

HISTORYALIVE 2023

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Hear their stories in their own words!



JUNE 9-18



Presented by:

Greenville Chautauqua Society Greenville SC

Spartanburg County Public Libraries Spartanburg SC

Friends of Transylvania County Library Brevard NC

James Armistead	
Lafayette	р. б
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By Larry Bounds

e all keep secrets, sometimes for practical reasons like a password or lock combination, sometimes for the very most personal of reasons like, well, I'll leave that up to you. At the Greenville Chautauqua this year, we explore the secrets and lives of a host of accomplished and historic characters.

We began our Winter Chautauqua with **Mark Twain**, the author who created "Huckleberry Finn", the first Modern American novel. The secrets of his feisty personal life and his humorous and controversial writings have much to teach us all.



Photo by Graham Shaffer

Founder George Frein (left) as Mark Twain at Greenville Theatre, presented with Key to the City of Greenville by City Council Member Russell Stall (right)

For the Summer Chautauqua, when it comes to secrets, who is more involved in the world of secrets than a spy? In the American Revolution, both the traitor Benedict Arnold and the British commander Cornwallis turned to an **enslaved man named James** to be their spy against the Americans. Both men never suspected the clever servant was already a spy for the Patriots! Hear the secrets of the most dangerous life of all, the life of a double agent.

Next we meet **Mary Shelley**, the wife of the great Romantic poet Percy Shelley and the possessor of all the juiciest secrets of the Romantic Age. Plus, at the age of only 19, she penned the famous Gothic novel Frankenstein, rife with secrets of its own.

Nellie Bly was America's pioneering undercover reporter. Her daring adventures in the Victorian Age revealed the horrors of mental institutions by having herself committed for "Ten Days in a Mad-House." She went alone around the world in 72 days, she trained elephants, and she danced as a New York showgirl — all revealed in her popular newspaper articles.

Believe it or not, **Robert Ripley** created an entertainment empire by revealing secrets of the oddest and most unusual nature. His column was published worldwide as were his books, and he pioneered in radio and television broadcasting while personally living one of the most unbelievable lives of the 20th century!

And finally, **Steve Jobs** of Apple and Pixar fame will share the secrets of his success that shaped the way we live today, and oh, what secrets they are!

So join us this year as Chautauqua brings to life the practical and sometimes very personal secrets that have shaped and continue to shape this world we all share. And be thinking of the questions you would like to ask this year as we present Secrets Revealed!

Chautauqua is Interactive Theater.

Our performances take you on an astonishing journey into the past — to laugh with Mark Twain — to dream with Martin Luther King, Jr. — to walk the Trail of Tears with the Cherokee — to wonder with Rachel Carson. You become an "eyewitness" to History.

Chautauqua performers are part scholar and part actor. Fascinated by their characters for years, they can answer your questions in the character's own words. Our programs reflect America's diversity and feature compelling discussion. And it's not a Chautauqua performance without audience participation. Prepare to meet some incredible people. Keep the questions coming and the conversation going!

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE JUNE 9-18

GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC

FRI	6/9		Mary Shelley Simpsonville Arts Center
		7:30p	Robert Ripley Tent at Greenville Tech
SAT	6/10	2:00p	James Armistead Lafayette
		7:30p	Steve Jobs Tent at Greenville Tech
SUN	6/11	2:00p	Steve Jobs 🧐 Hartness Performing Arts Center, CCES
		7:30p	Nellie Bly Tent at Greenville Tech
MON	6/12	10:00a	DISCUSSION: James Armistead Lafayette Senior Action, 3715 E North St
		7:30p	Robert Ripley Mauldin Center, bring lawn seating
TUE	6/13	10:00a	<i>DISCUSSION</i> : Steve Jobs Senior Action, 3715 E North St
		11:30a	Mary Shelley Carter Centre Stage, 501 River St
		7:30p	Nellie Bly Mauldin Center, bring lawn seating
WED	6/14	10:00a	<i>DISCUSSION</i> : Robert Ripley Senior Action, 3715 E North St
		7:30p	
THU	6/15	10:00a	<i>DISCUSSION</i> : Nellie Bly Senior Action, 3715 E North St
		7:30p	Steve Jobs Mauldin Center, bring lawn seating
FRI	6/16	10:00a	<i>DISCUSSION</i> : Mary Shelley Senior Action, 3715 E North St
		7:30p	Mary Shelley Tent at Greenville Tech
SAT	6/17	2:00p	Nellie Bly arrived and the second sec
		7:30p	James Armistead Lafayette Tent at Greenville Tech
SUN	6/18		Hartness Performing Arts Center, CCES
		7:30p	Steve Jobs Tent at Greenville Tech

SPARTANBURG, SC

Headquarters Library 151 South Church St, Spartanburg, SC 29306				
MON 6/12	•	Nellie Bly* 🚑 Nellie Bly*		
TUE 6/13		James Armistead Lafayette* 🚑 James Armistead Lafayette*		
WED 6/14	•	Steve Jobs* 🖉 Steve Jobs*		
THU 6/15		Mary Shelley* 🚑 Mary Shelley*		
FRI 6/16	3:00p 7:00p	Robert Ripley* 🖨		
*registration required at all Spartanburg shows Go to: Library Calendar www.spartanburglibraries.org				

BREVARD, NC

Transylvania County Library 212 S Gaston St, Brevard, NC 28712

MON 6/12	7:00p	James Armistead Lafayette
TUE 6/13	7:00p	Steve Jobs
WED 6/14	7:00p	Mary Shelley
THU 6/15	7:00p	Nellie Bly
SAT 6/17	7:00p	Robert Ripley

LIBERTY, SC

Pickens County Performing Arts Center 314 W. Main Street, Liberty, SC 29657

 MON
 6/12
 2:00p
 Mary Shelley
 Seg

 WED
 6/14
 2:00p
 Robert Ripley
 Seg

 FRI
 6/16
 2:00p
 Nellie Bly
 Seg

ABBEVILLE, SC

Abbeville Opera House 100 Court Square #102, Abbeville, SC 29620

THU 6/15 2:00p James Armistead Lafayette

Eg ASL Interpreted shows



This program is funded in part by the Metropolitan Arts Council which receives support from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, SEW Eurodrive, the South Carolina Arts Commission and many other sources.



Traveling to Greenville? Go to our website and check out our Plan Your Visit page.

Scholar Performers



STEPHEN SEALS (James Armistead Lafayette)

Stephen Seals currently portrays National Builder, James Armistead Lafayette, at Colonial Williamsburg. He is also Community Outreach Liaison and Program Development Manager for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Stephen started at Colonial Williamsburg 12 years ago as an Actor Interpreter and for three years was also Supervisor of the unit before becoming the Manager of Program Development for African American and Religion Interpretation for the Foundation.

Prior to coming to Colonial Williamsburg, Stephen was a freelance actor traveling the country performing and directing theater. He majored in Theatre Education at Virginia Commonwealth University and spent 10 years teaching theater in the Richmond community, also working as an actor, director, stage manager, production manager, and lighting designer.



SUSAN MARIE FRONTCZAK (Mary Shelley)

Susan Marie Frontczak has given more than 850 presentations as Marie Curie, Mary Shelley, Irene Castle, Clara Barton, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Erma Bombeck across 43 of the United States and abroad in her 21 years as a Living History scholar. She also works with both adults and youth to develop their own Chautauqua presentations. Susan Marie authored the Young Chautauqua coaching handbooks for Colorado Humanities and coaches students in grades 3 through 12. In 2022, she joined the faculty of the new Chautauqua Training Institute run through North Dakota Humanities that is coaching a dozen new Chautauqua scholars from across the country.

For Susan Marie, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein represents coming full circle. In her early life she delighted in the magical and supernatural world of fairy tales. This was supplanted for a number of years by a career in the sciences and engineering. Frankenstein brings her back to the imaginary, albeit transformed into the possible by today's medical and technological advances and shadowed by the question mark of bioethical responsibility.



ANNE PASQUALE (Nellie Bly)

Anne Pasquale (actress & playwright) trained at LAMDA and the New York School of the Arts. Anne creates and tours her repertoire of Living History Programs for audiences of all ages in venues along the east coast. Anne is a member of The Actors Studio and a founding member of the Accidental Repertory Theatre (ART). NY Off Broadway credits include Martha in *Virginia Wolf*, Serafina Della Rosa in *The Rose Tattoo*, Emma Goldman in The Haymarket Chronicle and Kristina Linde in *Variations on a Dolls House*. She is the recipient of the 2015 Broadway World Rhode Island best writer and performer award for her solo show, BOB. You can find out more about Anne @ annepasquale.com.



LARRY BOUNDS (Robert Ripley)

Larry Bounds has performed on the Greenville Chautauqua stage since 2002. He has portrayed Einstein, Churchill, Disney, Houdini and Cronkite, among others, but recreating Robert Ripley holds a special place in his heart. Since 1973 Larry has worked as a professional magician, including 8 years appearing with Ripley's Believe It or Not! in Gatlinburg and Myrtle Beach and 3 years as a theme park magician in Kentucky. Over the years he has presented thousands of public, private, and corporate magic shows.

Larry is also a well-respected, South Carolina teacher with a Masters degree in education from The University of Tennessee, a National Board Certification, and 35 years of classroom teaching experience. He has recently retired from teaching but serves on several community boards and is an active member of Piedmont Area Mensa.



JEREMY MEIER (Steve Jobs)

Jeremy Meier serves as the Chair of Fine and Performing Arts at Owens Community College in Northwest Ohio. He has directed nineteen student productions at the school, including Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and Romeo and Juliet. Audiences last saw Jeremy in his portrayal of Robert F. Kennedy as part of Greenville Chautauqua's Challenge: Accepted in 2022. In 2017, Meier was awarded a grant by Ohio Humanities to pilot the state's first Chautauqua Training Program for new scholars learning to develop original performances based on historical figures.











The **Characters**

JAMES ARMISTEAD LAFAYETTE (1748-1830)

Everybody loves a good spy story. How about an American slave who volunteers to spy for the Continental Army and does such a credible job of it that he gets recruited to be a double agent for the British, gaining the confidence of both General Cornwallis and traitor Benedict Arnold? It's an exciting story of a bogus "runaway slave" living a dangerous life behind enemy lines ferreting out information and spreading "mis-information" that allows the American forces to triumph at the Battle of Yorktown. Not fiction... True story... And you get to hear it told by Colonial Williamsburg's Stephen Seals.

MARY SHELLEY (1797-1851)

Mary Shelley's groundbreaking novel "Frankenstein", poses the question: What if someone discovered the secret to creating life? It then explores the ramification of such a discovery: Are we capable of managing our technological creations? Furthermore, what responsibility (if any) do we hold in caring for abandoned or wronged members of society? Mary Shelley raises these questions from a context of living much of her life as an outsider — learning early on that her mother challenged societal norms and that she died as a result of Mary's birth, at odds with a stepmother who brought two children of her own into the marriage with her father, rejected by her father upon her elopement with Percy Bysshe Shelley, shunned for life by her husband's family, and betrayed by a close friend. In fact, the big reveal in learning about Mary Shelley is to discover how much the story of the fantastical, wretched, hideous creature brought to life in a Swiss laboratory draws on or parallels Mary's experience in England as an intelligent daughter of two notable middle-class authors and the consort/wife of an aristocrat poet.

NELLIE BLY (1864-1922)

Elizabeth Cochrane, better known as stunt reporter Nellie Bly, understood the importance of selective revelation in order to maintain a well-crafted public persona. Ms. Bly had many secrets: What was the true nature of her love interests? Was she a closet smoker with a fondness for a fine cigar? Historians do not tell us. A secret they do reveal is that Bly was chiefly an inventor and entrepreneur. She had the uncanny ability to identify a need, invent a marketable solution, and sell it. After marrying Robert Seaman in 1895, she inherited the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company when she was widowed in 1904. As owner and manager, she initiated a social welfare program for her employees, invented the 55-gallon steel drum, the stackable garbage can, and held 25 patents in her name. Yet it is her initial creation, the persona of Nellie Bly, whose eyewitness stunt reporting established Elizabeth Cochrane on the world stage and catapulted her to fame, that provided what little financial security she, and the family to whom she was devoted, knew throughout her lifetime.

ROBERT **RIPLEY** (1890-1949)

Robert "Believe It or Not!" Ripley lived an unbelievable life. A barefoot and bucktoothed boy became a radio, film, and television celebrity who was voted "the most popular man in America." A reluctant writer who dropped out his senior year of high school became a best selling author and a world renowned journalist. A nonstop doodler who was told he would never be an artist became a newspaper illustrator earning more than \$500,000 a year — during the Great Depression! Ripley travelled the world finding and reporting the oddest and most unusual facts about people, places, and events. Often controversial, sometimes shocking, and always entertaining, Robert Ripley created a media empire that survives and thrives more than 70 years after his death — believe it or not!.

STEVE JOBS (1955-2011)

"Think Different" was no grammatical error. The slogan was intended to inspire a mindset in the same way one might say "think big" or "eat smart." Steve Jobs sought equal parts beauty, function, and simplicity of design. A zealous perfectionist, Jobs tested the boundaries of creative possibility and often the patience of his collaborators. But consider the impact Steve's ambitious explorations have had in our lives — how we function, communicate, and are entertained. In the world of Steve Jobs, stasis would be challenged and excelsior a road map. Home computing, communications, music listening, and movie magic were all revolutionized along the way. Steve Jobs wanted to know what was next. He sought this answer professionally for 35 years and fervently investigated possibilities.

James Armistead Lafayette (1748-1830)

- 1748 James is born in New Kent County, Virginia. Throughout his enslaved life he is only referred to in records as "James."
- 1777 William Armistead is made Commissary of the Public Stores in Virginia and is given accommodation for one "servant" to accompany him. Most likely this was James.
- **1777** The Marquis De Lafayette arrives in America, hoping for an Army Commission. He is 19 years old.
- 1781 (Between March and May) James and the Marquis De Lafayette meet and James makes his way across the British lines to spy.
- 1781 (circa September) The Marquis writes to General Washington of his "Honest Friend" serving General Cornwallis. He shares that this spy has information that Cornwallis is making his way to Yorktown.
- **1782** James is denied freedom by the legislature due to his service being "voluntary."
- 1784 Marquis De Lafayette returns to America and writes a letter to the legislature of James' service during the war.
- **1787** James is granted his freedom when the legislature votes to pay William Armistead "The sum of James' worth." He takes the last name Lafayette.
- 1812 James owns around 40 acres of land in New Kent County, which stays in his family until at least 1837.
- 1818 James petitions for a veteran's pension due to hardships and is granted \$60 dollars outright and \$40 a year for the rest of his life.
- **1824 (October)** James and the Marquis are reunited in Richmond after 40 years. The Marquis stops his carriage during the middle of a parade to embrace James in the middle of the street.
- **1824** James sits for the only portrait verified to have been painted of him during his lifetime, painted by John Blennerhassett Martin.
- 1826 James E. Heath published *Edge-Hill, Or, The Family of the Fitzroyals: A Novel* in which James is depicted.
- **1830** James Lafayette dies in Baltimore Maryland at the age of 82.

James Armistead Lafayette

by Stephen Seals

ct. 9th, 2010 was the most important day for me in my journey of portraying James Lafayette. I had not known of this man before I came to work at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, but had learned about him a few months before upon reading the script of "The Hated Spy" for the first time. Written by Dr. Jeffrey Villines for



our Prelude to Victory Weekend, which celebrated the Battle of Yorktown, the piece was originally conceived as a vehicle to show the representation of Blacks in the Revolutionary War effort. That Dr. Villines had found that representation in the story of an enslaved Black spy fascinated all of us involved in staging the piece. Oct. 9 was to be our first performance for an audience. There's an electric feeling to premiering a new piece of theater. It's exciting, it's scary, it's overwhelming; you hurl yourself into the unknown, hoping you've produced something meaningful — or at least entertaining. It's been 12 years and trying to remember all of it is nearly impossible. For one thing, my mind was completely preoccupied with not messing up! I do remember the Palace stage seating being full. I remember the cast already being proud of our work. I remember our James Lafayette actor jumping around to calm his nerves.

That's right, I was not portraying James Lafayette.

The part was being played by my co-worker, Eddie Menzies III. I played Christopher Francis, a free Black soldier who had enlisted in the Continental Army. All I had to do was bring James, blindfolded, onto the stage, say my two lines, exit and be done with it. Despite my "cameo" part in the piece I still beamed with pride on being a part of it all. This was a Black man, enslaved, but powerful, shackled, yet proud, minimized, yet sharp, captured, yet in control. Eddie knocked it out of the park and we all knew this would not be the end of telling James' story. The audience response was profound. It touched them deeply. Didn't this man deserve freedom?

Despite how short the history of the United States may be when compared to the societies that came before, there is still so much we were never taught in school about our own histories. My teachers, many of whom I love



and keep in contact with to this day, didn't have the time or resources to share more stories of those Nation Builders who look like me and who were Black like me. Their teachers had probably not taught them. Go back one more generation and you have teachers who were helping their students learn their history during a time of great racial upheaval — a war that would pit brother against brother in a battle for a state's right to decide whether they could own another human being. That's only four generations between them and us! We are not so removed from the wounds of slavery as we sometimes think we are. It is why we tell the story: To remember our connections to the past. And I say we because I was not the first or only interpreter to portray James. I continue the work of humanizing our stories because of the work of those men: Eddie Menzies, Willie Wright, Jamar Jones, Jeremy Morris. This story belongs to them, this story belongs to you, just as much as this story belongs to every American. It is a part of our identities. It encompasses so many layers of our society.

James is born enslaved and ends up fighting, unconventionally, for the cause of freedom while still in bondage. And even after serving his country, he is sent back to slavery and must continue fighting for his own freedom. And though he eventually gained that freedom, under the law he is not equal. He is not even considered a citizen of Virginia, the State where he was born. These pieces of his early life are just a small part of what he experienced. But in these layers, James shares what it means to want freedom, to ask what is family, and examine whether one can find a place to belong in a society not built for them. It's complex, sometimes sad, often hopeful, and always insightful. Telling his story is hard, but is the most rewarding job I have ever done. It is an honor to share his voice. I am honored to share his story beside those others who have also done the same. I am honored to talk with each and every person who allows me to share James' story. Hopefully, I help them understand their own story through his. As James often says, "Let me tell you my story."

GOOD READS

A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent by Anne Rockwell and Floyd Cooper | Carolrhoda Books 2016

Red Thunder

by John Hunter | Colonial Williamsburg Foundation 2007

Edge Hill; or The Family of the Fitzroyals: a novel/ By a Virginian by James E. Heath | T.W. White 1828

Slavery from Roman Times to the Early Transatlantic Trade; by William D. Phillips | Manchester University Press 1985

All photos are of Stephen Seals as James Armistead Lafayette





Susan Marie Frontczak as Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley (1797-1851)

- 1792 Mary's mother Mary Wollstonecraft publishes "Vindication of the Rights of Woman."
- 1793 Mary's father William Godwin publishes "Political Justice."
- Aug. 30, 1797 Mary Godwin born to William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. Her mother dies 11 days later.
- Dec 21, 1801 William Godwin remarries. Mary now has an older half sister, a stepsister and stepbrother. From this marriage she later gains a half brother.
- July 28, 1814 Mary Godwin and Percy Bysshe Shelley run away to the Continent for six weeks.
- Summer of 1816 Mary begins to write "Frankenstein".
- Dec. 15, 1816 Percy Bysshe Shelley's wife Harriet dies.
- Dec. 30, 1816 Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley marry.
- Jan. 1818 "Frankenstein" published
- July 8, 1822 Percy Bysshe Shelley drowns. One of five children from their union survives to adulthood, Percy Florence Shelley.
- 1820-1844 Mary writes and publishes five other novels; numerous short stories; biographies of Eminent Literary and Scientific Men of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France; and Rambles in Germany and Italy.
- Feb. 1, 1851 Mary dies of a brain tumor.

Mary Shelley

by Susan Marie Frontczak

Secrets not only pervade Mary Shelley's seminal novel "Frankenstein", but permeate her own life as well. While some might keep secrets for competitive advantage in business or war, Mary and her characters more often made closemouthed choices in order to retain reputation (avoid shame or guilt) or to protect personal safety.

At the age of 16, Mary ran off to Europe with poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (PBS). They tried to escape without notice, but her stepsister tagged along for the adventure, and then her stepmother followed them to Calais to try to persuade them of their folly. They went anyway, though no longer under wraps.

Mary and PBS were expecting their first child when they departed in 1814. While they likely did not yet know she was expecting then, by the time they returned to England she had to live in hiding. She was no longer welcome at home, and no pregnant woman, married or otherwise, would dare go out in public once she began to show.

The stigma of illegitimacy could be avoided by marrying prior to the birth of the baby, even if not prior to conception, so long as you kept quiet about it. Indeed, Mary's parents, William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, were wed five months before Mary was born. That option wasn't available to Mary 17 years later, because PBS was already married to someone else (who also had a bun in the oven by him).

Pregnancy out of wedlock was not uncommon in the 19th century. For the rest of her life Mary was sensitive to the predicament of women in compromising circumstances and assisted when she could. When one young unwed mother, Isabelle, was in despair at the prospect of having to give up her unplanned daughter, Mary conspired to obtain false papers to help Isabelle and a fabricated "husband" — a woman who disguised herself for the rest of her life as a Mr. Douglas — escape to France to raise her daughter there.

In "Frankenstein", the title character, Victor Frankenstein, resorts to much more extreme efforts at concealment with respect to his progeny, born of the laboratory. For months, Victor sequesters himself, neglecting rest and nourishment, to discover and reveal the "principle of life." His ego spurs him on. "I was surprised, that among so many men of genius who had directed their enquiries towards the same science, I alone should be reserved to discover so astonishing a secret."

But once his Creature comes to life, shame and remorse seize Victor. He tells no one what he has made. The Creature, at first lost and afraid, has to learn to shift for himself. In his abandonment, the Creature eventually becomes violent. Victor is so paralyzed with regret that he cannot bring himself to admit in public what he has brought into being, even though with his knowledge a young woman is sent to the gallows for a murder he knows the Creature committed. At one point Victor promises to tell his fiancée a dreadful secret once they are wed, but he never gets the chance to follow through on this vow. His refusal to own, parent, or nurture his creation leads to his demise, even as he attempts to destroy the being he brought to life.

"Frankenstein" can be viewed as a cautionary tale, saying that humans don't know what they are getting into when they mess with God's creation through their technological developments. The book's subtitle, "The Modern Prometheus," alludes to how angry the gods were when Prometheus stole fire and gave it to man, because man just doesn't have the wisdom to manage fire. Mary includes compelling arguments for why Victor is justified in his attempt to destroy his Creature, while simultaneously setting up the reader emotionally to side with the Creature's predicament.



"Frankenstein" is constructed as a story within a story within a story, each layer revealing new unknowns. The outermost layer — the beginning and end of the book — consists of letters from a sea captain to his sister. Captain Walton's ambition is to discover the secret to a northwest passage to the Orient. Like Victor, he envisions reaping glory for conquering the unknown. Within that narrative layer we meet Victor Frankenstein, who then tells his story. But in the center of the book, within Victor's story, we hear from the Creature, telling us the story from his point of view.

Abandoned by his creator, the Creature wanders into the world only to meet repeated rejection and abuse. Eventually he sequesters himself in a lean-to next to a cabin for his own safety. Observing the family in the adjacent cabin permits him to learn speech and literacy. In time, out of a profound loneliness and in quest of human companionship, he risks exposing his secret existence to the old blind man in the cabin, who cannot reject him for his hideous appearance. Tragically, the Creature's daring is exposed and leads to loss of the only "family" he has ever known. With his safe haven gone, he turns to revenge.

While some want to unveil secrets for personal glory or to achieve an end, in her personal life Mary strove to uncover truth. When she found out that a longtime friend besmirched her character behind her back through false rumors, Mary managed to meet the perpetrator head on and mend the relationship. In "Frankenstein" she exposes truth of human nature through the back door, giving us the chance to decide whether we think Victor Frankenstein's accomplishments and choices make him the hero or the villain. In her diary Mary quotes her (then deceased) husband Shelley saying, "The curse of this life is, that what we have once known, we cannot cease to know." Is it even possible for humanity to walk back from something it has invented? How do we humans want to comport ourselves if and when we find that something we have released upon the world — or allowed to be released has turned into a monster?

GOOD READS

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

There are numerous in-print and e-book editions, with or without commentary. Most likely these are the 1831 version rather than the 1818 version. I have no strong reason to recommend one publisher or edition over another. Give yourself a break getting used to the language. The first few chapters/letters may feel like slogging through molasses both because the language is 200 years old and because we are reading about a sea captain instead of a scientist in the laboratory. Breeze past and keep reading, until you get to the Creature's story.

BIOGRAPHIES OF MARY SHELLEY Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, An Introduction

by Betty Bennett | Johns Hopkins University Press, Pickering and Chatto, 1996

This book is easy to read and gives excellent insights into the humanistic bent of Mary Shelley's work across all her books.

Mary Shelley

by Miranda Seymour | Grove Press, 2000 If you really want to dive into Mary's life before and beyond Frankenstein this is the book for you.

BOOKS ABOUT THE ERA Young Romantics: The Shelleys, Byron, and Other Tangled Lives

by Daisy Hay | Macmillan, 2011 This book gives a rich, intimate, personal perspective of the social political context in which Mary and her circle lived. I particularly appreciate how it makes clear the tenuous position of women.

ADAPTATIONS OF FRANKENSTEIN FOR YOUNG READERS

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley, adapted by Larry Weiinberg | Random House, 1982. Suitable to elementary school students or reading level grades 3 to 4.

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley, adapted by Malvina G. Vogel. | Playmore, Inc., Publishers and Waldman Publishing Corp., New York, NY. Illustrated Classics Editions. copyright 2002.

Suitable to upper elementary school students or reading level grade 5.

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley, adapted by Margrete Lamond | Harper Collins, 2005

Suitable to middle school students or reading level grades 6 to 8.



Anne Pasquale as Nellie Bly

Nellie Bly (1864-1922)

May 5, 1864 — Elizabeth Cochran born in Cochran's Mills, Pennsylvania.

July 1870 — Michael Cochran dies.

- 1879 Cochran testifies and wins her mother a divorce from her abusive second husband of six years, J. J. Ford; enrolls in Indiana State Normal School (Indiana, Pennsylvania) as Elizabeth J. Cochrane.
- 1885–1886 Works at the Pittsburgh Dispatch; publishes Mad Marriages, her first article to carry the Nellie Bly byline; begins stunt reporting and writes a series of articles on working women; travels to Mexico as a foreign correspondent and writes Six Months in Mexico.
- 1887–1890 Wins a job at *The New York World*. Has herself committed to the insane asylum at Blackwell's Island and writes an eyewitness expose; goes undercover and exposes corrupt lobbyist Edward Phelps; completes a record -breaking round-the-world trip for *The New York World* in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds.
- 1890 Leaves The New York World and pursues other writing projects, including novels written in weekly installments for The New York Family Story Paper. Completes and publishes Nellie Bly's Book: Around the World in 72 Days.
- 1894, 1896 Covers the Pullman Railroad strike and interviews Susan B. Anthony for *The New York World*.
- **1895–1904** Marriage to industrialist Robert Seaman. Bly takes charge of his company, Iron Clad Manufacturing Company, upon his death.
- May 23, 1905 Attains patent for the 55-gallon steel oil drum.
- **1913** Iron Clad Manufacturing Company files for bankruptcy.
- **1914–1917** Works as a war correspondent for *The New York Evening Journal*.
- Jan. 27, 1922 Nellie Bly dies of pneumonia.

Nellie **Bly**

by Anne Pasquale

Lizabeth Cochran, better known as stunt reporter Nellie Bly, understood the importance of selective revelation in order to maintain a well-crafted public persona. Ms. Bly had many secrets: What was the true nature of her love interests? Was she a closet smoker with a fondness for a fine cigar? Historians do not tell us. A secret they do reveal is that Bly was chiefly an inventor and entrepreneur. She had the uncanny ability to identify a need, invent a marketable solution, and sell it.

The oldest daughter of Michael Cochran and Mary Jane Kennedy, Bly lost her father suddenly at the age of 6. After struggling for 2 1/2 years, and finding the life of a widow and single mother socially unacceptable, Mary Jane Kennedy eagerly accepted the proposal of John Jay Ford. Ford proved to be an abusive drunkard. Mary Jane endured the marriage for 6 years before she petitioned for divorce. Young Elizabeth and her older brother Albert took the stand on their mother's behalf. Thus, at the age of 14, Cochran gave her first eye witness report and assisted in winning her mother's freedom.

These events, historian Brooke Kroeger writes, made Cochran/Bly see herself as responsible for everyone else's wellbeing, the one who could right this seeming injustice, and every other one she ever encountered. Seeing her mother so helpless, Bly resolved to be self-reliant and took upon herself the role of her mother's champion and protector.

Nellie set out to educate herself in pursuit of a teaching degree. She enrolled in Indiana Normal School, completed a semester, and then confronted the unfortunate reality that she did not have funds — they had mysteriously disappeared. She returned home and tried her hand at what was available to her — tutoring, nannying, even housekeeping — with little success. Her brothers, meanwhile, with even less formal education, were able to attain white collar positions as clerks and managers. Elizabeth's daily job search and love of a good story is what inevitably led her to read Erasmus Wilson's incendiary article in the Pittsburg Dispatch entitled "What Are Girls Good For?" Wilson claimed that young women should remain at home and learn to be obedient wives and mothers rather than wreaking havoc in the work place. Elizabeth dashed off an outraged rebuttal — deemed illegible by many — that caught the eye of Pittsburg Dispatch editor George Madden. Madden hired Cochrane because he clearly saw in her a young woman who would dare to voice what others would not and take great risks to do so. He was not wrong. Cochrane, impassioned by her mother's divorce, penned Mad Marriages, wrote of the working girl's plight, and when she, as a reporter, was barred from the factories, she entered undercover. Madden plucked her nom de plume from a famous song by Stephen Foster, and thus, crusading stunt reporter Nellie Bly was born.

Bly/Cochrane knew that in order to keep her byline on the front page she had to have a unique attack. Contrary to popular belief, she did not write of the hideous conditions of the work place; rather, she revealed the limited opportunities offered to young women like herself that bound them and their children to a lower-class lifestyle. She captivated her audiences with one-on-one interviews with women "seeking



Anne Pasquale as Nellie Bly

a mash" — the equivalent of a present-day hookup — to divert themselves from their daily drudgery; offered firsthand accounts of foremen compelled to employ 9- and 10-year-olds when their mothers came, tears in their eyes, begging them to take them on; as well as young factory workers who themselves were uncertain of their own ages. She suggested that something be done to provide education and assistance to the poor working girl and she gave voice to the voiceless. As her popularity with the working masses grew, so did the discomfort of the *Pittsburg* Dispatch's advertisers. Nellie was soon asked to write the fashion column. Instead, as she would do throughout her lifetime, Bly decided to re-invent herself. She became one of America's first female foreign correspondents, penning a social column rich in travel, fashion and local color: "Six Months in Mexico."

It was this pattern of marketable invention that maintained Bly throughout her lifetime. Upon her return from Mexico — when people attempted to credit her work to her older brother Albert — Bly traveled to New York and successfully proposed to the World that they publish an undercover expose of the lunatic asylum at Blackwell's Island. Published in 1887, "Ten Days in a Mad-House" dramatically reformed the treatment and care of the mentally ill, established Bly as a reporter of significant importance and ushered in a whole new era of investigative stunt journalism

Unbeknownst to many, Bly's later years contained a series of challenges, and she greeted each with an inventive solution. She married Robert Seaman in 1895, a man 35 years her senior, and owner of the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company. Her marriage was not a happy one, so it was no mistake that she chose to interview Susan B. Anthony in 1896 and pose direct questions to her about love and marriage. Seaman died in 1904, and Bly inherited the business and became its owner manager. She initiated a social welfare program for her employees, invented the 55-gallon steel drum, the stackable garbage can, and held 25 patents in her name. Yet Iron Clad was forced to file for bankruptcy and closed its doors in 1913. So, in 1914 with the outbreak of World War I, Bly launched a new career as a war correspondent for the New York Evening Journal. She died on Jan. 27, 1922, financially bankrupt, but rich in what few women of her day could ever hope to possess, world-wide respect and admiration.



Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist

by Brooke Kroeger (1994) The most detailed up close and personal look at the woman behind the persona to date. This book, with its insightful observations, is a gem of a read.

Nellie Bly Journalist

by Elizabeth Ehrlich (1989) A great book written in broad strokes for the middle schooler in all of us. Complete with timeline, period illustrations and photo references.

Ten Days in A Madhouse

by Nellie Bly (1887) An inside look in Nellie's own words of one of the greatest feats of investigative stunt reporting ever accomplished.

Six Months in Mexico

by Nellie Bly (1888) A lyrical travel journal by one of America's first female foreign correspondents.

Around the World in 72 Days

by Nellie Bly (1890) A unique perspective on the world of the 1890's from one of its most passionate journalists.

"I finally worked out the steel package to perfection, patented the design, put it on the market and taught the American public to use the steel barrel." --- Nellie Bly

"Do you think a company or regiment of men soldiers led by a woman would ever dare run away? The wars of the future must and will be planned and officered by women. There is no mistaking the way the hands on the signboards point."

— Nellie Bly



Larry Bounds as Robert Ripley

"Some of the most wonderful things in the world will seem dull and drab unless you view them in the proper light."

"I have traveled to 201 countries including Hell, and the strangest thing I've seen was Man." [Note — Hell, Norway] — Robert Ripley

Robert Ripley (1890-1949)

- **1890** Born in Santa Rosa, CA
- **1906** Survived the San Francisco Quake
- **1911** Moved to New York
- **1918** Created his 1st Believe It or Not! cartoon
- **1922** Made his 1st trip around the world
- 1923 Hired translator/researcher Norbert Pearlroth
- **1928** His Lindbergh cartoon stirred a huge controversy
- 1929 Published his bestseller book
- 1930 Began a weekly radio broadcast
- **1939** Voted the most popular man in the USA and opened a permanent Odditorium in New York's Times Square.
- **1949** Recorded 13 tv episodes then died in New York, age 59

Robert Ripley

by Larry Bounds

Robert "Believe It or Not!" Ripley had an eye for the unusual, the strange, the weird. He was curious about the curious and, remarkably, he was able to share his unique view of the world in such a way as to inspire the passions and wonder of others. He celebrated the diversity of humanity and the incredible achievements of which they were capable. For decades, his newspaper column became a goal for some to work to appear in and for others to work (unsuccessfully) to disprove. Ripley created a legacy that still educates, entertains, and surprises over 70 years after his death - believe it or not!

Robert Ripley was an artist, a journalist, a globe-trotting explorer, an international celebrity, a bestselling author, and a star of radio, film, and very early television. He married a teenaged beauty queen/movie star, and he lived a life of luxury on a private island surrounded by beautiful women and one of the most unusual assortments of bizarre souvenirs and oddities ever collected. But what was the secret of his phenomenal success?

How did a poor, bucktoothed, and barefoot boy born in 1890 in the backwaters of Santa Rosa, California rise to such international fame?

Ripley began as an incessant doodler who dreamed of playing professional baseball. He did play semi-pro ball, but an injury ruined his professional tryout with the New York Giants. He would go on to take up handball and become the New York City handball champion. He claimed that "slapping a ball" was the most natural thing in the world.

With sports as his focus, he developed as a talented, self-taught cartoonist and sports reporter. Newspapers of his era preferred crisp, lifelike drawings of sporting events to the grainy and blurred action photos available at that time. Ripley found employment with several newspapers in Northern California starting at \$6 a week before moving to New York at the age of 23 to work at the *New York Globe*, where he was hired at \$25 a week.

Ripley rubbed shoulders with the finest newspaper illustrators in the country. He analyzed their assorted styles and developed a style of his own. This was the time when the newspaper publishers Pulitzer and Hearst vied for supremacy and the sensationalistic style known as "yellow journalism" became the standard. Ripley became sensational at being sensational.

From the beginning he was fascinated by sports records. Who was the fastest? Who ran the farthest? He began collecting obscure records for his articles to use during the winter months when sporting events were scarce. He took note of records like jumping backwards the farthest and hopping the 100 yard dash the fastest.

Sports reporting expanded Ripley's world. He traveled to Reno, Nevada, in 1910 for the Jim Jeffries/Jack Johnson heavyweight championship "fight of the century" and illustrated the boxing defeat of the "Great White Hope." He journeyed to Belgium for the 1920 Olympics and illustrated American victories including the controversial swimming gold medals of American/ Hawaiian Duke Kohanamoku controversial only because of his brown skin. When Ripley visited Hawaii on his first world tour, Kohanamoku taught Ripley how to surf, a sport Kohanamoku popularized.

In 1918, during a slow sports day, Ripley created what he would consider his first cartoon of the odd and unusual, but Ripley called it "Champs and Chumps." Over the next several years his cartoon would slowly develop under the name "Believe It or Not!"

Ripley, the Modern Marco Polo, began his first truly global adventure in 1922



Larry Bounds as Robert Ripley

when he was dispatched on a round the world tour. He sent back stories of his experiences, descriptions and illustrations of the people he met and the foods he ate. In other words, he became one of the world's earliest, most widely read bloggers. In time Robert Ripley would visit more than 200 countries. He reported the customs, fashions, religious practices, and exotic happenings he witnessed. He exposed an isolated American public to the cultures of the rest of the world — always with a sly sense of the dramatic and the unusual.

Ripley envisioned bringing his growing collection of the exotic and bizarre to a paying American audience. He opened his first Odditorium in the Chicago World's Fair displaying shrunken heads, a Fiji mermaid, and assorted living curiosities. Ripley became the 20th century P.T. Barnum, but one who never fooled people.

Ripley was in such growing demand that he was hired by William Randolph Hearst in 1929 for his King Features newspaper syndicate for \$100,000 a year.

The success of "Believe It or Not!" depended in large part on Ripley's relationship with his audience. Readers submitted their own unique stories, which broadened the range of his collection of oddities. Readers challenged the truth of Ripley's stories labeling him a liar. Letters poured in establishing a record for Ripley himself for receiving more mail than anyone else in the world!

In the 1930s, Ripley produced weekly radio programming drawing an ever bigger audience. By the end of the '30s, his staff had grown from one talented researcher named Norbert Pearlroth, into a large staff of secretaries and researchers. Ripley was now earning an annual salary of \$500,000.

After the Second World War, Ripley pioneered the first 13 episodes of a successful television show as well. Yet regardless of the medium, Robert Ripley drew an audience that wanted to be amazed, surprised, or horrified as they learned about the world around them.

Ripley's father and mother had died of heart ailments at ages 50 and 46. Ripley suffered a fatal heart attack in New York at age 59. He was buried near his parents in his hometown of Santa Rosa, California, in the Oddfellows Lawn Cemetery — believe it or not.

The media/entertainment industry Ripley created continued to grow, expanding into the current Ripley Entertainment company operating museums, theaters, aquariums, other television shows, and a vast collection of print and online publishing that still draws millions of spectators today.



Who Was Robert Ripley?

by Kirsten Anderson | Penguin Young Readers Group, 2015 An easily accessible introduction to Ripley for children [3rd to 7th grade].

Believe It or Not!

by Robert Ripley | Stanley Paul and Co., 1928 Ripley's original collection of his oddities and surprises.

Dear Mr. Ripley — A Compendium of Curioddities from the Believe It or Not!

by Mark Sloan, et al. | Archives. Bullfinch Press Book, 1993 A well illustrated exploration of the people who appeared in Ripley's Believe It or Not! as living curiosities.

A Curious Man — the Strange and Brilliant Life of Robert "Believe It or Not!" Ripley

by Neal Thompson Three Rivers Press, 2013 This is the most comprehensive biography and a very entertaining read.

<u>GOOD MEDIA</u>

"Ripley's"

Ripley Entertainment Inc., 2022. <u>https://www.ripleys.com</u> This is the modern successor to the Ripley entertainment empire of the odd. It features multiple Ripley media and daily Ripley's "Believe It or Not!" cartoons.

"Ripley's Believe It or Not!"

American Experience, WGBH Educational Foundation, 1996-2022. <u>https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/</u> <u>americanexperience/films/ripley/</u> A well-produced video biography.

Steve Jobs (1955-2011)

1969 — Meets and befriends another Steve (Wozniak). "Woz" is five years older but shares with Jobs an enthusiasm for electronics, practical jokes and music.

1973-74 — Enrolled for the fall semester at Reed College. Jobs drops out but audits classes he finds of interest in the spring term. Jobs does not return the following fall.

- **1974** Goes to India on a pilgrimage of enlightenment.
- **1976** Steve and Steve begin assembly of the Apple I in Jobs' adoptive parents' home and garage.
- May 17, 1978 Chrisann Brennan gives birth to a daughter. Jobs later acknowledges he is the father.
- **Dec.**, **1979** Visiting Xerox PARC, Jobs sees a graphical user interface (GUI). It is the kind of breakthrough he has been looking for in order to make computers accessible for the masses.
- Dec., 1980 Apple becomes a public entity. Jobs' share of the company makes him one of the richest 25-year-olds in history (\$256 Million).
- Jan. 22, 1984 Apple premiers a national Macintosh commercial during the third quarter of Superbowl XVIII. It promises a new product that will change the industry.
- Sept., 1985 Resignation from Apple after bitter disagreements with CEO John Sculley.
- 1986 to 1996: Steve Jobs'"Wilderness Period"
 - Development of the NeXT Computer
 - Meets his biological mother and meets his biological sister (novelist Mona Simpson)
 - Meets and weds Laurene Powell
 - Development of Pixar, collaboration on *Toy Story* with John Lasseter and others
 - Apple buys the NeXT operating system for \$400 Million.
- July, 1997 Introduced as Apple's interim CEO. Months later, Apple's new "Think Different" campaign begins and signals a new direction for the company.
- Oct., 2001 The iPod is unveiled. Two years later, the iTunes Store is introduced.
- Jan., 2007 Introduces the iPhone via keynote address at the 2007 Macworld conference.

Jan., 2010 — The iPad is released.

Aug. 24, 2011 — Battling cancer, he resigns as CEO of Apple. Steve Jobs dies on October 5.

Steve Jobs

by Jeremy Meier

The "See-cret"

"I'll know it when I see it," said Apple CEO Steve Jobs in 2010. Those seven words may be the answer. Perhaps the answer is five words Jobs said to Jony Ive during the creation of the iPod: "Create something very very new."

Steve Jobs made computers accessible to the world. Then he made them fit in our pocket. The question— what was the secret to Steve Jobs' vision?

Jobs wanted the computer to be "a bicycle for the mind." To Jobs, computers could be a tool capable of bestowing an enhanced efficiency and an enhanced creativity to its users. This analogy sounds simple enough, but making the complex workings of a computer sleek and user-friendly was no easy task.

The friendship and partnership between Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak is well documented. "Woz" was a technical wizard; his contributions to computing in the 1970s gave life to the Apple I and inspired possibilities for what a computer could do. Jobs was not a programmer but he recognized in Woz's early experimentations the beginning of something "very very" big.

Author Malcolm Gladwell refers to Jobs not as a visionary but rather a "tweaker." The distinction? "The visionary starts with a clean sheet of paper, and re-imagines the world. The tweaker inherits things as they are, and has to push and pull them toward some more nearly perfect solution. That is not a lesser task." ¹

In 2009, Fortune Magazine named Steve Jobs the CEO of the Decade. The accolade touted Apple's transformation of the music industry as well as cell phone technology. Digital music players had already existed before Apple entered the forum. So, too, existed the cell phone and the Blackberry. What made Jobs' contributions to these technologies profound? Apple made them better. Infinitely better. And Apple connected them into one device.

Shortly before this Decade of Jobs, Steve had returned to the company he and Wozniak had founded many years prior with a fervent approach to making new and better products. "I didn't see it then but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life."²

Among the first objectives in Jobs' return to Apple was the company's "Think Different" campaign. Apple would now be a company advertising its values. Consider the beginning of its 1997 commercial.

"Here's to the crazy ones.

The misfits.

The rebels.

The troublemakers.

The round pegs in the square holes.

The ones who see things differently."³

As the Decade of Jobs began, millions of Americans were burning CDs on personal computers. (The iMac did not have a CD burner.) Napster and other startups allowed consumers to pirate their music, causing artists and producers to seethe. The introduction of the first iPod in 2001 offered users a compact device that allowed them to take their entire music collections with them on the go. (Download all your CDs into this small device! It will hold your entire library!) That was not enough to satisfy Jobs' estimation of the technology's potential. Two years later, the iTunes Store was launched. Artists were paid for their music a song at a time, and consumer selected playlists were the new way of person"You have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something—your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life."

- Steve Jobs

alized listening. This was a new way of listening, consuming, and selling music.

As for wireless devices — in Jobs' words, "everyone hated their cell phone." Remember the days of pressing on the plastic buttons of your cell phone repeatedly in order to select the next letter you needed to spell a word in a text message? And Blackberry devices forced users to handle a bulky plastic keyboard which made up a third of the device. Styluses were used for operations on so called "smart phones." Styluses were also capable of hiding in a couch cushion or under a car seat. When Jobs unveiled the iPhone at the 2007 MacWorld conference he did so with a ringmaster's flair. "This is a day I've been looking forward to for two-and-a-half years!"4 A bulky plastic keyboard? There was not one to be found on this new technology. A stylus? Jobs boasted while wiggling fingers, "God gave us ten styluses." Apple's patented Multi-Touch technology allowed users to enlarge and minimize the image on the screen. Room for further improvements? Of course. The App Store was created the following year and allowed users to download new functions for their devices; it also cultivated further innovation by app creators.

"This is one device," said Jobs. One device, to be sure, and it was capable of directing users to a destination while capturing images and sharing the journey with other humans along the way. This was truly a bicycle for the mind.

Steve Jobs had a clarity of vision for what existed and the creative tenacity to pursue what was possible. The closing lines of the "Think Different" commercial provide a noteworthy coda to the secret of Jobs' vision.

"The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

- ² from Steve Jobs' Commencement address at Stanford in 2005
- ³ Apple's 2001 "Think Different" ad campaign
- ⁴ from Steve Jobs' keynote at the 2007 Macworld



Jeremy Meier as Steve Jobs

GOOD READS

ON THE MAN:

Steve Jobs

by Walter Isaacson (2011) This is the big one, 577 pages in length. (The audiobook is long enough to accompany you most of the crosscounty drive from Greenville to Palo Alto, California.) This book offers a look at Jobs from many angles—his reputation as a harsh perfectionist is illustrated alongside a portrait of an imaginative genius. Jobs encouraged Isaacson to interview friends and colleagues as well as former friends and past colleagues. Said Jobs, "I don't have any skeletons in my closet that can't be allowed out."

Becoming Steve Jobs

by Rick Tetzeli and Brent Schlender (2015) In his role as reporter, Brent Schlender knew Jobs for more than two decades. Their conversations over the years shaped an impression that curtails much of the harsh reputation as described in other biographies. This book focuses on Jobs' creative evolution, particularly during his "Wilderness Period" between the dismissal from Apple in 1985 and return in 1997.

Small Fry: A Memoir

by Lisa Brennan-Jobs (2018)

One key participant whom Walter Isaacson did not have the opportunity to speak with was Jobs' daughter, Lisa. This memoir is a perspective on her father, the man who introduced the world to another "Lisa" (Apple's computing system in 1983) and who was periodically connected and disconnected from her life.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different

by Karen Blumenthal (2012)

An unauthorized biography, it is an interesting read while dispensing with intimidating length. (Consider it a Greenvilleto-Nashville length audiobook.) Blumenthal tells Jobs' life story in three parts, framed within lessons he shared at a 2005 commencement address at Stanford University.

ON THE TECHNOLOGY: Revolution in the Valley: The Insanely Great Story of How the Mac Was Made

by Andy Hertzfeld (2005)

A key member of the team which "built the Mac," Hertzfeld offers a firsthand perspective on how a user-friendly personal home computer came to be. Illustrations, drawings and a collection of photographs enhance the reader's experience.

To Pixar and Beyond: My Unlikely Journey with Steve Jobs to Make Entertainment History

by Lawrence Levy (2016) Steve Jobs did not know the potential of computer animation as an artform when he purchased a computer division from George Lucas in 1986. The result was a company soon-to-be-known as Pixar. This book discusses the tensions, creativity and transformation of an artform in which Jobs played a pivotal role.

FOR YOUNG READERS:

Who Was Steve Jobs?

by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso (2012)

This short biography is an accessible account of Jobs' life and times. It bridges the gap for today's youth to a time in which computers and computing was in a whole different era of comprehension.

¹ The New Yorker (November 14, 2011 issue)



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Save the Date for Chautauqua JUNE 9–18, 2023

1999 American Humorists 20

Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Langston Hughes, James Thurber, Dorothy Parker

2000 Southern Writers

Zora Neale Hurston, Katherine Anne Porter, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe

2001 American Renaissance

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau

2002 Conceived in Liberty

Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Freeman, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Laurens, John and Abigail Adams

2003 American Autobiography

Benjamin Franklin, Henry Adams, Andrew Carnegie, Pauli Murray, Mark Twain, Eleanor Roosevelt

2004 American Visions

Martin Luther King, Jr, Eugene V. Debs, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas Paine, John Winthrop, {Winter: Pauli Murray}

Do you remember? PAST FESTIVALS

2005 The Civil War

Ambrose Bierce, Mary Chesnut, John C. Calhoun, Sam Watkins, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, {Winter: Bierce and Watkins}

2006 Great American Journeys

William Clark, Sequoyah, Herman Melville, Harriet Tubman, {Winter: Mary Ingles}

2007 The American Stage

Houdini, Paul Robeson, Lillian Hellman, Will Rogers, Mark Twain, {Winter: P.T. Barnum}

2008 America: The Land

John J. Audubon, Teddy Roosevelt, James Beckwourth, Rachel Carson, Black Elk, {Winter: Hudson River School Painters}

2009 America in Crisis

George Washington, Rosa Parks, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, {Winter: Wade Hampton/Robert E. Lee}

2010 American Imagination

Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, Emily Dickinson, Dr. Seuss, Langston Hughes, {Winter:Thomas Jefferson}

2011 Ideas that Changed America

John Muir, Frances Perkins, Albert Einstein, Mark Twain, W.E.B. Du Bois, {Winter: Jefferson/ Madison}

2012 They Came to America

Winston Churchill, Golda Meir, Carl Jung, Denmark Vesey, {Winter:Lafayette}

2013 American Legends

Davy Crockett, Susan B Anthony, Herman Melville, Malcolm X, {Winter: Benedict Arnold}

2014 Rising to the Occasion

Clara Barton, Patrick Henry, Robert Smalls, Harry Truman, {Winter: Marie Curie}

2015 America at the Movies

Walt Disney, Gordon Parks, Mary Pickford, Orson Welles, {Winter: Bette Davis}

2016 American Adventures

Amelia Earhart, Mark Twain, Matthew Henson, Wernher von Braun, {Winter: Meriwether Lewis}

2017 Power of Words

Abraham Lincoln, Walter Cronkite, Maya Angelou, Cesar Chavez. Rachel Carson, {Winter: Eleanor Roosevelt}

2018 Courage

Winston Churchill, Alice Paul, Francis Marion, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, {Winter: George Washington}

2019 It's Revolutionary!

Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson, Jackie Kennedy, Malcolm X, Hamilton's Women, {Winter: Napoleon}

2021 Reinventing America

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, Rosa Parks, Hedy Lamarr, {Winter:Teddy Roosevelt}

2022 Challenge Accepted!

General Eisenhower, Robert Kennedy, Houdini, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pauli Murray, {Winter: Julia Child}