

# Nick Park

## Aardman Animations

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Nick Park was born in Preston, Lancashire in 1958. His mother was a seamstress and his dad was a photographer.

When asked “How did you get into animation?” he replied:

“As a child, I was always drawing comics: my dream was to work for the Beano. But when I was about 10, my dad said I could use his Super 8 camera. I started doing animations with flip-books, and then I discovered Plasticine.”



He made his first film in his parent's attic when he was only 13 and four years later had his animation 'Archie's Concrete Nightmare' shown on BBC television!

He went on to study at the National Film and Television School where he first began to create the characters Wallace and Gromit using his now favourite medium-plasticine.

His first job was for Aardman Animations where he created the Creature Comforts film. It was about unhappy zoo animals and won him his first Academy award in 1992.



Park then made 'A Grand Day Out' and introduced Wallace and Gromit to the world for the first time.

They were an instant hit!

Park won his second Academy Award for this film about the journey Wallace and Gromit went on to collect cheese from the moon



In a radio interview Park said that Wallace's references to Wensleydale cheese in the film Wallace and Gromit in A Close Shave saved a small British cheese maker from bankruptcy. Interest in the cheese was sparked by the film, and one of the few makers of that cheese suddenly found itself with numerous requests for the cheese, saving it from financial ruin.



"Maybe I love Gromit because he's the dog I've never had. What dog could match him? He's the ideal. He doesn't bark, and he has your tea and dinner ready for you when you arrive home."



The next 2 films about Wallace and Gromit were called:

- The Wrong Trousers
- A Close Shave

Both were a great success!



Other favourite characters of his  
include Shawn the Sheep





- Park then went on to make full length feature films called:
- Chicken Run (2005)
- Wallace and Gromit –The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)
- A Matter of Loaf & Death (2007)
- Early Man



- Unfortunately, in 2005 the Warehouse which stored most of the plasticine creations burnt down.
- Nick Park was upset but said no-one had died and all the figures could be re-created over time.
- To date Park has won 4 Academy Awards.



Aardman has more recently teamed up with Dreamworks to make the very successful film “Flushed Away”. The film is about a lonely and pampered upper class rat who gets flushed down the toilet and ends up learning to survive and meet new friends.











Creature Comforts is a British stop motion clay animation comedy mockumentary franchise originating in a 1989. The film matched animated zoo animals with a soundtrack of people talking about their homes, making it appear as if the animals were being interviewed. The film later became the basis of a series of television advertisements for the electricity boards in the United Kingdom.





Nick Park has a part of Preston College named after him. The Park Campus which is situated on Moor Park, was named after him due to the media and animation inside the building. He is also the proud recipient of a gold *Blue Peter* badge.



Did you realise.....

The dog Gromit has no mouth, because when Park was making the first Wallace and Gromit short, "A Grand Day Out," he couldn't reach past Gromit's eyebrow on the set. "I found I could say everything with just the tiniest movement of his eyebrow,"



