Heathcliff Film & TV Rights Acquired by Legendary

Legendary just announced that it has acquired the film and television rights to Heathcliff, the comic strip featuring the wisecracking feline.

BY **STEVEN HERRERA** PUBLISHED SEP 26, 2021

Legendary has acquired the film and television rights to **_Heathcliff_**, the comic strip featuring the scruffy, wisecracking alley cat. The strip was created by George Gately in 1973, and ran in thousands of newspapers at the height of its popularity. In the 1970s and 1980s, Heathcliff ruled the funny pages, alongside Garfield, another feline-focused comic strip. The character was previously adapted for two different animated television series: _Heathcliff_ (1980-1984) and _Heathcliff & the Catillac Cats_ (1984-1987), both of which featured animation icon Mel Blanc as the voice of Heathcliff.

According to _THR_, Legendary plans to develop both a feature film and a television series simultaneously. The comic strip is now written and drawn by Gately's nephew, Peter Gallagher. It is published in over 1,000 newspapers and has more than 80 million daily readers. Gallagher

will act as a producer with Steve Waterman, who has served as an executive producer on family favorites such as *Stuart Little* (1999), and the Alvin and the Chipmunks movies.

Based on Waterman's previous film adaptions of comics, the new Heathcliff film will likely be CGI/live action. But the essence of the character will likely be preserved as Waterman is working closely with Gallagher, the author and illustrator of the strip. Although it is unclear what the new television series will look like, it is possible that it will be animated. Release dates for the new film and series have not been announced, so fans will have to wait for more information. Regardless, the prospect of seeing a new iteration of *Heathcliff* on the big and small screens is nostalgic and exciting. Viewers of all ages can look forward to seeing their favorite cartoon cat in new stories that are relevant to the modern world.

Source: THR