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## A Cast of Friends

*William Hanna, Tom Ito*

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**William Hanna, Tom Ito : A Cast of Friends** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Cast of Friends:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting infoBy J. ChavezI hadn't seen this book before purchase and it was not quite what I had expected as I purchase books that chronicle cartoon shows, BUT it is very interesting and I appreciated the condition and the price0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bill Hanna's tome is GREAT!By Mike BryantBRILL autobio from one of the giants of animation.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a cast of freindsBy DougmoserI love this book. It goes well with my other book written by Joe Barbera, "My Life in Toons". I enjoyed reading about both their early yeas in the animation biz.

Over the past 60 years, in partnership with Joe Barbera and the artists at Hanna-Barbera Productions, Bill Hanna has breathed life into such unforgettable cartoon characters as the Flintstones, Yogi Bear, and the Jetsons. In this candid autobiography, Hanna describes the early days of animation, the great friendships among animators, his happy pairing with Barbera, and more.

From Publishers WeeklyHanna was born in New Mexico in 1910 and as a child moved to Southern California. During the Depression, when he was forced to drop out of college and look for work, the only thing that came his way was a job as a janitor for a studio that made Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons. Moving through the ranks quickly,

he learned the skills of writing, animating and timing and went on to create his own projects. When the studio folded, he moved to MGM as a director. There he met Barbera and they conceived the famous cat-and-mouse cartoon team of Tom and Jerry. Writing with freelancer Ito, Hanna tells wonderful stories about the industry, about how he hooked up with Gene Kelly to create the acclaimed animated dancing sequence in *Anchors Aweigh* and then about winning his first Academy Award in 1943 for *Yankee Doodle Mouse*. In 1957, MGM closed its animated studio, and Hanna and Barbera formed their own business and were soon producing such classical cartoon shows for TV as *Ruff and Reddy*, *Huckleberry Hound* and *The Flintstones*, the last of which Hanna says was inspired by *The Honeymooners* TV series. He goes on to reminisce about his family, how the industry has changed and his long association with the Boy Scouts. Those who grew up with *Yogi Bear* and *Fred Flintstone* will love this book. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Cartoon director Joe Barbera published his autobiography, *My Life in 'toons*, in 1994. Now his longtime partner weighs in. The two enjoyed huge wide-screen success with their Tom and Jerry cartoons. When TV displaced movies in popularity, they switched to the new medium and developed such hit characters as *Huckleberry Hound*, *Yogi Bear*, and the *Flintstones*. Hanna's anecdotes about the animation pioneers he worked with in the 1930s and 1940s are entertaining, but it seems that for him the motivation behind producing cartoons was wholly economic. Well, he and Barbera are famous for developing the cost-cutting but creatively restrictive "limited animation" technique. Still, both cartoonists come off as rather dull guys. Hanna devotes far too many pages to banal philosophizing about life rather than art and to tedious family tales. Few libraries will need both men's memoirs. Since Hanna's are slightly livelier and also more technical, his volume edges out Barbera's more acerbic one. Gordon Flagg

About the Author Bill Hanna, cochairman and cofounder (with Joe Barbera) of Hanna-Barbera Productions Inc., is on the board of directors for the Cartoon Network. He lives in Los Angeles.