



DAVID SPROXTON is the co-founder and Executive Chairman of Aardman. Together with co-founder Peter Lord, he has overseen the development of the company from a two-man partnership to one of the pre-eminent animation houses in the industry. David has served as a producer, director or cinematographer on a number of animated projects at Aardman.

Sproxton and Lord met at Woking Grammar School for Boys, and in 1970 made their first animated film using David's Bolex camera. It was a crude piece using cutouts and chalk drawings yet showed enough talent for a BBC Children's Television producer to offer the pair a chance to make short animated films for his programme **Vision On**.

After graduating from Durham University, David decided to pursue filmmaking full-time. In 1972, Sproxton and Lord formed Aardman and in 1976, moved to their permanent home in Bristol, England. Their first professional creation was the character Morph, who went on to star in the BBC series **The Amazing Adventures of Morph**.

During this period, the duo made two short animated films, **Down and Out** and **Confessions of a Foyer Girl**, to which they applied the groundbreaking technique of using recorded conversations of real people as the basis for the script. Later, five more films called **Conversation Pieces**, using the same "vox pop" technique, were commissioned by Channel 4. "Vox pop" was also utilized in Aardman's **Lip Synch** series for Channel 4 which included Nick Park's Oscar®-winning short **Creature Comforts**.

In addition to Nick, the studio is known for discovering and nurturing new filmmakers. These include Steve Box who won a BAFTA Award for his direction of **Stage Fright** and co-directed **The Curse of the Wererabbit** with Nick Park; the Oscar®-nominated and BAFTA-winning Peter Peake the director of **HumDrum** and many commercials. Also, Richard Golezowski who directed the **Rex the Runt** series for BBC 2 and the Creature Comforts series for ITV; Darren Walsh (**Angry Kid**) and Stefan Marjoram (BBC3 **Blobs** and **Presentators** for Nickleodeon).

David co-produced Aardman's first feature film **Chicken Run** (2000), the Wallace and Gromit feature **The Curse of the Wererabbit** (2005), and the CGI feature **Flushed Away** (2006),

made in association with DreamWorks. David is currently involved in the development of further feature films in association with Sony Pictures. He is also involved in the many TV projects the studio is developing including **Shaun the Sheep**, **Chop Socky Chooks**, **Angry Kid**, **Timmy** and the latest Wallace and Gromit film, **A Matter of Loaf and Death**.

David Sproxton spent 9 years on the board of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre Trust and three years on the Board of the UK Film Council. He is now chairman of Encounters Festivals (Bristol's celebration of the Short film) and a board member of At-Bristol and the National Film Television School.

In 2006, Aardman's 30th year, David and Peter Lord celebrated being awarded CBEs in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.