

Winnie the Pooh Multimedia Guide

Over the years, there have been several Winnie the Pooh featurettes (shorts), films, home videos, and television shows. Here is a guide to all of them.

Movies

“Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree”

“Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree” is the first animated featurette produced by Walt Disney. It was released on February 4, 1966. This featurette is based on the first two chapters of A.A. Milne’s original book. The story opens in the Hundred Acre Wood with Winnie the Pooh looking for honey. Pooh borrows Christopher Robin’s balloon, disguises himself as a rain cloud, and floats up to a bee hive that sits in a tree. The bees are not fooled by this rain cloud trick, and chase Christopher Robin and Pooh into a mud puddle.

Next, Pooh visits Rabbit's house, where he finds lots of honey and eats ten jars of it. He tries to leave, but has become so fat from the honey that he gets stuck in the front doorway. Christopher Robin, Rabbit, and the others try to push Pooh out the door, but can’t budge him. They decide that Pooh will have to stop eating to slim down. As the days go by, Pooh finally slims down, but not enough; he is still stuck in the doorway. Tired of the delay, Rabbit charges into Pooh’s behind, launching Pooh into the air like a rocket. The gang runs after Pooh and finds him stuck in a honey tree.

“Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day”

“Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day” was released by Walt Disney on December 20, 1968. This second Winnie the Pooh short won an Academy Award and was released with the film “The Horse in the Gray Flannel Suit.” In this film, Winnie the Pooh is told by Gopher that it is “Winds-day.” Pooh decides to wish a Happy Winds-day to his friend Piglet, who is subsequently blown into the air. Pooh uses him as a kite, and wishes the other characters a Happy Winds-day, the day that is turning into a windstorm.

During the windstorm, Owl's house is knocked down, and Eeyore is sent to find him a new home. The weather turns worse, and that night, the Hundred Acre Wood is flooded. Trapped in his home, Piglet writes a note for help and places it in a bottle. Meanwhile, Pooh gets trapped in a bottle of honey and floats off. Everyone else gathers at Christopher Robin's house to come up with a rescue plan. Pooh and Piglet are rescued; Eeyore finds Owl a new home, but it turns out to be Piglet’s house.

“Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too!”

“Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too!” the third Winnie the Pooh short from Disney was released on December 20, 1974, along with the movie, “The Island at the Top of the World.” This featurette was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film. The short starts with Tigger bouncing on everyone in the Hundred Acre Wood. Tired of his bouncing, Rabbit, Pooh, and Piglet decide to take Tigger out into the forest and ditch him. After they do this, Pooh and Piglet feel guilty and search for Tigger. They apologize to Tigger, but he takes no offense. Meanwhile, Rabbit actually gets lost in the forest, but Tigger rescues him.

Back at Kanga’s house, Roo wants to go play, so Kanga calls on Tigger to watch Roo. Bouncing around the woods with Roo on his back, Tigger accidentally jumps too high into a tree and is too scared to come down. With the help of the narrator, Sebastian Cabot, tipping the book (the movie screen), Tigger makes it down, but is sad because he promised Rabbit that he would never bounce again. Rabbit eventually takes back the promise Tigger made, and Tigger teaches everyone, including Rabbit, to bounce.

“The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh”

“The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh” is a full-length animated film which was released on March 11, 1977. This film is comprised of the previously released animated shorts: “Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree” (1966), “Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day” (1968) and “Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too!” (1974). This film includes newly-created “linking scenes” between the three featurettes and a new ending to give closure to the stories.

This new ending is based on the final chapter of the book *The House at Pooh Corner*. Walt Disney reportedly intended to create a feature film way back in the 1960’s, but decided to make shorts instead, in order to introduce U.S. audiences to the characters. “The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh” was the inspiration for an attraction of the same name at Disneyland, Walt Disney World, and Hong Kong Disneyland.

“Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore”

“Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore” is a Walt Disney animated short that was released on March 11, 1983. The short is based on chapter six of the original book by A.A. Milne. The movie begins with Winnie the Pooh, Rabbit, and Roo learning that Tigger has bounced poor Eeyore into the river. Later, Pooh finds out that Eeyore’s birthday is coming up, but nobody knows. Eeyore is typically gloomy, but really feels sad because he thinks nobody cares about him.

Pooh and Piglet plan a birthday party for Eeyore and quickly look for presents. Pooh finds a pot of honey and Piglet gets a big red balloon, but Pooh “accidentally” eats the honey and Piglet pops the balloon on a tree. At Eeyore's birthday party there is a flat balloon and an empty honey pot. Pooh comes up with a game of “Pooh-Sticks” for everyone to play. Tigger claims he likes Pooh-Sticks, but hates it when he loses. It turns out to be a happy birthday party for everyone, except for the always-depressed Eeyore.

“Pooh's Grand Adventure: The Search for Christopher Robin”

“Pooh's Grand Adventure: The Search for Christopher Robin” is Disney's second full length Winnie the Pooh animated feature, released in 1997. Christopher Robin is getting older and has to begin school, but doesn't have the heart to tell Pooh, so he leaves his friend a note attached to a jar of honey. The note reads: "Dear Pooh: Don't worry about me. I'm not going far away; just to school. Help yourself to this honey. Christopher Robin.” But the honey spills, making the words on the note hard to read.

Jim Cummings, the voice of Winnie the Pooh, says, “Pooh, the bear of very little brains, and his friends misinterpret Christopher Robin’s soggy note and think they have lost Christopher Robin forever.” Then Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Rabbit, and Eeyore embark on a rescue which turns out to be more than they expected. They have to pass through biting plants in the forest of thorns, a muddy marsh and chills in the skull cave.

Cummings adds, “They eventually learn that Christopher Robin is coming back, so it all turns out well. We actually had the premiere of this film at the United Nations. The film had beautiful songs; great soundtrack.”

“Winnie the Pooh: Seasons of Giving”

“Winnie the Pooh: Seasons of Giving” is a direct-to-video feature film that was released in 1999. The film includes a Thanksgiving story, a Christmas story and two episodes from the TV series “The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh” (“Groundpiglet Day” and “Find Her, Keep Her”). In “Groundpiglet Day,” the wind flips the pages on Rabbit's calendar and everyone thinks the date is February 2 instead of November 7. They use Piglet as a groundhog to see how long winter will be.

The next segment revolves around Thanksgiving. Pooh makes a dinner, but Rabbit doesn't think it's traditional. Rabbit sends the gang out to find more traditional Thanksgiving fare, which of course, ends in disaster. In the Christmas segment, “Find Her, Keep Her,” Rabbit gets a note from Kessie the Bluebird. We enter a flashback and find out how Rabbit rescued and cared for the baby bird, but ran into problems when she wanted to learn how to fly.

Jim Cummings, who voices that “silly old bear,” says, “They learn different lessons, like it's better to give than receive. It's a heart-warming and sweet story, not sappy, never saccharine sweet. It's a very true and heartfelt film.”

“The Tigger Movie”

“The Tigger Movie” is a feature film, released in 2000. This film begins with Tigger trying to find somebody to play with him. After he accidentally destroys Eeyore's house with a boulder, Rabbit informs him that nobody should play with him. Saddened, Tigger walks away alone. When Roo catches up with Tigger, he is on a bridge, watching all the other characters, below, with their families. Roo feels sorry for Tigger, and believes the gang should write a letter to him, and sign it as his “family.”

The next day, everybody is woken up by Tigger, who is excited about the letter and claims that his family is coming to a party that he is throwing. Not wanting to disappoint him, the gang dresses up like a group of Tiggers to make him feel loved. But when their disguises are exposed, a depressed Tigger leaves and walks out into a snow storm. His friends search for him and Roo gets caught in a snow avalanche. Fortunately, Tigger is able to bounce through the snow and rescue Roo.

Voice actor Jim Cummings, who performed both Pooh and Tigger in this film, says that he worked with the musical writing team, the Sherman Brothers: “They wrote songs for all the original Winnie the Pooh movies, as well as Mary Poppins and Jungle Book, It was an absolute joy.”

Cummings continues, “They told me stories about Louis Prima, who did the voice for King Louie in ‘The Jungle Book.’ That was my favorite movie. They are incredible tunesmiths and very nice guys. Robert Sherman told me how they wrote 26 movie scores, and then Richard looked up and said ‘It was 27.’ Robert then said, ‘Come to think of it, it was 27!’”

“They were impressed that I could read music and sing a song called ‘Whoop-de-Dooper Bounce,’ which went faster and faster as the song progressed. The Sherman Brothers gave me a signed score - thanking me for my Super-Cala-Fragilistic Expealidocious-singing,” Cummings reflects.

“Winnie the Pooh: A Very Merry Pooh Year”

“Winnie the Pooh: A Very Merry Pooh Year” is a direct-to-video movie that was released in 2002. This flick featured parts of the 1991 Christmas TV special “Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too.” In a part from the TV special, Winnie the Pooh and his friends make a list of what they want for Christmas and send it to Santa Claus. But Pooh realizes that he forgot to ask for something and has to retrieve the letter. Then Pooh has to get the letter to Santa by Christmas, the next day.

The rest of the film features the gang planning a New Year’s Party at Rabbit’s place, but everyone angers Rabbit who vows to leave town for “Paradise” (no gloomy donkey, no scared Piglet, no hyper Tigger), but Pooh and the gang decide to make New Year’s resolutions to change so that Rabbit will not move away. Personalities are switched: Pooh becomes depressed, Eeyore wears a red shirt and eats honey, and Piglet starts bouncing. Eventually Rabbit decides to stay and wants everyone to act like themselves.

“Piglet’s Big Movie”

“Piglet’s Big Movie” is a full-length animated feature that was released in 2003. In this film, Pooh, Tigger, Rabbit, and Eeyore come up with an elaborate plan to gather honey from a hive of angry bees. However, they do not include Piglet because they think he’s too little to help. Depressed, Piglet wanders off. While he is gone, Pooh and the gang hope to find him by using Piglet’s “Book of Memories” -- drawings of past adventures with his pals. They hope that the book can “remember” where Piglet went.

Pooh, Tigger, Rabbit, Eeyore, and Roo set off to find Piglet with the Book of Memories as their guide. We then flashback to previous adventures in which Piglet saves the day: from building a house for Eeyore, to introducing the gang to Kanga and Roo. The flashbacks are the first adaptations of original A.A. Milne stories since “The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh” and “Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore.” Pooh and company realize that this “very small animal” has been a big hero.

Jim Cummings (Pooh and Tigger) recalls that “John Fielder (voice of Piglet) got top-billing this time, which was nice, because he was ill at the time. This was his last role as Piglet and he finally had his time in the spotlight. Everyone on the film was very excited for him. He was such a sweet man. He wasn’t doing a funny character voice, he really sounded like Piglet; that was his real voice. Sterling Holloway (original Pooh) and Paul Winchell (original Tigger) were all doing their real voices.”

“Winnie the Pooh: Springtime with Roo”

“Winnie the Pooh: Springtime with Roo” is a direct-to-video animated film that was released in 2004. It begins on Easter and everyone is excited to go over to Rabbit's house. Roo can't wait for the Easter Egg Hunt, Pooh looks forward to eating honey, and Tigger is his usual hyper and bouncy self. When they arrive at Rabbit's place, cranky Rabbit has forgotten that it's Easter and organizes everyone for “Spring Cleaning Day,” a holiday that Rabbit created so that his friends will clean his house.

Pooh, Eeyore, Piglet, Tigger, and Roo wind up cleaning Rabbit's place. The cleaning proceeds, until Pooh sneezes so hard that Rabbit's place looks like a disaster. After kicking everyone out, Rabbit is visited by three spirits who show him past, present and future Easters (like Charles Dickens's “Christmas Carol”). Rabbit is able to look in on a saddened Roo, and sees a future in which he gets his Spring Cleaning Day, but everyone in the Hundred Acre Wood has moved away. Rabbit learns the error of his ways.

Jim Cummings, who voiced Pooh and Tigger, laughs, “This film was about Roo coming of age, although we'll never really let him grow up!” Jim also voiced Woozles in this one, adding more characters to his vast Hundred Acre Wood repertoire.

“Pooh's Heffalump Movie”

“Pooh's Heffalump Movie” is a feature film, released in 2005. Winnie the Pooh and friends hear a strange noise and find some large circular footprints in the Hundred Acre Wood. They jump to the conclusion that the noise and prints are from a Heffalump. Rabbit organizes an expedition to catch it, but tells Roo to stay behind because it may be dangerous.

Jim Cummings (aka Pooh) recalls, “This is the first appearance of a Heffalump in the Hundred Acre Wood. The Heffalump is basically like an elephant. Roo runs across small one, who turns out to be his size.”

Indeed, the Heffalump is a four-footed creature named Heffridge Trumpler Brompet Heffalump IV (nicknamed "Lumpy") with a trunk like an elephant. Roo is afraid at first, but the two later become friends. They meet Pooh and the rest, who are frightened and try to "rescue" Roo and capture Lumpy. When Lumpy scurries away, Roo runs after him, but ends up in a tight spot. Lumpy's mother then saves Roo, showing everyone that Heffalumps are nice.

Cummings says, “This film was about accepting people and their differences, and learning how to get along. We had the premiere in New York City, and the film had songs by Carly Simon.”

“Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie”

“Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie” was released in 2005 and is a direct-to-video sequel to “Pooh's Heffalump Movie.” Lumpy the Heffalump, Roo, Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Rabbit, and Eeyore are all at Rabbit's house, where Rabbit is preparing their bags of candy and explaining “Trick or Treat.” Tigger tells Lumpy about the “Gobloon,” a creature that only comes out on Halloween. Tigger says that if you catch a Gobloon, he'll grant you a wish, but if he catches you first, he'll turn you into a “Jaggerty Lanter” (Jack-O-Lantern).

When Pooh eats all of the Halloween candy, Roo and Lumpy decide to go on an adventure to catch the Gobloon and wish for more candy. Tigger tells them that they have to go through the Creepy Cave, then down the Slimy Slide, and into the Tree of Terror to find the Gobloon. Roo and Lumpy try to find the Gobloon, but get separated. Roo returns and tells everyone that the Gobloon got Lumpy (who just got lost). Eventually the friends reunite and go to Kanga's house, where she invites them inside for cookies and a party.

Jim “Pooh” Cummings says, “This about the scariness in the Hundred Acre Wood, but of course, it all works out in the end. Lumpy has a sweet little British voice; it's good stuff. I really loved my job

Besides featurettes and films, Winnie the Pooh and his friends have been a favorite on TV, appearing on shows that appeal to preschoolers, older children, and adults. In the next section, we'll take a look at Pooh's career on the small screen (with more commentary by Jim Cummings).

Winnie the Pooh and his friends have starred in several TV shows, from animation to puppets to Pooh's new CG animated show, which starts in the spring of 2007.

Television Shows

“Welcome to Pooh Corner”

“Welcome to Pooh Corner” was a live-action/puppet television series that aired from 1983 to 1995 on the Disney Channel. The show featured Winnie the Pooh characters portrayed by human-sized puppets, except for Roo, who was a traditional hand-puppet. Each show started with host Laurie Main narrating an episode which was acted out by the characters. That was followed by a music video of songs from the Winnie the Pooh movies. The last segment was an arts and crafts lesson taught by a Pooh cast member.

“The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh”

“The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh” was an animated television series that aired from 1988 to 1991 on ABC-TV. Reruns aired on ABC-TV until 2002 and on the Disney Channel until September of 2006 (presumably to make way for the new series “My Friends Tigger & Pooh”). On the show, Pooh was joined by the regular cast and new characters: Christopher Robin's mother, Owl's cousin Dexter, Kessie the Bluebird, Junior Heffalump, Skippy the Sheepdog, Stan Woozle and Heff Heffalump. Some episodes from this TV series have also been featured in films.

Jim Cummings, the voice of Pooh, recalls that this was his first Pooh gig. He attended an open call in which Disney was looking for a new voice for Pooh. Cummings also shared the voice of Tigger during the series with Paul Winchell, the original Pooh, who was often traveling. Cummings says, “I was also a Woozle and a few other extraneous characters.

“The Book of Pooh”

“The Book of Pooh” was a puppet show for preschoolers that aired from 2001 to 2002 on the Disney Channel. The puppets were filmed against cut-out style backgrounds, which gave the show a “pop-up book” look. This show departed from the original Pooh books and films, as it featured Tigger eating honey, which was different from previous Pooh stories where “Tiggers don't like honey!” Also, Tigger could bounce up and down from trees. Previously, Tigger could only bounce up into a tree, not come down.

Jim Cummings (Pooh and Tigger voices) says the puppets were somewhat complicated, “It took four people to operate the Tigger puppet. It was Japanese Kabuki style puppetry, beautifully done. We would record our voices which were sent to New York City. Then the puppets would lip synch to our voices (as characters do in animation). It was fully articulated, just riveting.”

“My Friends Tigger & Pooh”

“My Friends Tigger & Pooh” is an interactive, learning-focused television series for preschoolers. It is scheduled for a 2007 Spring premiere during the Playhouse Disney programming block on the Disney Channel. The series will present the Hundred Acre Wood in CG animation and introduce a new character, a 6-year-old girl named Darby. She is a new friend for both Pooh and Tigger, and shares the personality traits of both.

Although Christopher Robin is not a main character in this series (neither is Owl), he does appear in storylines and interacts with Darby. She encourages Pooh and Tigger to be "super sleuths" and help her solve mysteries in the Hundred Acre Wood. Pooh and friends will help young viewers learn how to work with others, resist immediate gratification, understand the value of patience and reasoning. "My Friends Tigger & Pooh" is produced to appeal to kids and parents alike.

Holiday TV Specials

Winnie the Pooh and his friends have also appeared in four TV specials (listed below) which were mostly compilations of previously released material from TV shows and movies.

“Winnie the Pooh & Christmas Too!” (1991)

“Boo! To You Too! Winnie the Pooh” (1996)

“A Winnie the Pooh Thanksgiving” (1998)

“Winnie the Pooh, A Valentine for You” (1998)