ALITE BIT ABOUT...

DISNEY'S FROZEN

Frozen is inspired by the Danish fairy tale "The Snow Queen," written by Hans Christian Andersen. Published in 1844, the original tale follows the story of two friends, Kai and Gerda. Kai is lured away by the malevolent Snow Queen, while Gerda embarks on a quest to find him. Ultimately, Gerda melts Kai's frozen heart and rescues him. This beloved fairy tale is one of Andersen's most cherished and has been adapted numerous times.



Hans Christian Andersen

The idea to adapt "The Snow Queen" had floated around the Walt Disney Company for decades, ever since Walt Disney considered it for an animated feature in the 1930s and '40s. In the early 2000s, conversations about an adaptation of "The Snow Queen" reemerged at Walt Disney Animation Studios, and work began on the animated film *Frozen* in 2011. Musical theater songwriters Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, screenwriter and co-director Jennifer Lee, and co-director Chris Buck crafted a new story with the central characters as sisters, while preserving many of the elements and universal themes found in Andersen's original tale.

Frozen premiered in movie theaters in November 2013, breaking box office records and becoming the highest-grossing animated film at the time. The film won an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature Film. "Let It Go" reached #5 on the Billboard Hot 100 and won an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

ALITIE BITABOUT...

DISNEY'S FROZEN

Plans for a stage adaptation of *Frozen* began at Disney Theatrical Group shortly after the film's release. The film's creative team, in collaboration with Disney Theatrical Group, delved further into the story arc and deepened the relationship between the two sisters. Eleven new songs were added to the existing eight songs in the film.

The stage adaptation of *Frozen*, which premiered at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts in 2017, arrived on Broadway at the St. James Theatre in 2018. Nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical, the show has been produced globally and adapted for middle and elementary school productions. In 2024, the West End production of *Frozen* was professionally filmed and is currently streaming on Disney+.

THE HIDDEN FOLK

Frozen underwent several changes from its cinematic adaptation to its stage production. One notable change was the introduction of the Hidden Folk. Initially depicted as mystical trolls in the film, the Hidden Folk are inspired by the elfin huldufólk mythology prevalent in Iceland and the Faroe Islands as well as the huldra in Scandinavian folklore. These beings are portrayed as a strong and vibrant community, deeply connected to the earth and its elements, believing in the power of family and love, which they celebrate.

JOIK

A *joik*, or *yoik*, is a distinctive vocal style and traditional song structure that originated centuries ago among the Sámi people, the indigenous people of northern Europe. While it doesn't necessarily require words, joiking can convey a narrative through melody, rhythm, expressions, or gestures. This song form serves as a means of cultural expression, often deeply personal or spiritual in nature. Joiking is an integral part of *Frozen's* score, appearing numerous times throughout the show.