



Disney

SKETCHBOOK

BIOGRAPHY

Hyun Min Lee

Animator, "Olaf"

HYUN MIN LEE began her career with Walt Disney Animation Studios in 2007 when she was accepted into the talent development program. She went on to work as an animator on Disney Animation's 2009 Oscar®-nominated "The Princess and the Frog" and has subsequently worked on such popular animated films as "Raya and the Last Dragon," "Winnie the Pooh," "Wreck-It Ralph" and "Moana," as well as the Oscar®-winning films "Frozen," "Big Hero 6" and "Zootopia." In her role as supervising animator on 2019's "Frozen 2," she contributed to both visual development work and CG character animation.

Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea (in the Gangnam area), and was raised primarily in Seoul, but also lived in Hong Kong and Malaysia for a few years. As a child, Lee fell in love with animation, especially Disney Animation features and shorts, and comic books, and knew that she wanted to pursue a career using her artistic skills. She was passionate about art and began drawing comics and finding other outlets for her talent. With her mother's encouragement, she attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where she studied fine arts. She went on to graduate from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) where she began to realize her dream of becoming a Disney animator.

Before joining Disney Animation, Lee worked at Renegade Animation on the "Mr. Men Show" TV series. She also created her own animated short, "The Chestnut Tree," which received two Annie Award nominations (Best Short and Best Animation Production Artist) and was screened at several noteworthy festivals. Her CalArts student film, "Passages," was shown at New York City's MoMA as part of the "Tomorrowland: CalArts in Moving Pictures" exhibit.

Lee's first animation assignment for Disney Animation was on the character of Louis, the jazz-playing alligator in "The Princess and the Frog," where she worked under the supervision of legendary Disney animator/director Eric Goldberg. She continues to work in hand-drawn animation, CG animation and visual development to contribute in various ways to Disney Animation.