



Disney

SKETCHBOOK

BIOGRAPHY

Jin Kim

Visual Development Artist, "Captain Hook"

JIN KIM (Visual Development Artist) has had a hand in designing some of the most popular and best loved characters for a wide variety of animated features from Walt Disney Animation Studios since 2008. In that regard, he has made contributions to such major films as "Big Hero 6," "Wreck-It Ralph," "Tangled," "Zootopia," "Raya and the Last Dragon" and "Encanto" (including the final design for Bruno, among others), and played a key role in establishing the look of Elsa for 2013's "Frozen." Starting at Disney Animation in 1995 on "Fantasia/2000," Jin spent his first 10 years at the studio as an animator before switching to character design. He also holds the distinction of being the first Korean animator to work for Disney.

Born and raised in Seoul, Jin displayed an interest in drawing at an early age, and was influenced by his father's ambitions to become an artist. Because of his red-green color blindness, he was unable to get into art school, and ended up majoring in economics in college. Despite this, he continued to study drawing and art, and eventually was able to begin a career in animation. He also served a two-year stint in the Korean army.

Jin went on to work as an assistant animator/animator in Korea, before moving to Toronto in 1989 to work on Disney Television Animation shows such as "Darkwing Duck," "Goof Troop," "Bonkers," "Aladdin" and more. Moving to California in 1995, he joined Walt Disney Animation Studios and animated on such films as "Hercules," "Tarzan," "The Emperor's New Groove," "Treasure Planet," "Home on the Range," "Chicken Little," "Bolt" and "The Princess and the Frog." At the suggestion of legendary animator Glen Keane, Jin joined the "Tangled" character design team and remained there contributing to many of the films that followed.