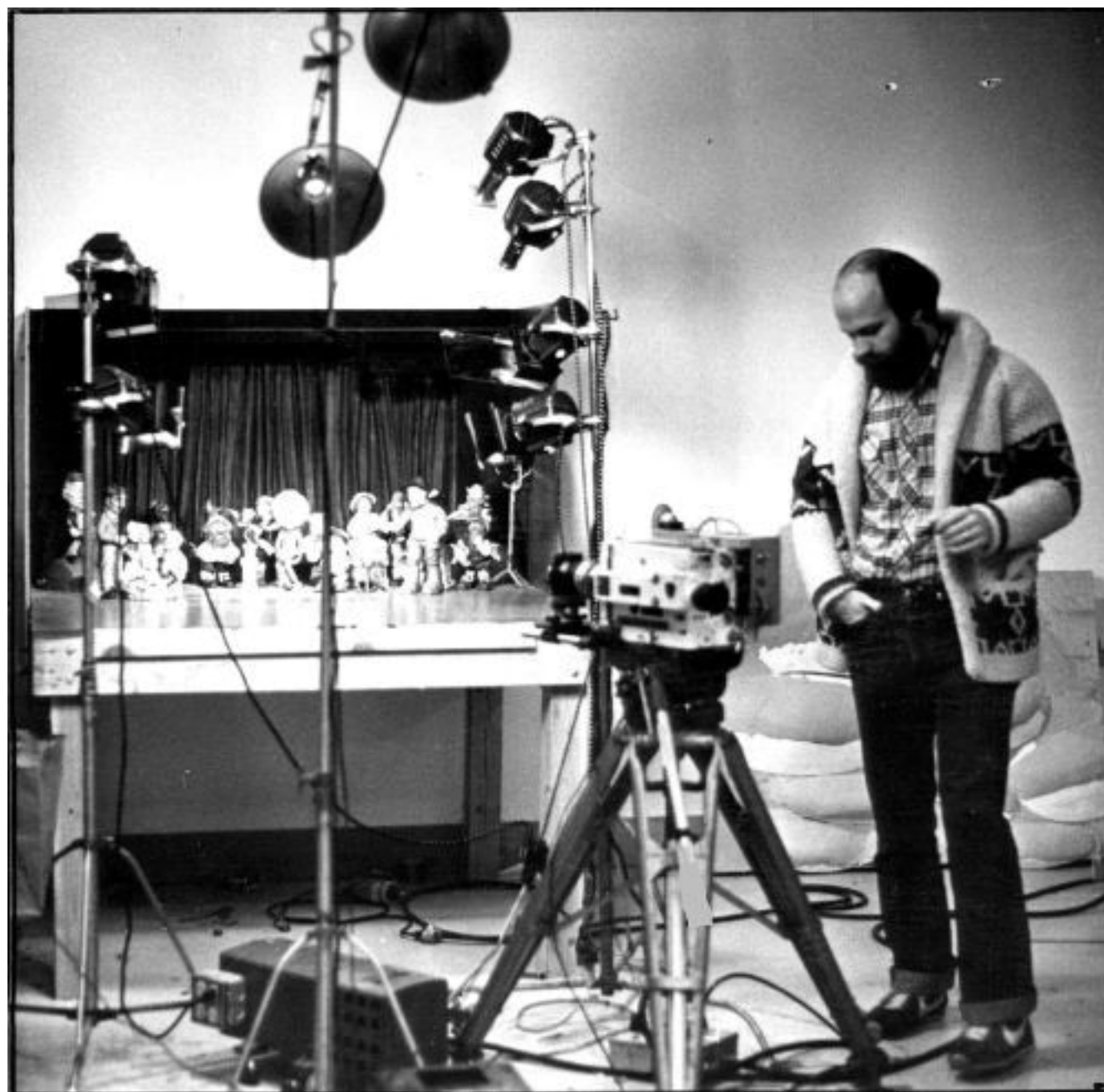
Made by Allen, using CETA (Concentrated Employment Training Assistance) federal grant money, fiscally sponsored by The Media Project

THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN (1985)

Made by Vinton = [head of his own studio](#)

**Minor cinemas: exploitation film (DEMENTIA),
youth culture film (THE CIRCLE), underground
film (PROPERTY), experimental animation
(THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN)**

Minor cinemas



Major talent

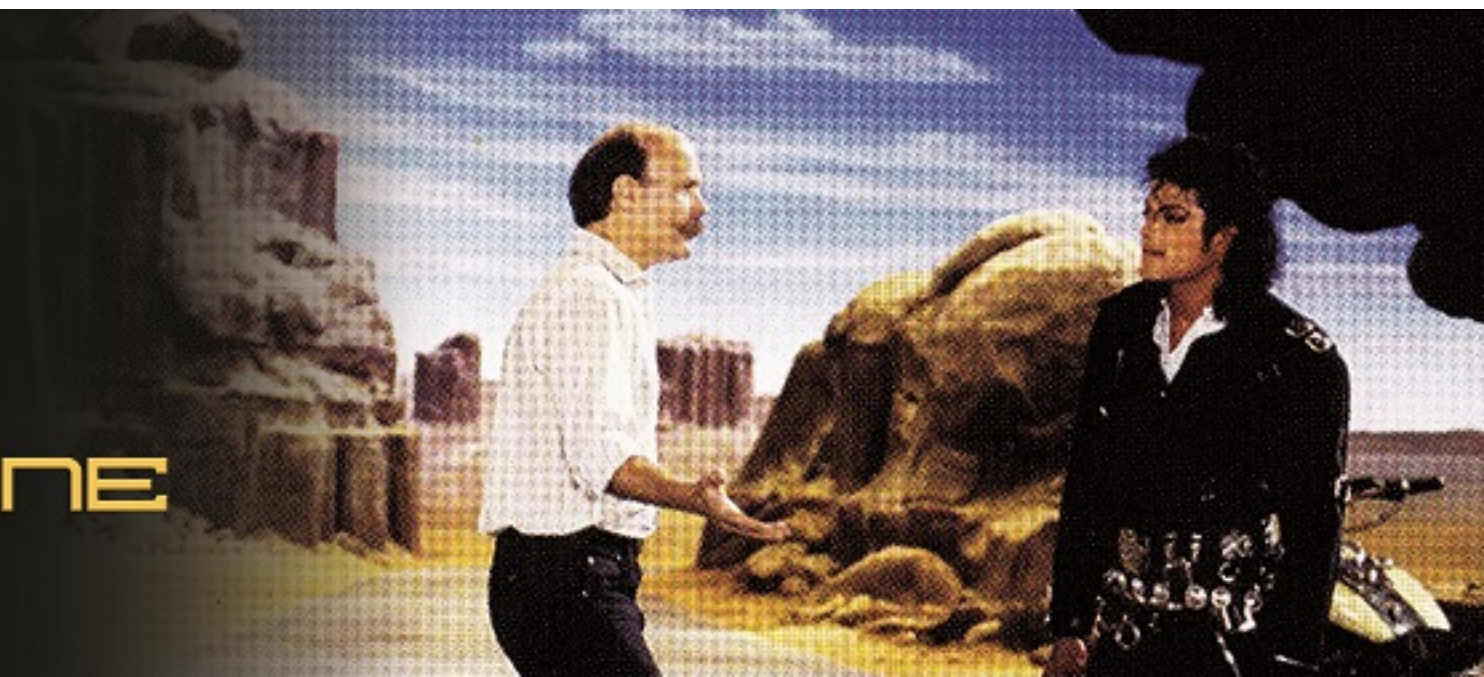


Who makes pop?



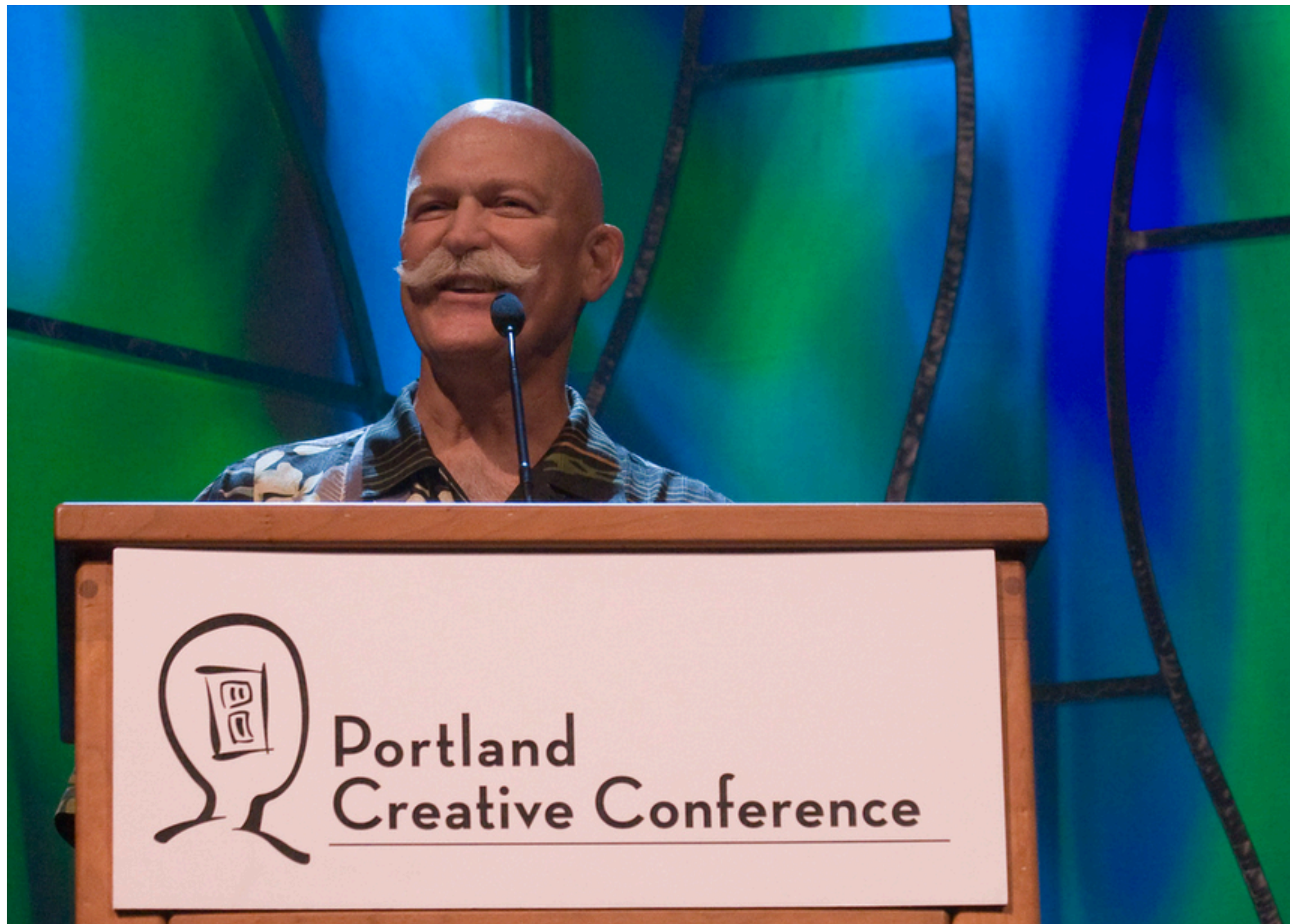
WILL VINTON

ICONIC MAGAZINE
#8









THE END

**This talk was presented by
Anne Richardson
at the
Fourth Annual
Oregon Film History Conference**

**May 4, 2018
UO White Stag Auditorium**



2018
Oregon Film History Conference
keynote speaker:

Will Vinton

2018
Oregon Film History Conference
keynote speaker:

Will Vinton
1947-2018

**"Vinton was
single-handedly
responsible
for establishing the
city's animation community,
Rose Bond said."**

The Oregonian, 10/4/18

2018
Oregon Film History Conference

was presented by

Oregon Cartoon Institute

in partnership with

University of Oregon Libraries
Special Collections

Oregon Cartoon Institute

Founded 2007

By Anne Richardson & Dennis Nyback

Oregon Film History Conference

Founded 2015

Steering committee:

**Libby Burke, Michele Kribs, Elizabeth Peterson
& Anne Richardson**

Many thanks:

2018 Oregon Film History Conference Sponsors

University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections

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Oregon Film Museum

Dark Horse

James Blue Alliance

5th Annual Oregon Film History Conference: May 3, 2019