

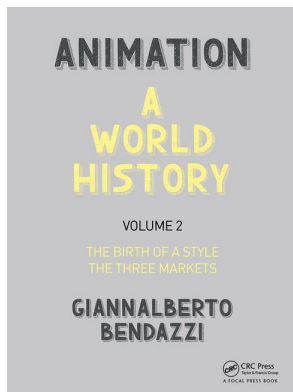
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7 AFRICA

South African Republic¹

Politically, the Union of South Africa was in a state of emergency from 1950 to 1960.² White extremist Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd became prime minister on 2 September 1958 and, on 5 October 1960, the European contingent of the population voted in a referendum to sever South Africa's last links with the British Empire and become a republic. On 31 May 1961, Queen Elizabeth II ceased to be the chief of state of South Africa.

In 1960, the African National Congress (ANC) Party decided to launch a campaign of protests against the pass laws, which had been in effect for all African citizens since the 1920s.³ These protests were to begin on 31 March 1960, but the rival Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) decided to pre-empt the ANC by launching its own campaign ten days earlier, because they believed that the ANC could not win the campaign. This action culminated in bloodshed (the 'Sharpeville Massacre').⁴

During this period, animation continued to be produced by Alpha Film Studios; the studio then relocated to the suburb of Killarney. This animated material was created for theatrical release, mostly in the form of advertisements and short films shown before the main feature, until the mid-1970s when the introduction of television snatched the loyalty of filmgoers of the time.

Killarney Film Studios' focus remained on the production of optical effects, transitions and titling sequences for the studios live-action projects and long-running weekly news program *African Mirror*. As we already said, in 1955, Twentieth Century Fox bought out the studio, which finally saw the arrival of proper animation facilities.

In 1957, Matthys Andries 'Butch' Stoltz (Johannesburg, 1 January 1937–Knysna, 1 August 2014), a young animator who had just completed three years of training in England, joined the studio and worked closely with his mentor and friend, Denis Purchase, on producing 'Film Ads of the Week' for cinema release. Stoltz is an important

¹ By Shanaz Shapurjee Hampson.

² After the Second World War, in 1948, the Herstigte ('Reformed' or 'Pure') National Party (HNP) came into power (by a slender majority, created through a coalition with the Afrikaner Party). Its members had been disaffected from the previous government, the United Party, in 1933. In 1950, the government passed the Immorality Act, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act. These laws officially divided South Africans into 'White', 'Coloured', 'Asian' or 'Black' race categories. By 1958, with the election of Hendrik Verwoerd (White), South Africa was completely entrenched in the philosophy of apartheid.

³ Under the pass laws, among the most oppressive restrictions of the apartheid era, Black South Africans were required to carry a 'pass book', something like a passport, which contained identification and substantial other personal information and which the bearer was required to produce on demand when travelling in predominantly White areas. Failure to show a pass book could be cause for arrest and exile or imprisonment.

There was opposition to the government's policies. The African National Congress (ANC) in 1956 committed itself to a South Africa that 'belongs to all'. The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) was formed in April 1959, with Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe as president. The PAC and ANC did not agree on policy, and it seemed unlikely in 1959 that they would cooperate in any manner.

⁴ On 21 March 1960, sixty-nine Black Africans were killed and at least 180 were injured (there are claims of as many as 300) when South African police opened fire on approximately 300 demonstrators, who were protesting against the pass laws, at the township of Sharpeville, near Vereeniging in the Transvaal.

figure in South African animation history as he later set up and headed the Animation Unit at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), which ultimately resituated animation in the realm of children's programming.

The studio was moved to Killarney when owner Bill Boxer died. It continued producing animated commercials under its own name; it later moved to Irene (Pretoria)

where it was merged with the laboratories already there. Denis Purchase and Butch Stoltz remained behind at the Killarney studio until 1967 and 1968 respectively, after which they parted ways, with Purchase joining Dave McKey Animation Services and Stoltz joining Panorama Films (Pretoria) and setting up the animation department there.



THE FIFTH PERIOD

The Fifth Period begins with the blooming of the television series and *auteur* animation and ends with the conclusion of the Cold War. Although it is varied and subjected to strong changes within the market (in the field of television or advertising) and within technology (e.g. computers), it is substantially uniform, as it obeys the political and economic division of the world into two major areas: one influenced by the liberal United States and one influenced by the communist Soviet Union. This period is called 'The Three Markets (1960–1991)'.

